



Without Walls

A QUARTERLY EVANGELICAL JOURNAL OF 300 LEADERS CLUB INT'L

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16th Edition

THE MYSTERY OF PRAISE, GIVING & THANKSGIVING

DOES GOD
STILL
SPEAK TO
US TODAY?

UNDERSTANDING
SPIRITUAL
GROWTH

WHY YOUR
MIND MUST
BE RENEWED

IS IT A
SIN TO
BE RICH?

PATIENCE, A
GREAT VIRTUE!

IN CHURCH
BUT NOT
IN CHRIST!

READERS' NOTICE:

Without Walls introduces "Letters-to-the Editor" column from next edition. Readers are encouraged to send in brief comments, reactions and rejoinders to published articles in our previous editions. Such feedback is necessary to enable us serve you better. Send them by SMS to – 08034730578, 08024622073, and 08023452334 or by e-mail to: asdavidcrusade@gmail.com and eroce@yahoo.com.



From the PUBLISHER'S Desk

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Quote on MARBLE

"Those who bless God in their trials will be blessed by God through their trials"

-Anonymous

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: For this is the whole duty of man”, says Eccl. 12:13. The import of this is that reverential fear for God is imperative and sine-qua-non for Man.

This 'fear' finds expression in various ways including **Praise and Worship, Giving and Thanksgiving**. Sure these as a manifestation of a **Renewed Mind**, which in all forms bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

It is important that we are **In Church and also In Christ**; strive at earnest Spiritual Growth so as to show yourselves approved of the Word and not to remain as babies. No doubt, there are indeed **True Benefits in Following Christ**, even as we show ourselves as the **Express Image of God**.

In an age where enormous challenges confront the Believer, thus testing and trying his faith and confidence in Christ Jesus, the believer must increasingly show that more than ever before, the **Gospel of the Kingdom of God is still Very Relevant Today!**

This 16th edition of *Without Walls* has been carefully packaged to address different aspects of a believer's **Spiritual Growth/Development**. Read on and be blessed, even as you share this copy of the magazine with someone you love.

Shalom!

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Be A BLESSING TO OTHERS!



By Margaret Osaretin

God's desire for blessing us is to make us channel of blessing to one another. There is power in giving. What does anyone stand to gain when he or she becomes a hindrance to someone else's progress or success?

Some people hoard opportunities and hide information that should elevate others to greatness or make them fulfilled in their destiny pursuits. Such are an anathema! Prov. 11: 25 says that "a liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered". We should learn to be open-minded to one another.

So many people are too selfish for God's liking; hence many are not enjoying the full package of redemption. Many see and enjoy benefits and opportunities but quickly shut such doors against others. This largely accounts for depravity and crime in the society.

The parable of the unclean spirit in Luke 11:24-26 is

instructive in a way. Soon as the unclean spirit discovered opportunity for 'a better life', it did not immediately jump at it as some people will greedily do but instead, went straight to its colleagues, unveiled the info and ensured that they all partook of the new abode.

In the Old Testament, it is

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told of how the four lepers brought 'salvation and breakthrough' to the whole city. Jewish law forbade lepers from the city; they were considered outcasts but when fortune suddenly smiled on them, they chose not to pay evil for evil. They willingly

shared their 'breakthrough, blessings and joy' with the same people that had rejected them.

Somehow, the lepers had a better idea of what it meant to share rather than eat alone. Share your earthly goods with those in need. The journey to selfishness has just one destination and that destination is a bad end.

Brethren, giving is living; and sharing is saving! Be a consistent giver and enhance your salvation.

If all you have is from God, why hoard or hold back? John 3: 27 says that "a man can receive nothing, except it be given him from above". Through you, God expects to bless others; the more we give, the more we receive from him.

Proverbs 11:24 says "there is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet but it tendeth to poverty". There is no use postponing the day you should show kindness to someone because a more convenient time may never come. Procrastination is a very costly error for a believer to commit. Harden not your heart to help others when you can!

DO YOU KNOW THE VARIOUS AGES?

A person between:
10 and 19 years old is called a denarian
20 and 29 years old is a vicenarian
30 and 39 is a tricenarian
40 and 49 is a quadragenarian
50 and 59 is a quinquagenarian
60 and 69 is a sexagenarian
70 and 79 is a septuagenarian
80 and 89 is an octogenarian
90 and 99 is a nonagenarian
100 and 109 is a centenarian
110 and above is a supercentenarian
Hope you knew all these before now!

APOEM FEAR NOT!

**Why should I not fear?
Because problems have an expiry date
Why should I not fear?
Because God has said so
Why should I not fear?
Because God says, it is well with the righteous
Why should I not fear?
Because the greater One is in me
Fear not!**

**Why should I not fear?
Because the peace of the Lord is available in my storms
Why should I not fear?
Because the Lord has given me the spirit of boldness and a sound mind
Why should I not fear?
Because God has not forgotten or abandoned me
Why should I not fear?
Because there is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven
Therefore, fear not!**

LEARN *to* 'SHARE TOGETHER'



By Sarah David

To 'share' simply means to divide something between two or more people; and 'sharing together' implies having things in common. 'Sharing together' has so many benefits which include:

1. It brings peace one towards another.
2. Age-long problems are solved when we sincerely share.
3. There is the presence of God following and bringing restoration with others in love.
4. It kills the spirit of greed and selfishness, self centeredness and wickedness of the heart.
5. It destroys the Spirit of competition & strife.
6. It removes lies from amongst brethren.
7. When we share, ego and arrogance are removed.
8. Sharing opens the door of favour to everyone.
9. Sharing removes segregation and sectionalism.
10. It increases influence and affluence and brings multiplication on all you do.
11. It makes for trust in relationships
12. And it helps us esteem others better than ourselves; there will be such flow of love that what concerns others will concern you.

“Examples of those who shared and were blessed abound in the scripture. First and foremost, God shared His Son Jesus Christ with us and in return He gained the whole world (all of us kingdom citizens)”.

Examples of those who shared and were blessed abound in the scripture. First and foremost, God shared His Son Jesus Christ with us

and in return He gained the whole world (all of us kingdom citizens).

“Idolatry will not allow people to share for fear of being taken to the coven or eaten by witchcraft. Perfect love casts out all fears”

Secondly, Jesus sowed Himself and commanded that we too should lay down our lives for the brethren. As many as have done this have had extraordinary testimonies. Abraham shared with the three men that he saw; he entertained them and Isaac came! (Gen. 18:1-

14)

The young lad had five loaves of bread and two small fishes which he shared with five thousand men and twelve baskets of foods were the left over. (Matt: 14:16). The disciples of Jesus shared all together and had all things in common and three thousand persons were added to the church. (Acts 2:41-46). The Shunamite woman shared with Elisha and had a son (2Kings 4:12-17). The list is endless.

Space will not permit me to talk on Abigail, how her sharing saved the life of her family; how Lydia ministered to missionaries and many were saved; how David shared with the Egyptian lad and recovered all that he lost.

