

# THE GLORY OF GOD SERIES

We have covered four areas of the glory of God. We are now going to cover the last and final area. Please turn to Exodus 34. In God's appearance to Moses, we see the five components of the glory of God. Let us read God's statement again when He appeared to Moses. Incidentally, it's because of this incident that Moses' face shone with the glory of God. Verse 6 *And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth."* There are five ingredients to the glory of God - mercy, gracious, longsuffering, goodness and truth. We have spoken on mercy, graciousness, longsuffering and goodness. So, this morning we will cover the last component of God's glory, which is truth.

The Hebrew word for truth, *emunah*, conveys a slightly different meaning from the Greek word for truth, which is *alethes*. *Emunah* does not convey the same meaning as truth in our English language. When we mention the word *truth*, people think about something mental. We think about facts, knowledge, principles, and wisdom. Truth is associated with mental activity like comprehension, understanding, logic etc. That's what the English word *truth* conveys. But the Hebrew word for *truth* has another shade of meaning called *steadfastness*. It is the ability to remain in the one place in season and out of season. It is the ability to remain the same yesterday, today and forever more. God says about Him being the Truth. He is talking about the ability to remain immovable in whatever circumstances and in whatever situation.

So, truth in the bible implies more than knowledge. If your knowledge is shaken it is not truth. If your principles are easily removed by every wind of doctrine that

comes along, it is not truth. Or rather, the truth may not have sunk into you. The Bible does not speak about truth that applies only to mental comprehension. The word *truth* talks about a quality of a substance to remain eternal, unchangeable, and immortal. The fifth component of God's glory is this eternal, unchangeable, and immortal substance of truth. God is the giver of truth, the very personification of truth, and the essence of truth Himself. For God is the same yesterday, today and forever more. He was, He is and He is to come. He is the One who never changes from Alpha to the Omega.

We need to understand that the truth of God is linked to the Word in order to see how truth affects the glory of God in our life. When we speak about truth, we are talking about the very force of truth. Truth is a force. It is a substance and a force. Truth is a life force of being. It is not just a fact. In the English language, truth and lies speak about true and untrue facts. But the Hebrew word, *emunah*, or truth conveys the meaning of a life force that issue forth from God Himself. Truth is a living and flowing substance that can be imparted and given in measures.

Jesus conveys the same meaning from John chapter 14 to 16. He speaks about the Holy Spirit as a Spirit of truth. He is not just trying to convey to us the meaning that the Holy Spirit is just able to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. It is not just that. See our English usage of the word *truth* limits what the bible is trying to bring forth. The bible is seeking to bring forth that truth is a living force and substance that has its beginning from God Himself. It is a part and parcel of the life being of God.

Now the Word of God is the instrument by which the truth is conveyed. The Word of God is a vehicle; it is an instrument of transport to put truth in and to give truth out. When God speaks His Word, His Word contains His life; His substance and quality. His Word conveys a life force that could bring eternal being, immortality and a immovable, unshakeable and unchangeable life force to any person on this earth who chooses to receive that life force. That is why we were born again through receiving the Word of the gospel, which conveys truth into our life. Jesus conveys truth as a force and not just as a fact.

Truth is a fact but it is more than that. Truth is a force, which reveals many facts of the existence of things. So, the Word of God is a vehicle for truth to be transmitted to us. The Word of God contains truth from God; it is the revelation of God Himself. Let us take a box that serves as a container for a bible. The box is not the bible; it is merely a container for the bible. It may or may not contain a substance. So, the Word of God is a vehicle. This box represents the Word. It is only a vehicle to contain the truth. See sometimes words can contain wrong forces. Sometimes words can be empty. Words are only containers. When a person speaks a word, you could pick up whether that person is angry, sad, happy, cheerful, or peaceful. Children are very sensitive. Children are sensitive not so much as to just what you say but also to the life force behind what you say. How you say your words is determined by what you put into your words. Children react more to what you put into your word than just the words themselves. People are the same way too.

So words are a vehicle. The word itself if it does not contain truth is empty. The devil's words contain fear and doubt. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Fear comes by hearing and hearing by the word of the devil. The devil chooses to put fear into his word and by repeatedly giving it to you, he is trying to transmit the spirit of fear to grip your life, to strangle life out of you and put you into bondage. I could just wrap an empty box nicely and give it to you on your birthday. You shake it and there is no sound. When you open it, there is nothing inside but air. Sometimes words contain no life. You may utter beautiful words, wonderful words, but unless life is inside these words, they are worthless.

