

We as servants of Christ and ambassadors of his Kingdom would like to remind you of our ministry here at Church Built of Living Stones. It is a ministry of reconciliation given to us by our Father. Our instruction is not to teach you the things of God in rules and regulations, but to encourage you that the only one who can teach you of the Father is Jesus Christ and he will do this by the power of his word and Spirit. Our teaching ministry towards you is for you to trust that you can be taught of the Lord and that you need no man to mediate between God and yourself except the man Christ Jesus.

This may be daunting to you at the beginning, but it will eventually release you into God's Holy Kingdom from which you will never wish to depart. The attacks and slanders will be immense and will continue until the last enemy is overcome.

But fear not the Lord will be on your side. (Read Psalm 124).

The Kingdom of God is like leaven or yeast in a lump of dough and it is growing and advancing throughout the earth and will bear fruit to God's glory. We are saying that Christ is building his Kingdom and its inhabitants are as living stones built up to be a holy habitation for God. We will never have a bricks and mortar building. We do not solicit money to spread the good news. At the same time, we encourage giving to the poor in spirit, by this we mean give your whole life to Christ and his Kingdom and you will see the salvation of God in effect. Our endeavour is to see God's people go forth and proclaim Jesus and Christ's Kingdom without the restrictions of denominational power overriding them.

Everyman in the body of Christ Jesus has a purpose and can go forth in the power of God's Spirit with a new tongue and prophecy. The new tongue is the Gospel and the Spirit of Prophecy is the Lord Jesus Christ. They tell the world that God the Father is not holding their sins and lawlessness against them and that he grants them the Holy Spirit to guide and lead them into all truth.

The Holy Spirit leads them to Jesus and Jesus teaches them all things of the Father.

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### May His Kingdom come

We cry out in the wilderness of this present evil age amid the hindering religions of this world to the seeker, the broken hearted, the captives, the bound, the sick, the down trodden, the voiceless and those that live in darkness who see a great light – look up for your King comes. His name is Jesus and he brings a Kingdom which encompasses all the glories of the coming age. Seek and you shall find, ask and it will be given you, knock and it will be opened unto you. He will grant those that seek first his Kingdom riches of glory that this world knows nothing about. He comes not for the righteous but for the sinner and he will receive you with open arms and give you a vision of hope that has its origins from the heart of God. Obey his calling - come into the light, don't hover on the edge of the light, come into the light, all your prayers will be answered in the light.

### Fear not, do not be afraid

In the world you will have trouble and tribulation from which none of us who belong to Jesus are exempt, as it is the arena of redemption for the faithful. Jesus' own words reverberate and echo in our minds *"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16: 33). And in (1 John 4: 4) *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

We have warned for many months that men are going to be tried and to be found wanting because their trust is in the arm of the flesh which cannot save.

It is abominable to see so called men of God fawning over leaders in the political sphere. It is paramount that prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for Kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all Godliness and Holiness. We must pray for these men, but not put our trust in them. There will be earthquakes, famines and pestilence in various places and fearful events and great signs from heaven and men's hearts will fail them through fear of the events coming on the earth. The only true peace comes from Christ who is our life, who is abiding in our hearts. Get ready for greater upheavals in the financial realm, where gold and silver will not be able to save as it corrodes. The corrosion will eat your flesh like fire.

These are not my words they are the words of the apostle James (5: 3).

The warning to us all is not what do we trust in – but whom do we trust.

(Proverbs 3: 5-6) <sup>5</sup> *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,* <sup>6</sup> *in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path.*

Every man's work will be tried by fire and it will not be the evil one's purpose (though he may be an instrument). It will be Jesus' coming as John the Baptist has prophesied in (Luke 3: 16-18).

<sup>16</sup> *John answered them all, "I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."* <sup>18</sup> *And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.*

You may think these words troubling, but in essence they are the truth, and the truth is good news and will set you free.

**THE EARTHLY LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS WAS UPHOLD AND DIRECTED  
THROUGH A CONTINUOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER IN PRAYER.  
HIS PRINCIPLES ARE OUR EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW.**

**John 17: 20-26**

<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given to me to be with me where I am, to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you have loved me before the creation of the world. <sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Dear Friends,

In our leading text we are informed of the quality and necessity of prayer. We must be instructed on the correct way to pray and not be negligent in our prayer life. If we are to pray according to the will of God there is no better learning than to ask the Holy Spirit to teach us the principles the Lord Jesus taught his disciples.

Firstly, the book of Matthew gives helpful instruction.

