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COVER STORY: DR LINDA G UBEKU



Dr. Linda Ubeku, along with her husband Michael are the founders of Linda G Ubeku Ministries, Inc.; a 5013@ non-profit organization. Linda is an ordained and commissioned apostle of The Lord's church, a pioneer, and bridge builder within the Body of Christ, the Kingdom of God, and the marketplace. Before obeying the call to pioneer their present work, Linda was a member for three decades of one local assembly, Cincinnati Bibleway Church. There she faithfully served in various capacities under the late Bishop James E Blue, Jr, and Bishop Grace Blue. Dr. Ubeku is a dynamic teacher who loves mining, and articulating timeless truths. Like the Bereans, she is a serious student and defender of scripture. She loves academic and intellectual stimuli as well. She holds a MEd in Education, and Doctorate in Theology. Apostle Linda's heart cry is to see an emerging remnant rise to their positions and places. She believes this will become a reality through revelation of original identity in Christ, as sons and kings. Dr. Linda is a wise master builder. Her primary assignment is to awaken the global body of

believers in general and leaders in particular to the urgency of the hour. Be Seated Global® the training arm of Linda G Ubeku Ministries, Inc serves to: reestablish ancient blueprints in a fresh way, galvanize vessels born and prepared for this time to take their respective seats of influence. Lastly, to train and mobilize a global army of skilled warriors, prophetic gatekeepers and vigilant watchmen through OCCUPY CONTEND Global Prayer Initiative. Linda and Michael Ubeku, reside in Cincinnati, Ohio. They have three adult children, and seven beautiful grandchildren.

Spiritual Awakening PASTOR MIKE GOBEL

Restoration GERDA POTGIETER

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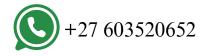
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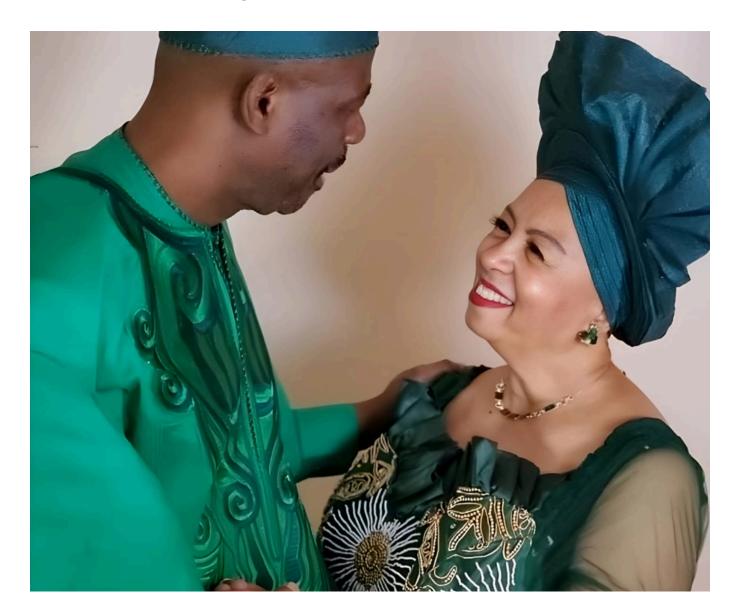
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COVER STORY

DR LINDA G UBEKU

A Cry for A Sage Remnant



SAGES or ELDERS with Ancient Wisdom are "PREPARED VESSELS". As an analogy, they can also be seen as SEEDS. These seeds are sown in PARTICULAR PLACES at PARTICULAR TIMES.

Theirs is to yield PARTICULAR OUTCOMES for upcoming seasons of critical output. Their FUNCTION is to SEED, to FEED, and to SUSTAIN the nations, as they are strategically PLANTED in CLOSE PROXIMITY to the WHOSOEVER THAT HAVE ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to perceive and understand what the Spirit of The Lord is saying aka (PREPARED SOIL) of FUTURE GENERATIONS.

"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, and day and night Shall not cease." Genesis 8:22

You cannot talk about a harvest, blessings, increase, multiplication, or wealth, without looking at the basic unit of reproduction. We must broaden and deepen our understanding of reproduction from God's perspective. The pattern was set in Genesis, the checks and balances were put into place and the model has continued until today.

- o A seed speaks about nature in plants, trees, fruit, etc. Also, all the mammals, fish and birds. Mankind was also the first of its kind to reproduce after that kind.
- o A seed can also be a thought, idea or concept.
- o As mankind is three parts, spirit soul and body, those also were to be reproduced after their individual and unique kinds.

In creational order there is an intended outcome - Reproduce after the original kind.

We are given a clue right from the beginning due to the fight over the original kind found in Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

In order to safeguard the seed, God put enmity between two kinds of seed. The seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

What is enmity?

Hostility and/or hatred. This was to be the attitude that the two had towards each other. Eve and Adam had eaten something from the very beginning to cause mankind to be with mixture, thereby weakening the reproduction.

Definitions of seed

Biblically the first mention of seed takes place in Genesis 1:11-12

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed



is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good."

It can be seen as both a noun and a verb. Seed has to do with implantat-

ion, production and reproduction after a particular kind.

Who Plants What? - The Difference Between a Sage and An Expert

The ancient another word for sage is defined in the Old Testament as: one who is old in age, an elder or elders having authority amongst the recognized leadership of Israel.

Examples can be found in the scriptures below.

Exodus 3:16

Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:

Proverbs 31:23

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

Jeremiah 29:1

Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon;

Job 32:7-8

I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach

wisdom. But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Merriam Webster defines sage in the following ways:

As a noun -

one (such as a profound philosopher) distinguished for wisdom a mature or venerable person of sound judgment.

As an adjective -

proceeding from or characterized by wisdom, prudence, and good judgment sage advice; wise through reflection and experience; grave, solemn

An expert is defined as follows:

As a noun -a person who has a comprehensive and authoritative knowledge of or skill in a particular area.

As an adjective - Having or involving authoritative knowledge.

Due to the distinct difference in their sources of knowledge and characteristics, the outcomes of their input are vastly different as well.

The expert relies upon her vast body of knowledge, expertise and experience. Most experts are called upon because of their knowledge in a specialized field. Therefore, they are limited to their field of study. An authentic biblical sage or wise person embodies what Solomon wrote in Proverbs 2:6-7 "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly." The ancient or sage sees God as the unlimited supply of all wisdom, knowledge, and



understanding.

The expert points you to herself, her findings, reports, recommendations and outcomes based upon her body of knowledge.