What is that life? The life is the word *truth*. Jesus says in Jn. 14:6 *I am the way, the truth and the life*. Notice He ties them altogether. How can Jesus call Himself the truth? He is the very personification of the life force of truth. After all, it was Jesus that says the truth shall set you free and you will be free indeed. God placed His substance and life force of truth into the container called the Word. The Word can come in many forms. It can come in written form as *logos* or it can come in spoken form as *rhema*. When you receive the Word, the life force of truth is released to you. You have to open up the container and take what is inside.

Truth is a life force that God places in His container of the Word. We need to

understand how the Word operates in our life in order for the life force of truth to be released in us. We need the truth to be released into our spirit man before it can be of any value to our life. Slow release vitamin tablets have its pros and cons. This vitamin is enclosed in a capsule. When you swallow a capsule, it does not release all its vitamins into your body. As it passes through your digestive system, it slowly releases itself. Drug manufacturers created such timed-release capsules because they reckoned that the body could not absorb everything at once. However, if the capsule takes too long to release, it may pass out of your digestive system without completing the release.

Likewise, the life force of truth is enclosed in a capsule called the Word, whether it is the written Word or the spoken Word. What we need to do as our privilege and duty on earth is to learn to open the Word and release that substance of life into us, which is called truth. Proverbs 25: 2 says, *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.* The Lord hides the life force of truth in the Word. As we make it a habit of uncovering truth upon gems of truth from the Word while digesting and ingesting the precious life force of truth, our spirit man slowly grow in glory.

In heaven, there is a Hall of Truth. Everyone will have to enter that hall and experience the life force of truth. That truth will expose every falsehood, false ways, false ideas and teachings, false behavior and every thing that is even remotely false. It is a time of great breaking down and you will experience brokenness according to the measure of falsehood lodging in your spirit, soul and body. After that, the person will have to enroll in a school of orientation where he or she will have to learn the correct ways of God. For those who have learnt correct truth while on earth, their time in this school will be shorter. But those who have absorbed many erroneous teachings, their time in this school will be longer. Hence, while we are still living on earth, we should cry out to the Holy Spirit daily to teach us the truth and unlearn remove and repent of every false teachings we have learnt. This school of orientation takes from one year to twelve years, depending on the amount of untruths that the Christian has absorbed during his or her time on earth. A Christian who went there on a study trip to heaven reported that many who had to be in that school of orientation for longer periods were pastors and ministers. They were the ones who had more knowledge than the average Christian in the pew but unfortunately, most of their knowledge were dark knowledge and inaccurate

knowledge about the ways of God. Therefore, they had to spend more time in this school of orientation to unlearn what they had studied, absorbed, lived, and taught to others.

I am reminded of Jim Baker, the tele-evangelist who served time in prison for his financial mishandling in his PTL ministry. His time in prison gave him much time to re-look at Scriptures and examine many of his teachings in the light of the Word of God. He came out with a book called, "I Was Wrong." He had a closer look at such topics like prosperity and saw that the Word of God gave a different perspective. When he was preaching on divine prosperity and giving, he said, "I sincerely thought I was preaching the right thing." After his time in prison, he saw the truth and changed his life accordingly. At least, he was able to revise his teachings and see the truth while on earth. If we do not seek the truth here on earth, we will have to undergo the breaking down process in the Hall of Truth and longer time in the school of orientation in heaven.

Now that truth operates differently for our spirit, soul, and body although the same substance of truth is released. But it has an effect on our spirit, soul, and body. Truth gives life to our spirit. Truth gives life to our soul and truth gives life to our body. The operation of truth being released to our three parts of our being is unique and wonderful. We need to see how this truth must transform our life before the glory of God shines forth. The measure of the glory of God in our lives is directly proportional to the measure that the truth has transformed our spirit, soul, and body.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." He was perfectly yielded to truth. He was the personification of truth. That is why the glory of God in His life was full. And so, the truth as a life force will work gradually in our life from glory to glory. See truth is connected to the glory of God.

Turn to Jn. 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwell among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.* The truth is a life. John says he could see the glory of God in Jesus. He could see the fullness of grace

and the fullness of truth upon the Lord Jesus. If truth is just a fact, how can you see a fact on somebody? Truth is a life force. It is a substance, which comes from God that we receive in different measures. And in Jesus' life, it was full.

