

THE PLACE OF REFUGE

Mary Owolabi

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Mission

CALLED AND sent by God to depopulate the kingdom of devil through divine instruction and revelation in writing and guidance by the power of the Holy Spirit; to open the secret that leads to human liberation and also interceding and counselling the children of God worldwide, so as to be won back into the kingdom of the Most High God.



Dedication

I DEDICATE the work of this book to God, the Most High God. The giver of grace; knowledge; strength; and power. Who by himself made it possible that this book will see the light of day. His name be glorified forever in Jesus name. Amen.



Acknowledgements



I STRONGLY acknowledge my creator and caller, the Most High God, who graciously accorded me the grace to write this book. He purposed it and brought it to life.

I wholeheartedly appreciate my husband, companion, and friend for his constant support. My loving and darling children for being part of my life and ministry. I love you children.

It's a thing of almost importance for me to appreciate my daddy in the Lord, Pastor L. O. Oladele. Daddy, surely your era in Abuja FCT Area of TACN is an era of manifestation of God's plans and purpose for His children, hence the publication of this book and others at this time. I pray that God's plans and purpose for you in life and ministry shall surely be fulfilled for His glory in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Daddy, Elder (Hon. Justice) John Inyang Okoro, I cherish and admire your fervency and stand in the Lord. I sincerely appreciate our Lord Jesus Christ for His grace upon your life and for helping in the

correction of this book. I pray that you will continue to bear that goodly and juicy fruits in God's vineyard even for the glory of God's name in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

I appreciate the following wonderful children of God for giving themselves to be used by God for the success of this book. Bro. Michael Omoniyi and Bro. Moses Onyemaechi, who helped in the typesetting and editing. I pray that the Lord will count us all worthy at the last day in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.



Foreword



IN THE book of Numbers, chapter 35, verse 10 to 15, the Lord spoke unto Moses saying:

- “10. Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, when ye come over Jordan into the land of Canaan;
11. Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither which killeth any person at unawares.
12. And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer dies not, until he stands before the congregation in judgement...”

The above passage clearly demonstrates God's infinite mercy to humanity and His children in particular. The effect of the designation of some cities as cities of refuge was to prevent a murderer who had killed somebody unawares from being put to death if he can run into any of these cities, pending when he would appear before the congregation in judgement.

Today, however, these physical cities of refuge are non-existent. By His grace, God has provided a greater city of refuge in His son Jesus Christ. Thus, in John's gospel, Chapter 3 verse 16, the Apostle states:

“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

The word “whosoever” accommodates all manner of people including sinners. I was once a sinner but now, to the glory of God, saved by grace.

My beloved sister, Deaconess Mary Oluwakemi Owolabi has been inspired to put down her thoughts on this issue to assist both believers and non-believers to trace their steps to the one whom the father has appointed to bear the sins of the world. The word of the Lord is sure as encapsulated in Proverbs 18:10 which states:

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”

This is wonderful. It is free and the door is always open. Why not take advantage of the message of this book while it is called today. Tomorrow may be too late!

I commend Deaconess Owolabi for sparing time out of her crowded schedule to write this book. I am aware that this is not her first. She has written, I think five or six other gospel books. I join many other Christians to pray for her, that her efforts should not be in vain. I accordingly recommend this book to all and sundry.

Elder (Hon. Justice) John Inyang Okoro,
Justice's Chambers Supreme Court of Nigeria.



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Introduction



THE PLACE OF REFUGE

Definition of Terms

A Place:

- A location or position.
- An open space, courtyard or market square.
- A group of house(s).
- A region of land.
- Frame of mind, mindset or mood.
- Somewhere a person can sit.
- A house or a home.
- A station.
- A place can be a location, position, situation or spot.

The Place of Refuge:

- The place of refuge is a place of safety.
- A place of rescue.
- A place for protection.
- A place to run for safety.
- It's a place for deliverance.
- The place of refuge is likely a hidden place or a secret place.

- ❑ The place of refuge is a shelter.
- ❑ It's a place you turn to for assistance; a recourse or resort.
- ❑ The place of refuge can also be called a sanctuary; an area set aside for protection.
- ❑ It's an asylum; a protection. Physically and legally.
- ❑ The place of refuge is a place provided for protection from danger or trouble.
- ❑ A place of refuge is a place where people provide shelter or protection for somebody or something.
- ❑ A place of refuge is like a tower.

Biblically:

- ♦ A place of refuge is a place of divine guarantee for safety.
- ♦ It's a place of divine security.
- ♦ In a place of refuge, your security is secured and guaranteed. You are divinely protected in a place of refuge.

In a place of refuge, your pursuers cannot enter therein with you. The Bible says the name of the Lord is a

strong tower and the righteous runneth into it and he is safe (Prov. 18:10).

The name of the Lord is a tower of strength. You can rely on the name of the Lord for help, protection and comfort when you are in trouble.

What is a Tower?

- ❑ A tower is a tall building or part of a building, especially of a church or castle.
- ❑ A tower is much higher or taller than the person or things that are near.
- ❑ A tower is much better than others in ability, quality, capability, etc.
- ❑ A tower is extremely tall or higher and therefore impressive.
- ❑ A tower is defensive.

Strong:

- ❑ To be strong is to have great power.
- ❑ Having a lot of power or influence.
- ❑ Very powerful and difficult for people to fight against or defeat.
- ❑ To be strong is to be hard to resist defeat or attack.
- ❑ Capable of producing great physical force.

- ❑ Capable of withstanding great physical force.
- ❑ Not easily subdued, taken or attacked.

Strong Tower:

A strong tower is a highly reinforced building or a guarded place. It is an impregnable structure that is not easily accessed. It is often strategic in location. A strong tower could be likened to an impressive personality or thing; whose authority cannot be questioned, with physical and or divine force to subdue oppositions. It is difficult or impossible for anyone to fight against.

It is these qualities of a strong tower that was used in describing the ability of God and plan of protection for us.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it and he is safe (Prov. 18:10).

Jesus is the 'Lord' referred to above and there is no controversy. The name of the Lord is 'Jesus'.

This means that the name 'Jesus' is a strong tower and the righteous runs into this name 'Jesus' and is safe. That is, for the righteous and godly, there is safety in the name of 'Jesus'. Jesus is a defence unto the righteous.

Jesus by Himself (and only Him) refers to God 'the father' as Lord. God is Lord and Jesus makes us to know that no one can get to God, the father, except through Him (Jesus). He said, "I am the way, the truth and life, no one cometh unto the father, but by me (John 14:6)."

This means that, we must go through Jesus to see God the father. That is, to have the divine experience and nature of the supreme God, we must go through Jesus whom God the creator has made a channel by which we can reach him. He so much exalted Jesus to be above all principalities and powers. One is so near to another that no air can come between them. They are joined one to another; they stick together, that they cannot be sundered (Job 41:16-17).

Jesus also said that He and His father are one (John 10:30). Meaning that He can't be separated from His father for He abides in His father. He (Jesus) said, "if ye had known me, ye should have known my father also, and from henceforth ye know Him, and seen Him". Yet Philip said unto him "Lord, show us the father, and Jesus replied unto him saying "have I been so long with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that

has seen me hath seen the father and how sayest thou that show us the father? Then He (Jesus) enjoins them to believe that He is in His father and that His father is in Him and also that He and His father are one (John 14:6-11).

His father (God) is Lord, so also He (Jesus) is Lord. No wonder His father (God) has highly exalted him, and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things (living and non-living things), in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the father (Phil. 2:9-11).

This means that God the creator of heaven and earth gave the divine and express approval of Jesus, being "The Lord" to the glory of the father. Therefore, there is no argument that "The name" referred to in Proverbs 18:10 as the strong tower is the name "JESUS".

The Bible says the name "Jesus" is a strong tower. The Bible enjoins us to accord to God the son, the respect and the honour due to God the father for they both are one. "That all (men) should honour the son, even as they honour the father. He that honoureth not the son

honoureth not the father which hath sent Him" (John 5:23).

It is very important to know that no one can receive anything except through the name of Jesus. There is no deliverance, security, peace, harmony, comfort, safety, power, success, breakthrough and many others except through the name of Jesus.

The Lord Jesus Christ confirmed this when He spoke to His disciples in the book of John 14:26: "But the comforter which is the Holy Ghost whom the father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you".

There is nothing you can receive of God except through the name of Jesus. You can only be comforted when you believe in the name of Jesus. There is no knowledge except in the name of Jesus, for you can only know whatsoever you desire by the Holy Ghost; Only on the account of this name will you enjoy divine peace, joy, breakthrough, deliverance and all your desires.

These are other passages of the Bible, stating and proving Jesus' Lordship.

- And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father (Phil. 2:11).
- “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed, and that no man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost” (1Cor.1:2-3).

The trinity is an unsearchable mystery in which no one can understand except by the power and revelation of the Holy Spirit.

- “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandments of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope” (1Tim.1:1).
- “Thomas answered and said unto Him, my Lord and my God(Jhn. 20:28)”.
- “And Jesus answered him, the first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord“(Mark 12:29).
- “He then lying on Jesus 'breast saith unto him, Lord who is it?” (John 13:25).
- “Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, it is the Lord, now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat

- unto him (for he was naked) and did cast himself into the sea” (John 21:7).
- “And he said, who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecute; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” (Acts 9:5).
- “The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, (He is Lord of all)” (Acts 10:36).
- “I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).
- “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:39).
- “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1Cor. 1:9).
- “For what is our hope, or joy or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?”(1Thes. 2:19).