An authentic biblical sage or wise person points you to God, the source, and not herself or her expertise. "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him" Proverbs 26:12 "The experts impress. The sage draws us to God. He offers a gift of

presence, the richness of a soul that has lived long with God." https://newengland.cbmc.com

Lastly, to reiterate our beginning premise. SAGES or ELDERS with Ancient Wisdom are "PREPARED VESSELS". As an analogy, they can also be seen as SEEDS. These seeds are sown in PARTICULAR PLACES at PARTICULAR TIMES. Theirs is to yield PARTICULAR OUTCOMES for upcoming seasons of critical output. Their FUNCTION is to SEED, to FEED, and to SUSTAIN the nations, as they are strategically PLANTED in CLOSE PROXIMITY to the WHOSOEVER THAT HAVE ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to perceive and understand what the Spirit of The Lord is saying aka (PREPARED SOIL) of FUTURE GENERATIONS.

In Conclusion

God gives every person, the time, resources, opportunities, and processing to realize the full potential of their purpose in the earth. There is an intention of vessels, seeds, and sources of reproduction of a certain kind. The cycle of the seed in Matthew 13 highlights the farmer's anticipated yield of that which He has planted. When inventory of what should have been, could have been, and would have been is taken, sobriety is critical.

Each harvest's bounty has offerings of the earth's yield. In the previous season the soil of that field had to be prepared for its yield of new crops.

Proverbs 1:7-8

The son is admonished "to hear" those with something he is yet to

possess. Those with knowledge and wisdom must not keep silent believing that what they have to say has no merit. There must be an intentionality to pass down the instructions.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:"

Proverbs 4:1-7

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

You cannot be wise without knowledge. This wisdom should carry on throughout the generations amongst all lands and people. It happens through the custodians and preservers who know the value of what they possess.



PASTOR MIKE GOBEL

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING





by Pastor Michael Gobel Associate Pastor of The Campus Church, Pietermaritzburg, KZN South Africa

The Process of Finding the Truth to Biblical Interpretation according to God's Word (Part 3)

"8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you[a] shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." —

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

Introduction

Just to recap, last month we dealt with the process of getting to know God and of building an honest and transparent relationship with Him. This month's article deals with the divine authority of God and what we can gain by getting to know and understand the Word of God in such a way that our interpretation, expression or preaching from the Word is not built off false impressions and teachings or on possible wayward denominational interpretation but on biblical Truth.

What about direct misinterpretation of Bible quotations and the interpretation of Speaking in Tongues?

From the offset, let me make this categorically clear for all to understand, if a doctrinal argument or suggestion is to be made that any new dreams, visions, and/or the "speaking in tongues" should be interpretated as additions (add-ons) to the current interpretation of the Bible, then that would be entirely false and inaccurate. The Bible as the Word of God in its current or former state, in both the New Testament and the Old Testament which is unified as one Word is the complete and entire Message/Gospel (Word of God). Therefore, any current or future interpretation MUST come from the direct translation, interpretation, or revelation of God's Word (the Holy Bible).



The same would apply to any message, word, quotation, or interpretation that suggests that there are passages of Scripture, extracts or elements to God's Word that has been duplicated by man (authors) and are therefore not the original words or messages from God are inaccurate, false and/or misinterpreted. These arguments are completely invalid, as can be shown, for example, in Acts 2:17-21, where Apostle Paul under the guidance of the Holy Spirit seemingly quotes from Joel 2:28-32 the exact same words.

Therefore, as seemingly a "direct quotation" or translation from Acts 2:17-21 can this passage of Scripture then be removed from the Bible because it is not an addition to the Word of God – or that it is a 'duplication' of something that has already been said in the Bible and therefore not as relevant to the reader or believeras the previous or former text? The simple answer is NO!!

At first glance, it might seem to a novice or new-born believer that these two passages of Scripture are almost word for word the same but under more careful Biblical scrutiny and theological analyses we see that they are indeed vastly different. Acts 2:17-21 is as important a part of the Word of God as Joel 2:28-32. Why is this the case?

Similarities and Differences between Joel 2 and Acts 2

When Joel says, "God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh," he is saying that 'God will draw near to men' to make Himself known in a powerful way. When God makes Himself known in people's lives it will be manifest in at least three ways. They may dream dreams, see visions, and/or prophesy (Joel 2:28).

When God pours Himself into individuals their inner life is changed, and that full inner life speaks of God in the Spirit. It speaks of Jesus Christ as the Son of the Living God. Joel is predicting the day when all of God's people (meaning, not only Jews in the context of Israel and God's people but of all people) will receive God's Holy Spirit. Naturally of course I am referring now to all those who accept His Son Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. So, the question needs to be asked, Was Peter claiming that the pouring out of God's Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost fulfilled Joel's prophecy?

A. Joel 2:28-32 — Based on "Predictions"

The term "afterward" was used in Joel 2:28 to illustrate that this was speaking of future events.

- 1. "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh" (Joel 2:28).
- 2. "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28).
- 3. "Your old men shall dream dreams" (Joel 2:28).
- 4. "Your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28).
- 5. "...on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days" (Joel 2:29).
- 6. "I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke" (Joel 2:30).
- 7. "The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD" (Joel 2:31).
- 8. "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Joel 2:32).
- 9. "For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls" (Joel 2:32)

- B. Acts 2:1-21 Based on "Actual Events"
- "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:" (Acts 2:16)
- 1. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2)
- 2. "Divided tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3) 3. "Filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4)

There are more 'Differences' than there are 'Similarities' in what we might see as duplicated messages in the Bible.

- In this example between Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:1-21, Peter emphasizes the expansion of the Church to include previously excluded peoples. This inclusion is possible as people call on the Lord which is in line with Joel 2:32. As new people call on the Lord, they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, Peter experienced something similar to what Joel 2:28-32 proclaimed would occur upon the nation of Israel. The other prophecies, including the cosmic events, will not take place till Israel turns to the Lord at the end of Daniel's 70th week (Tribulation period) and Jesus Christ returns to bless Israel.
- Joel's intended fulfillment is said to be "afterward," that is, at the end of Daniel's 70th prophetic week when Israel turns to the Lord as depicted in this passage of Scripture, in which it says, "I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me." Hosea 5:15 (NKJV). There are numerous other passages of Scripture that denote the same message (Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 59:20; Psalm 79:1- 13; 80:1-19; Romans 11:25-27). Joel's use of the "last days" refers to the Tribulation (Joel 2:30- 31) and the Millennium (Joel 2:28-29). Joel's prophecy, as quoted in Acts, is like the "former rain" (Joel 2:23), and the remaining events are like the "latter rain" (Joel 2:31-32).