When the bible describes the Word of God as sharper than a two-edged sword, and the power inherent in the Word, it means that the Word that contains the life force of the truth of God. That is His operation.

Lets look at Heb. 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* It tells us that it is not just a two-edged sword. It is sharper than a two-edged sword. I believe that the Word of God contains truth. The life force is more than a sword. By today's technology, we have a comparison that Paul did not have. If Paul had our kind of technology, he might say that the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than a laser beam. See truth is like a laser beam. Paul didn't have that technology in his days that he could compare it with otherwise Paul would have used it. But truth is sharper than a two-edged sword. It does not just cut both ways. It cuts every way. A laser beam cuts every direction.

I believe that there are natural things that can be compared to the spiritual realm. See the laser beam illustrate truth. The difference between a fluorescent light and a laser beam is a difference of purity and intensity. Fluorescent light has a mixture of different wavelengths of light. Light as we know comes in different colors. The different colors of light are due to the different wavelengths. Each wavelength is the energy level that each photon moves in. Fluorescent light cannot cut materials because it is composed of photons traveling in too many wavelengths. It does not have the power to cut because light is a mixture. It can only give the brightness for us to see, to read and get around with. But it cannot be used to cut because of two problems – there is a mixture of too many wavelengths and there is a lack of intensity. If a light is very intense, it will also carry heat. In order to produce a laser beam, the machine must remove unwanted wavelengths and produce only one wavelength of photons. When the machine produces only one wavelength of photons, it can then increase the intensity of the beam until it has enough power to slice through materials. With the aid of computers, laser beams can be produced

with pinpoint accuracy and different intensities to slice through different types of materials – from corneas of the eyes to steel bars. It can be so mild that it can be used to cut through sensitive eyes to correct one's vision but it can be so powerful that anything that gets in its way is melted down. Nothing can stand before that laser beam.

That is what Paul wanted to illustrate but he did not have the technology to illustrate it. Today we realize God's Word is like a laser beam. It cuts in all directions. The life force of God is like a laser beam in intensity and what I call purity. See the truth is pure. The purity of the truth gives power to the Word. The greater the purity of the truth you are preaching, the greater the power of the Word is reaching your hearers. Some preachers preach the Word powerfully because they preach undiluted and pure truth. They may be soft spoken and mild in their manner of speaking, but the uncontaminated and distilled truth they are delivering will make their hearers squirm and turn in their seats. The hearers cannot help turning their legs to the left then to the right, because the darts of the truth are hitting them. Power is tied up to the purity of the truth. You want power get truth and get truth intensely. It will produce the laser beam of God in your life. The truth that is manifested of God is life and a life force. Truth has many effects. It is said that Jonathan Edwards merely read his homily, "Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God" in a dry, monotonous drone, as would any learned theologian do. Yet, his hearers were greatly convicted of their sins and many had to hold on to their pews because they felt they were slipping into hell if they do not repent.

Let me illustrate with Jesus' life first. In the book of II Thes. 1 we see Jesus at His second coming. Verse 9 *These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.* Chapter 2:8 *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.* Turn to Revelation 1: 16 *He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.* Notice again out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword. Revelation 19:15 *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.* Remember that the bible writers were trying to convey the meaning as much as possible.

You see at first when I read the bible I could never imagine our Lord Jesus appearing to John and out of His mouth comes out a little sword. It looks quite bizarre when you have a sword coming out of your mouth. I was trying to figure out what John was trying to convey. Then God gave me the picture and the vision of the Lord and it was not just a sword. It looks like a sword but it is not a sword. A light came from His mouth like a shining blade of a sword. It looks like two-edged because it's from His mouth and in whatever direction it turn destruction came. See the bible authors could not use the illustration of a laser beam because it was not invented then. If the book of Revelation were clothed in today's language, Rev. 1: 16 would read, "Out of His mouth came a laser beam." The power of Jesus' consecrated life and His living the Word enabled Him to speak the truth out like a laser beam.