**Matthew 6: 5-15**

<sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray: ""Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

<sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

We must remember, that the Lord Jesus continually was found in a place of solitude and constant reliance upon hearing the voice of his Father who was in heaven. It is a good thing to follow in the footsteps and spiritual ways that the Lord Jesus employed whilst he was in his humiliation of weakness in the flesh.

We also in our humiliation, must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteous ways to find the path to life. The flesh is weak but the spirit is strong. When taught and guided by the Spirit of Christ, the fruit is evident.

The disciples that were encouraged to stand with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, were overcome by the heavenly hosts that occupied the minds and hearts of natural minded men by bringing the veil of sleep over them. We as followers of Jesus, are often made to succumb to the dictates of the present evil age when we try to enter the most holy place in times of prayer. Singleness of mind eludes us and distractive thoughts cause the double mind to nullify our purposeful prayers. Sleep may overcome us and dull our intentions.

Prayer is a time when we stand at the frontier of two realms. It is the arena of confrontation between darkness and light. It is the difference between the present evil age and the promises of the coming age of the kingdom of God. It is a civil war in our very being. Genuine prayer is a walk in faith, buttressed by the living and powerful word of God which is the sword of the Spirit. This living word is quick and powerful and can divide the thoughts and intents of our hearts which causes our prayer to be meaningful and right.

Jesus who is the living word made these claims on our behalf.

*My sheep hear my voice and a stranger they will not follow.*

*Those that follow me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

The first principle of love is that love always lays down its life for others and does not think more highly than it ought to think, but humbles itself and makes itself of no reputation and firstly seeks the good of all others. Our prayer must always be for the good of others.

What is the firstly good of all others?

This good is that they might know the only true and wise God and whom he has sent – Jesus Christ his only begotten Son.

We can pray sincerely for all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth because it is not God's will that any should perish, but that all come to eternal life. This may cut across doctrinal lines and natural mindedness, but prayer must always be God's will. This does not mean all will forsake the darkness and come to Jesus and be saved.

Men in their rebellion hate the things of God and defy the truth of the cross. On the cross, Jesus our Saviour died for all men and God promises those that believe in Jesus will be saved. God's grace and mercy reaches out to all men through the cross without favour or prejudice.

Before the cross, in his wisdom, God counted all men as unrighteous under his judgement, and no one was obedient to his demands of holiness according to the law.

Then he imposed his judgement, why?

So, that he might have mercy on all. All can come to God's purpose and plan through God's grace and mercy, by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and shedding of his blood on Calvary. This penal sacrifice for sin and the cleansing power of the precious blood of Christ allows all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

The life of the flesh is in the blood – and Jesus shed his blood as the force of life and ratified a new covenant in his blood and instituted a new and living way – that the life of the new man or new creation is upheld and given life through the Spirit of Christ.

We that are in Christ walk in the light and are a new creation and born again from above into a new way of living. Though we live in the flesh we do not walk or war after the flesh. It is not a sin to be in the flesh otherwise our Saviour would have been a sinner. To deny Jesus came and lived and walked in the flesh is not from God. To say Jesus was not the Christ and the Lamb of God who is the Saviour of the world, does not come from the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was made in the likeness of sinful flesh but without sin. He endured every temptation that is common to man yet refused to obey temptation and humbled himself and walked in meekness in subjection to all authorities and submitted to those who hated him and despised him. He always took the lowest rung on the ladder of authority, even though he was the ONE who created all things. He subjected himself to the taunts and accusations of those he came to save and showed that the pathway to life and the Father was the pathway that is hidden from the eyes of the blind and the hearts of the proud.

Jesus endured the humiliation and the judgements that deceived men placed upon him. These deceived authorities were agents of the devil and were of the evil present world of religious, secular and corrupted institutions and they operated in the evil one's power of death.

Jesus came as an unknown carpenter from Nazareth, born in the humblest of circumstances, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit to Mary a virgin. This humble woman lived by faith in God's holy word. Many signs and prophecies pointed to Mary's child to be the Messiah and Saviour promised to the world. These things she hid in her heart.

The man Christ Jesus was confirmed as the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world at his baptism by John in the river Jordan.

The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at this baptism and a voice from heaven declared; *"This is my beloved Son in who I am well pleased"*. Jesus was immediately tempted by the devil about his Sonship. Jesus learnt obedience through the things he suffered both seen and unseen. He endured all this suffering and temptations in the flesh until the culmination of all suffering was the final humiliation of death. Not any death, but a death in humiliation orchestrated in a symphony of evil against all that is good, pure and holy. This death was upon a cross as a criminal between two recalcitrants. The judgements against him were perpetrated by God's greatest enemy and performed by misguided and deceived agents of this antagonist who used the power of authority in its corrupted form. This authority in its corrupted form is of the devil and is the power of sin and death. Jesus entered this stronghold domain of death and hell and took the keys of death from the devil. God the Father did not let his Son remain in death nor allow his body to see corruption.