Brethren, it's time to begin to share with others the love of Christ and begin to reap the harvest of souls. Idolatry will not allow people to share for fear of being taken to the coven or eaten by witchcraft. Perfect love casts out all fears. Let our hearts be flooded with the love of Christ that knows no boundaries, no discrimination, no segregation and no antagonism. The love that cuts across every barriers!

Allow the love of Christ 'that passeth all understanding' to flood your heart in Jesus Name Amen. Always look out for opportunity to share and divide with someone somewhere the blessings of God in your life and lack will never be your portion in Jesus name. Amen.

Till we meet again keep sharing together in love don't stop and you'll always be above not beneath. Cheers

THE MYSTERY OF Thanks GIVING



By B.S. Davids

1 Thess. 5:18 says: “In everything, give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 'Mystery' here means the hidden truth about thanksgiving.

Without thanksgiving there can be no access or visa into God's presence as Psalm 100:4 says: “Enter into his gate with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise...”. Be thankful unto him!

You do not say 'thank you' with a cold face; every genuine 'thank you' is with a smile. Thanksgiving is appreciating God, celebrating Him for who He is and by so doing, you are provoking him for more intervention in your life!

There is no faster way to propel yourself to your destination than through thanksgiving. High blood pressure of many years was healed after thanking God for healing before the healing took place! Thanksgiving is not a ritual but mystery in the kingdom of God; but to those outside the kingdom, it is a parable.

In Luke 17:11-19, the leper who came back to thank Jesus Christ was made whole. Thanksgiving is a mystery that releases glory. Let your

thanksgiving be more than your prayer points; thank him for every experience –good, bad or ugly. According to Psalm 68:19, “he loads us daily with his benefits”. Thanksgiving is a mystery that brings wholeness or completeness.

Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah was barren for many years. God's purpose was to have her pregnant at the same time Mary was pregnant with Jesus because John the Baptist would be the forerunner of Jesus. Your own may be the same; thank Him in every situation you find yourself.

If we genuinely give thanks, we shall become sweat-less; anything we thank God for supernaturally multiplies. Whenever we engage the mysteries of his kingdom, we trigger God's wisdom for our freedom. Thanksgiving activates your future; the things you achieve in life are by God's enablement, there are people who are more qualified than you; it is not by your efforts that you are alive, give him thanks.

When things happen as expected, give him thanks to keep them happening. To take God for granted is to be grounded. When we forget God's benefits, He forgets our needs. Thanksgiving is the mystery behind the preservation of the blessings of God in our lives.

Therefore, if we want our

blessings preserved, we must be addicted to thanksgiving! With thanksgiving comes fresher oil on our heads.

We cannot enjoy perfection by grumbling and complaining; perfection comes by thanksgiving. If

Jesus is all you have, you have everything; thanksgiving will restore anything, anytime and any day because it carries restoration virtue within it.

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us died for us to live and if you have nothing to thank him about, thank him for your salvation; many died without knowing him. Thanksgiving is not about 'how big' but a thing of the heart. Remember Cain and Abel? Thanksgiving is a point of contact for your lifting instruction and deliverance from destruction. Your excitement at it is evidence that you know what you are doing.

God will not demand the highest from you; he will request what he knows that you have.

Thanksgiving is a mystery of multiplication. Just before the seven loaves were multiplied, Jesus gave thanks; it was this thanksgiving that caused the multiplication (Matt. 15:36). When you thank God for the little you have, multiplication happens. Give Him thanks always. God bless you.

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THE DIFFERENT NAMES OF GOD & MEANING

Each of the many names of God describes a different aspect of His many-faceted character. Here are some of the better-known names of God in the Bible:

EL, ELOAH [el, el-oh-ah]: God "mighty, strong, prominent" (Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 139:19) – etymologically, El appears to mean "power" and "might" (Genesis 31:29). El is associated with other qualities, such as integrity (Numbers 23:19), jealousy (Deuteronomy 5:9), and compassion (Nehemiah 9:31), but the root idea of "might" remains. **ELOHIM** [el-oh-heem]: God "Creator, Mighty and Strong" (Genesis 17:7; Jeremiah 31:33) – the plural form of Eloah, which accommodates the doctrine of the Trinity. From the Bible's first sentence, the superlative nature of God's power is evident as God (Elohim) speaks the world into existence (Genesis 1:1).

EL SHADDAI [el-shah-dahy]: "God Almighty," "The Mighty One of Jacob" (Genesis 49:24; Psalm 132:2,5) – speaks to God's ultimate power over all.

YAHWEH-JIREH [yah-way-ji-reh]: "The Lord Will Provide" (Genesis 22:14) – the name memorialized by Abraham when God provided the ram to be sacrificed in place of Isaac.

YAHWEH-M'KADDESH [yah-way-meh-kad-esh]: "The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy" (Leviticus 20:8; Ezekiel 37:28) – God makes it clear that He alone, not the law, can cleanse His people and make them holy.

YAHWEH-SHALOM [yah-way-

shah-lohm]: "The Lord Our Peace" (Judges 6:24) – the name given by Gideon to the altar he built after the Angel of the Lord assured him he would not die as he thought he would after seeing Him.

YAHWEH-ELOHIM [yah-way-el-oh-him]: "LORD God" (Genesis 2:4; Psalm 59:5) – a combination of God's unique name YHWH and the generic "Lord," signifying that He is the Lord of Lords.

YAHWEH-TSIDKENU [yah-way-tzid-kay-noo]: "The Lord Our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16) – As with YHWH-M'Kaddesh, it is God alone who provides righteousness (from the Hebrew word tsidkenu) to man, ultimately in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, who became sin for us "that we might become the Righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

YAHWEH-ROHI [yah-way-roh-hee]: "The Lord Our Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1) – After David pondered his relationship as a shepherd to his sheep, he realized that was exactly the relationship God had with him, and so he declares, "Yahweh-Rohi is my Shepherd. I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

YAHWEH-SHAMMAH [yah-way-sham-mahw]: "The Lord Is There" (Ezekiel 48:35) – the name ascribed to Jerusalem and the Temple there, indicating that the once-departed glory of the Lord (Ezekiel 8–11) had returned (Ezekiel 44:1-4).

YAHWEH-SABAOOTH [yah-way-sah-bah-ohth]: "The Lord of Hosts" (Isaiah 1:24; Psalm 46:7) – Hosts means "hordes," both of angels and of men. He is Lord of the host of heaven and of the inhabitants of the earth, of Jews and Gentiles, of rich and poor, master and slave. The name is expressive of the majesty, power, and authority of God

and shows that He is able to accomplish what He determines to do.

EL ELYON [el-el-yohn]: "Most High" (Deuteronomy 26:19) – derived from the Hebrew root for "go up" or "ascend," so the implication is of that which is the very highest. El Elyon denotes exaltation and speaks of absolute right to lordship.

EL ROI [el-roh-ee]: "God of Seeing" (Genesis 16:13) – the name ascribed to God by Hagar, alone and desperate in the wilderness after being driven out by Sarah (Genesis 16:1-14). When Hagar met the Angel of the Lord, she realized she had seen God Himself in a theophany. She also realized that El Roi saw her in her distress and testified that He is a God who lives and sees all.