- Joel says "all flesh" will receive the Spirit. This includes all classes, races, ethnicities of people (men, women, children, slave, and free, Jew or Gentile EVERYONE!!). Certainly 120 Jews receiving this outpouring is a far cry compared to Joel's prediction that it would be 'upon all flesh'. Thus, it is not the final or complete fulfillment.
- Peter referred to Joel's prophecy as, "this is that." This must refer to the pouring out of the Spirit since it is the only prediction of Joel that occurred on Pentecost. Peter wanted the Jews to recognize what they were seeing as a work of the Holy Spirit. And it should be seen as a guarantee that God would fulfill this promise yet in the future. It was sort of a prophetic illustration of the Spirit's work. He seems to apply it because of the one similarity. Peter purposely goes beyond any possible fulfillment at Pentecost by quoting events that did not occur.
- The return of God's people to the land both fulfills God's covenantal promises and initiates the re-creation of the world. Joel describes this re-creation with breathtaking imagery. As God's people return to the land, the desert comes to life as a sort of new Eden. Dirt, animals and people all rejoice at the victory of God and the deliverance of God's people (see Joel 2). Among the rich images in this section of Joel, we hear that the restoration of God's people will lead to immediate economic impact. "The LORD said: 'I am sending you grain, wine and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a mockery among the nations'" (Joel 2:19). The climax of this act of deliverance for Joel is the outpouring of the Spirit upon the people of God. Peter understands the coming of the Spirit to mean that the early Jesus followers are—in some real, even if profoundly mysterious, manner—participants in God's new world.

• Many verses, phrases, and even chapters might at first glance sound and look like they are being duplicated or are similar in the Bible, but as we can now see, each one is there for a purpose and is as important in the present as it was in the past tense or at least is part of the fullness of the holistic Message or Word of God as the latter one.

A Christian Identity as God's Kingdom Witnesses in Daily Life (Acts 2:1-41)

A perfect example of this 'divine intervention' of where and how historical events relating to Christian identity according to Scripture is as relevant in today's context as it was in the days of old. Let us take the verse from Acts 2:40 in which it says, "And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Herein Peter describes salvation as a rescue from a "corrupt generation." Two things need clarification in this passage of Scripture. First, Luke does not describe salvation as escape from this world into a heavenly existence. Instead, salvation begins right in the midst of this present world.

Second, Luke expects that salvation has a present-tense component. It begins now as a different way of living, contrary to the patterns of this "corrupt generation." Because work and its economic and social consequences are so central to human identity, it should come as no surprise that one of the first patterns of human life to be reconstituted is the manner by which Christians manage their power and possessions. The flow, then, of this early section of Acts moves like this: (1) Jesus suggests that all human life should bear witness to Christ; (2) the coming of the Spirit marks the initiation of the long-promised "day of

the Lord" and initiates people into God's new world; and (3) expectations of the "day of the Lord" include profound economic transformations. Luke's next move is to point to a new people, empowered by the Spirit, living according to a kingdom (Godly) economy.

It is therefore critical for every believer to understand that when it comes to the biblical interpretation or revelation of God's Word, if anyone believes he/she has received a direct revelation or word from God, whether that word is in the form of tongues or in any other manifestation which is or might be in contradiction to any past prophecy or current word or message as quoted from the Bible (Word of God), then he/she would be attempting to add to the original Word of God.

They would therefore be guilty of violating the command (warning) given in Revelation 22:18 which clearly says, "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;"

Praying in Tongues or Prophesying in the Spirit

One observation of those who are interested in speaking in tongues or prophecy is that when they pray in a spiritual tongue, they cannot and should not be adding to the Scriptures. The speaking or praying in tongues or prophesying to future events must come from the Holy Spirit, which means that the Spirit will be doing the leading, not you or I! What believers sometimes fail to realize is that there are many prayers in the Bible including the "Father's Prayer" given to us by Jesus to encourage us to pray accordingly and then there are the prayers by David, Solomon, and Ezra.

As these men and women prayed, they were guided by the Holy Spirit to say the words that have been written in the Bible, the 'Word of God.' While they prayed to God, God used them to verbalise or write the Word of God as He divinely led them accordingly. Likewise, today, if someone claimed to pray by speaking in tongues or prophesying in the Spirit inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, then their prayers would just as certainly have to be based on the revelation of the Word of God. We need to be careful not to be led by our own flesh or by the emotion or euphoria (elation) of the moment and call that "praying in tongues" or an interpretation from God.

In Revelation 22:18-19 we have a clear statement by which we can know whether or not we follow the true Gospel. The true Gospel is circumscribed by the Bible. If one has a gospel that starts with the Bible and then adds what is believed to be divine truth from other sources, such as dreams or visions, he is following a gospel other than the true Gospel.

If you have wanted to truly draw nearer to God but you weren't quite sure how to do this, or if you have wanted a deeper understanding of the biblical doctrines, principles and virtues that God speaks of in and through His Word then I would once again encourage you to either follow this series of teachings or extend your knowledge of God's Word by doing your own study on various chapters in the Bible that draws reference to proper biblical interpretation and revelation. Because of the length of my research paper on this subject, I have had to break up this series into several monthly articles for the purpose of limited publication space in the Testify Magazine, which I trust you will find helpful and educational for further Bible study on the subject of true 'Biblical Interpretation.'

So, what precisely is the 'divine authority' that structures and determines the nature of the true Gospel? The Bible. We read a verse in the Bible and interpret it by focusing the whole Bible upon it. We are to interpret Scripture by Scripture, or as 1 Corinthians 2:13 puts it, by "comparing spiritual things with spiritual," not by human narratives, denominational reference or personal interpretation.

If one believes that the Bible is the Word of God and believes that some other book is also divine revelation, then your authority is a wider authority than the Bible alone. If someone believes the Bible is the Word of God, but also believes that a dream, vision, or spoken tongue is a new revelation from God, then his "gospel" is wider than the Bible. He will interpret any Bible verse not according to the rest of the Bible only, but also in light of the information received in the dream or vision.

We can begin to understand why false gospels differ in many points of doctrine from the Gospel based only on the Bible. The doctrines we hold are the products of the authority under which we place ourselves.

A judge who tries a case under the laws and statutes of the Constitution or Judicial framework of South Africa will naturally come to a different conclusion than the judge who tries the same case under the law of the United States of America or United Kingdom as a matter of example. Hence, you have an separate subject of International Law as to South Africa Law which of course governs our judicial system.

If I receive a vision that I believe has come from God, and that vision is related to a particular doctrine, it is apparent that I will regard the information of the vision as the latest, clearest, and most important information in regard to that doctrine. I will believe this regard less of what the Bible offers concerning that doctrine. Even if it disagrees to some extent with the Bible, I will consider the vision a truth that modifies what the Bible teaches. I will be following the same principle of interpretation as that which applies to the New Testament modifying truths in the Old Testament. My conclusion concerning the doctrine will be influenced by my vision and not the Word of God.

It should now be apparent how important it is to know what our authority is. If it is less than the whole Bible or more than the whole Bible, we will no longer have the true Gospel, which is the Gospel unto Salvation.