- “He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Isaiah” (John 1:23).
- “If any man teaches otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness” (1Tim. 6:3).
- “For if they have escaped, the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning” (2Pet. 2:20).



Chapter 1



ATTRIBUTES OF THE NAME “JESUS”

THE NAME of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Excellency: The name is the most excellent name. The name Jesus has the highest quality in heaven and earth. It is splendid. It is exceptionally different from any other name.

“Oh Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens” (Ps. 8:1).

The name of Jesus is extremely glorious, the “c” part of the above passage says “who has set thy glory above heavens” that is, His glory is far above the heavens, making it more conspicuous as if the earth was small thereafter for its display.

“Let them praise the name of the Lord; for His name alone is excellent, His glory is above the earth and heaven” (Ps. 148:13).

The name of the Lord is so glorious and exalted that the psalmist said “let them praise the Lord, for His name alone is excellent.....” “Let them” who? The Dragons, all deeps, fire, and hail, snow, and vapour, stormy wind fulfilling his word, mountains, and all hills, fruitful trees and all cedars, beasts and all cattle, creeping things, and flying fowl, kings of the earth, and all people, prince, and judges of the earth, both young men, and maidens, old men, and children” (Ps. 148:7-12).

What is it that you've found in this earth, above the earth and below it, in whatsoever position or authority; living and non-living that is not in subjection to the authority, power and excellence of the name Jesus? Nothing, absolutely nothing! All power has been given unto him in heaven and on earth, in His name, every knee shall bow.

Who is that enemy of yours that will not be destroyed at the mention of the name Jesus? What are the foundations of the battles of your life that will not be terrified and destroyed when you shout the name Jesus? All principalities and powers from your father's and mother's house will surely bow to this name, for He who bears this name is the head of all principalities and powers.

Glorious: “and blessed be His glorious name for ever, and the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen” (Ps. 72:19).

“Amen and Amen” is used in this passage to give confirmation to the doctrine, and to raise our attention and faith; or to show that not only truth is spoken, but by Him who is truth Himself. This passage is emphasizing the fact that the name of the Lord is glorious and it must be blessed. This name must be honoured and respected by all forever. The whole earth is filled with the glory of His name and for the wonders of His works.

“Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name” (1Chron. 29:13).

He is our God and His name which is glorious must be praised. “That thou mayest fear this glorious fearful name” (Deut. 28:58d). The Lord God commands that His name which is glorious must be feared. No wonder, in His name, every knee shall bow. All powers and principalities fear His terrific name.

“Then the Levites, said, stand up and bless the Lord your God forever and ever, and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise” (Neh. 9:5).

Even the Levites acknowledged the glory of His name and they worshiped Him. Though the Lord is exalted above all human concept, yet, He is pleased with the praises of his people, and glorified by all who worship Him in spirit and in truth.

The glory of His name is above all the glories which are in the heavens and in the earth (Ps. 148:13b).” His royal splendour exceeds all that the earth and the heavens can express. He is the crown of all things; The Excellency of the creation. There is more glory in His personality than in all His works put together.

Everlasting: “His name shall endure forever, His name shall be continued as long as the sun and men shall be blessed in Him, all nations shall call Him blessed” (Ps. 72:17).

In its saving power, as the rallying point of believers, and as renowned and glorified, His name shall remain forever the same. While time is measured out by days, Jesus shall be glorious among men.

Great: “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee” (1Kings 8:27).

At the completion of the temple and at its dedication, King Solomon blessed the name of the Lord and worshiped Him knowing that the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. The Lord is so great and high above the heavens- all this vast space of the visible heaven.

And the third and highest, and therefore the largest heaven, called the heaven of heavens.

“He made the heaven His throne and the earth His footstool” (Isa. 66:1).

Who can even build Him a house seeing that heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Him?

The Lord is so great and mighty, bigger than all the mountains and valleys; than the entire continents in the world, can you imagine how great He is? He is far bigger and mightier than the whole world. Oh! How great art thou oh Lord!

He is bigger and mightier than the battles of your life. He can save and deliver. His greatness is real and true. He is truth in Himself. The Bible says He is the way, the truth and life. He is greater than the challenges you are facing on any aspect of your life. He is greater than the greatest, God ever exists. He is the Lord.

His majesty is so great that it fills both the heaven and earth. What house can you build that shall be worthy of my majesty? Says the Lord in Isa 66:1b. God is not worshiped with men's hands, as though he needs anything. No magnificence of outward rites can please Him, when the heart and hands are polluted with iniquity.

Fearful: "They shall fear thee as long as the sun and the moon endure, throughout all generation" (Ps. 72:5).

Death loses his hold and power in the presence of the Lord Jesus. At the mention of His name, wind and whirlwinds obey His commandment. You only need faith in this name and you will surely see the wind being blown away and the whirlwinds disappearing. You need not fear the negative situations for they will fear and submit to the name of Jesus in your mouth. Rebuke the ugly situations and there shall be calmness in your camp.

It is sure that the troubles, problems and trials of your life will lose their hold on you if you can access the name "Jesus". The name is able to turn your bitterness in whatever kinds to joy in its fullness.

Where Jesus reigns, principalities and power must submit in obedience to His name.

Terrifying: "And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the lord, and they shall be afraid of thee" (Deut. 28:10).

The name of the lord is not just terrifying, but being called by this name is equally terrifying. Your genuine association with the Lord Jesus brings about a divine and unspeakable security, and protection over you and all that is yours, hence, terrifying your oppositions. There is great need for you to know and be conscious that your enemies are being terrified anytime you are in accordance to the will of God your Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord requires that you diligently keep all His commandments which He has commanded you to do; to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to cleave unto Him. That then shall no man be able to stand before you, for the Lord your God shall lay fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you" (Deut. 11:22-25).

When you simply and totally obey the Lord, your enemy will be afraid of you and they shall be utterly terrified to

the glory of God's name Amen. Congratulations! For I see you becoming a terror to your pursuers in Jesus Christ's mighty name. Amen.

The sincerity and genuineness of Him being your God and you his people is a strong determinant of him backing up His name as Lord in your life. You cannot be insincere in obeying His will and expect him to back you up. Remember that you cannot serve two masters, you either obey Him the Lord, or you obey the devil, you can never be indifferent.

The Bible says, "Let them praise the great and terrible name for it is holy" (Ps. 99:3). The name of the Lord is terrible and no one or powers can dare it; meaning that the name is dreadful to the Lord's enemy, causing alarm and fear to them.

Did not Israel praise Him who overthrew Pharaoh and his hosts in the red sea, for his mercy endureth forever? The terrible avenger is to be praised, as well the loving redeemer.

Supreme: "Wherefore God also hath exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name" (Phil. 2:9).

The name of Jesus has power over all other names. Whatsoever name which any thing may bear, is in subjection to the name of Jesus. God gave all power into his hand. "And Jesus came and spoke unto them saying all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). The power of your tormentor has been withdrawn from them long ago. There is a great need for you to walk in this reality that the devil and his agents have no power over you. Jesus has won the battle of your life on the cross at Calvary. Death, (spiritual and physical) has lost its grip over you forever. His name is the most powerful. The idea is an authority, a position, and above that of all intelligence.

As children of God, we need to be humbled to God so that He can exalt us above situations and circumstances. The humility of our heart is an essential ingredient for our exaltation and upliftment. Financial buoyancy is not a determinant of God's exaltation in one's life.

The level of degree you possess is not a measurement of His exaltation. If we would hereafter be exalted, we too must follow after His examples, and humble ourselves. "Let this mind (humility) be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

When God exalts you, he places you above every spiritual and physical situations of this life. You will control by the power in his name, all that happens around you, nothing happens around you (either positive or negative) without your knowledge. He sometimes allows the 'negative', having it in mind to use them for a purpose in the lives of His beloved, for everything works for good for those that love God and those that are called according to His glory.

You are to cast down imaginations and every high thing that has exalted itself against the knowledge of God in your life and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ through His name. You are born to rule your world. It's high time you knew the practicality of your exaltation above every plan and thoughts of the devil against you. They (enemies) may try the existence of His power and the supremacy of His authority in your life, but surely, I tell you that they will know that He that is in you and whom you have chosen to serve is more than he that is in them.

The supremacy of the name of Jesus is far above all principalities and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this world but also that which is to come (Eph. 1:21).

Safety: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Prov. 18:10).

This shows the refuge of the godly against all trouble. God's sufficiency for the saints, His name is a strong tower for them, in which they take rest when they are weary and take sanctuary when they are pursued, where they are lifted up above their enemies and fortified against them. There is sufficiency in God and in the discoveries which he has made concerning himself to us, to make us convenient at all times.

The wealth laid up in this tower is enough to enrich them, to be a continual feast and a continuing treasure to them. The strength of this tower is enough to protect them. The name of the Lord is all whereby he has made himself known as God, and our God. This is not only his titles and attributes, but also in his covenant and promises which make up a tower, a strong tower, impenetrable, impregnable, to all the enemies of God's people.