EL-OLAM [el-oh-lahm]: "Everlasting God" (Psalm 90:1-3) – God's nature is without beginning or end, free from all constraints of time, and He contains within Himself the very cause of time itself. "From everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

EL-GIBHOR [el-ghee-bohr]: "Mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6) – the name describing the Messiah, Christ Jesus, in this prophetic portion of Isaiah. As a powerful and mighty warrior, the Messiah, the Mighty God, will accomplish the destruction of God's enemies and rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15).

C u l l e d f r o m
<https://www.gotquestions.com>

THE GOSPEL IS STILL *Relevant* TODAY!



By A.S. David

The question: *'Is the Gospel still relevant today?'* ordinarily sounds curious and puzzling but somehow deeply revealing on the extent of ignorance about the Gospel in this generation! It is either this generation has no knowledge of what constitutes the gospel or that there is a deliberate attempt to demean, destroy or even deny the existence of the Gospel.

We shall attempt to show what the gospel really is and with the benefit of insight prove the continuous relevance of the gospel in the world today. The word 'gospel' is not a religious word. It means good news. It is a piece of information that adds value to the hearer.

Though in journalism, 'bad news' passes as 'good news', it only informs without adding value to the hearers. When we speak of the gospel of the kingdom, we mean the 'good news of the kingdom'. That is the value-adding information about a kingdom!

It is imperative to acknowledge that for effective communication, concepts should be adequately defined. To this end, we need to understand 'kingdom' as meaning the 'domain of a king' – that is, a king and his rulership over a territory called his domain!

With this concept, the Gospel of the Kingdom is better defined as the value-adding information about a king and his kingdom. The hearers of the Gospel get to know that the governmental influence of the

King of Heaven has come to earth for the benefit of, mankind. The King is Jesus Christ; he brought the kingdom of God that men will become citizens of it. This is the Gospel – the Good News!

There are different kinds of gospels preached and each claims revelation privilege. The Scriptures, however, restrict us to one gospel. Gal. 1:8 says: *"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."*

For clarity, this Gospel has been described with different names but remains the same gospel. It is sometimes called the Gospel of Peace (Rom 10:15); the Gospel of Christ, (Gal 1:7); the Gospel of your Salvation, (Eph. 1:13). It is the power of God unto salvation, (Rom 1:16).

Jesus Christ instructed the disciples to preach the Kingdom. (Matt. 10:7). He left a standing order in Matt. 24:14 - *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the entire world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come"*.

He preached the kingdom. Mt 4:23. John the Baptist preached the kingdom (Mat 3:2) saying: *"Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"*. Philip preached the kingdom in Acts 8:12: *"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women"*.

Paul preached the kingdom (Acts 20:25): *"And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no*

more". Acts 28:31 *"Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching..."*

From the foregoing, the kingdom remains what we are to preach. The more we do this the more people press into the kingdom.

There are many benefits accruing to citizens of the kingdom and these include: 1. The health programme: healing; 2. Security programme: Angels fight our wars; 3. Education programme: Holy Spirit teaching;

4. Diplomatic corp: we are ambassadors of Christ; 5. Economy: giving and receiving; 6. Taxation: tithing; 7.

Administration: church ministering the gifts of the Spirit.

Everyone needs good health, security, education, good economy and the gospel offers these.

In conclusion, the countries of the world have for centuries been battling with the challenges of providing for their citizens to no avail. However, there is 'good news' and that is, that the kingdom provides all the needs of her citizens and much more.

Therefore, the gospel of the kingdom remains the only hope in life. For by the gospel men become citizens of the kingdom of God and are qualified to assess its benefits. For this reason, the relevance of the gospel cannot be overemphasized, even till the present day!

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IN CHURCH BUT NOT IN CHRIST!



By Collins Godwin-Ikubor

This question suffices: Are you in Church or in Christ? Each of us should ask ourselves and be sincere with our answers for, it is one thing to be in church or to be called a Christian and another to be in Christ. All boil down to our motives.

Many easily claim to be Christians and members of particular churches but the issue here is not going to church but being in Christ! Sure, physical presence in church makes you get to hear the word of God and learn more about God, his ways and thereafter, allow the word to take root in you. Heb 10:25 enjoins us not to forsake the assembly of one another.

Unfortunately, many go to church today, get intensely involved with church activities and assume that they are in Christ. You could be tongue-talking, demon-casting; operating in all forms of spiritual gifts but still not be in Christ. Surprised?

Church activities should not be substituted for spirituality, you may have been born in church, dedicated in church, assigned to the priest as the case of young Samuel and still not be in Christ! *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven"*, said Jesus Christ himself.

"Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles? Then I will tell them

plainly, 'I never knew you; away from me, you evildoers'" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Certain attributes mark out those who are in Church but not in Christ and they include eye service, offence disposition, attention seeking, non-reverence for God, bitterness, fault finding, etc.

Eye Service: This is the act of making shows to attract accolades from men. It has a latent ability to willfully demean others. Ephesians 6:5-6 warns against this. *"Ser^vants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart"*.

Friends, anything not done unto the Lord from the heart is eye-service and if you fall under this category you are just 'in church' and not 'in Christ'. Every service you render, even unto men should be as unto Christ. Eye-service attracts praise and rewards of men but true heart service unto God attracts heavenly reward.


Offence Disposition: No actions of yours must trigger others to walk out or backslide on the body of Christ. Offence from men is practically inevitable as we are all imperfect beings striving to be perfect by the help of God but knowing this, how do you manage offences? How you manage them speak of your true position either 'in church' or 'in

Christ'. *"And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. Matthew 11:6"*.

This scripture speaks of being offended in God and applies to those who go to church only for miracles! They just want to use God as a means to an end and then leave. Months or years of expectations not being met make them get offended in God and leave to seek solutions by other means. These lack patience, trust and consistency. All they want is magic – an overnight miracle. These categories of people are not in Christ but in church.

Attention Seeking: Follow-up is key to any church growth; it should be largely for 'babes in Christ' - those new to the faith and not for 'old members'. When those that should be following up others complain of not being followed up and so choose to walk out on the church, they simply demonstrate their being 'in church' and not 'in Christ'. Why do you come to Church? For social association, fashion, positions, other forms of attention? Please, retrace your steps!

Lack of Love and Reverence for God: The love and reverence for God is not all about the show in the church but the life outside the Church. Some people are 'holy angels' in church but outside the church something else! The life they portray in church is far different from what they live outside the church. Their praise, prayer, worship and decency end as soon as the church dismisses. You must not undermine God's grace and His ability



The Value Of Hymns To The CHRISTIAN

By Celsus Ohain

Hymns, over the ages have been sung as an integral part of Christian worship of God Almighty. The early Christians sang hymns whenever they met to worship. But what is the trend today? It is like hymn singing is gradually fading away, not because it has become irrelevant in worship but due largely to modern trends which have literarily consigned hymn-singing as 'old school' pattern of worship.

Eph 5:19 stresses “speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord..” while Col 3:16 says “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”..

No doubt, modernity has entered the church of today through new-age gospel music. It is not necessarily that they are bad in essence but that they seem to be significantly overwhelming the time-tested modes of worship that have endured through the ages.