Every Religion Has an Authority

Every religion or gospel is under an authority - an authority its followers believe is the Word of God. The Muslim religion, for example, looks upon the writings of Mohammed as being of divine origin. These writings, therefore, are the final authority in matters of doctrine and practice in that religion. Those who have the Mormon gospel believe that the Bible is the Word of God, but they are convinced that the writings of Joseph Smith, in "The Book of Mormon," are also divine.

Consequently, the authority that structures and determines their gospel is the combination of the Bible and "The Book of Mormon."

We live in a day and age when many people believe that God continues to bring revelations by dreams, visions, voices, or the speaking of tongues. Those who are interested in these activities have an authority that structures and determines their gospel; theirauthority is a combination of the Bible and the messages which they believe are from God. This gospel, too, is structured and determined by what is considered to be a divine source of truth.

From these examples, we can see that those who believe that the Bible alone and in its entirety is the Word of God have one Gospel, and those who believe the Bible is the Word of God but who also believe that God brings additional revelations today have a different gospel. The most recent revelation in such a gospel has the greatest impact upon its doctrines. For example, in the true Gospel, we do not dare say that we understand the Old Testament unless we have carefully studied the New Testament. The New Testament interprets the Old Testament. The New Testament shows that the ceremonial laws have been completed in Christ; therefore, we are not to observe the Old Testament Sabbaths or the Old Testament Passover. It shows us that God's decree that adultery is sin has been strengthened to include thoughts of lust. The later revelation sheds more light on the earlier one, and it is the final word.

Those who believe that God brings revelations today place great importance on the content of the revelations. For them, the later revelations are the last word, and they influence their view of the Bible, which they believe is part of the revelation of God. As a result, their understanding of many biblical passages is different from the understanding of those who believe that the Bible alone and in its entirety is the Word of God.

The true Gospel has as its authority the Bible alone and in its entirety. There is no other divine source of God's Word. There can be no later additions to the Word of God. The true Gospel, which has as its authority the Bible alone and in its entirety, is different from a gospel which includes in its authority revelations which may have come after the Bible was completed. These other gospels may use ideas, phrases, and words from the true Gospel, but they are false because they have an authority other than the true Gospel. Many different gospels employ such terms as "the blood of Jesus," "the cross," "the resurrection," "heaven," "hell," and "Holy Spirit," etc., but the use of these Biblical words does not guarantee that the true Gospel is being taught. Only by following the Gospel that has its authority circumscribed by the Word of God can we know that we have the true Gospel.

Does the Bible Contain the Word of God?

Some theologians declare that the Bible contains the Word of God; this implies that parts of the Bible are not the Word of God. Effectively, they make themselves or their churches the ultimate authority: they decide what parts of the Bible are the Word of God. Rather than being subject to the Word of God, they are ruling over the Word of God. They have a narrower authority than the whole Word of God. It is important that we recognize that the whole Bible is the Word of God!

Early in this study, we raised the question, "What is the true Gospel?" We learned that the true Gospel is circumscribed by the Bible. It is based on the principle that the Bible alone and in its entirety is the Word of God. The Bible is the complete written presentation of the Gospel.

This conclusion has ominous implications for many congregations and denominations; it tells of enormous consequences for today's evangelical and Pentecostal community. The importance is stressed in the warning of Revelation 22:18-19, where God declares that anyone who widens the authority by "adding to the words of this Book," is subject to the plagues written in "this Book." The plagues relate to God's wrath being visited on those who are subject to hell. God is saying that those who add to the words of this Book are subject to eternal damnation; they are therefore unsaved. They do not understand the true Gospel of salvation.

By the same token, anyone who has a narrower authority upon which his gospel is based (he believes that only parts of the Bible are the Word of God), is warned by Revelation 22:19 that he, too, is subject to eternal damnation. Specifically, God declares, "God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city . . ." How important it is that we recognize what constitutes the true Gospel.

God states the same warning in slightly different language in Galatians 1:8-9. God declares through the Apostle Paul:

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

The double warning indicates the certainty of the curse! It emphasizes the seriousness of being sure that we are following the true Gospel, for to be under the curse of God is to be subject to eternal hell.

One might theoretically accept divine truth as coming from the Bible only, yet in actuality, regard certain doctrines or practices of the church or denominational policies and regulations as inviolate. They would insist on holding a doctrine regardless of what the Bible indicates; effectively, they have placed that doctrine on a level of authority equal with the Bible. They have inadvertently widened the authority of the Bible, and for this reason, they could never come to an agreement with those who more carefully practice by the principle that the Bible alone is the ultimate authority.

The Authority of the Bible is Narrowed and Eroded by Some Who Claim that not all of the Bible is God's Word or that certain aspects of the Bible is not relevant under today's dispensation

There are those who narrow the authority of the Bible by insisting that certain passages of Scripture apply only to the historical situation in which they are originally found. For example, they conclude that we need not obey the principles and laws that govern the original creation of man and woman by allowing for transgender people to be included in church leadership. Sadly, over time the universal Church (body of Christ) has misinterpreted and/or adapted (deliberately changed) biblical text to suit the continuous threat of gender roles and sexuality within the Christian faith, leading to varying views on this topic. Some interpretations emphasize traditional gender roles and male headship in the church, while others prioritize inclusivity of all kinds of sexes or gender identities and the idea that all people are created in God's image. This group of believers therefore conclude that it is not applicable to exclude these individuals from leadership because we live in a culture which is different from the one that existed at the time of the church of Corinth.

Let us therefore examine this conclusion. If the statement of 1 Corinthians 14:34 is applicable only to the culture of that day, then Jesus' statement in the conversation with Nicodemus in John 3 does not apply to us today, because Nicodemus was an Old Testament Jew. None of us is an Old Testament Jew. Also, the Old Testament would have no application for us today, because it was addressed to ancient Israel or nations such as Babylon. They were entirely different cultures from the cultures we have today. Moreover, the Book of Romans would have no application for us today, because it was written to the church at Rome almost 2,000 years ago. Philippians, Colossians, and the New Testament epistles would have no application for us. All of Jesus' teachings would also have to be set aside in view of the fact that He was addressing individuals who lived in a culture different from ours.

A conclusion that allows us to set aside certain passages because they seem to be associated with a cultural problem of long ago and therefore is said to have no application for our lives today, effectively, destroys the authority of the Bible. It is a direct violation of 2 Timothy 3:16: *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

This conclusion narrows the authority of the Bible in that no longer is the whole Bible the Word of God. God, in fact, placed these accounts in the Scriptures so that the principles would be laid down for the church throughout its history. 1 Corinthians 14:34 is as applicable to churches today as it was in the days of the church at Corinth.