See the truth is powerful. Truth destroys things that block the true way. Now truth has a two-fold effect. It either imparts or it destroys. Truth will knock down the lies of the devil. Truth will knock down all the fears of the enemy. Truth builds up life. It imparts tremendous substance. In Gen. 1 when God said, "Let there be light," I believe that the eternal life force of truth was released over this part of the universe. It was seen as a spiritual light. But the life force was released all over the universe. And it was that same life force that God said, "Let there be a firmament above the heaven and a firmament below." It was only possible when the life force of truth was released. And truth is always illustrated as a light. A light is a force. Truth is a light force. The Word is a container of truth. *Thy Word is a lamp unto my path and a light unto my feet.* The life force of the Word will illuminate our understanding, our wisdom, our conduct, our decisions, and our life choices. It is important to understand that truth will not tolerate lies. Truth will not tolerate anything that stands against it. It will destroy. You see on one hand the light that comes from God in Gen. 1 is creative and creating. But on the other hand, in the book of Rev. 19 the light, a laser beam that comes from the mouth of Jesus will strike and destroy the nations. Why? The nations have come under the power of the devil, the father of lies. All that the devil does is deceptive and temporal. So there is a battle between immortality and mortality, eternal things and temporal things. We need to learn how to give place to the light of God.

The light of God will destroy things that are temporal and establish things that are eternal in our life.

Let us see the operation of this life force called truth operating in our life and bringing the glory of God. In the book of II Cor. 4:6 *For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* It tells us when we were born again a ray of God's light came through the preaching of the gospel and entered into the depths of our heart. It stayed there and it produced the seed of God. This born again experience is the seed of life and the beginning of life taking place within us. That was in our spirit man. And continually from that time forward we are to take the Word and truth and let it fill our spirit being. For our spirit being can only grow with spiritual substance. Understand that truth is a substance.

Let me illustrate with a little baby in the mother's womb. The baby needs to grow physically. In order to grow usually doctors will give vitamins pills and a small little pill called vitamin B. The reason is this vitamin helps in the multiplication of cells. At that stage in the mother's pregnancy, the doctors give that physical substance. In order to grow physically we need to take in food physically. You could be for example trying to put on weight. You run ten miles a day. And you exercise six hours a day. But you eat only white rice with soya sauce. To build muscles you need protein. You could exhaust yourself all you can but without those natural substances, your body will not have sufficient material to build muscles. Instead of putting on more muscles, you may lose more muscles. Why, because of lack of material.

For example if you want to build a house you would make sure the amount of bricks you bought will be sufficient to build a house. You need the materials to build the house.

Now the spirit man needs to grow. Do not think that the spirit man will grow automatically. If there is not enough substance, our spirit man remains in its infantile stage, as do many Christians. They only read the bible once - Jn. 3:16. You know what happen - there is no spiritual material to build the spirit man. For physical body to grow physically we need physical materials. If we want to grow spiritually, we need spiritual materials to be given. You could have the ability to do something but if you do not have any materials, you would still build nothing. You could be the best contractor in town but if there is a world shortage of materials,

you know what happen. Your ability is useless without the materials. You need the materials in order to build houses.

Our spirit man has the quality of growing, has the capacity to grow to be God like. Our spirit man has the inherent substance and essence to be like Jesus. But if there are no materials given, the spirit man cannot grow. That is why Jesus said Matt. 4:4 *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.* We need to give our spirit man materials. If all you do is to pray and worship and you do not spend much time in the Word of God, you are not giving your spirit man sufficient truth to feed on. If you do not feed your spirit man with the materials of the Word of God, you are like a little fetus kicking about, that's all. We need a mixture of the Word, prayer, and faith. One without the other is insufficient.

Even if you have all the materials, spiritual growth is not automatic. You need to practice the truth, do the truth, and exercise the truth before the truth can develop your spirit man. It does not mean that if you put your children through music education and give them all the training necessary, they will turn out to be excellent musicians. It is necessary that they spend many hours practicing in order to develop into excellent musicians. However, they will never develop into a musician if they do not have the opportunity to go through a proper training. If there is no music in the home there is even a lesser chance of developing.

The wonderful thing is that the spirit man will automatically take a hold of the Word and absorb into its substance and materiality. Spend time on the Word. Even though your mind says, "I don't understand everything," it is not for your mind. It is for your spirit to feed. As you discipline yourself everyday fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to teach you and open the light of the Word to you, you will find your spirit man growing day by day. The spirit man needs the substance of light to grow stronger. We do that by getting the Word into our spirit man. It starts with that laser beam of God coming into our heart and it continues on growing on from there.