In one's reasoned viewpoint, modern gospel music and traditional hymns should exist side-by-side; complementing each other and not one completely displacing the other as they each have their own unique qualities and relevance in the church of Jesus

Christ.

What is a hymn, one may ask? Essentially, hymns are songs of praise to God Almighty; the celebration of God for his might, majesty and excellence. Having defined hymn, some may also seek to know the differences between hymns, psalms and other spiritual songs.

On its part, a psalm is essentially scripture put to music while spiritual song is any song that is laden with spiritual themes; and so, you may have 'songs of testimony', 'songs of adoration', 'songs of victory', of deliverance, triumphs, breakthroughs, etc.

As earlier stated, hymn-singing has existed from the time of Moses as exemplified in Exodus 15:1, - “*Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake,*

saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea”.

Our Lord Jesus himself also sang hymn as in Mark 14:26 at the Last Super – “*..and when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives”.* Paul and Silas in Acts 16:25 sang hymns and praise in a manner that brought down God's power and might in their Phillipian jailhouse.

It goes to reason therefore, that

hymns must be part of the Christian worship of today. A spirit-filled

“No doubt, modernity has entered the church of today through new-age gospel music. It is not necessarily that they are bad in essence but that they seem to be significantly overwhelming the time-tested modes of worship that have endured through the ages”.

Christian is a singing Christian. Christian songs should not just be a musical exercise from the mouth but a deep expression from the heart.

Whenever the Christian sings a hymn, it should be done so meditatively so as to gain spiritual benefit from every line or lyric of such hymns, psalms or spiritual songs as they are all firmly rooted in the Holy Scripture. I know of no hymn that is not rooted in the Scripture and so, when we sing them, we are living out our relationship with God as well as showcasing our Christian values and virtues.

Long ago as a young man for instance, I was amazed to realize that certain choruses and songs we often sang often were indeed exact verses in the Holy Bible. They are too numerous to mention here!

Hymns, from the foregoing are expressive of prayers and supplications too, hence in situations and circumstances when and where words fail us to pray, we should resort to hymn-singing as they have power to bring God down into our situations and circumstances.

Take a hymn today and sing unto the Lord and it will do you good. Shalom!

“Hymns, from the foregoing are expressive of prayers and supplications too, hence in situations and circumstances when and where words fail us to pray, we should resort to hymn-singing as they have power to bring God down into our situations and circumstances”.



PATIENCE, A Great Virtue!

By Mrs Patricia Ohain



The words 'patience' and 'impatience' are a frequent vocabulary used every day. Many homes, relationships and organizations are in crisis today because of lack of patience. Patience breeds hope, which end-result is satisfaction while impatience breeds hopelessness. What is patience?

Patience means calmness and tolerance – the ability to bear with one another. Patience implies having a listening ear to hear the other side of one's story; patience is letting the other party realize that you are not giving up on him/her no matter how rough the journey may seem.

The word of God admonishes believers to imbibe this great virtue thus he said “to your faith add patience”. The devil realizes that he will lose many battles with a patient man. Thus, he works harder each day to see that people lose their patience/temper at the slightest provocation.

Rom 15:4 warns that “for whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of the scripture might have hope”. It is an indisputable fact that an impatient man will seldom last with God, for he that must walk with God must be patient with him.

An impatient man will want to lead the way while telling God to follow behind; for to him, God's way sometimes is slow. An impatient man often forgets that God does his things through a process just like gold which must go through the refining furnace severally if it must come out pure.

Patience is very relevant in our walk with God, for God unravels his plans to man in phases. Patience plays a very vital role in our relationship with one another and our spouses as well. Many crises and strifes which often result in broken marriages can be avoided if both spouses can imbibe the virtue of patience.

Patience helps us to reflect deeply on a matter before running into conclusions. Many fail in their endeavors because of impatience, they leave the scene when harvests/breakthroughs are their doorstep. Impatience is a viable ground for mistakes failure. Many may weigh in as a sign of weakness but rather is an act of courage to wait until you get an answer!



Patience makes your strength to be renewed “for them that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and mount up with wings like eagles”. It takes patience to wait upon the Lord, and it takes patience to get your answer.

The blind Bathimeus waited patiently and hopefully that Jesus will attend

to him despite the fact that he was hushed down by the crowd. It was recorded that he kept shouting out for Jesus' attention and the end-result was a miraculous recovery of his sight.

Gaining victory over circumstances will not be stifled most times if we imbibe

“Patience means calmness and tolerance – the ability to bear with one another. Patience implies having a listening ear to hear the other side of one's story; patience is letting the other party realize that you are not giving up on him/her no matter how rough the journey may seem”.

patience, for through patience, the hidden deceit of the enemy can be unraveled and we can victoriously arrive at our destiny.

Heb 6:12 admonishes that “we do not want you to become lazy but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised”. With patience you can run the race and get to the finishing line. So let us not give up hope; hold onto that which you desire and at the appointed time it will surely come to pass.

Someone once said that “in the midst of difficult circumstances, it feels impossible that God can transform something bad into something good, but He does!”

Therefore, be patient when things are going well or going bad for in patience lies your victory and great reward. Shalom!

WISDOM ACADEMY INT'L Holds First GRADUATION

Wisdom Academy Int'l has held its maiden graduation ceremony in Benin City, four years after it was first established in January, 2015.

It's Proprietress, Pstor (Mrs) Sarah David said at the ceremony that the objectives of the academy went beyond academic knowledge which was equally important. She identified the academy's vision as including the need to:

- ❖ Reach indigent children with love and care
- ❖ Empower the future leaders with quality education and

Impart them with divine wisdom for witty inventions Notwithstanding the solid achievements of the academy so far, Mrs Sarah David identified some administrative challenges as including:

- Inadequate classrooms for learning
- Insufficient teachers and teaching materials for more effectiveness.

Mrs Davids said that the academy still needed the following from public-spirited persons and organizations:

More classrooms for the secondary school, financial resources to pay teachers, white boards /markers, text books, school bags, shoes, canvass, exercise books, writing books , drawing books, crayons, PE uniforms, etc

She appreciated God Almighty for the vision and wherewithal to takeoff with the project, while also not allowing undue pressure beyond what the management can bear. She added that God always made a way in the midst of challenges.

Mrs David appreciated the academy's pioneer teachers and staff, amongst them – Pst. Mrs. Esther Adeyele and Pst. Mrs. Dorcas Augustine whose strong commitment to the school kept the vision alive. Other supporters, she said are – the Christian Love Mission, Pst. (Mrs) Margaret Osaretin's family and church, Mr & Mrs Obaji and family, Mrs Ehimen Mary, Wise Sisters Fellowship, Mr & Mrs. Ohain and Mrs Obazee Anna & family.

She further appreciated all parents for trusting the academy with the care for their children; and also other friends and partners for their contributions, prayers, encouragement and empathy.

On the academy's Progress report, the Proprietress disclosed that four new teachers had joined the school, namely: Miss Onyeka Chukwuma, Miss Harmony Shittu, Miss Amara Ogbonna and Miss Cynthia Osarumwense to strengthen the teaching force.

The Academy graduated seven pupils from KG3 to Primary 1, the first in the history of the school.