The saint's security in God: it is a strong tower to those who know how to make use of it as such. The righteous, by faith, prayer, devotion, towards God and dependence on him, runs into it as their city of refuge,

having ensured their interest in God's name. They took the comfort and benefit thereof. They go out of themselves, retire from the world, live above the world, and dwell in God and God in them. Therefore, they are safe. They think for themselves so, and they shall find themselves so.

Holy: "Who shall not fear thee oh Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy, for thy judgements are made manifest" (Rev. 15:4).

Who shall not fear or come into the submission of this one and holy God, a God who hates sin, and loves righteousness and truth? He is so pure that it may be said that in comparison with Him, no one else is as holy as He is.

Who among your enemies can withstand the fear which God's judgments strike into the foe? None can withstand the judgment which His holy name brings upon his enemies.

When you desire to experience the signs and wonders of the most high God, then the route to it is that holy name Jesus. "By stretching forth thine hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus".

There is nothing that God does for our sake but for His holy name's sake. "... Thus saith the Lord, I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake (Ezek. 36:22). The Lord said this, that he may take all the glory for his holy name.

There is great need for us as children of God to completely utilize the privilege that has been accorded us on this holy name Jesus, even as we run into it for mercy, safety and deliverance. Because we have been called by His name, there is an assurance of safety and deliverance in him.

Jesus Christ is our redeemer; the Lord of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel (Isa. 47:4).

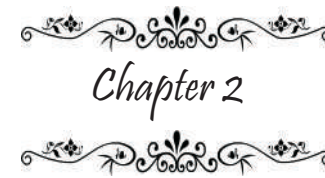
He is Lord over every battle, for He is the Lord of hosts. Therefore you are privileged to direct to Him every battle of your life. His strength is the only source of protection. You can be assured that victory awaits you in Jesus Christ's mighty name. Amen. Your mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever Amen (Ps. 145:21).

It is essential that you accord to His holy name all the glory that He has earned through His name.

Boast in his perfections, the world glories in its horses and chariots against the church of God lying in the dust, but our hope is in the name that is, the power and love of God to His people, manifested in past and present deliverance.

Rejoice that you have such a God. His character and attributes are such as will never make you ashamed to call Him your God. Idolaters may well be ashamed of the actions attributed to their fancied deities, their names are fouls with lust and red with blood, but the Lord our God is wholly glorious. Every deed of His will bears the strictest scrutiny. His name is holy, His character is holy, His law is holy, His government is holy, and His influence is holy. In all these, we may make boast and no one can deny our right to do so. "Glory ye in His holy name.." (Ps. 105:3).

Holy: "Let them praise thy great and terrible name, for it is holy" (Ps. 99:3). The holiness of God forms a just ground for loving, worshipping and obeying Him. In him is no flaw, fault, excesses, deficiency, error or iniquity. He is wholly excellent, and is therefore called holy. In his words, thoughts, acts, and revelation as well as in Himself, He is the perfection itself. O come let us worship and bow down before Him.



Chapter 2



THE SECRET PLACE

IT IS important for us to know the practicality of the numerous benefits derived from the name of the Lord. The name in which the Bible says is a strong tower, has numerous benefits such as:

SECURITY

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Prov. 18:10).

This shows the refuge of the godly against all trouble. The name of the Lord brings us out of danger. It is God's sufficiency for the saints; His name is a strong tower for them, in which they may take rest when they are weary and being pursued. It is where they can be lifted up above their enemies and fortified against them. There is enough in God, and in the discoveries which He has made of Himself to make us easy at all times.

The wealth laid upon this tower is enough to enrich them to be a continued feast and a continuing treasure

to them. The strength of this tower is enough to protect them. The name of the Lord is the avenue whereby He has made Himself known as God, and our God, not only in his titles and attributes, but also in His covenant and promises. It is a tower, a strong tower, impenetrable, impregnable to all the enemies of God's people.

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Ps. 91:1). It is my delight to let you know that there exists a secret place for rescue, safety, deliverance, power, victory, protection, blessing, salvation, refreshment, and many others; For he who dwells in the secret place of the most high; he who stay put, not leaving, but living, abides in, i.e. lives inside the secret place.

The secret place of the most high, His pavilion in which he hides his friends from all harm. “For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His pavilion, in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me...” (Ps. 27:5). The Lord hides His people, His obedient children who trust and rely on his ability to save and deliver them in a secret place where their pursuer cannot enter with them. Once any child of God enters into this secret place, no

tormentor or accuser can enter therein. God always hides his beloved who come for refuge in His name during their troubles in His place of refuge. We must entrust ourselves to His protection and pledge our daily devotion to Him, then we will be kept safe. Habitual access to God is a source of perpetual and perfect security.

When we say that we dwell in His secret place, it means that we are constantly in His presence. That is, we live in Him. When you dwell in God, you will obey all His rules. If you rent an apartment, you must obey all the rules and regulations of the landlord, i.e. the owner of the house or apartment. Likewise, if you are a landlord and you give your house/property to someone to let, the person must abide with your laid down rules and regulations.

You can for instance say that:

- a. The building should not be sublet for any commercial purposes.
- b. The building cannot be converted in any form for whatsoever reason. In fact, any attempt by any tenant to go against or not to abide with your stated

conditions, you will be ready to eject such a tenant out of your apartment, if not taking such a tenant to court.

Similarly, if you say that you dwell in the secret place of the most high God your creator, then you must obey all His rules and regulations. If you don't obey His rules and regulations, 'His do's and don'ts', then you cannot say that you dwell in Him.

Jesus said in John 14:15 if you love me, you will keep my commandments. If you don't keep his rules, then you don't love Him. If you don't love Him (Jesus), then you cannot dwell under His protection.

Therefore, you are to re-adjust your position, where are you right now? My friend, where are you now dwelling? If truly and sincerely you desire to dwell in Jesus, for there are so many benefits for you when you dwell in Him, then you must start and begin a new life in Christ Jesus. Remember, He is God, you cannot deceive Him. He is omnipotent (all powerful) and omniscient (all knowing). He sees your heart, He cannot be deceived, and you can only deceive your pastor, boss, friends, children, parents, spouse, fiancé but not God. Therefore, your sincere rightful mind is what you need.

You must live a holy and acceptable life by Jesus who you claim to dwell in. I pray that the grace be released unto you right now in Jesus' mighty name.

The secret place is a place for divine and supernatural protection where your safety is not depending on the professionalism of your security personnel or in your ability to use every kind of physical security measures to secure or guide yourself, family and properties.

PRESENCE OF GOD

To dwell in the secret place of the most high denotes nearness to God. When you make God your habitation and refuge, you will constantly be in His presence. The practicality of you dwelling in Him is that you are always in his presence.

JOY AND BLESSING

You cannot be in the presence of God and lack joy in its fullness; joy over your life and all facets of life. Maritally, academically, professionally, spiritually, name it, for in His presence the Bible says there is fullness of joy.

BLESSING

When you continually stay and abide in His presence, He will anoint your head with oil and your cup of

blessing shall run over, then sorrow shall automatically disappear. This means that your constant and continuous abiding in God's presence will give birth to constant and continuous joy in your life.

ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE

In His presence, anointing breaks the yoke. The Ark of the Lord which denotes His presence, when put in the same room with dragon, the dragon fell with its face to the ground and when they put the dragon back in its place again, by the next morning, the dragon had fallen its face down on the floor before the Ark of the Lord. This time around with its head and hands broken off and were lying in the doorway. This is exactly what can happen to your enemy when you constantly abide in God's presence. It is very important for you to know that you cannot be in the presence of God and be afflicted by the devil (the tormentor).

FAVOUR

The presence of God can push you forward and make you highly favoured. It can showcase and announce you to the whole world. When the Ark of the Lord remained in Obed-edom's house for just three months, the Lord blessed Obed-edom and his entire household.

So also is the Lord still showing his blessings on those who can maintain a relationship with Him in their constant abiding in Him.

VICTORY

“God is known in his palace for a refuge” (Ps. 48:3). God is a refuge in His church. The church is a city of refuge, but the refuge is not in its church, but in God- for sinners from wrath, for saints from trials and fears. This life is full of warfare; we battle with the world because we are not of this world. It is a battle we cannot lose if we are in Christ Jesus. This should be our slogan “I must win”. And you would surely win by his grace if you constantly abide in His presence. For in His presence comes revelation and instructions revealing the plans of your enemies and giving or providing you a way out of them all.

REFRESHMENT

Dwelling constantly in the presence of God brings refreshment. I believe strongly that your time of refreshment has come as you diligently go through this book and meditate therein to tap that which the Lord God has for you. It is a time for you to move forward and your spiritual eyes opening to his glory in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

Repent ye therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, when the time of refreshment shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19). The place of refuge is a place of refreshment. By repentance and conversion, through the merits and grace of Christ, sin will be pardoned and men delivered from its power and punishment. When sinners are convinced of their sins, they will cry to the Lord for pardon to the penitent, converted and believing, a time of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord. Repentance is not sorrow, but the fruit of sorrow. “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2Cor. 7:10).

On the day of Pentecost those pierced to the heart were told to repent. Judas sorrowed unto death but did not come to repentance. Repentance is an internal change resulting not from remorse but from conviction of sin and godly sorrow for it.

You must have a change of determination or will, the resolve to turn from sin to God. That is a change of heart. This automatically leads to your time and season of refreshment which is now.