The question at issue is: Are we ready to be obedient to the Bible? If we are not prepared to be obedient, we can destroy the authority of the Bible by such stratagems as the decision that a passage had meaning only for the culture of the day in which it was written. We must never lose sight of the fact that the whole Bible is the Word of God and is therefore to be obeyed.

This principle underscores the importance of constant Bible study for all who teach or preach God's Word. We should know the biblical basis for every doctrine we teach. If we find that a doctrine does not have adequate biblical authority, or that there are passages in the Bible that appear to contradict a doctrine we teach, it is imperative that we resolve these differences before we continue to teach that doctrine. We who believe that we have been called to teach or preach have a grave responsibility to be as accurate as possible in the Word of God. God declares in James 3:1: "My brethren, be not many masters [teachers], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

The seriousness of being a teacher of the Word of God cannot be overemphasized. Teachers and preachers of the Word of God should search the Word of God unceasingly so that what is said to the congregation (body of Christ) will be as true and trustworthy as possible. A teacher or a preacher must be ready to correct the doctrine he teaches at any time, if he finds it is contrary to the Word of God.

May our Lord give to all those who love Him and wish to be obedient to Him the wisdom and humility to submit to the authority of the Bible.

Thus far in our study we have discovered that the Bible alone and in its entirety is the verbalized, articulated Word of God. We will study another principle of Bible interpretation, that is, we are to interpret the Bible by the Bible.

If you wish to support my ministry to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost or in helping the efforts of my registered 'non-profit,' public-benefit organisation called Planting Hope Foundation NPC to offer humanitarian aid and relief to many struggling widows, orphans and vulnerable families and individuals suffering in our community, as a result of poverty, unemployment, or various addictions, fell free to contact me on the details below.

I urgently require the assistance of the public to help me fund a rehabilitation and transformational initiative from which I will be implementing and facilitating an Advance Restorative Justice Programme called 'The Honour Programme' in various prisons across South Africa. I wrote this programme with the primary objective to assist in reducing the high level of 'recidivism' (meaning, reoffending after rehabilitation and reintegration) in South Africa and to implement a rehabilitation intervention that will bring long-term, effective "transformation" to those offenders that have been led astray or negatively influenced and effective by wrongful association to lack of proper education, gangsterism, corruption, lack of moral principles, drug addiction, violent behaviour or mental disorders. We thank you in advance for your sincere consideration to donate and support these efforts for our prison ministry.

May God bless His Word and may His children live in victory of the gift we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

In God's love, Pastor Mike Gobel Associate Pastor of 'The Campus Church'

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GERDA POTGIETER

EXCLUSIVE: RESTORATION





Gerda Potgiter is Editor of Devoted Magazine.

Christian youth conferences often serve as a powerful catalyst for personal and spiritual growth and renewal.

By Gerda Potgieter

I recently attended the KwaSizabantu Youth Conference, which took place from July 3 to 9 with the theme *Wake Up, O Sleeper!* (Ephesians 5:14) at the mission station in KwaZulu-Natal. It was a life-changing experience! This Christian-based conference introduces young people to the Word of God and helps them connect with like-minded individuals who share their faith. The KwaSizabantu Youth Conference is an event where young people can learn, grow, and have uplifting experiences, often serving as a powerful catalyst for personal and spiritual growth and renewal.

The conference was attended by over 6,000 participants, with more than 10,000 people in attendance at the Thanksgiving event on Sunday, when the locals also joined. The presence of Prince Zuzifa (Shenge) Buthelezi, Inkosi of the Buthelezi clan, distinguished the Thanksgiving Day event.

In his welcoming address, Prince Zuzifa paid tribute to the late Rev. Erlo Stegen, the founder of KwaSizabantu, as well as his father, the late Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi. He spoke about the special friendship and brotherhood they shared when they were alive, which their children and grandchildren are now carrying forward. He praised the harmonious mass choir and reflected on the same sense of unity that his family has experienced at the Mission over the years, as well as during the 51 years of youth conferences that have taken place since 1974. He stated, "This is the essence of KwaSizabantu. This is the South Africa we want to see. We aspire to see this harmony not only at these youth conferences and at KwaSizabantu, but throughout the rest of South Africa."

In line with the theme, the prince advised the young people that it is all about doing the right thing at the right time and ensuring they are prepared for a spiritual awakening. He said, "When Jesus shines over our spiritual lives, he wants us to move away from sin. When we move away from sin, the darkness will leave us."

A SUSTAINABLE EVENT

This biannual KwaSizabantu Youth Conference is a sustainable event, having hosted 102 conferences since its inception more than 50 years ago, in 1974. The conference is an effective means of engaging young

people, giving them a positive sense of self, teaching them self-control and decision-making skills, providing them with prosocial connections, and enriching their lives with a moral system of belief while sharing the gospel with them. The conferences have been a source of great blessings, providing hope for thousands of young people who have attended and have had their lives changed for the better.

The collaboration between various denominations, churches, schools, and other organisations backs the KwaSizabantu Youth Conference. Those who are unable to attend the conference can tune into Radio Kwezi, the Mission's radio station, or use the streaming platform on its website, where all daily services are broadcast in isiZulu, English, German, French, Sesotho, and Portuguese. Three services are held daily, excluding Sundays, with the morning service starting at 11:00 a.m. On Sundays, the local young people join the conference in large numbers, and additional seating is usually provided in large tents at the back of the auditorium to accommodate the overflow.

THE LOGISTICS

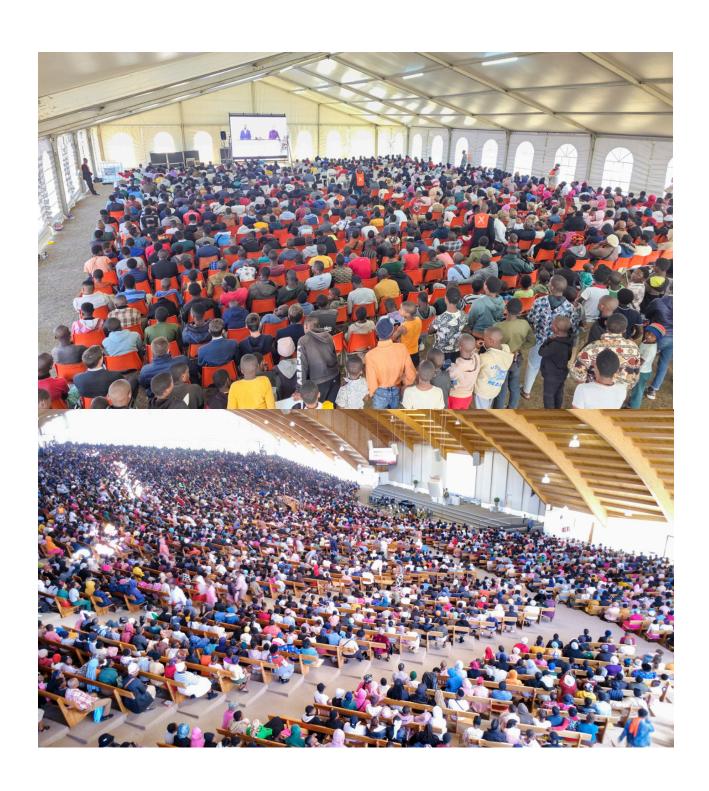
The logistics of the youth conference are enormous. A week in advance, the Mission's buses drive across South Africa and often also to neighbouring countries to pick up the thousands of young people at their various destinations. They come from Gauteng, the Free State and Umtata, and are serious about hearing more from the Lord. They also often reach out through these youth conferences to receive help from their Mission's CYPSA restoration program, which has already helped over 20,000 young people who were addicted to drugs and substance abuse.