FEW THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WISDOM ACADEMY INT'L

- Wisdom Academy is run by Evang & Pst (Mrs) A.S. David and it welcomes everybody, no matter your challenge.



- Wisdom Academy is a missionary school and the education, tuition, books, pen/pencils, uniforms etc are all given free to the pupils.
- Many of the pupils who came from villages abound with testimonies as they can now speak good English, read & write, etc.
- At Wisdom Academy, we do not only teach but impart pupils with the Word/knowledge of Go, making them to know who they are as God's children.
- Wisdom Academy is known for greatness, excellence and the pupils are nurtured to be leaders of tomorrow.



Photo Speak

EVANG A.S. DAVID & PST. (MRS) SARAH DAVID MARK BIRTHDAYS



UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GROWTH



By Betty Amadi

Growth is fundamental in the realm of existence, to grow means to metamorphose into a new state. Anything that stops growing dies. It is possible to be engaged, moving and occupying space without growing.

The cycle of life begins with conception, birth, infancy, childhood and ends with death. There are things one does as a child that can't and won't be done anymore as an adult. In your Christian work of faith, there will be habits and characters you need to uphold in other to grow. 1Cor 13:11 says, "when I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away children things".

As soon as we are redeemed (delivered and saved) through His blood (Eph 1:7) the spiritual growth process begins. The Holy Spirit begins to work in us and transforms us (2Cor 3:18). We become less like the world and more like Christ (2Cor 5:17). The Holy Spirit helps us to overcome sin and deny the flesh (Gal 5:16).

Spiritual growth is a process and it is centered on Christ.

You must trust in Christ, focus on Him, preach the gospel of Jesus Christ,

read, meditate on the word daily that you may be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

Practical Knowledge of God

Spiritual growth cannot be wished, transferred or impacted.

The hallmark of our spiritual growth is the practical knowledge of the word of God. The entirety of God is embedded in His word, the word of God is more than historical text, it is the living and active voice of God. It contains the necessary nutrient and vitamins for our spiritual establishment.

There are many scholars of theology who are termed walking bibles, full of the textual but lack the practical knowledge of God. There are many who know a lot about God but lack the revelatory knowledge of His person. The word of God is a mystery and you must seek the guidance of the Holy spirit to walk in the practical knowledge of His word as this is the core of spiritual growth.

The Potency and Efficacy of the Word

The word is trustworthy and dependable (Luke 21:33). God's word is absolute reality as you can stake your life on it! Learning God's word and putting it into work will save you from regrettable experience. Psalm 119:105 says

"thy word is a light unto my path...." and what that means is that the word of God illuminates the path and it gives directions and knowledge to succeed in life. The word purifies the mind and the spirit.

The fruit of the spirit are characteristics of Jesus that are displayed in the life of the believer.

Manifestation of the Fruits & Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The fruit of the spirit is the

character, intentions and nature of God demonstrated through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in a man. It is the expression of divinity in humanity, the gift of the spirit is a divine endowment of a special ability for service upon a member of the body of Christ.

There is no spiritual growth without the manifestation of the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit, this is an anchor of our spiritual development. The fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit are very essential in our spiritual growth process. A spiritually developed individual is one who manifests the fruits and gifts of the spirit.

In conclusion, spiritual growth happens over a time and it is not overnight. We must develop consistent daily contact with God to get more revelation of God's powers. Live a holy life and be

a doer of God's will. May the Almighty God give us the power to manifest the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit in the mighty name of Jesus Christ! Amen. Shalom!!

"There is no spiritual growth without the manifestation of the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit, this is an anchor of our spiritual development. The fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit are very essential in our spiritual growth process"

"There are many who know a lot about God but lack the revelatory knowledge of His person. The word of God is a mystery and you must seek the guidance of the Holy spirit to walk in the practical knowledge of His word as this is the core of spiritual growth"



THE POWER OF PRAISE & WORSHIP IN MINISTRATION

By Mrs Bethelvera Amah



Ministering unto the Lord implies 'praise and worship'. When we say 'praise' what do we mean? Scripture reminds us that God inhabits the praise of His people (Ps. 22:3). Praise involves your emotions.

Praise songs usually acknowledge the mightiness of God; express our heartfelt appreciation to Him. In praises, our faith gets stirred up and our spirit is awakened to be in tune with the manifest presence of God.

Worship is a most sensitive phase with God; here, our hearts are opened up before God, expressing our feelings for him. Worship is also a most intimate form of communication with God.

Many churches and fellowships today follow a pattern in each meeting – different speakers, variations in teachings and new members in attendance! What gives each meeting its warmth and fellowship, continuity and unity is the 'praise and worship' session; it is the 'bond' which holds everything together.

The basic objective of every Christian meeting or fellowship should be to lead fellow Christians into understanding the true 'praise and worship' and share in the gift of the spirit for the edifying of the body.

To achieve this, it is important to know what the Scripture says about ministering unto the Lord. Deut. 10:8 says that *"at that time, the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to bear the Ark of the Covenant, to stand before the Lord to minister unto him and to bless his name until this day"*.

In the New Testament, 1Peter 2:5 says *"Ye also as spiritual stones are built up a spiritual house - an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ"*. Offering up of spiritual sacrifices implies your

praise and worship. Heb. 13:15 also made us know that our sacrifice is the fruit of our lips. *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifices of praise continually that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks unto his name"*.

The word of God has a lot to say about the life of King David who in 2 Chro 6:31-32 led the people to minister before the Ark that was carrying God's presence. In our own time, we are God's ark and so, our lives should be worshipping lives.

There must be no room for fulfilling the lusts of the flesh such as malice, lies, unforgiveness, jealousy, slandering and gossip and so on. Lives that harbour such are not carrying God's presence in church.

In 1Chronicles 16:6, we saw that there was no veil covering the ark, it was made open and there was continuous praise and worship. Psalm 141:2 says *"let my prayers be set before thee incense and the lifting up of my hands, as the evening sacrifice"*. Here, the word prayer means songs of praise. David was actually praying that his songs of praise and worship unto the Lord were incense unto him.

We as carriers of God's presence cannot afford not to have a worship life! At times in churches during praise worship, some of us just put our hands in our pockets or simply fold them under our armpits, singing with our lips but not from our hearts. David, a man after God's heart was a humble worshipper of God; his hands were always lifted up in total surrender.

Solomon also had his own style of worship in 2 Chronicles 5:11-14. There, you have the glorious account of the induction of the ark in the sanctuary of Solomon's Temple. It is seen how the glory of God filled the temple that even the priest could not minister!

In our time, we must give

more time for the spirit to flow through praise and worship. Our services ought not to be too 'mechanized' that one can hardly feel God's presence largely because of strife, disunity, pride, etc.

God's Purpose in Praise

God created us for his pleasure and he is seeking a people who will worship him in spirit and in truth. (Jn. 4:23). Why does God consider 'praise and worship' to be so important? Is He showing off by wanting us to continuously tell him how wonderful He is? Certainly not!

He wants to bless us, knowing how much we need his love and response. So, as we lift up our hands and hearts to him in worship, he heals, controls and pours out his love and blessings to us. Praise and worship is to our spirit, what food is to our bodies; we need them to grow spiritually.