SALVATION

The name of the Lord is a strong tower (tower of salvation) for his king. I believe that you are a royal priesthood, a king in God's palace. The Bible says the Lord is the tower of salvation for his king 2Sam. 22:51. And that he is the one that gives salvation unto his kings. He (who) delivered David his servant from the hurtful sword (Ps. 144:10).

Salvation could also denote any preservation or to keep anything in a safe state, preserving it from harm/being damaged. It signifies deliverance from any evil body or mind, from pain, sickness, danger etc. It biblically means deliverance of the soul from sin.

We are saved through this name “Jesus” for neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven or on earth given among men whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). Even before His birth, it has been said of Him, that His name shall save God's people from their sins. “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS, for He shall save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). The great need is for you to believe in His name and you shall receive remission of your sins (Acts 10:43). For there is no

other name, power or authority in whom we can be saved.

DELIVERANCE

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Ps. 18:2). The psalmist used this diversity of names to show that as the wicked has many means to hurt, so God has many ways to help.

Remember that the name of the Lord is a strong (high) tower. The psalmist refers to the Lord who bears this name which is the strong tower as his rock, fortress, deliverer, etc. As a rock and fortress means, source of support and security. The Lord is a safeguard and the protector of his people who make supplications to Him at all times of trouble. He is the greatest means of deliverance.

The Lord being your strength means that He shall establish you as a firm and immovable child of God.

HORN OF SALVATION

The horn serves as the means to attack or defend for some of the strongest animals, it is a frequent emblem of power or strength that is efficiently exercised.

Tower literally means a 'high place' beyond reach of danger. Congratulations, for you are placed in Christ Jesus beyond the reach of any danger of any sort.

When you dwell in the secret place of the Most High, He shall surely deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers.

When you dwell in the secret place of the Most High (that is when you put your trust in the name of the Lord), He will surely deliver you from every trap and protect you from deadly diseases. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises are your armour and protection. Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrows that fly in the day.

Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness nor the disaster that strikes at midday. Though a thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you.

Just open your eyes and see how the wicked are punished. If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the most high your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home.

For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go; they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your feet on a stone. You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet.

DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES

“The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee and shall say, destroy them” (Deut. 33:27).

To have God as our refuge, is the best security from fear and the safest protection from danger. The almighty power of God which protects and comforts all that trust in Him, in their greatest straits and distresses shall make room for you by His power; giving you not only a commission but strength to put in execution. He has given the same strength to us all (believers) to destroy all sin. May His grace be sufficient to us in Jesus mighty name. Amen.



Chapter 3



QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENJOYING THE BENEFITS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

THERE CANNOT but be a measure of qualification for any benefit to be derived both in the physical and in the spiritual. You cannot call a school certificate holder to be the Managing Director of a multibillion naira company. He will surely mess up things for he does not have what it takes. Not that he cannot think or do things right, but he is not yet trained as a manager. He does not have the skills involved to manage such a conglomerate.

In the same respect, the Lord has put a measure of qualification for anyone who wants to derive the great benefits embedded in His name, for those who want to uphold the manifestation of authority in His name. For the safety, deliverance, blessing, joy, salvation and other benefits derived from the name of Jesus, the biblical requirement is **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it, and is safe” (Prov. 18: 10).

Sure, divine and uncommon safety in Christ Jesus is a function of our righteousness. We must reach the stage of living righteously before we can be eligible or positioned to partake in the great benefit enlisted in the secret place of the Lord.

“...the righteous runneth into it, and is safe” (Prov. 18:10b). This shows the refuge of the godly against all troubles. The righteous, by faith and prayers, devotion towards God and dependence on Him, run into it as their city of refuge and are saved.

What is righteousness? Righteousness is speaking the truth. “He that speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness...” (Prov. 12:17a). It is holiness and affections of heart and conformity of the life of our Lord Jesus. Righteousness is speaking the truth in your heart (Ps. 15:2b).

Righteous living is exercising one’s self to always have a conscience void of offences toward God and man (Acts 24:16).”

It is very important for us as Christians; followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, to strive in our attitudes and behaviours in order for us to meet the standard of God. We are also to ask of the Lord for divine and explicit understanding of his word which is a lamp unto our feet.

By this, we would fulfill our purpose in life for his glory by Christ Jesus. Amen.

I will at this juncture point the attention of my readers to Apostle Paul's epistle to the Romans (chapter 3:10) where he writes “...there is none righteous, no, not one” this is to say that none could be justified by law. This is a strong universal expression, denoting the state of almost universal corruption which existed in the time of the psalmist (Ps. 14:1-3). The expression should not be interpreted to mean that there was not literally one person that was pious in the nation and members of the Romans church at that time were exceedingly corrupt.

Even in this present world and age, it is still possible by the grace of God for us to live righteously so that we can be qualified to partake not just in His kingdom in heaven but also on earth. I pray that the Lord Himself will help us in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

It is very important for us to know that the Lord himself is our righteousness.

“...and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” (Jer. 23:6b). This place is an eminent proof of the God-head of Christ, he is here called Jehovah, what is proper to God alone, is here applied to Christ. He, who knew no sin, was made

sin (that is a sacrifice for sin) for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The Lord Jesus is our righteousness. "Surely shall one say in the Lord have I righteousness and strength" (Isa. 45:24a). Our righteousness and strength is in the Lord Jesus Christ. When we abide in Him, we would surely live righteously. The Lord even confirmed this by himself being our righteousness, in Isaiah 54:17 "no weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servant of the Lord and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." So when we ask of him strength and grace to live righteously, he will help us.

CERTAIN THINGS THAT CAN BE COUNTED UNTO US FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Bible in its different books and verses told us what we, as believers and those who are striving to reign with the Lord Jesus should do, which can be counted unto us for righteousness. Such deeds include:

1. Doing and keeping God's commandments: "And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us" (Deut. 6:25).

By observing and doing with a proper spirit what God commanded, they would for Christ's sake be accepted and treated for Christ's sake as righteousness. The way for us to be treated for Christ's sake is to obey God. There is no other evidence that we are accepted of Him than we are disposed to keeping His commandments.

We shall be owned and pronounced by God to be righteous and holy people if we sincerely obey Him but if we don't, we shall be declared to be unrighteous and ungodly.

2. Believing in the Lord: "And he believed in the Lord, and he counted it to Him for righteousness (Gen.15:6)." The scripture says, "...Abraham believed in the Lord, it was counted unto him for righteousness. The Lord accepted him as being righteous through faith. Abraham exercised that confidence in God, which led him to follow his directions. That confidence in God which leads men to believe and obey him is counted to them for righteousness and those who exercise it will for Christ's sake, be justified, sanctified and saved.

"And he believed in the Lord" that is he believed the truth of that promise which God had made for

him, by resting upon the powers and faithfulness of he that made it. He was not weak in faith; he staggered not at the promise. He was strong in faith; he was fully persuaded. The Lord works such a faith in every one of us if we are ready to walk in it. No wonder the Bible says we are justified by faith without the works of the law.

If Abraham was so rich in good works, and was not justified by them but by his faith much less can we. This means that our good works will not sustain us in God's presence but our faith in the name of Jesus will do wonders beyond the reach of anyone. We can simply dwell in His secret place when we have faith in Him.

3. Being zealous for the Lord: "And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generation for evermore (Ps. 106:31). The Lord counted it unto Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest for righteousness because he was zealous of His God and made atonement for the children of Israel. The Lord, for this singular reason gave unto him a covenant of peace, not just him but also his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood (Num. 25:11-13).

As children of God, we need to be zealous for God's sake among the people of God. If not for the zealousness of Phinehas, which made the Lord to turn away his wrath from the children of Israel, God would have consumed them in His jealousy. Phinehas' faith has performed a valorous deed and his righteousness was testified of the Lord. He was impelled by motives that would otherwise have been a deed of blood but was justified in the sight of the Lord.

No other thing was made the evidence that Phinehas was righteous. No personal ambition or private revenge or selfish passion, or even fanatical intolerance, inspired the man of God but the zeal of God.

4. Giving to the poor and needy in love: "He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor, his righteousness endureth forever, his horn shall be exalted with honour" (Ps. 112:9). Giving to the poor could be counted for us as righteousness. The godly are not stingy, but distribute literally as the need of the poor requires and his power is able, so shall his prosperity be increased. What you give freely and literally is not lost but indeed

is the only part of our state which will abide with us in eternity.

What we receive, we distribute and distribute to those who need it most. We are God's reservoir, and from our abundance flow the streams of liberality to supply the needy.

If this is one of the marks of a man who feared the Lord and who daily desire to live righteously, then what about some who are strangely destitute of it. They are great at gathering but very slow at dispersing. They enjoy the blessedness of receiving but seldom taste the greater joy of giving. It is more blessed to give than to receive. Perhaps they think that the blessing of receiving is enough for them.

The character of a righteous man is not spasmodic (that is, is not unsustained) he is not generous by fits and starts, nor upright in a few points only. His life is the result of principle, his actions flow from settled, sure and fixed convictions; therefore, his integrity is maintained when others fail. He is not turned about by companions nor affected by the customs of the society. He is resolute, determined and

immoveable. Little wonder he can abide in the presence of the Lord for he has the features of God in himself.