The facilities of the Servite Domino School of the Mission are converted into dormitories for the girls, and the hostel on the mission is converted into dormitories for the boys. The entire Mission community does what they can to clean, fix, and prepare to receive the young group when the buses start arriving in a row. The personal belongings of the young people are stored in special facilities for security purposes, and they are given access to them under the strict control of adults. Feeding thousands of always hungry youths at once is no joke, but even the cooking and show-off go smoothly. One thing is for sure: the food never runs out, and each of the thousands of young visitors gets their share during mealtimes.

Given that the Mission held its 102nd youth conference, it is worth noting that the organisers have refined their event management logistics and can serve as an example and inspiration to others. Accommodating, feeding, and keeping thousands of young people busy for a week without any serious incident is a scary idea for most of us. At KwaSizabantu, the preparation and events run smoothly, and for every incident, there is an immediate outcome or solution – event management par excellence! The good part is that the youth conference is free for participants because it's sponsored by the Mission and its business partner, aQuellé (a bottled water brand) in its entirety.

ENRICHING EXPERIENCE FOR SOUL, MIND, AND BODY

Apart from the soul-enriching speakers who use the three services a day to bring the young people closer to the Lord, the Mission also holds a sports day. The sports activities are designed to accommodate everyone, including those with no specific sports talent. The activities



RESTORATION

include competition-friendly games where participants are rewarded for their performance and participation in the events.

The speakers included Nico Bosman and Adam Mickleburgh from CYPSA, who created awareness of the dangers of vaping and alcohol abuse. Both shared statistics, which offer a glimpse into the extent of this social issue in society. Dr. Peter Hammond, a regular speaker at the youth conference, also reminded the young people that time is of the essence and that they should strive to live a life of purpose, being prepared for the Lord.

In line with the theme, Dr. Peter Hammond from the Frontline Fellowship spoke about individuals who are "sleeping on duty," including preachers in churches. He pointed out that many people today are on the broad road to destruction, mainly due to blindness that prevents them from recognising the dangers around them. He described these individuals as "Jellyfish," referring to those who are spineless and lack principles. Dr. Hammond emphasised that spiritual illnesses can only be cured by a daily dose of God's Word. He stated, "To know God's will, we must study the Word of God daily."

The combination of fun and faith makes the strategy of this conference uniquely positioned to draw young people who have never heard about the Lord before. At the conference, they are introduced to sound Christian teachings in a way that is relevant and impactful to them. The services are designed to show them how the timeless Word of God is appropriate in their lives and helps them form a deeper spiritual connection with Jesus.

RESTORATION

THE MISSION

The KwaSizabantu Mission is a non-denominational Christian mission station that reaches out to people of all racial and cultural groups. KwaSizabantu brings spiritual guidance, support, and counselling to anyone who needs it. Since the mission began, it has opened its doors wide to the youth, allowing them to hear more from the Lord, offering them hope, teaching them valuable skills, and lifting them. They have faced various challenges to help the youth. Christian leaders and preachers from around the world are invited to share the gospel with young people. In the past, and during these conferences, many of the young people who attended decided to change their lives for the better and accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Many of these inspiring and life-changing stories can be read on the Mission's official website.

It is essential to involve young people in sustainable development, which is why Emseni Farming has partnered with the Mission in the past to teach the youth valuable agricultural skills, such as growing a vegetable garden in their backyard. It is an excellent way to motivate young people to look after their own needs, and the project has since been widely extended, including to schools. Dietmar Joosten, farm manager of Emseni, implemented the program during the 2022 youth conference and said he hoped it would motivate young people to explore job opportunities in the agricultural sector. "I want to encourage you to start vegetable gardens so that you can help take care of your families", Dietmar told the young people during the skills training session. "In this way, you can help yourself, and you can also help others. Perhaps you can later pursue a career in the agricultural sector and make such a valuable contribution to food security".

RESTORATION

Young people comprise a significant portion of South African communities. The younger they start thinking about the future and preparing themselves effectively, the more successful they will be. It is an excellent idea to teach young people practical skills that enable them to help themselves and give them hope for a better future.

(NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Gerda Potgieter is the author of the book, A Journey to the Truth, The case of KwaSizabantu Mission, and the managing editor of the Devoted magazine. You can read inspiring articles from young people who have given their lives for the Lord during these youth conferences on the website: http://www.devotedmag.co.za.

Book link: A JOURNEY TO THE TRUTH: The case of KwaSizabantu Mission: Potgieter, Gerda: 9780639797038: Amazon.com: Books https://www.amazon.com/JOURNEY-TRUTH-case-KwaSizabantu-Mission/dp/0639797032





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CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL HEALTH

CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL HEALTH IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

When you look at the world today, it feels like everything is falling apart. There is chaos everywhere. The world as we know it is changing fundamentally. Witnessing the rapid growth in technology, economic instability and environmental concerns, just to name a few, are not merely abstract concepts but real life challenges that are affecting people in real ways. We see families struggle as living expenses rises, ideological disputes dividing communities and many are feeling unsure, disconnected and overwhelmed yet we find even in Biblical times Gods hand, His presence and His order remains.

As spirit-filled believers we must recognize that even in the times of chaos we need to apply the Word of God to our daily living standards. Times of chaos creates fertile ground to release seeds of encouragement, to raise faith, gather souls for Christ and testify of a Father that turns everything around for His good, according to His plans and purposes. Satan thrives in environments of confusion and disarray, as these conditions are fertile ground for his manipulative schemes, he seeks to exploit uncertainty and fear. His aim is to bring division in our relationships especially godly relationships and he uses tools to influence and cause chaos.

Scripture clearly states in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 that our fight is not the weapons of the world, on the contrary they have divine power to demolish strongholds. Times of chaos cultivates the ground for spiritual warfare, for Victory and to gather souls for Kingdom of heaven but we cannot be conformed to the pattern of the world. For us to walk in

CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Victory, already freely been given to us through Jesus Christ we need to abstain from worldly patterns.