Rom 12:1-2 implores us by God's mercies to present our bodies as living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance. Our praise and worship must not fall short of what God wants – a whole-hearted spirit-filled praise and worship from the depth of our soul, not a mechanized show off kind of thing.

When you minister to God in worship, He ministers to you in return. It's a give and take thing; as you worship, he speaks to your spirit, letting you know that your worship is accepted. Anything contrary means that you just enjoyed the good voice of the worship leader and the wonderful sound coming from the instruments.

God does wonders in our lives as we praise and worship him. In Acts 16:25, Paul and Silas sang praises to God and there was earthquake and the prison doors opened; Paul and Silas' bonds were loosed. The Psalmist declares that he will sing each morning about God's power and mercy because God is, and will continue to be a high tower

CONTENTMENT FOR THE BELIEVER



By Celsus E. Ohain

Several years ago, Mr Frank Olize, the presenter of the epic NTA primetime programme *NEWSLINE*, went out in search of the 'common man'. The search proved elusive at the end of the day because no one acknowledged satisfaction with his/her circumstance.

The tycoon, the semi-rich, the artisan, the trader, the apprentice etc, as it were each saw himself as the real *common man*. The bottom line was that no one expressed personal contentment!

What is Contentment to the believer? It is written in 1Tim 6:6-8 that *“godliness with CONTENTMENT is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out; and having food and raiment let us be therewith content”*

The English dictionary defines contentment as 'happiness with one's situation in life'. By one's own understanding, it is 'personal fulfillment and satisfaction with what you have, where you are and how you are; and with what you have accomplished at a particular time; after you have done your utmost best in terms of efforts, energy, resources and time'.

As a matter of fact, there seems to be no end to human wants but for the Believer, the Holy Scripture should

sufficiently moderate him/her in the quest for anything, knowing that “godliness with contentment is great gain”.

In other words, godliness retrains us as believers from certain tendencies that are mostly tempting and capable of impacting negatively on our Christian values. Such

“Man, in his mostly un-regenerated nature tends to always want to satisfy his GREED rather than his NEEDS! Greed goes with the temptation to use dishonest means and other bad practices to acquire and add to gains. Therefore, to be content is to refrain from all forms of covetousness”

tendencies cut across the emotional, the economic and the social.

Man, in his mostly un-regenerated nature tends to always want to satisfy his GREED rather than his NEEDS! Greed goes with the temptation to use dishonest means and other bad practices to acquire and add to gains. Therefore, to be content is to refrain from all forms of covetousness – a voracious appetite for what does not belong to you.

Various forms of covetousness include appropriating other people's assets, usurping positions, plundering national

wealth (through pristine acquisition), taking bribes, seducing another's wife or husband, subverting justice, etc.

However, Contentment should not be misconstrued to mean dormancy or stagnation, laziness and docility,

inactiveness and not being purposeful in life. It is not the absence of ambition (provided it not vaulting or inordinate); it is not a justification for complacency! God indeed blesses 'the work of our hands'.

Contentment is not devoid of hard work aimed at more success and aspiration to greater heights! In fact, God himself is the best example of a very hard worker! He neither sleeps nor slumbers. He worked hard at Creation and rested on the seventh day! He has always been working and still is.

In the Believers desire to stay contented, he/she should always learn to seek the face of God and being guided by the Holy Spirit in all things. Above all, he/she should find satisfaction in God's answers of 'Yes', 'No', or 'Wait'.

On anything, the Believer must learn to subsume his/her will (needs) within the Will of God. Whatever comes out of our best efforts, let's take with thanksgiving. For the Holy

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Scripture says: *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose”* – Rom 8:28,

Our God is well able to supply all our need (NOT greed) according to

His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” – Phil 4:19.



IS IT A SIN TO BE RICH?

The Bible talks a lot about the poor and makes it clear that we should not ignore their plight (Proverbs 22:22; Deuteronomy 15:7; James 2:5–6). When God sent His Son into the world, He did not place Him in a palace or mansion. Jesus was born into a family of humble means (Mark 6:3; John 1:46).

The Bible has examples of rich people being blessed by God, including Abraham (Genesis 13:2), Jacob (Genesis 30:43), and Solomon (1 Kings 10:23). But, in the overwhelming majority of cases, when Scripture speaks of material wealth, it warns us of the dangers of having riches.

It is not a sin to be rich, but riches certainly invite temptation. The sin is not in possessing wealth but in our attitudes about that wealth and in the ways we use it. 1 Timothy 6:9 says, “those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

It goes further to say in verse 10: “For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. By craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced

themselves with many sorrows.”

Many have misquoted this verse to say that 'money is the root of all evil', but that is incorrect. The verse says that the love of money is what ensnares us. Our idols define us.

When we focus on earthl

“Rich Christians who do not treat money as an idol are a blessing to many. They start charities, contribute to help orphans and widows (James 1:27), and keep their local churches financially stable”

y success, wealth, relationships, or fame, we become idolaters. When our earthly goals become the most important things in our lives, we cannot also please the Lord (Romans 8:8).

God may grant earthly riches to His people who will distribute those riches the way He wants. Rich Christians who do not treat money as an idol are a blessing to many. They start charities, contribute to help orphans and widows (James 1:27), and keep their local churches financially stable (Malachi 3:10). Without wealthy Christians, many missionaries could not serve on the field.

Zacchaeus was a rich man, but his gains were ill-gotten and his

life was characterized by greed.

But then he met Jesus, and the Lord changed his life. Zacchaeus's transformation affected every part of his life, including the way he handled money: “Look, Lord,” he

said, “I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold” (Luke 19:8, NKJV). In finding salvation in Christ,

Zacchaeus also found

a new purpose for his wealth.

It was not a sin for him to be rich, but it would have been a sin for him to continue cheating people or to use his riches for selfish purposes. God gives wealth to the wealthy for them to benefit others.

God wants us to enjoy all He has given us, as long as we don't allow the gift to become the god. We are to consider everything we have as a loan from the Lord and ask Him how He wants us to use it (Psalm 50:9–12). When our hearts are not drawn away by the desire for riches, we can prove ourselves faithful stewards of that which God has entrusted to us.

Culled from: gotquestions.com

Cont.d from pg 16

THE POWER OF PRAISE & WORSHIP IN MINISTRATION

By Mrs Bethelvera Amah

earthquake and the prison doors opened; Paul and Silas' bonds were loosed. The Psalmist declares that he will sing each morning about God's power and mercy because God is, and will continue to be a high tower of refuge, a place of safety in

the days of his distress. He vows to praise God everyday because God has given him the blessings he reserved for those who reverence his name. (Psalm 61:5).

Though not a 'wonder charm', praise and worship open doors of blessings. It is a special means of communicating with God and gives our love to our creator and savior. It begins with our private times with

the Lord and runs into a lifestyle of gratitude to him.

Are you a worshipper? If your answer is genuinely YES, then glory be to God, but if it is a NO, truly from your heart begin to work on yourself to be a true worshipper indeed. God bless you.