“His horn shall be exalted with honour,” God shall honour him. The world of the holy beings shall honour him and even the wicked shall feel an unconscious reverence of him. In summarizing the quality of the God-fearing man, he is described not merely as righteous but as one bearing the character to which Paul referred in the scriptural verse. “... for scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die” kindness, benevolence, and generosity are essential to the perfect character. Strictly speaking, being just is not enough, for God is love and we must love our neighbour as ourselves. To give everyone his due is not sufficient; we must act upon those principles of grace which reign in the heart of God.

The promises of establishment and prosperity which are all embedded in the name of the Lord (the strong tower) are neither to churlish Nabal nor niggard Laban but to bountiful souls who have proved their fitness to be stewards of the

Lord by the right way in which they use their substance. I pray that the Lord will open your understanding towards this revelation for His glory in Jesus Christ mighty name. Amen.

GRACE FOR LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY

Sincerely speaking, if we are not to cheat ourselves in the things of the kingdom of God, living righteously is a must for us. All the goodness of life is in the throne of God. The Bible says that the habitation of His throne is righteousness. Everything in His throne is based on righteousness, that is, it is built on righteousness and judgement (Ps. 97:2b). He is a righteous God, He cannot love unrighteousness. "For the righteous God love righteousness" (Ps. 11:7a).

This is the main reason why we need to ask Him for the grace to live righteously. Living righteously is possible, practically obtainable and attainable. We can obtain grace by Jesus Christ. If we sincerely desire to live righteously, for all the great benefits it entails the Lord will open unto us the gates of righteousness and we will find it easy by His grace to continually and constantly live heaven on earth.

This is the purpose and goal of God that made him to give his only begotten Son to us. He is a gift by grace to

us. Just like sin ruled over all people, and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:21).

The grace to live righteously is available for you right now in Christ Jesus and as you move into it, I am sure that you will never be the same for His glory in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

The psalmist said "... he restoreth my soul, he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (Ps. 23:3). So also is the Lord upon your readiness, he is ever ready to lead you in the paths of righteousness for His name sake.

The ever available grace of God wants to restore your soul and bring you back from every error and wandering, not for any worth in you but for the glory of His justice, faithfulness and goodness. Remember the Bible says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. But being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, there is a robe of righteousness with which the Lord usually covers the humble in spirit. Those who desire to live righteously and rightfully should ask the Lord for the grace. Those who with humility of heart are ready to do accordingly to

the Lord's leading and instructions have their benefits not only in heaven but also in this life. They shall dwell in the secret place of the most high, divinely protected beyond the reach of the tormentors.

Until we put the righteousness of God like costly apparel, we might not be able to qualify to run into the strong tower for safety. We must delight to do justice to this, just as others did in wearing of costly apparel.

"I put on righteousness, and it clothed me, my judgment was as a robe and a diadem" (Job 29:14). Uprightness was that by which Job was known. It was his covering and ornament.

Your Righteousness shall answer for you: it shall stand for you in time to come

1. "So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face..." (Gen. 30:33). God shall attest to your righteous dealing by rewarding your labours just as He did unto Jacob. He was favoured by the Lord. The Lord refused that Laban should cheat him for he (Jacob) was honest in his dealings with Laban. The Lord fought for him and pleaded his cause.

- 2 "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward" (Isa. 58:8).

"Light" is an emblem of prosperity..

"Health" in this context means restoration from all past calamity.

"... go before thee": your conformity to the divine covenant will act as a leader, conducting you to divine peace and prosperity.

"... glory of the Lord shall be your reward": like the pillar of cloud and fire, the symbol of God's "glory" which went behind Israel, separating them from their Egyptian pursuers (Ex. 14:19-20). The Lord can do likewise to divinely put an end to the activities of the enemies in your life. The Lord is ever ready to fight by any means for the sake of his name and your living righteously in His way.

"By terrible things in righteousness will thou answer us, O God of our salvation" (Ps. 65:5). The Lord is able to make your enemy to hear a strange noise in their camp for your victory and abundance (the Assyrians). He is able to afflict your enemies with

an uncommon disease (the Egyptians). He is able to part the Red Sea (the Israelites passed for his glory).

It is very important to note that your righteousness is able to go forth before you, to remove all obstacles from your path. Just as He did unto the Israelite in their journey from Egypt to the land of Canaan, so is He able to do unto you, in bringing you to your place of prosperity and abundance.

Your happiness and prosperity shall not only appear but break forth, notwithstanding difficulties. As the sun breaks and pierces through a cloud, so shall your righteousness bring you a reward as the morning star goes before the sun.

3. The Lord in his desire to see that you are being paid off for living righteously and obeying his words, has commissioned some people, he has chosen and mandated them to constantly intercede on your behalf. They have been instructed and mandated not to rest until your righteousness goes forth as brightness before you and your salvation as a lamp that burneth (Isa. 62:1). This extent is beyond your measure. "Necessity is placed upon them" (1Cor.

9:16) just as he counted apostle Paul to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said "woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

SACRIFICE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

"Offer the sacrifice of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord (Ps. 4:5). The Lord demands that for the acceptance of all our sacrifices in any form, it must be that of righteousness. Sacrifices offered otherwise amount to exercise in futility. In essence, money donated for His work and time spent in his presence either in the cleaning of the physical environment of his temple will only count if offered in righteousness. He is revealing to us the need to offer all these sacrifices of praise, worship, finances, etc. in righteousness.

For our sacrifices to be accepted by the Lord, he demands that we serve Him purely and not with outward ceremonies. Not only does he need us to repent, but manifest penitence by righteous sacrifices. This implies sacrifices should be offered righteously and with clear and honest mind, even with faith and true repentance. Sacrifices offered otherwise, are unprofitable to us and to God.

Only by sacrifices of righteousness shall anyone drink of the abundance of the seas and of treasures hid in the sand (Deut 33:19).

BENEFITS OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING

1. ***You shall be satisfied.*** “I have been young, and now am old; yet, have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread” (Ps. 37:25). This simply means that you and your generation will never lack any good thing of life. You will only give to people. You will not borrow. Hallelujah.
2. ***Deliverance from death.*** “Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivereth from death” (Prov. 10:2). Wealth wrongly gotten, profited nothing. But righteousness delivers you from violent and premature death. The curse of God rests upon all unrighteous profits. It confers upon the owners, no true happiness in this world and it exposes them to his everlasting displeasure in the world to come. Hence, for deliverance from all form of evils (death and its associates) we must run into that strong tower and remember that our endurance key to access the great palace of God is righteousness.

“Riches profit not in the day of wrath but righteousness delivereth from death” (Prov. 11:4). The day of death will be a day of wrath. It is a messenger of God's wrath. Therefore, when Moses had meditated on man's mortality, he took occasion thence to admire the power of God's anger (Ps 110:7). It is a debt owing, not to nature but to God's justice. After death is judgement and that is a day of wrath. “For the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?” (Rev. 6:17).

Riches will stand men in no stead that day. It will not put the stroke or ease the pain, much less take the sting. What profit will this world's birthright be of then? In the day of the public judgements, riches often expose men rather than protect them. “They shall cast their silver in the streets and their gold shall be removed, their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord. They shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels, because it is the stumbling block of their imagination” (Ezek. 7:19). It is righteousness only that will deliver you from the evil of death.

3. ***Establishment.*** “In righteousness shall thou be established, thou shall be far from oppression, for thou shall not fear and from terror, for it shall not come near thee” (Isa. 54:14).

Your affairs shall be managed with righteousness, which is the glory of any society. You shall not be oppressed either by your own governor or by foreign powers. You will be far from suffering oppression, for you shall have nothing to fear. For your soul shall wholly rest upon the right hand of the Lord, even as he sits on His throne in his palace (The secret place).

4. **A new name awaits you:** - And the gentile shall see your righteousness and all kings your glory and you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord shall name (Isa. 62:2). You will have a more excellent fame than you have had till now. You shall no more be called forsaken, neither shall your land anymore be called desolate but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah, the Lord delighted in you and your land shall be married. The Lord is assuring you of a new and improved condition here on earth and a hope of eternity. Simply by living righteously.
5. **He fights for the righteous:-** “The Lord executes righteousness and judgments for all that are oppressed” (Ps.103:6). He executes righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. For even in common providence, He is the patron of wronged innocence and He will plead

the cause of those that injured against their oppressors. It is his honour to humble the proud and help the helpless.

6. **Righteousness brings peace:-** “The mountains shall bring peace to the people and the little hills by righteousness” (Ps 72:3).
Where Jesus is, there is lasting, deep, and eternal peace. Those things which were once dreaded and terrifying, when Jesus becomes the monarch of our heart. Death itself loses all its gloom. When the Lord is with us, trials and affliction brings us an increase rather than a demolition of peace. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and grace have kissed each other (Ps. 85:10).
7. **Blessing is sure:-** “Blessed are they that keep judgment and he that doeth righteousness at all time (Ps 106:3)”. It is not enough to praise God with the mouth, unless the whole heart agrees to it and all our life framed after it. Whatsoever may be the state of the wicked, it will be well with those that fear the Lord and delight themselves in his commandments. The divine blessings and safety in the name of the Lord is limited to those whose principles and acts are right. There are many in the world today, whose testimonies were not of the

Lord. They have left the line of faith to acquire their heart desires. To some, position, status, fame, riches and many others. The same people will come to church, in the congregation of the saints, sharing testimonies which they know is not of the Lord. They have gone through deadly routes. Oh! An exchange for their soul. What shall it profit a man when he gains all his desires in this world and loses his soul in heaven? What in this life is worth the exchange of man's soul? Nothing! Better is a little with the righteous than great gain without the righteousness of God. I pray that the Lord will restore you back by His able hand now for His glory in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

It should be noted that there are real blessings that give peace in the Lord Jesus Christ. So seek for it now.