Now the soul area has a different impact. The soul area needs that light of God to

drive away the unrenewed areas of thinking so that our soul can think in line with the truth and function in a way it should be. In the book of Eph. 1:17 *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.*

See the Spirit of God will flood our minds with understanding so that our soul will flow into the fullness of God. Jesus made this statement here in Matt. 6:22 *The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness.* Now Jesus is talking in the context of His commandments, His sayings and His teaching. That's why in the Sermon on the Mount He gave the conclusion as whoever hears and heed it and do it will be the like the wise man building his house on the rock. When a man hears the words of Jesus and practices them, he is building his spirit man and life on the rock or substance of truth. But if he merely hears the Word and do not practice them, he is just building his house on sand. The truth is not in him. There is no solid substance of truth in him. He has no substance, no weight, and no foundation. Darkness has no substance. It is just the absence of light.

Jesus is comparing the difference of building our spirit man on right teaching and wrong teaching, right word and wrong word. As we grow and pass through this life, we sometimes receive and accept wrong teachings unknowingly. Some things that are taught to us are not the truth. They contradict the Word. See the world of education keeps changing and improving as more discoveries are made. Some theories proposed forty years ago based on the available data have been revised when more discoveries are made to cause a more accurate understanding. Teachings and principles contradictory to the Word can produce darkness in our lives. If you believe in something that is wrong and contradictory to the Word, it will produce darkness in your life. It is important that we believe right, we believe the truth, and we believe the Word. And before we accept a principle, make sure it is in line with the written Word of the living God. Anything contradictory to the Word will produce darkness and dark knowledge cripples the soul.

Once a local pastor was led by the Holy Spirit to summon and judge the spirit of deception. After a few moments of silence, he called out the name of the demon. Somebody in his congregation started manifesting violently. He commanded the demon to come to the mike, and the person having the demon was led forcibly to the mike by an unseen force. Some parts of the conversation went like this.

Pastor: *Who sent you here?*

Demon: *Satan.*

*What for?*

*To destroy the work of God here.*

*Why do you come to this church to disturb the service here?*

*Because you speak the truth. I hate the truth. It is setting many of God's people free.*

*How do you disturb God's people?*

*When a pastor is preparing his teachings, I help him to prepare. When he teaches his congregation what I tell him to teach, I lodge in the minds of those who accept that wrong teaching. I hide behind that teaching and later destroy that person's life through that dark knowledge. I make him suffer poverty, sickness, and hardships. I make that person think that he is suffering for Jesus.*

*How come you can teach a pastor how to prepare his sermons?*

*Most pastors do not consult the Holy Spirit when they prepare their sermons. They rely on their analytical minds to understand the Word. That is where we come in. First we give them some deep teachings and then we add in the poison. These pastors do not inquire of the Holy Spirit. They think they are guided by the Holy Spirit but they deceive themselves because they hardly fellowship with the Holy Spirit. How can the Holy Spirit teach you anything if you don't fellowship with the Holy Spirit? So we give them some deep teachings and then we add in the poison that they cannot detect. They think the first teaching is good, so they automatically think that the poison we are giving is also true. If they have the Holy Spirit, they would be able to detect the poison. That is how we have spread much confusion among the people of God.*

*Do you specialize in this work?*

*Yes. I even attended Bible College in hell and I got a honors degree in theology as well.*

*What? You study the Bible in hell too?*

*Yes. Everyday we have to study the Bible in order to learn how to twist and turn the Scriptures and spread the wrong teachings. Many people just assume that as long as you can give Bible chapter and verse, you are doctrinally sound. They do not inquire of the Holy Spirit and they are no match for our subtle and twisted logic. Everyday we prepare the sermon outlines for pastors and bible teachers. Many people read the Bible without the Holy Spirit and that is where they go wrong.*

*Do you know that your time on earth is up?*

*Yes, I know.*

*Did an angel serve you the document from the Lord Jesus Christ?*

*Yes, he did. (The document is a notice from Jesus that the demon has been judged and his time is up and must now be consigned to his place in hell.)*

*By the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, all your legal rights are stripped and you are consigned to the place assigned to you. Go, in Jesus' Name.*

The demon let loose a mournful cry and departs from the person, who later collapsed to the floor.