The Father, in his triumph of life over death raised his Son into eternal life, not for himself alone, but for all who choose to follow Jesus Christ and believe. The rejected now became the elected. If the elect continues in faith to the end, they will overcome corruption and gain immortality of eternal life in Christ's kingdom.

God is not willing for any to perish, but all to come to eternal life.

What prevents men from coming to the truth?

Blindness caused by lies and deception became the nature which the whole of mankind inherited through our first parents. The disobedience against God's will was passed on through the corrupted heart of Adam and keeps mankind in bondage to sin and death.

Jesus broke the power of deception over mankind by declaring the truth. Jesus said; *"I am the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father, but by me"*. If Jesus the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. (Galatians 5: 1).*

Free to live in a kingdom that is ruled and reigned by the "King of Kings", the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a kingdom of truth and no liar can enter it. This kingdom does not come by observation because it is an invisible kingdom, yet it rules above every other kingdom and authority that can be named.

All authority is invisible!

Jesus was granted all authority and dominion over all things in heaven, earth and under the earth.

In the darkness of this world, God's power is usurped by Satan and the constituents who blindly serve him. If in the world of darkness, the constituents rebel against the power that rules, those rulers of darkness either subjugate the rebels by force or abdicate the power and authority to the rebels. This is the rule of law in Satan's kingdom. Thus the power of mammon and empirical rule through the lusts of self and pride is the power the world chooses to live by.

The kingdom of God neither operates in this manner or by these principles. The kingdom of God is love, joy and peace and operates in the wisdom that comes from heaven and is *first of all pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere* and acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and gives him all authority. This is why our prayer life must be according to kingdom principles.

All the fruit of God's kingdom is invisible, but can be experienced.

We cannot see truth but  
we can experience its fruit.

We cannot see love but  
we can experience its fruit.

We cannot see joy but  
we can experience its fruit.

We cannot see peace but  
we can experience its fruit.

We cannot see faith, but  
we can experience its fruit.

This is why the kingdom of God does not come by observation because it is invisible authority, but we can experience the fruit of it.

*Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall inherit the earth.*

Jesus was the greatest sower of peace ever to walk upon the earth, he sowed the seed and was the seed which is Christ. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is the peacemaker that quells God's wrath against all sin, death and every trespass that alienates any human being from God.

God has forgiven all men and this becomes a reality in Jesus Christ as our atonement and as the fulfilment of justice in the Father's eyes.

When we interpret the scriptures through the natural mind of accumulated knowledge as the world perceives knowledge, we forsake revealed knowledge.

When we initially believe the truth that is in Jesus, we are granted a glimpse of the kingdom of God through the mind of Christ. But, immediately Satan comes to steal the seed that was planted in the heart and mind. We must keep the seed which is Christ in our hearts and not let the tempter steal our inheritance.

Revealed knowledge is interpreting the scripture and things of God with the mind of Christ. This understanding is holding fast to the truth revealed and then growing more and more in the grace and knowledge of God until the blindness is peeled from our hearts and minds.

The mind of Christ may lay parallel to some orthodoxy and creeds, but it never develops into ritualistic behaviour or a trust in the arm of the flesh. It does not rely on wisdom from beneath, which is first natural, sensual and then devilish. Satan uses naturally minded men to lure you away from Christ and they lie in wait to deceive you with false prophecy and false teaching. They operate in puffed up secret knowledge, not in humility and trust in Christ alone.

Remember the scripture in **Philippians 2: 1-11**.

*<sup>1</sup> If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Our unity in Christ and the mind that was in Jesus, is the unity that pervades our opening text of John 17: 20-26. Please reread this portion of scripture because it is prayer spoken by Jesus to his Father.

*<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given to me to be with me where I am, to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you have loved me before the creation of the world. <sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

Do you see the glory of Jesus to motivate your prayer life?

Jesus through the Holy Spirit always comforts us with his abiding and living words.

We can live a prayerful and loving life, full of peace and joy when we understand that the way of Jesus is to enter the straight gate and walk the narrow path that leads to life. This pathway which is the path of the Lord is one of humility, meekness, gentleness and trust in the power of the Lord to accomplish his purpose and plan.

God the Father's purpose and plan is that we be conformed to the image of his Son. When we understand Jesus took the low road to hidden glory in submission to all authorities, thereby to overcome them, then we can understand our purpose.