8. ***You can change your world.*** Remember that the Bible says that the fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much. This is practically tested and proven to be true.
9. ***Happiness and joyful existence.*** “The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacle of the righteous, the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly” (Ps. 118:15). The latter is caused by the former. The

families of the believers are happy. They should take pains to give their happiness a voice by their family devotion. The dwelling place of saved men should be the temple of praise. It is better for the righteous to praise the righteous God, who is their righteousness.

That hero of heroes, the conquering Saviour, He gives all the families of His people abundant reasons for incessant songs. Now that he has led captivity captive and ascended high, let none of us be silent in our households. If we have salvation, let us have joy, and if we have joy, let us give it tongues by praising and magnifying the Lord.

True joy is peculiar to the righteous in their pilgrimage state, for rejoicing and salvation go together.

I believe strongly and in accordance with the word of God that whom the Lord loves, he corrects, even as a father the son in whom he delights (Prov. 3:12). Apostle Paul enjoins us not to forget the exhortation which was spoken unto us even as unto children. “My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord nor faint when you're rebuked of him” (Heb. 12:5).

The Lord in His unsearchable love for us at this time brought out this book for our correction and guide to

open up our hearts to know those things; which helps to fully benefit from the numerous treasures in His throne as the universal king who rules the affairs of all men.

But consider the joy of those corrected by God! Do not despise the discipline of the Almighty when you sin. For though he wounds, he also bandages. He strikes, and his hand also heals (Job 5:17-27).

From six disasters, he will rescue you. Even in the seventh, he will keep you from evil.

He will save you from death in time of famine, from the power of the sword in time of war.

You will be saved from slander and have no fear when destruction comes.

You will laugh at destruction and famine; wild animals will not terrify you.

You will be at peace with the stones of the field and the wild animals will be at peace with you.

You will know that your home is safe. When you survey your possessions, nothing will be missing.

You will have many children and your descendants will be as plentiful as grass!

You will go to the grave at a ripe age, like a sheaf of grain harvested at the proper time.

Life has been studied, and found all these to be true. Listen to God's counsel and apply it to yourself.

BEWARE! DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, BE FOCUSED AND STEADFAST

Do you think that I like to see the wicked people die? says the sovereign Lord. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live. However, if righteous people turn from their righteous behaviour and start doing sinful things and act like other sinners, should they be allowed to live? Of course not! All their righteous acts will be forgotten and they will die for their sins.

“Yet you say “The Lord isn't doing what's right!” listen to me, o people of Israel, Am I the one not doing what's right or is it you? When righteous people turn from their righteous behaviour and start doing sinful things, they will die for it. Yes, they will die because of their sinful deeds. And if wicked people turn from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what is just and right, they will save their lives. They will live because they thought it's over and decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die.

I will judge each of you, oh my people, according to your actions, says the sovereign Lord. Repent, and turn from your sins, don't let them destroy you! Put all your rebellion behind you and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, o my people? I don't want you to die, says the sovereign Lord. Turn back and live (Ezek. 18:23-32).

God is perfect in love, but also dispense perfect justice. His perfect love causes him to be merciful to those who recognize their sins and turn back to him but he cannot overlook those who willfully sin. Wicked people die both physically and spiritually. God takes no joy in their deaths. He would prefer that they turn to him and have eternal life. A typical childish response to punishment is to say "That's unfair". In reality, God is fair but we have broken the rules. It is not God who must live up to our ideas of fairness; instead we must live up to His. We should not spend our time looking for loopholes in God's law (as the devil inspired some), instead we should live up to God's standard. Remember that God is not a respecter of anyone/man he will judge us according to our righteousness (Rev. 19:11). The only solution to the problem of inherited guilt is for each person to have a change of life. This is God's work in us and not something we can do for ourselves. The Holy

Spirit does it (Ps. 51:10-12), If we renounce our life's direction of sin and rebellion and turn to God, He will give us a new direction, a new love, and a new power to change. You can begin by faith, trusting in God's power to change your heart and mind. Then be determined to live each day with him in control (Eph. 4:22-24). The Lord God will help us all for his glory in our lives in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

FAITH AND TRUST IN THE NAME 'JESUS'

Faith is also one of the keys to having access to the treasures of God in His Kingdom. The Bible says without faith no one can please God. As we live uprightly in His sight, we must have faith in His name to do that which he promised to do in our lives.

"Faith is having trust in someone's ability or knowledge". Faith is trusting that someone will do what has been promised.

"Trust in Him at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us" (Ps. 62:8).

We are all welcome to trust in God for He is the confidence of the ends of the earth. We are to confide in God. Trust in Him, deal with Him and be willing to put upon him our trust. Depend upon Him to perform all things for you, upon His wisdom and goodness, His

power and promise, His providence and grace. Do this at all time.

We must have a kind of habitual confidence in God always, by living a life of dependence upon him, and trusting in him at all times without putting that confidence in ourselves, or in any creature. We must have actual confidence in God on all occasion, trust in Him upon every emergency, to guide us when we are in doubt, to protect us when we are in danger, to supply us when we are in want, to strengthen us for every good word and works.

The encouragement He gives us to take this good counsel is that He (God) is a refuge for us, not only my refuge, but a refuge for us all, even as many as will flee to Him and shelter in Him.

DANGERS OF TRUSTING IN MAN

We need to caution ourselves to take heed of misplacing our confidence, as much as in anything, the heart is deceitful. Those that trust in God truly will trust in Him only.

Thus saith the Lord, cursed be the man that put his trust in man and maketh flesh his arm whose heart has departed from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh but

shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness in a salt land and not inhabited (Jer. 17:5).”We may expect help from men, as far as God enables them to help us, but we must rest our trust in God alone. It is a sin to trust in man. Putting your confidence in the wisdom, power, kindness and faithfulness of men is undermining God and it is sinful.

Those that trust in man perhaps draw nigh to God with their mouth and honour him with their lips. They call him their hope and say that they trust in Him but really their heart departs from Him. They distrust him, despise him and decline a correspondence with Him. Cleaving to the cistern is leaving the fountain.

HOW MUCH OF THIS NAME JESUS DO YOU KNOW?

When you say that you know much about the name Jesus, when you know the in-depth of what this name stands for and the power and authority the name carries, then you cannot but completely trust and rely on it.

“And they that know your name will put their trust in you, for thou Lord has not forsaken them that seek you” (Ps. 9:10). When you are acquainted with the manifestation of God, especially in the person and work of His son,

you will at all times of troubles flee to Him as your refuge, seeking him as your chief source and you will not lack any good thing. Knowing His name is not the same as knowing His infinite power, wisdom, faithfulness and goodness. The experience of His faithfulness to His people in all ages is a just ground for their confidence.

Ignorance is worse when it amounts to ignorance of God, and knowledge is best when it exercises itself upon the name of God. Knowing His name is also meant by experimental acquaintance with the attributes of God, which are anchors that hold the soul from drifting in seasons of peril. The Lord may hide His face for a season (for some reason) from His people but He never utterly forsakes them that seek him.

KNOWLEDGE vs FAITH

“They that know the name will put their trust in thee” there can be knowledge without faith but there is no faith without knowledge. Your faith can only be built on your knowledge. If you do not have the knowledge of the Lord, you cannot have faith in him, and without faith in him, you cannot access the benefits in him.

Knowledge must carry a torch before faith comes up. Paul said “For which cause I also suffer these things,

nevertheless, I'm not ashamed for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2Tim. 1:12). In spite of the suffering that might have caused Paul to despair, he affirmed his confidence in God's protection. This was not a claim to strong faith; rather it was a trust in one so powerful that even a weak faith was sufficient. Paul based his confidence in Christ and on his intimate relationship with Him. He knew the one in whom he trusted with personal knowledge. He knew Christ so well that no earthly experience could break his knowledge because of the bond of love which Christ held him. If your situation looks bleak, give your concern to Christ because you know Him and have Him. Believe that He will guard all you have entrusted in Him until the day of His return.

Before faith can be wrought, you must ask God to shine His light upon your understanding. Be reminded that He is faithful that promised and able also to perform it.

THE FREE PROMISES OF THE LORD

The free promises of the Lord are all certain. His commandments are right and good. The recompense of His reward is inestimably to be valued above thousands of gold and silver. Let your soul therefore

trust in the Lord and follow his free promises. He never fails, he has promised more than you could possibly ask or think of, he has done more for you than ever promised. There is a crown of glory proposed to you above all conceit of merit. Stick fast unto His word and suffer nothing to divide you from it. Rest upon His promises though He seem to kill you, cleave unto His statues though the flesh lust, the world allure, the devil tempts by flatteries but be sure that the Lord can never fail you.

HOW GREAT IS YOUR FAITH?

Has the Lord found your faith great that He marveled? “When Jesus heard it, he marveled and said to them that followed, verily, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel” (Matt. 8:10). The word “faith” here means confidence or belief that Christ has power to heal his servant.