LIFE AS A FASHION PAGEANT

By Nosa Osaretin Amayanvbo



Amidst flashes from cameras, they walk down the runway elegantly dressed, showing off their natural endowments with smiles as bright as the morning sun – sparkling teeth like the stars, all to the amazement of the audience!

The judges are dazed with ecstasy as they ardently score the contestants according to their brilliance in the various categories. Loud cheers from the audience greet the contestants as they themselves wow the crowd.

All of a sudden, the crowd goes emotional; tear-shedding and sobbings are heard followed by a hush – one contestant just missed her step and falls to the ground!

Hmmmhow will the judges take this 'gross mistake' at this level of the competition taking into account the reaction of the crowd? But in a flash, the fallen contestant rises like an edifice with great smiles as though the mistake never happened. Seeing this, the crowd rose in standing ovation; with roars and cheers, applauding her courage and tenacity!

At the end of the competition, this same contestant came tops with the star prize, notwithstanding the 'flaw' at the crucial stage of the competition. Her reward – a mouth-watering sign-up by corporate firms to become their brand ambassador!

Life is like the fashion week, the runway is like the circumstances you encounter as you walk this Earth. One thing is sure – that God made you with exceptional qualities and capabilities as the scripture says in Psalm 139:14 – *“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well”*.

The world, like the judges, is amazed at who you are in Christ as a new creation; the like that has never been, seeing the peace you display in times of stress. What has driven others in like circumstances into depression, even acute depression, has become a walkover for you! The peace that Jesus has given to you – which the world has not and so cannot give or take away from you – has made you so thick that nothing can penetrate you in this life.

You may know also that though you are troubled on every side, you are yet not distressed; you are perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed; for your light affliction which is but for a moment, works for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal but the things which are not seen are eternal. For a just man may fall seven times but he rises up again, all because of Jesus' finished works on your behalf so that you may reign in life now as kings in His stead, living on earth as it is in heaven even by the Holy Spirit.

So, you have decided not to frustrate the grace of God on your life, for you have a better testament with better promises; and that Word is sure forever and cannot change or fail. God has promised you that in whatever situation you find yourself, He will never leave you or forsake you because you and God are partners in life.

You are His headquarters of operation on earth and carriers of His glory and knowledge to all people he has predestined you to meet in life. You are in the winning team. No fear

whatsoever may come your way. For God has said: *“...behold, I am with you, and will keep you in all places whither thou goest, and will bring you again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to you of”* Gen28:15.

It is clear that God is more committed to your success than you can imagine now. In times of trials, know that He who is in you is greater than what's before you, for He saw the trial before it came and allowed it because it is a walkover for you that you might display His Glory before people and give Him thanks who has accepted you into His beloved.

God cannot lie, for even though you fall in the trial, he picks you up for it is written of you that you shall not fail nor be discouraged. Isaiah 42:4a. No, in all these things you are more than conquerors through him that loved you.

And there is no condemnation now for you who live in union with Christ Jesus because He that is born of God has overcome the world and its systems of operations. In fact, you were born priest and king in Christ and where the Word of the King is, there is power.

Now, God is saying to you His child: Today, arise for your star is shining already; see it, I am awaiting you to shine; you are a winner before you were born. Arise, be courageous and tenacious knowing that the power at work in you will put you over and all will say that the Lord has done great things for you. Indeed, a Saviour has arisen from Zion and this will be your testimony: 'for the Lord has made me a wonder to my generation'.

Finally, the scripture says in James 1:2-4 – *“my brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse*

TRUE BENEFITS FOLLOWING CHRIST'S LEADERSHIP

Dcn. D.U. Aigbovbiosa (JP)



There are earthly and heavenly benefits derived from following Jesus Christ's leadership. Luke 9:23-24 states: "And Jesus said to all, if anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me, for whoever will save his life will lose it but whosoever loses his life for my sake will save it"

The benefits in following Christ's leadership are so much that we cannot know their exact worth until we get to heaven. Here on earth during the earthly ministry of Christ, people had different reasons following him. Nevertheless, the benefits derivable for following Christ are summarized as follows, believing that Jesus and his Father are one:

Wisdom: Wisdom is a precious gift from God which king Solomon had when he asked from God and was able to effectively rule the people of Israel during his time. God gave him a discerning heart to govern his people and to distinguish between right and wrong.

Peace, Joy & Happiness: Peace, joy and happiness all come from Jesus Christ to those who follow him. If you follow Jesus Christ and abide by his word, He will grant you peace that passes all human understanding. The peace which the world cannot give can only be given by the Prince of peace – Jesus Christ. Joy is a state of happiness and freedom from oppression of Satan and his cohorts

Protection: The only sure protection available both in heaven and on Earth is that of Jesus Christ. It is very sure and never fails. King David asked God for protection from his enemies who wanted to kill him - Saul, his son Absalom, the Amalekites and others and God protected him. 1Sam 19:15; 2 Sam 15:13-15 and 1Sam 30:1-2 refer. Apostle Paul and Peter were in danger as stated in the Acts of the Apostles. They prayed to God in the name of

Jesus Christ and they were delivered. **Healing:** When you are sick and pray to Jesus Christ for healing, you will be healed. The writer of this paper is a case in point. He was sick for eight years – 1985-1992; he prayed and exercised faith in Jesus Christ and he was healed. Jesus healed the paralytic as recorded in Matt 9:1-8; the demon possessed man in Luke 5:1-20; the man with leprosy in Luke 5:12-15; Jesus raised the widow's son in Luke 7:11-14; the Centurion's servant - Like 7:1-10 and the woman with the issue of blood, to name a few! If you are sick, your healing is certain if you call on Jesus Christ in faith and in truth.

Food: Jesus is a great provider, the Jehovah Jireh. There is nobody who truly follows Christ and obeys his commandments that will lack any basic necessity of life. He provided for Abraham and Lot (Gen 12:13-14); he provided manna and quail from heaven for the children of Israel during their journey through the wilderness to the land of Canaan (Ex. 16); the feeding of the 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fishes. Matt 14:13-21.

Grace and Mercy: Jesus supplies grace and mercy in times of need. Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. No one can succeed in life without favour and mercy from God. Apostle Paul in Heb 4:16 enjoins us to come boldly unto the Throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need. When we are united with Christ by trusting him and following his leadership, we experience the surpassing power that raised him from the dead. That same mighty power will help us to renew and regenerate our lives today.

Fruit of the Womb: Many have been blessed with the fruit of the womb when they prayed and looked

forward to Jesus in faith. Hannah had Samuel when

he asked God for a child. 1Sam 2.

Forgiveness of Sin: Sin is a disease which no one can cure but Jesus Christ alone. There is no magnitude of sin that Christ cannot forgive if the sinner earnestly asks for forgiveness. Even the thief on the cross was pardoned when he confessed Jesus as a true son of God. Luke 25: 29-43. He told him 'today shall thou be with me in Paradise'.

Freedom: Jesus said 'if you hold unto my teaching, you are really my disciple, then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:31-36. It is only in Jesus Christ freedom par excellence is guaranteed.

Promotion: Man or woman cannot promote himself or herself and be at peace but promotion that carries peace, joy and lasts forever comes from Jesus Christ. Psalm 75:6-7 says that 'promotion commeth not from the East nor from the West, nor from the South but God is the judge. He putteh down one and setteth up another.