Jesus did nothing for his own glory, but he did everything for the glory of God. Every word he said, every miracle he performed, every kind deed he did, was not for his aggrandisement, but was for the glory of God. Jesus endured all the ignominy and shame for he saw the joy that was set before him of bringing many sons into glory. Our works are not our works, but are the works of Christ working mightily in us. To take the glory is a fearful shame.

Jesus how wonderful you are!

In this letter of kindness, we attribute its whole meaning to the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ and endeavour to encourage all readers to master the arrows and darts of the enemy and accomplish a fruitful and meaningful prayer life.

As we wrote before, the things that hinder our lives are birthed by a civil war within our own hearts and minds.

We do and can pray amiss!

What causes a fruitless prayer life?

#### **James 4: 1-12**

<sup>1</sup> What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup> You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God, <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures . <sup>4</sup> You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. This is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. <sup>11</sup> Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgement on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbour?

There are works of God and works of the devil.

Men do not come to the light, because their deeds are evil and they prefer the works of the deceiver than the works of God. The works of God is to believe in whom he has sent and attribute every good thing to him.

If you put your trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit will strengthen your heart and fill you with the faith to obey.



## John 6: 28-29

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

We can then ask how did Jesus Christ the messiah carry out his purpose on earth and what methods and means did he use to emancipate men from the rulers of darkness?

The answer is most important and is amplified in the new testament scriptures.

- (1) He humbled himself and willingly and voluntarily took the lowest rung upon the ladder of earthly power. To command and establish any rights to bring men into obedience he never exercised superiority over other men or used the methods that worldly rulers and rulers in heavenly places utilised. i.e. When the sons of thunder wanted to call down fire from heaven. [Luke 9: 54-55 (NASB)]. Jesus said, you do not know what spirit you are of. Also, when Jesus spoke against the religious elite, he pronounced woe upon them – the woe in these cases is impending judgement from God unless they repented. Jesus when requested by the sons of thunder to grant them positions in glory, Jesus gave clear instructions of how a disciple of his must serve in the kingdom of God, he must be a servant of all.
- (2) Jesus subjected himself to all earthly agents of these evil heavenly rulers. He never led a protest in human rebellion against any injustices of social institutions. He accepted the authority that the Creator had invested in Pilate, the Sanhedrin, the soldiers, the tax collectors and wealthy individuals. He bore this subjection to authority even though it was operated by corrupt earthly rulers. Jesus submitted to what they could do to him. He accepted they had power to permit or prohibit his activity, even to the point they had power to kill him or allow him his freedom. In gentleness and meekness, he overpowered their evil intentions and walked out from their grasp and at other times in gentleness and meekness he submitted to their ungodly behaviour.
- (3) His voluntary subjection to their evilness was not a failing weakness, but was born out of his love for his earthly superiors which included all flesh and blood - even his enemies. There was no self-regarding fear of their power, no self-regarding pity of himself (i.e. woe is me), no self-regarding intention to escape from the purpose and plan of his heavenly Father and gain a higher rung on the earthly ladder of superiority. He was willing to die for those who had earthly positions of power even those who used their authority in evil and devilish ways. Jesus' cry upon the cross when he was in his deepest agony was filled with compassion and love for his executioners. Luke 23: 34. Jesus said; *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"*.
- (4) Jesus feared God his Father more than what any man or institution could do to him. He feared God alone. His godly walk was of humble love toward everyone, even his enemies, this power of love that cast out fear, this desire of hope that the last would be first and the first would be last, was birthed through a heart that was dynamically loyal. He was loyal to God his Father and equally and impartially loyal to his creation, even though it, unlike God, was in a state of absolute corruption. Jesus depended wholeheartedly on his Father's will and his obedience to what this will required. He saw God's ability to turn to good account all the evils that men might do in their worship of false gods. He saw his own disciple's treachery and misunderstanding of his purpose and teaching. Yet, he humbly washed their feet and loved them to the end. He saw his disciple's failure to remain true in the tumultuous time of the cross. He understood they saw this crucial event as abject failure, yet he prayed, yes, he prayed that their faith would keep them whole.

We also must pray and not give up, even though we do not see the fruit immediately.

### **Luke 22: 31-35**

<sup>31</sup> *"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

<sup>33</sup> *But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me." <sup>35</sup> Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"*  
*"Nothing," they answered.*

Yes, we can learn much as we study the life and purpose of Jesus, the one whom God has made Lord and Christ.