The centurion trusted the Lord Jesus so much; he knew that his voice, let alone his presence carry power and authority. He knew that this man Jesus is God; He knew that he and his father are one. He knew that it's not until Jesus follows him home before his servant can be made whole. So he asked the commander of all situations to speak the word only and his servant shall

be healed, and it was exactly as he believed. The Lord marveled at this action. The Lord confirmed that He has never seen such great faith in Israel. How more also are you of the faith of this centurion. We can experience great happening with ease if only we have faith in his name to do all that we require of Him.

FAITH IS THE MEANS

“And his name, through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know, yes, the faith which is by him hath given this perfect soundness in the presence of you all” (Acts 3:16).

Faith hath given him this perfect soundness. Faith was the means, Peter is the instrument and Christ the cause of the cure. His name, through faith in his name was the skill by which the apostles wrought miracles. The faith which is by him, of which He (Jesus) is the giver, as well as the object, He is ever ready to give to you in abundance if only you will totally learn from him. Trust in him and abide within his territory and it shall be well with you in Jesus mighty name Amen.

The grace of our Lord is exceedingly abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus (1Tim. 1:14). As you refuse to receive the grace of the Lord upon you in

vain; when you are determined to make use of His grace upon your life; when you decide to labour more abundantly than ever before; when you put into use the fullness of His grace made available for you; when you refuse to be a lazy child of God; when you abide and dwell in his tabernacle always having faith that He is able to do all things and fulfill His plans and purpose for your life. Great benefits of His kingdom await you in this life and in heaven.

Faith and love are in Christ Jesus, build on your faith and use it with love and exploit these explicit benefits in Christ Jesus. Amen.

AVAILABILITY OF GOD'S GRACE

There is still availability of the grace of our Lord to lead to repentance as we believe in Christ. Whosoever is ready, the master of all will lead and teach such in the way of life to success and eternal glory. I sincerely pray that we would not receive His grace in vain in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

“With faith and love” Apostle Paul mentioned these as the never failing attendant and fruits of God's grace. He added these words to show that faith and love have their ground only in the union of soul with Christ.

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law, for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified (Gal. 2:16).

DAVID vs GOLIATH

The boldness and confidence of David is in the name of the God of Israel. He knew the God of Israel. He dwelt in this God and put his confidence in this God which he was so sure can never let him down. David was not moved by the power of his enemy, Goliath. The might of Goliath did not affect the mind of David or he refused to be moved by his stature.

David was only moved by the power, ability and capability of his God. He knew that his God is a man of war (Exo. 15:3), so he waited in His ability and he was not disappointed. When your faith is in Jesus, the name of the Lord is solid; you will be able to access the secret place of the Lord where you will be divinely protected. Your reliance on the ability and the capability of God to save and deliver you is enough security you have for your divine protection. I mean your total reliance on Him. I pray that even as you rely on the ability and

capability of God to save you today from the hands of your enemies, and tormentors, you will be saved in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

Remember that the name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous (who has faith in his name) runneth into it and is safe.

FAITH MAKES WHOLE (SAVES)

“And Jesus said unto him, go thy way, thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus in the way” (Mark 10:52).

Bartimaeus' faith was shown:

- a. By his going to Jesus.
- b. By his belief that Jesus was the Messiah.
- c. By persevering against opposition.
- d. By casting away all that hindered him.
- e. By obeying Jesus when he was called.
- f. By following and praising Him after he was cured.

We can see in this instance what faith really is. It caused Bartimaeus to cry out, to come to Jesus and to ask for his sight. Thus, we see faith saves by leading to proper action. Being a beggar it would have been natural for

him to lose his means of livelihood but faith and gratitude prompted him to follow Jesus. We also are to go to Jesus and live daily for His trust and saving grace.

RUN INTO IT, CALL HIM.

“The righteous runneth into it and is safe.” Runneth into it could as well mean goeth fast into it, enter into it, make a trip into it, and move quickly into it. It should be noted that for any child of God to enter into God's presence, such a child has to go with the keys he would use to enter his gate and access His throne. These two (2) keys are necessary in accessing God's throne.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

- a. Prayer.
- b. Thanksgiving, praise and worship.

Prayer

“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honour him says the Lord” (Ps. 91:15). God's people are not exempted from trouble in this world but they have His promise that in all their trials, he will be with them and deliver them and make them partakers of his everlasting salvation (John 16:33).

“He shall call upon me”: He promised to answer us when we call upon him in our prayers. We would have a need to pray. We would be led to pray aright and the answer shall surely come. We are first called of God and then we call upon God. Not without prayers will the blessings come to the most favoured but by means of prayers, we shall receive all good things.

“I will be with thee when in trouble”: The Lord is assuring us of his special divine presence in times of severe trials. God is always near in sympathy and in power to help His tried ones.

“I will answer him”: Sometimes, we discourage ourselves by the misconception of the exact meaning of the word “answer”, taking it to mean only 'grant'. We need to know that an answer is not necessarily a submission; it may be a refusal, an explanation, a promise, or a conditional grant. Answer simply means attention to a request that is being expressed. In this sense, before we call, He will answer and while we are yet speaking, He will hear” (Isa. 66:24).

“Trust in him at all times, (ye people) pour out your heart before Him (God). God is a refuge for us” (Ps. 62:8).

Just like Hannah did, we are all enjoined to pour our heart before the Lord in times of sorrow and trials. We are also enjoined to cast our burden upon him for he cares for us. That is, release it to him in your prayers; he will surely have you relieved of them all. Amen.

PRAYER AT NIGHT

“Arise, cry out in the night in the beginning of the watches, and pour out thy heart like water before the face of the Lord... (Lam. 2:19). Prayer at night is also very essential. I pray the Lord will help us in Jesus mighty name. Amen. Gideon and the hundred men that were with him came unto the outside of the camp in the night and they had their victory (Judg. 7:19). The Lord in the morning watch (2am-6am) looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of cloud and troubled the host of the Egyptians (Exo.14:24). Therefore, a true child of God cannot do without prayer at night.

Cast your burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain you. He can never suffer the righteous to be moved (Ps. 55:22). Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your

requests be made known unto God (Phil. 4:6). We are not to be anxious for anything but with sure confidence, we should give God thanks, desire from Him whatever we have need of, with a quiet conscience and with all our hearts submit ourselves to Him..

We need not be discouraged or distracted by all the people around us, we need not to be distracted with the activities of mockers and discouragers. They are all around us. Blind Bartimaeus refused to be discouraged and distracted by the multitude, he focused his attention on the Saviour; Lord Jesus Christ. He was so determined and convinced in his heart that Jesus will soon hear him out. Bartimaeus was filled with the spirit of Jacob. The more resistance he met, the more strenuously he wrestled to obtain his deliverance and blessings. My prayer is that we would receive strength not to be distracted in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lastly, we should note that the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much (James 5:16).

The kind of prayer expected here must produce power, which in its own nature is fitted to produce an effect.

Prayer should not be listless, indifferent, cold, and lifeless as if there is no vitality or power in it. It should be that which is efficient, earnest, sincere, hearty and persevering.

“The quality on which the success of a prayer depends is not the talent, learning, rank, wealth, or office of the man who prays, but on the fact that he is a “righteous man” who may be found in the ranks of the poor, or the rich, among the layman, ministries of religions, slaves and among masters.

“Availeth much” indicates the strength or power which overcomes resistance and secures the object.

It has been said that prayer moves the arm that moves the world and if there is anything that can prevail with God, it is prayer, being humble, fervent, earnest and petitioning.

THANKSGIVING, PRAISE AND WORSHIP

The moving key to entering into the Lord's presence is the key of thanksgiving, praises, and worship.

“Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing” (Ps. 100:2). He is our Lord and

therefore He is to be served with joy. The invitation to worship Him is not to be done in a forceful mode or with depression as though adoration is a funeral solemnity, but a cheerful gladsome exhortation as though we are invited to a marriage feast.

We ought, in worship, to realize the presence of God. And by an effort of the mind to approach Him. This is an act which must to every rightly instructed heart be one of great solemnity. It must not be performed in servility or servitude therefore; we should come before Him not with weeping and wailing, but with psalms and hymns.

Singing is joyful and at the same time a devout exercise, which should be a constant approach to God. The measured, harmonious hearty utterance of praise by a congregation of really devoted persons is not merely decorous but delightful and is a fit anticipation of worship of heaven where praise has absorbed prayer and become the sole mode of adoration.

It is our privilege to serve the Lord in all things. The servant of God is not serving God at the same time another master. He has not been hired for occasional service. He abides in the service of His God and cannot

be about anything but his master's business. He eats, drinks, sleeps, walks, discusses, and finds recreation all by the way of serving God. So also we are enjoined to serve God always and in all things.

Enter into "his gate" with thanksgiving and into "his court" with praises, be thankful unto him and bless his name (Ps. 100:4). This shows that God can only be accessed through those means which He has appointed. That is by thanksgiving, praises and worship.

As long as we are receivers of mercy, we must be givers of thanks. Into whatever court of the Lord you may enter, let your admission be a subject of praise. Thanks be to God; the innermost court is now open to believers and we can enter into that which is within the veil. As He blesses you, bless Him in return. Bless His name, His character and His person. Whatever He does, be sure that you bless Him for it. Bless Him when He takes away as well as when He gives, bless Him as long as you live under all circumstances; bless Him in all His attributes from whatever point of view you consider it. May the Lord give us this grace for our benefits and to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

“I will offer to thee sacrifice of thanksgiving and I will call upon the name of the Lord”. Ps 116: 17..