Eternity: The greatest benefit of knowing and truly following Jesus Christ's leadership is to make heaven. Christians as stated in 1Thess 4:16-19 will not die a second death. When Christ will come again, he will take all believers home to his heavenly kingdom while sinners will be thrown into hell. Dear brothers and sisters, please accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour so that you can share the benefit of knowing Jesus Christ with someone else today by praying this prayer: "Father, help me not to lose sight of the benefit of following Jesus. Show me deeper dimensions of yourself in Jesus precious name"

WHY YOUR MIND MUST BE RENEWED

By Omoruyi Arnold Obayagbona (Anchor text is Romans 12:2)



The mind is a vital part of Man, who is a tripartite entity, being spirit, soul and body! For him to walk in victory and enter into God's will for him, he must pay attention to the nature of his mind. The mind can be likened to a 'mould' which shape, pattern, design will determine the conformity of the contents poured into it.

Water, for instance, does not have its original shape but automatically takes the shape of the container it is poured into. Little or no wonder therefore, that God commands us to renew our minds, which is to change our 'Mind Moulds' as you cannot put new wine into an old wine skin. (Matthew 9:19).

To renew the mind simply means to 'Renovate and Restore' to its original state and value; it means to 'Unlearn' and 'Re-Learn' what you have known before!

Adam named all the animals in the Garden of Eden! Imagine the power, capacity and functional ability of his mind at work when he named all the animals; so, God wants the Christian's mind restored, so as to function in that order and capacity. Hallelujah!

God commands us to 'renew' our minds because the mind is the battleground of life (2 Cor. 10:3-6); it is also the greatest battle in the life of a man.

Another reason God wants our minds renewed is because the mind is the

gateway to man's destiny (Proverbs 23:7). The point of interest is that God will not renew our minds for us. He commands us to do it; and we must consciously be involved! (Romans 12:2)

If we do not renew our minds, we will conform to our environment which includes Values, Fashions, Standards, Words, etc. But if we 'renew' our minds, we will be transformed (metamorphosed and changed) into the Image, Values and Standards of the new environment of the Kingdom of God.

Renewing of the mind is procedural in nature. We can liken it to the metamorphosis of the butterfly from the egg, larva, and pupa to the final stage of a full-blown butterfly. At the elementary stages, it may not look like the beautiful butterfly as it is cocooned (hidden in obscurity) until its profiting is made known to all at the final stage! (1 Timothy 4:15).

Benefits of a Renewed Mind:

- When your mind is renewed, you will experience a transformation, a metamorphosis; there will be a 'qualitative change' in you – a shift of sort! (Rom 12:2)
- You will know God's will for your 'promised land' (Rom

12:2).

- You will take after the image of Jesus Christ in the way you See, Talk, Reason, Act, etc. (Col. 3:10; 2Cor. 3:18).
- You will have the mind of Christ (Phil. 2)

Dangers of Un-renewed Mind:

An un-renewed mind is fraught with the dangers of 'Conformity to the world' (Rom 12:2); Your 'Love of this world' (1 John 2:15); Your 'becoming Carnal' (Rom. 8:5-7); You 'being Blind and Forgetful' that you were purged from your sins (2 Peter 1:5-9, Mark 8:22-25); You will 'Limit God's operations' in your life (Gen. 13:14-18); You 'will not Enter the Promised Land' (Numbers 13:30-33; You will 'not Know God's Will' (Romans 12:2); You will 'Behave like people of the world' (John 3:31).

On a salutary note, the renewing of the mind can be achieved in the place of Prayer and Meditation. (Joshua 1:8; 1 Timothy 4:15).

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temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing".

So, walk the free way with confidence; for indeed you are the winner. It is your race, your walk, your lane and your destiny; it is never about others, your kind has never been and will ever be.

You are God's best, so live and walk before God the best way you can by the power of the Holy Spirit, even excellently as no other person will ever walk your lane in life for this is God's dream and you are a major part of His

plan in Christ Jesus which is good, working and includes you.

So, just be you and refuse to compete with others who actually do not see you because they are walking their lanes. We are all complementing and supporting each other as we contribute our parts which result in the growth of the body of Christ, thereby actualizing God's grand plan where there are no divisions but oneness in Christ.

So, you are unique and eminently precious. Know this for yourself. Glory! Jesus is Lord. Peace.

to forgive sins to willfully do things that are against the faith and against God. Your hatred for evil must transcend the four walls of the church to be really in Christ.

Bitterness: 1John 4:20 says, you cannot love God and hate your brother; else the love of God is not in you. Part of the reflection of your love for God is shown when you love one another. Lack of love for one another is a reflection of hatred, envy, bitterness, etc and such attributes are not found in the lives of those who are in Christ.

Fault-finding: This category of people sees faults in everyone and everything except themselves just to

disqualifying everyone else. They are possessed with the "I KNOW IT ALL" spirit, never ready to listen, learn and take corrections. These are in church. They can remember all the faults in song ministrations, all the grammatical errors the preacher made during sermons; even remember those that wore color-riot clothes to church. If you ever point out a fault in them, they pick offence and threaten to quit church.

Romans 10:9-10 is the surest way to be in Christ: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." ¹⁰For

with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Once this is done, the further work is to build on established relationships by constant study of the bible, fellowshiping with brethren, praying and fasting. By so doing, those bad attributes as outlined above will give way to a true relationship with Jesus Christ "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" Ephesians 4:13.

May God help us. Amen.



We As The Express IMAGE OF GOD

By Miracle Odiase

An express image is an exact resemblance. It bears a livelier image of the spirit; it seems more express and single than the imperfect and divided countenance.

An image is the optical or other representation of a real object; it is graphic, a picture of the real person. An express image is that representing a person unto others. It can also be seen as representative of a person unto us; one who we cannot see personally because he is absent and at great distance from us.

Jesus Christ is the likeness of his Father the true form, figure, character or representation of Him. This similitude relates to the persons of the Godhead; it is borrowed from the impression of a signet: the son in himself is the likeness of God. Genesis 1:27. So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God duplicated Himself here on earth – people who will look like Him and do same thing He does. God made man in his express

image because he saw in the man his right choice. He didn't make the fowl or cattle His express image.

He needed man that will be in charge of things created on earth, someone that will have authority or control over the things He has made; people that will make his glory active; demonstrating his personality as God here on earth, to shown forth his power and anointing.

We are 'gods' here on earth that people talk to because He as a Spirit dwells in us His image to do His work. When God manifests in His image and the image does not representing Him well, He can't continue there because he would not want anything that would disgrace his personality!

His 'express image' can still be found in the Word, because His word is also his image where His revelation and reality is found. Christ is the image of God, representing Him unto men; he manifested God unto us. He is "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature," Colossians 1:15. By His nature of the Father, the goodness, power, holiness, grace and all other glorious properties of God shine forth, or are represented, declared and expressed to us.

God has given us the access, as man, to show forth his express image which is the anointing that makes people see His glory power made manifest. The 'image of God' is the one whom God as a spirit dwells to produce more 'sons'.

Without Walls