Jesus is the lamb of God that John the revelator saw as the most powerful being in the whole universe. John saw a scroll that was sealed and nobody in heaven or earth or under the earth could open the seals of the scroll. John wept at this dilemma until his eyes were opened and he saw the One who had called him and taught him many things. The One he saw was familiar to him – he saw Jesus but in a different form and was able to declare this in script.

### **1 John 1: 1-4**

<sup>1</sup> *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We write this to make our joy complete.*

In his vision in the book of Revelation, he saw Jesus as the lion of the tribe of Judah. But then the vision changed, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David had turned into a lamb looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne. The one that holds the past, present and future in his hands is none other than Jesus Christ,

The Lamb of God.

He is the alpha and omega.

He is the beginning and the end.

He is worthy to undo the seals for all mankind.

We need no other, the only one we need is Jesus. It has never entered the mind of men the good things that God has prepared for them that love him, but he has revealed them by his Spirit. All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose. The true nature of an overcomer is the nature of the Lamb.

So to finish off this letter of encouragement, is to follow the way of the Master and Teacher of all mankind in encouraging you to pray aright according to God's will. Do you have a heart and mind like Jesus? who loved God with all his being and with the same heart also loved you and all creation with passion and purpose.

Do you love God with all your being, yet despise your brother or your neighbour? If so, this is false religion and false worship. Jesus unifies the heart of a true believer to love God with all your being and your neighbour as yourself.

This is the mind that was in Christ.

There are many impediments to this kingdom truth and our heart may be reluctant to repent and let go of them, but we must strive to overcome by God's grace and power through the Holy Spirit. It is the goodness of God that leads us to repent and the Holy Spirit that strengthens us to fulfil God's will.

Let us be like Christ and pray God's purpose and plan will come to pass and that the broken, the unlovely, the poor in spirit, and the lost will be lifted up with Jesus and be glorified. Let us leave all judgement to God and let the lawgiver bring justice to all. Let us pray the promise of the kingdom of God comes to all men and lifts them out of mental anguish and the fear of death. May they be delivered from anything that hinders the knowledge of God's glory.

#### **John 15: 1-4**

<sup>1</sup> *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears not fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

#### **John 14: 1-4**

<sup>1</sup> *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going."*

Jesus has prepared a place for you and me, let us cast aside all the things that hinder the truth and trust in the one who is worthy to open the true scroll that God has written about you.

In the last book of the old testament, the book of Malachi, there is a blessed scripture that prevails for our contemplation.

Let us read this scripture for our admonishment and encouragement.

#### **Malachi 3: 13-18**

<sup>13</sup> *"You have said harsh things against me" says the Lord.*

*Yet you ask, "what have we said against you?"*

<sup>14</sup> *"You have said, it is futile to serve God.*

*What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?*

<sup>15</sup> *But now we call the arrogant blessed.*

*Certainly the evildoers prosper and even those who challenge God escape".*

<sup>16</sup> *Then those who feared the Lord listened and heard.*

*A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honoured his name.*

<sup>17</sup> *"They will be mine" says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession" I will spare them, just as in compassion as a man spares his son who serves him.*

<sup>18</sup> *And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not. Amen.*

The time has come for us to forsake the enemy's demands and thoughts. We are to forsake stealing, killing and destroying which is a work of Satan.

You may say "how do I steal?"

When we judge, we steal the glory of God who alone is the judge.

God's judgements are just and true and he alone knows the end from the beginning. So why do you a mere man judge another's servant. Jesus himself said; *"I pass judgement on no one, but if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with my Father who sent me"*. Jesus also said; *"You judge by human standards"*. Jesus left all judgement to his Father.

This is the correct way to make any decisions concerning the matters of judgement.

This is the kernel centre of all prayer: To hallow the Father, to pray for the kingdom of God to extend, and for God's will to be done, that men will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. Then we will forgive even the ungodly and our persecutors just as Jesus did on the cross. Also that our provision for our every need comes down from the Father of lights who knows all things and that we will be delivered from temptation of the devil and his lying ways.

Yes, prayer is God's answer for the believer to overcome the wicked one – but we must pray aright and not consume it on our own lustful heart.

## **2 Corinthians 10: 3-6**

*<sup>3</sup> For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. <sup>6</sup> And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.*

This is how the civil war in our own hearts is won.

Let us pray sincerely out of a pure heart according to God's will, and that the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ may be known throughout the whole earth and manifest in the hearts of all men.

This is our heartfelt prayer for all, - believer and unbeliever.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)

If you would like to make a reply or contact us, please email [info@churchbuiltoflivingstones.com](mailto:info@churchbuiltoflivingstones.com)