Now some Christians hold that you should not conduct any conversation with the demons in a deliverance case. This is generally sound wisdom, for Satan is the father of lies. When he speak lies, he speak naturally. It is easy for an untrained and inexperienced minister of deliverance to be deceived by demons in a deliverance case if he is not in tune with the Spirit of truth. However, this is not an absolute rule for we see Jesus conducting a conversation with demons as well. The general rule is that you must be under the control of the Holy Spirit. If you are under instructions from the Holy Spirit not to hold a conversation with the demons, follow that. However, if the Holy Spirit directs you to hold such a conversation, it is to expose the strategies of the devil.

The bible uses a very strange word. In James chapter 1:5-8 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a **double-minded** man, unstable in all his ways.*

The word *double minded* is the word *dipsuchos*, which actually means *double souled* from *dis*, "twice," *psuche*, "a soul." It means that a lie from the enemy is absorbed into your substance and it began to look like it has a life of its own. So that the things that you want to do, you do not do. And the things you do not want to do you do. Why, because the enemy has planted the seed of darkness in our life and only the truth will wipe that out.

In the physical world, it is just like cancer. See cancer is caused by microscopic viruses that creep into the cells of your body like a guest. They kill the original occupants and occupy the cell. And it has become a cancer cell. It is not your original but it is accepted as your original cell because it is a counterfeit cell. It has crept in, killed the owner, and now lives in the cell. What it does is it sucks the nutrition from your body and multiplies itself. So, people have what we call cancerous growth. A cancerous growth comes forth and it looks like another life of itself. It is not your life; it is a separate life that is growing in your body but it draws nutrition from your body like it is your life.

Likewise, this happens to the soul. If the soul has not the truth of God and the light of God to shine the soul cannot differentiate right and wrong. If we believe a lie, we will enter darkness straight away. Many areas of our lives need renewal. It is a progressive thing. That is why we need to keep an open attitude. Absorbing a lie makes you like being two souls. You want to do the righteous thing but you have no strength to do it. The cancerous soul has absorbed the strength from the good soul and your good soul is rendered helpless. You notice something is right and yet you doubt it. You have two souls, one good righteous and believing and the other bad, unrighteous and doubting. A lot of people are struggling in that way. Get the laser beam of Christ; cut out that darkness and throw it out. You have to make that decision and a choice. The moment you make a choice to fellowship with the Holy Spirit and let Him teach you the Word, He will slice the dark knowledge of your mind with the laser beam of the truth. Do not be surprised that many of the teachings you have received from your bible teachers, bible colleges and even renowned preachers contain much dark knowledge. Instead of seeking after this famous teacher and that famous teacher, seek after the Holy Spirit all the time and He will teach you the truth. Many bible teachers have sidelined the Holy Spirit

when they study the Word and have come up with erroneous teachings that have caused much damage to the body of Christ.

When I first became a Christian, my first struggle or spiritual battle was about the Word. I asked all my bible teachers, "How can I accept this as the Word? How do I know that this bible is telling me the truth?" In the end, I came to this point that you either accept it or you reject it. You accept it by faith that this is God's revelation or you can question it the rest of your life. I made up my mind never to question the bible. I made up my mind never to reject the bible. I made up my mind that the bible is the sole authority and truth by which all other measurements are measured. The moment I made that decision things became easy. Now if I have a question I ask, "What does the bible say?" If I have a problem, I will look at this bible and ask, "What does the bible say?" It becomes a different problem. My problem now is the lack of the knowledge of the bible and not so much a problem with questioning the bible. That was when things began changing.

When I went into the ministry, I found people had the same type of questioning regarding the bible as the Word of God. The eternal battle is the battle around the Word. From Genesis chapter 3 Satan has never stopped questioning the Word. One of the first things that I was impacted with in theological education is the Word. When I was young and eager to serve God, I was asking whether the bible is the Word of God. I settled that question by believing by faith that the bible is the Word of God. Now that I am in the ministry, I am faced with other types of questions. I was faced with the Charismatic question. Is tongues of God? Is healing of God? And I find that people takes different stands. Some of my bible teachers and colleagues, whom I loved, take the opposing stand.

These two questions have provoked endless debates, with good people on both sides. Who is right?

I take the view that tongues are of God, but there is still the possibility of false tongues. The enemy has crept in the night and planted tares of deception and giving even sincere Christians the ability to speak in false tongues. Similarly,

healing is of God, but again, there is the possibility of healing worked by the enemy. We take this premise based on the words of Jesus Christ. Matthew 7: 21, *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'*

You see, there are many ministers who do have a genuine calling from God. As long as they are faithful to God, and are under control by the Holy Spirit, God will recognize their work as righteous and lawful. However, there are also ministers who do not have a calling from God. Three types of ministers practice lawlessness.