How this may be rendered.

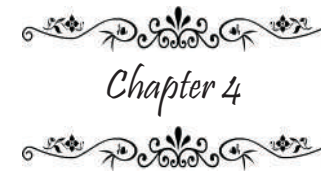
- ◆ In secret love.
- ◆ In conversation.
- ◆ In sacred songs.
- ◆ In public testimony.
- ◆ In special gifts and works.

Why we should render it:

- ◆ For answered prayers (Ps. 116:1-2).
- ◆ Memorable deliverances (Ps. 116:3).
- ◆ Choice preservation (Ps. 116:6).
- ◆ Remarkable restoration (Ps. 116:7-8).
- ◆ For the fact of being his servant (Ps. 116: 16).

When should we render it?

Now, while the mercy is on our memory and as often as fresh mercies come to us.



Chapter 4



CONCLUSION

THE ESSENTIAL

THE MOST important thing the Lord requires us to know is His location. Before anyone can decide to run into a place, such person will be aware of where he/she is running to. Yes, the righteous runs into the name of the Lord which is a strong tower, that is where he knows that there is a sure safety and deliverance.

We must know that living uprightly and righteously is a thing of our heart/mind. Having faith and confidence is a thing of the heart/mind. Prayer, thanksgiving, praises and worship are things of the heart/mind. Conclusively, we can say that the place of God's dwelling is in the heart of men. The Bible says that our bodies are the temple of the living God (2Cor. 6:16).

Therefore, the most essential is to give Him a place in your heart, for there is His tabernacle. “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and he dwell with them,

and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them and be their God” (Rev.21:3).

The tabernacle as commonly used in the scripture is referring to the sacred tent created in the wilderness. It was regarded as the peculiar dwelling place of God among His people. Temple is also usually called a tabernacle. This means that God would now dwell in the redeemed heart as if in a tabernacle or in a house specially prepared for his residence among them.

Build up your heart for God to dwell in: “Where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest is, says the Lord” (Isa. 66:1c). God cannot dwell in the temple made with hands for the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him but behold, He dwells in our heart. He delights that we prepare our heart for Him. No magnificence of outward rites can please him when the heart and hands are polluted with iniquity. Hence the great need for us to create space for him to dwell in our life.

It is very important for us to know that the Lord is a holy God. Therefore, He cannot dwell in a dirty place. The place of His throne is the place on which your thoughts

should dwell. Your thoughts should be in accordance with His word.

The Bible says out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Your action, behaviours and attitudes are certainly controlled or influenced by the content of your heart. There is the need for the purification of your heart so that you can daily and constantly live your life for the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8). As a bright and shining resemblance or image may be seen plainly in a clear and pure looking glass, even so does the face of the everlasting God shine forth and clearly appear in a pure heart. Men look at the outward appearance but God looks on the heart. This is the main reason why our minds, motives and principles must be pure. We should seek not to have the external actions, but must desire to be holy in heart. Then shall we see God beholding his presence.

Obedience is better than sacrifice. Obey His word today so that you will not be cut off from being His people(Acts 3:22-23).I pray that you will not be cut off from His presence and from being His child in Jesus Christ’s mighty name. Amen.

There are great blessings and riches in Jesus Christ; if you can surrender your heart and life to him. Blessings, riches and victory of great measures have been given to some because of the covenant of God with their parents. What is the strivings of such a person to enter into the plans, purpose and covenant of God? Is such living a life of holiness and righteousness? With which the plans of God would be more established not just on such but also on such children and the generation. How much do you strive? Or what is the level of your striving?

Spending our time and life to honour him is one of the most important ways of living a holy and righteous life. By this will the Lord himself honour His word in our mouth, whenever we call upon Him either in time of trouble, confrontation, wants and especially for victory over every power of darkness. My prayer is that the righteous Lord will give us abundant grace in Jesus name. Amen.

TEMPLE OF GOD vs IDOLS: And what agreement hath the temple of God (you) with idols (the world)? For you are the temple of the living God, as God has said, I will dwell in them and walk in them (2Cor. 6:16).

What is there in you that resembles the devil? You need to let it go. The Lord created you for a purpose therefore, the worship of idols such as money, fame, career or even children, will not be tolerated by God the Creator. Remember He is a jealous God and that is the main reason why things around you are not really fine. Although people around you may not sense it but the fact is that you have lost your inner peace to the things of this world. As God dwells with his people, they ought to be separated from this sinful and polluted world. Therefore, you are to separate yourself from the world.

“...render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's” (Matt. 22:21). The devil deceitfully quoted this portion of the Bible to some people and they believed him- the father of all liars. He deceitfully misinterpreted the word of God to them and they fell victim and prey in his hand. Remember, He (devil) is a roaring lion seeking for whom to devour. The devil in his cunning way makes them to believe that the dues paid to idols and honours given to customs of the land are unavoidable. They claim that those customs (idols) are their origin and foundation. Meanwhile, the Bible says that there is no

other foundation that can be laid except that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus.

The Lord Jesus told Peter that Caesars' image and name as written on the coin proved that it was his. It is therefore proper to give back to him when he called for it. While this was done, he (Jesus) used that occasion also to charge them that they should give to God what belongs to God. That means they should give their hearts, lives, properties, influences and among all other things to God. This is exactly what the Lord is demanding from you at this moment. He wants you to release to him your heart so that he can dwell in there, and that automatically guarantees you his presence.

“Give unto Caesar” also shows that as they were under his government and enjoyed his protection, they ought to assist in supporting it, even as they obey God.

The devil may also wrongly quote this to them “render therefore to all their dues, tribute to whom tributes is due. Custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour (Rom. 13:7).

There are still many so-called children of God who believe in the customs (idols) of their land of birth, the

yearly celebrate the customs and deeds of the people; they believe that the traditions of the land have nothing to do against God. They say God created them all. They do not make use of the word of God that says do not create for yourselves any graven image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth, beneath, or that is in the water, under the earth (Exo. 20:4).

...Neither shall ye set up any image stone in your land to bow down unto it, for am the Lord your God (Lev. 26:16). The Lord placed a curse on such a person that goes against his will (Deut. 27:15).

Some say they are now officers and established members of the church therefore, will not be physically present on the occasion of the idolatry festivities but will rather send money to finance the ceremony. The consequences of such action is that they have innocently traded their eternal glory on the altar of idolatry for the Bible says no idolaters shall inherit the kingdom of God.

“Render therefore to all their dues, tributes to whom tribute is due, custom to who custom, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour is due (Rom. 13:17).

This simply means obedience from the heart. The Bible demands that we pay all dues.

That is, we should give a fair compensation to anyone (especially when such is representing the government) for the service which he renders us by devoting his time and talents to advance our interest and the welfare of the community.

Their dues: what rightfully belongs to them

Tribute: taxes on real and personal estate (land tax), direct taxes, whether upon persons or property.

Custom: taxes on merchandise and on foreigners, for goods exported and imported. A toll on goods, similar to the modern tariff, It was usually collected at the gates of cities on all goods entering (Matt. 9:9).

Fear: obedience, that is, we should stand in awe of those who wear the sword and those who are appointed to execute the laws of the land. As the execution of their office is fitted to excite fear which arises from the dread of punishment, we should render to them that reverence which is appropriate to the execution of their office.

Honour: this is the respect for their names, offices, ranks etc.

We should therefore not allow the devil in his deceit to further misinterpret the scripture to us. I pray that the Holy Spirit will give to us a deeper understanding of every word of God for our establishment in Jesus mighty name .Amen.

The Bible says that we should be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship has righteousness with the unrighteous? And what communion has light with darkness? Or what concord (agreement) hath Christ with Balial? Or what part has he that believes with an infidel? Again it says for you are the temples of the living God. As God said, I will dwell in them and walk in them and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Therefore come out of among them and be you separated said the Lord, and touch not the unclean things and I will receive you. And will be a father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters said the Lord Almighty.

HEART vs HOLY SPIRIT

Keeping the word of God in our heart is by the help of the Holy Spirit which dwells in us. It might not be very easy to please the Lord but the spirit of God is mighty, who has inwardly endowed us with his power.

The Holy Spirit will always minister into our heart, to lead and guide, to comfort and console. We need to expressly abide and listen to him when he speaks to our heart so that we can be able to live holy according to the plans and purposes of God for our lives. Then shall we call upon him, and he will answer us. When the Holy Spirit realizes that you always do not yield to his leadings, he will gradually leave you and when he leaves you; your heart will be controlled by the flesh, which will automatically lead to spiritual death. When you are not spiritually alive, you cannot dwell in the presence of the living God. God requires we worship Him in truth and in spirit. Consequently, you will be in the peril of this world and torments in the hand of the devil. I pray that the Lord will make you awake in your spirit today and even now as you are ready to sojourn with Him anew from this moment on in Jesus Christ's mighty name. Amen.

When the Lord abides or dwells in your heart and the Holy Spirit leads and directs the affairs of your life, then will your life be a solution centre for the people all around you.

“Therefore, are they before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple and he that seated on

the throne shall dwell among them” (Rev. 7:15). Our heart must constantly be in tune with God day and night.

And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat and for a place of refuge and a cover from storm and from rain (Isa. 4:6).