The question is how do we apply 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 to our daily walk as Christians in a chaotic world? Google explains a newsfeed as a stream of personalized and updated content, available for a user based on their interactions and interests. The Apostle Paul comes in Romans 12:2, with great wisdom and instructs us not to be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. It seems that one of the greatest and most significant challenges for Christians is transforming one's thought patterns to align with Gods will, difficult but absolutely possible when we feed our minds with the right content. For some it might require some effort to replace worldly thoughts, and perspectives with thoughts rooted in faith and truth. Friends, can I encourage you today that the greatest news feed to nourish your mind and the only news feed that will satisfy is truth in the Word of God.

There are many voices in this world, some released through channels of confusion and deception but there is a Voice that is Pure, Holy and true, a Voice that connects Gods children to His heart. The world gives us access to man's wisdom but the truth in God's Word gives us access to His heart through His Spirit. We read in Philippians 4:8 that we should think upon things that is true, noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, whatever is praiseworthy and trustworthy. How will we ever think on upon these things when there is an overload of newsfeeds thinking patterns rooted in the world and its desires. There is a constant battle going on in our minds and the only

CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL HEALTH

way to win this war is by renewing our minds and filling our minds with truth. We read in 2 Peter 1:2-5 that God has given us everything we need pertaining to life and godliness to escape the corruption of this world. We are now partakers of a divine life. Colossians 3:2 encourages us to set our minds on things above and not earthly things. We read in 2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Today, choose life! Fill your mind with Godly thoughts. Worldly thought patterns can cause mental illness, it distorts your vision, re-align your thoughts with the goodness of God. Chaos limits your mind, it can distract you from your purpose and calling. Cultivate healthy thought patterns for a healthy spiritual life in Christ. The best life is a surrendered life, surrender your thoughts, your words and desires to our Mighty God and live a life of Great Victory in Christ. I remind you today that in Christ we have the Victory. He has already won the battle for us! I am ending off with a well-known quote: "Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are seeds, you can grow flowers or you can grow weeds".



In His Service
Apostle Lynette Wessels
FTM Ministries International

THECOSPELMESSAGE

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS CHRIST?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Romans 3:23 ESV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thin king about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

2 Thessalonians 1:9

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might" NASB This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

- **= Everlasting Punishment**
- = Destruction
- = Shut Out
- = No Godly Presence
- = And no Glory at all

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

NASB

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, God has made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

John 1:12-13

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

NASB

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

Romans 10 vs 9-10

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

NASB

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.

Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.



And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.



ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING!

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen!

Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, prayer all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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HYBRE KIVEDO

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS





Hybre Kivedo is Writer and Author with an amazing insight and passion for Jesus!

"RISE, PARENTS: ANCHORED IN GOD IN A WORLD ADRIFT" -

"How Spirit-Filled Parenting Must Rebuild the Family Altar Before the World Rebuilds Our Children"

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

- Proverbs 22:6

THE STORM WE'RE RAISING THEM IN

This isn't just a fast-paced generation. It's a spiritually assaulted one. Children are no longer simply facing "peer pressure." They are navigating ideological warfare, identity confusion, mental health crises, and spiritual deception, and all of it wrapped in glossy trends, "likes," and language that looks innocent but is soaked in lies.

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil..." — Isaiah 5:20

Let's be honest:

It's not about our children that will encounter darkness, it's whether they'll be anchored when it hits.

And that anchoring? It starts in the home. With you, Mom and Dad as the parents.

More specifically: with mothers and fathers fully awake, fully surrendered, and fully armored.

THE CLARION CALL TO MOTHERS AND FATHERS

"Then the Lord God called to Adam, 'Where are you?'" — Genesis 3:9 This was not a question of geography. It was a question of spiritual position. And today, God is still asking:

Where are you, mom? Where are you, dad?

Are you alert, or distracted?

Present, or preoccupied?

Leading with truth, or outsourcing it to YouTube, teachers, and TikTok? Many homes are filled with stuff, but empty of presence. Many homes are full of schedules, but lacking in the Spirit.

"Your children don't just need new shoes, they need a new spiritual climate. One that breaks the smog of confusion, dries up the floodwaters of fear, and shifts the atmosphere around them. They need to breathe in the breath of God again, not just once on a Sunday, but daily, in a home where His presence reigns like sunlight through storm clouds. Where the winds declare His Word and the ground beneath them is soaked in prayer. They don't need more noise. They need the roar of God's voice in your home, a climate that casts out darkness and invites heaven to dwell."

THE ALTAR MUST BE REBUILT

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."." — Joshua 24:15

This is no time for "Christianity on autopilot." Your home is either a training ground for spiritual power ...or a gateway for worldly compromise.

What's playing through the speakers in your house, Mom and Dad? Worship or worldliness? Prayer or passive scrolling? The Word or white noise?

We are not called to just raise kids. We are called to raise warriors. Light-bearers. Truth-carriers. Culture-defiers.

The altar must be rebuilt in the home, not with candles and rituals, but with the presence of God, the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and

parents who live out their faith boldly, daily, authentically.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE HIDING IN EMOTIONAL MASKS

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood..." — Ephesians 6:12 That attitude from your teen? That silence from your daughter? That rage from your son? Don't write it off as "just hormones." There is often warfare behind the wound.

Our kids are being spiritually hunted by a culture obsessed with self and rebellion. The enemy is clever, he doesn't show up with a pitched-fork. He shows up with filters, fun trends, and distorted "truths."

We must stop parenting based on what we see, and start parenting from the spiritual realm, in discernment, prayer, and power.

RESTORING IDENTITY IN A WORLD OF LIES

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." - Jeremiah 1:5.

"You are fearfully and wonderfully made." — Psalm 139:14

The world is naming our children for us:

"You're a failure."

"You're not enough."

"Choose your gender."

"Be whoever you feel like."

If you don't root them in God's identity, they'll accept the worlds.

An identity is not forced. It's spoken, prayed, modeled, and revealed, through a home soaked in the Word.

You Are Raising Royalty in a Time of War

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." – 1 Peter 2:9

Parents, this is not just a nice scripture to put on your wall, it is a divine declaration. A mandate. A prophetic stamp of your identity and that of your child. This verse is not passive. It is warlike. It pierces the fog of cultural confusion and plants your feet on holy ground. It doesn't just describe who you are, it demands that you walk like you know who you are.

This Generation Is Not Forgotten — It's Chosen

You and your children were not born into this time by mistake. The chaos around us, the collapsing moral standards, the eroding family structures, the spiritual apathy masked by entertainment, and the storm of identity crisis, none of it intimidates God.

