

FRESH ENCOUNTER

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All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.



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Preface



In life, every person is meant to be in a particular place, pass through specific stages, and reach a predetermined destination. For every child born, there is a purpose for his or her existence. Every life has a purpose for being alive. Just as man has a purpose to achieve in life, God also has a purpose for each person. For a person to fulfill his goals and aspirations in life, he must align with God's purpose. When humanity meets divinity, and divinity takes charge of humanity, the result is an amazing and unexplainable transformation. The point at which a person encounters divinity is called a "divine encounter." Without such an encounter, transformation for the fulfillment of one's destiny will not take place.

The Bible speaks of this, when the Lord met with Moses and Elijah at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9). This encounter brought about a transformation in the appearance of our Lord Jesus and signified the fulfillment of both the law and prophecy which was the basis of Christ coming to the world.

Without an encounter with God, there is no salvation, no fulfillment of destiny, and no realization of God's purpose in life. It is through an encounter that salvation is produced. The day Zacchaeus met and had an encounter with the Lord was the day salvation entered his home. Similarly, when the Ethiopian Eunuch encountered Philip, his life was transformed, and he became a new person.

One of the main reasons many so-called believers in this generation find it difficult to live a holy life or have a true connection with heaven is the lack of an encounter with the Lord. Where there is no encounter in the journey of salvation, the person will be like a leaf on the surface of water, swaying left and right. Such a person's salvation will be unstable, easily influenced by false teachings and fake prophets. Many struggle to give up habits that don't glorify God because they haven't had an encounter with the Lord. No one has a true encounter with the Lord and continues to live a self-centered life; they will live for Christ, who died for us.

Some people occupy high positions in the church, but Christ has no place in their lives because they haven't encountered Him. Many attend church regularly, but their names are not recorded in heaven simply because they haven't had an encounter with the Lord. A fresh encounter is what gives a fresh and new life in Christ. If you find it difficult to live a holy and righteous life, pray for a fresh

encounter with the Lord. If sin has become a norm for someone you know, or for a relative, pray for them to have an encounter with the Lord. If you have a habit you find difficult to break, pray for a fresh encounter with the Lord. If you have doubts about specific things or are confused about what heaven requires for eternal life, or if you argue against teachings that seem contrary to your lifestyle, pray for a fresh encounter with the Lord. If you know someone on the path to destruction, pray for a fresh encounter for them.

When you have an encounter with the Lord, your life will change. Transformation is inevitable when an encounter takes place.

The most important encounter is with the man on the cross of Calvary, which brings the experience of salvation. Some people have an encounter with the Man on the cross of Calvary, (JESUS) which is a genuine encounter. Others may have an encounter with the church they attend, going to church daily without experiencing transformation. Their hearts remain uncircumcised and are unable to receive the Word of Life needed to reign with the coming King, Jesus. Some people encounter their pastor and obey the pastor's words rather than God's Word or the instructions of the Holy Spirit. Whatever the pastor says is final to them, without checking if it aligns with Biblical doctrine. Others have encounters with their spouse or friends, accepting their words without considering what the Scripture says. Though they may be Church workers, the Word

of Christ has no place in their lives, and they lack a serious relationship with the Lord.

Some people have an encounter with money, serving it as their god. They believe that as long as they make money by any means and bring it to the Church, they are serving God. But they fail to realize that God is not interested in material things; He expects us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. Some come to Church seeking contracts, connections, or personal gain.

Others have a "solution-based" encounter—they come to Church seeking solutions to their problems rather than to follow Christ as disciples. When their problems are solved, they often return to their old lifestyles. To such people, it doesn't matter whether the Church they attend is a shrine masquerading as a Church of Christ, as long as it promises to solve their problems. They profess Christianity, but have no serious relationship with Christ. Their primary concern is getting prayer points, visions, prophecies, and solutions, but their lives are far from Christ-like.

Some people have an encounter with the Church environment itself, acting like angels within the church premises, dressing decently, but becoming entirely different once the service is over. Outside the Church, they indulge in behaviors that contradict their

supposed faith, wearing inappropriate clothing and engaging in unholy conduct.

However, those who have encountered Christ Jesus at the cross of Calvary die to themselves and no longer live for themselves, but for Christ, who died for us. These are the people referred to as "new creatures" in 2 Corinthians 5:17. The point of encounter is the point at which you are nailed to the cross of Calvary, dead to the world, but alive in Christ. They walk as Christ walked (1 John 2:6), speak as Christ spoke, and live with the mind of Christ.

I pray that you will experience a fresh encounter for genuine salvation as you read this book, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

1

CHAPTER

The Birth of Man



Every human being who lives in this world has a beginning—the time of birth. Likewise, there is also a time to depart from the world, the time of death, which marks the end of a person’s earthly journey. The period between birth and death is a transitional phase where individuals engage in various activities of life. These activities can either be profitable or unprofitable for the person, and similarly, they can either be profitable to God or a loss. For a person's existence to be worthwhile before God, the life he or she lives must be profitable to heaven.

Life is a process, and it is also a race that is expected to end with a good reward both here on earth and in eternity. It is either a gain or

a loss. A person's life can either be a gain to heaven or a loss. For every person that exists, there is an agenda from heaven concerning that soul, and heaven expects to gain something from that life. For that existence to be profitable to heaven and for the soul that exists as a person on earth to fulfill heaven's agenda within the season of life—beginning at birth and ending at death—one essential event must occur: which is an “encounter with God.”

This encounter is what brings about new birth or new life—a transition from the Adamic nature to the nature of God. Without this encounter, a person's life will lack the seed of life necessary for eternal reign. Sometimes, when a person fails to have a divine encounter, they may live for 500 years without achieving anything tangible—neither gaining heaven nor profiting themselves.