The first are those who had a calling from God, but later on were rejected by God for committing lawlessness in their ministry. God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel, but later on, rejected him for his disobedience and unlawful sacrifice. Saul's life was one series of disobedience and failure to keep instructions. The first occasion was when Saul, through impatience, arrogated to himself the priestly office, offering sacrifice at Gilgal (1 Sam. 13: 7-10). The second occasion was when he failed to observe the Lord's instructions to destroy Amalek completely and all they have (1 Sam 15). 1 Sam. 15: 10, *Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments."* Although the Lord deposed Saul at this moment, the Lord allowed him to reign for another fifteen years. Some ministers do not know God has rejected them for their disobedience and lawlessness in their ministry, and they are still carrying on their ministry. Once God has rejected them, the enemy takes over their ministry and provides the "signs and wonders" to keep their ministry going. But they have become useful agents for Satan to further his nefarious designs and deceptions.

The second type of lawless ministers is composed of those who do not have a genuine calling from God but who served God because they have a "burden" to do so. Here is another deception and false teaching in the church. We do not urge men and women to enter the ministry by providing facts and figures on the number of the unsaved, the unchurched peoples, the need for missionaries, etc. Mission boards

that do this are sending many lawless workers into the mission fields. All these should be secondary to determining what is the call of God for your life. Many rush to do mission work after viewing some videos of countries needing missionary help. Jesus said, *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* The Lord of the harvest is the Holy Spirit. Even though you may have a "burden" for some special group of people who needs to know the Lord, you do not go out until you have prayed to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has the master plan for world evangelism, and you must serve His purpose. You do not rush out to the mission field and ask the Holy Spirit to serve your purpose.

In one of our earlier messages, we spoke about a man who died and went to heaven, expecting Jesus to welcome him at the gates of heaven. He waited there three days before an angel told him that it is pointless for him to wait there since Jesus won't see him. He was puzzled because he had done a great work for Jesus. He had initiated a Christian businessmen fellowship that encircled around the globe. There are chapters in every city and town in almost every country. There are meetings, magazines for Christian testimonies, souls were saved – surely he had done a great work for God. But the angel asked him one question. When he started the work, did he really get the idea from God or was it from himself? He pondered for a long time before he admitted that it was his own idea. The angel showed him his book of records and he was shocked at seeing the consequences of his actions. "You mean, I did that?" was all he could utter repeatedly. His work was actually drawing many Christians from their true callings when they jumped on the bandwagon he started.

The third type of lawless ministers consists of Satan's agents, whether they know it or do not know it. Jesus said, *Beware of false prophets; who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves* (Matthew 7: 15). There are many Satanists masquerading as godly ministers but they will release dark and corrupting influences and spells on the congregations. They destroy many lives. In Europe, during the communist era, many communist cadres were sent to seminaries and were later ordained to the ministry. Many later climbed up the hierarchy occupying the highest echelons, where they have influence over the lives of millions. The false prophet will come from the ranks of an established hierarchy of an old, established historic church. It is the work of the enemy – he has successfully infiltrated the

ranks of the church with his agents to destroy the church from within.

Nita Johnson once described her attendance in a service conducted by a healing evangelist. Although many miracles and healings were wrought that night, she felt in her spirit that something was wrong. She went home and wept the whole night before the Lord, bringing up the subject of this healing evangelist. The Lord told her that he was an adulterer and fornicator. She later on told this man what she heard from the Lord, and warned him of serious retribution if he did not repent. He was humble enough to repent and later on left the ministry. If we do not seek the Holy Spirit, we may also fall into the deception of the enemy. We run after the signs and wonders, after the healings, after the “transferable anointing”, after every river of glory that is flowing around in the country but we do not run after the Holy Spirit. No wonder many are deceived since they do not have the Holy Spirit to reveal the true ministers from the false ministers.