He placed you here on purpose, for a purpose. Why? Because you are chosen. Not just to survive the dark, but to proclaim the Light.

The enemy is after your children because he fears them. He knows the power of a child who is raised in the fear of the Lord. He trembles at the sound of a mother's midnight prayer. He flees from a father who declares the Word over his house. He cannot stand against a family that walks in the truth of who they are: a royal priesthood, set apart to rule, to intercede, and to worship.

Parents, Declare Daily Over Your Children:

These aren't just cute phrases — they are spiritual weapons.

"You are set apart."

Not for popularity. Not for blending in. You were hand-picked by God to be light in the shadows. When others bow to culture, you will stand. When others fold under pressure, you will rise with purpose.

"You are deeply loved by God."

Let this truth echo louder than any social media comment, louder than rejection at school, louder than the ache of an absent father. You are loved with an everlasting love, unshaken by failure, untouched by shame, and unconquered by sin. No lie can override it. No wound can erase it. God's love is not fragile, it is fierce, eternal, and fully yours. "You have purpose, You have destiny, and You have power in Christ." The world says "find yourself." God says, "Lose yourself in Me, and I will reveal who you are."

In Christ, your child has identity. In Christ, they carry destiny. In Christ, they walk in resurrection power.

Change the Atmosphere — Don't Just Monitor the Behavior Too often, we're correcting behavior but not cultivating identity. You can take away a phone, but if you don't refill the soul, the void will return. You can set rules, but if you don't shift the atmosphere, the spirit behind the battle remains.

This generation doesn't just need correction — they need spiritual covering. They don't just need schedules — they need sanctuaries. They need parents who create homes where angels feel welcome and demons know they're trespassing.

Speak the Word. Sing the Word. Pray the Word. Don't just speak to your children — prophesy over them.

MOTHERHOOD AND FATHERHOOD ARE MINISTRIES

"Her children arise and call her blessed." — Proverbs 31:28

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." — Ephesians 6:4

This isn't about being trendy parents — it's about being territory

takers.

The role of "parent" is not just physical — it's a spiritual leadership.

You are the:

First pastor your child will ever hear.

First worship leader they'll watch.

First intercessor they'll feel.

First image of authority they'll obey - or resist.

Mothers, you are the heartbeat of the home.

Fathers, you are the covering and protector.

Together, you are called to build a house where Jesus reigns every single day.

STOP OUTSOURCING YOUR ASSIGNMENT

God didn't give your child to the school system, the youth pastor, or their social media followers.

He gave them to YOU, Moms and Dads.

And with that gift comes a holy responsibility to:

Disciple.

Discipline.

Declare truth.

Demolish strongholds in prayer.

This isn't legalism.

This is holy love — the kind of parenting that doesn't back down when culture pushes. Like Hannah, who poured out her soul before the Lord and kept her vow, we too must be willing to return our children to God, not just in word, but in-deed, raising them in His presence and for His purposes.

"For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore, I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." — 1 Samuel 1:27–28 (NKJV)

Hannah didn't hold on to Samuel out of fear of the times or attachment to her own plans. She surrendered him — fully — because she trusted God more than she feared the future. This is the call for every parent today. To say: "Lord, You gave them to me, now I give them back to You. Not to be hidden from the world, but to stand out in it — holy, set apart, and burning with Your Spirit."

Like Lois and Eunice, who passed down a legacy of sincere and unshakable faith to Timothy, we are reminded that faith begins at home — not with perfection, but with persistence, prayer, and presence. "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also." — 2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV).

Their faith wasn't just spoken — it was lived. It was the kind of faith that birthed boldness in a young man called to preach, lead, and suffer for Christ. It shows us that generational faith is not automatic — it's intentional. It is taught at the dinner table, lived out through trials, and sealed in prayer.

This is the call to parents: to become the Hannah's, the Lois and the Eunice of your bloodline — to plant seeds now that will blossom into a faith that won't bend when the world presses in.

Legacy doesn't begin in a spotlight; it begins in the living room.

You don't need to be flashy, you need to be faithful.

From the Throne Room to the Living Room.

Here's how we can begin the shift – today:

- ✓Start your day in prayer before scrolling your phone.
- ✓One Scripture per week as a family.
- Ask bold questions "What's your heart carrying today?"
- ✓Create a daily Sabbath rhythm Unplug Daily, Worship Fully.
- ✓ Declare identity over them daily Speak God's truth about who they are, every day.
- ✓ Remove access to spiritual pollutants (certain music, media, toxic influences).
- Let your kids see you worship when you're winning and when you're weeping.
- ✓ Fast monthly for your child's calling and protection.

THE FINAL PROPHETIC CHARGE - RISE, PARENTS.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." — Proverbs 31:25

You are not powerless.

You are not outnumbered.

You are not alone.

You are called, clothed, and commissioned for this hour.

Let your children grow up saying:

"My mother was a woman of the Word. My father was a man of prayer. They fought for me in the Spirit. They refused to bow to culture. They made our home a place of holiness, not just comfort."

So What Do We Do Now?

We return.

We repent.

We rebuild.

We humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and admit: we've let go of the wheel. But today, we take it back—not in our own strength, but by the Spirit of the Living God. We unplug the noise, bring our families back to the altar, restore the Word to our homes, and we will once again as it is stated:

"So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household..." – Acts 16 verse 31

FINAL DECLARATION - SPEAK THIS OUT LOUD:

I am chosen by God to raise this child.

I do not fear the world - I anchor my home in Christ.

My house will serve the Lord.

I cancel every lie the enemy has tried to plant in my child's heart.

I rise, not in my strength — but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The mantle is mine. The battle is real. But victory is already won.

I will rebuild the altar. I will raise warriors. I will not be silent.

🖖 A Prayer of Rededication: For Parents and Families

Father God,

We come before You, broken but not forsaken. We confess that we have let go of the sacred assignment You gave us as parents. We confess the areas where we've been distracted, tired, silent, or absent. Lord, we have given ground to the enemy, but today we take it back by the authority of Jesus Christ.

We rededicate our lives to You—not just as individuals, but as parents. As mothers and fathers. As stewards of these children You've entrusted to us.

Restore the altar in our homes. Restore prayer in our homes. Restore purity, holiness, and truth in our families. Let Your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path once again. Let us not raise children who fit into this world, but ones who will transform it.

Break every generational curse. Uproot every lie that's been planted. And establish our families in righteousness and truth.

We give our children back to You. They are Yours before they are ours. Use them for Your glory. Raise up warriors, prophets, leaders, and kingdom ambassadors this within the fivefold ministry.

And use us—flawed, tired, but willing—to lead them there.

We seal this rededication in the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of His blood, and through the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let it be known:

Hell, trembles when a mother and father get on their knees... and rise in the authority of God.



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ITI CITY BIBLES

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