These three types of lawless ministers are instrumental to spreading false tongues and drawing many to their web of deception by their “signs and wonders” supplied by the network of demons accompanying them. That is why, if you do not have the Holy Spirit, you won’t be able to see the truth and expose the deception of the enemy. If you are a Charismatic but do not walk in close fellowship with the Holy Spirit, you would think that all tongues are from God. You won’t be able to discern that many are also praying in false tongues. If you are a non-Charismatic and do not walk in close fellowship with the Holy Spirit, you would write off speaking in tongues completely. You will not realize that the Holy Spirit does give genuine gifts of tongues. It is indeed a narrow path – avoiding the false tongues and false healings coming from false ministers on one hand and crying out to the Holy Spirit for the genuine tongues and genuine healings on the other hand.

In the end, I find that the battle lies around our close fellowship with the Holy Spirit in order to reveal the truth concealed in the Word. Many read the Word without the Holy Spirit, and in the end, they come up with doctrines from hell. And in proportion to how much we accept the truth that is inherent in the Word to that proportion can we progress in our life. Our actions must be based on the truth as revealed by the Holy Spirit in the Word. If you walk in any principles contradictory to the Word, you are allowing a cancerous light to grow in you. It will eventually

destroy your life slowly but surely. Jesus calls it darkness.

Some former colleagues have come back to me and said they now realized the truth of the Charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit. They said that they had rejected these gifts earlier but now they need them in their ministry. You see we need the truth. If you don't have the truth, you are shortchanging yourself.

My friends today right now as we look into the future of what God is doing in these last days, the battle is still around the Word, the truth of God. How much of the truth do we allow to take hold of our life? How much transformation do we allow in our life? Rom. 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

The word *transformed* is the Greek word *metamorphoomai*, which talks about a transformation that takes place in our very being. Turn to Matt. 17:2 *He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.* The word *transfigured* also in Lk. 9 is from the word *metamorphoomai*. If I were to consistently translate the bible, I will take Rom. 12:2 as *and be **transfigured** by the renewing of your mind.* Do you know that even in the natural realm what you think will be reflected on your face? You could tell when somebody is worried. See right now, if I were to ask you to change your thought I can change your face. If somebody is like plain Jane and if their mind is transformed they do not look like plain Jane they look like pretty Jane. It is in the mind. If we could transform our mind, we could transform our physical being.

Some people are very loveable; it is easy to love them. Some people are not - you got to really take up the cross to really love them. Why is that so? It is all in the mind. If your mind is not filled with what Paul says in Phil. 4 think on those things which are good, having virtue, lovely, of good report, you fill your mind with that it will show on your face. I am giving you the secret of how to be loveable. If you do not have the right thoughts, people will take one look at you and they do not

like you. They do not know why they don't like you - that's the problem. It is only in the mind. Now that is in the natural.

It is even more powerful in the spiritual. Those who walk with God have a beauty of holiness on their body. You could be to the world's ugliest but if you walk with the Lord, you will turn out to be more beautiful than those who are naturally endowed with physical beauty. Some people are not so well endowed and they spend all their time trying to look beautiful. Such people do not have a physical problem but they do have a mind problem. They accept they are ugly because they do not match the glossy images of slim, beautiful models. Even before others have a chance to know them, they already think that others do not like them. As a result, their countenance is affected. We have to change our mind to change our life. Wrong thinking is the killer in peoples' life and it is a killer in one's relationship.

That is why every time the devil tries to put some wrong thoughts into my mind, I brush them off. I would not want to think badly about anybody. The bible tells us to think good. So, it is important for us to transform our mind and gather more powerful spiritual transformation. The bible uses such a strong word. When Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration, His face and body shone. That is the transformation of God's glory. I believe as our souls are transformed, we will reflect a greater glory of God. So that when people look at you, they will see you as they saw Stephen before he was stoned. His face was like an angel of God. What was he doing? He beheld the glory of God.

The light of God is the truth of God. People do not relate truth in their thinking to the light of God coming from their life but it is related. Truth is tied up to glory. If you do not start changing your thought life now, the glory of God will be hindered and blocked in your own spirit, soul, and body. There is nothing lovelier to me than to see the glory of God on a person. To see the glory of God shining forth from a person's life is the loveliest thing possible on the planet earth. The bible tells us that one day the church of Jesus Christ will be so perfected that the world will look at the church and see the glory of God upon the covenant people of God. The glory of God, the truth of God affects our body by putting spiritual life and healing virtue into our body. We need to transform our heart and mind by learning, knowing, absorbing, dwelling in the truth of God. That is the power of God's transforming

truth in the glory of God.