A person's life is transformed by encounters with the social world, learning, skill acquisition, enculturation, and other life experiences. These combine to shape an individual into a functional member of society. Yet, despite these earthly encounters, heaven gains nothing from a person's life until they encounter God through Christ Jesus.

The process of having an encounter with the Lord is called divine appointment. If heaven does not appoint a man for an encounter, he may hear powerful sermons, yet the message will not make any difference in his life. To have a fresh encounter with the Lord,

heaven must arrange a divine appointment through a specific preacher, message, or medium that pleases the Lord. When a person meets divine appointment, a fresh encounter takes place, often resulting in a regenerated heart—a heart that bleeds for Christ. From that moment, the person's life begins to yield bountiful harvests for heaven.

Some people have their appointment with the Lord for a fresh encounter on a hospital bed, some in prison, and others at the point of death — like the thief beside Christ on the cross. Some meet the Lord on the crusade ground of a particular man of God, while others encounter the Lord through a vision, dream, or revelation, such as a vision of the Rapture. These encounters transform their lives, leading them to crucify themselves with the Lord and die to the world. Some encounter God through street evangelism, where the message of an evangelist hits them like a rock, and from that moment, they become new creatures. Others are touched through simple evangelism tracts.

Divine appointment is where divinity meets humanity, and life begins to have meaning beyond human understanding. The reality of life becomes clear at the point of encounter with the Lord. The purpose and functionality of life, as well as one's destiny and life goals, depend greatly on these encounters. For instance, if we base a person's existence solely on their birth without considering their

encounter with the real world, that person will grow without adding value to society. However, when a person engages with the real world, life begins to take shape, and they become a valuable, functional member of society, creating value, redesigning their world, and affecting others positively or make a meaningful impact. This is only possible through the process of encountering the real world. Without this encounter, a person would be like a goat or an animal that has no purpose other than to consume food and also to be used as food.

In light of this, it is essential for a person to also have an encounter with the spiritual world. For the life that has encountered the real world to stay balanced, and for it to be a profit to heaven rather than a deficit, there must be a fresh encounter with the Lord. If all a person experiences from birth to death is the social world without any connection to the spiritual world, their life may be profitable to themselves but a loss to heaven.

It is crucial for every person to have a divine encounter before departing from the world—to experience the new birth in the journey of life. Without a Calvary experience, there is no remission of sins. Just as every person has a day they were born into this world, there must also be a day they are born of God. In the book of John, Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and asked what he could do to inherit the Kingdom of God. The Lord answered him,

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

The outcome of a fresh encounter is new life in Christ, often referred to as being "born again." It is the transition from the nature of man to the nature of God. At birth, we naturally inherit the nature of man, often called the Adamic nature—a nature susceptible to sin and error. As time passes and we move through life, it becomes essential to have an encounter with the world beyond. Through this encounter, we relinquish the nature of man and take on the nature of God, which is not susceptible to sin but inclined toward holiness and righteousness.

The scripture says, "He that is born of God sinneth not" (1 John 5:18).

It is important to note that while believers are not incapable of sinning, their lives are no longer characterized by habitual sin. The new nature they receive from God leads them to resist sin and live in a way that reflects their relationship with God through Christ Jesus. The key to eternity lies in living a life of holiness and righteousness in Christ, as the Bible says, "Without holiness no one shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). Holiness is the nature of God, which we attain through a genuine encounter with Him.

At birth, the life of a man may seem empty and void, but as time passes, life's transitions expose him to the world around him—family, environment, peers, and more. These influences shape the intrinsic values of a person, but they also subject him to the sinful nature of the world. Man, under the influence of these worldly elements, produces filthiness and iniquity before God. However, when a person encounters God through His Word, they are no longer under the influence of sin. The Scripture says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:14).

Everything a person acquires or achieves from birth without encountering the Lord is solely for earthly gain. However, when a person meets the Lord—when divinity overrides humanity, or when man submits to God's divine will—life begins to yield results profitable to heaven. From that point forward, the individual no longer lives for themselves but for Christ, who died and rose again for us. As 2 Corinthians 5:15 says, "And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again."

For a person to become a new creature in Christ, their will must align with His. We must be subject to His Lordship. If you find yourself struggling with sin or having difficulty letting go of certain lifestyles or habits displeasing to the Lord, it indicates that an

encounter has not yet occurred, or the encounter with God's Word has not yet taken place.

There are three stages of encounter for a positive transformation:

1. **Encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ** – This is the foundation and the only means of salvation.
2. **Encounter with the Holy Spirit** – This results in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, bringing fresh fire and genuine repentance.
3. **Encounter with the Word of God** – This leads to purification, sanctification, and cleansing from all filthiness.

A true encounter with these three—Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God—yields complete transformation and genuine salvation. Once this happens, struggles with sin begin to fade, and living in alignment with God's will becomes easier. Holiness and righteousness become a lifestyle for those who experience a fresh encounter.

The Essence of Fresh Encounter

1. **It is the only way to please God and live according to His purpose** – The nature of man, shaped by worldly influences from family, peers, and society, cannot please God. The Scriptures declare, "The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor

indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8).

2. **It is the only way to acquire the nature of God** – Through divine power, God has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him. The Scripture says, "By these promises, you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:3-4).
3. **Every person born of a woman must come to the knowledge of Christ to receive pardon for the sin inherited from Adam** – The only way to escape this inherited sin is through a fresh encounter with the Lord. As Romans 5:18-19 says, "Therefore, as through one man's offense, judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so, through one man's righteous act, the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."
4. **It is the only way to experience new life in Christ** – Living in Christ means being alive with God. "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under

heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

5. **It is the only way to overcome certain lifestyles** – There are habits and lifestyles that we cannot change on our own. However, through a fresh encounter with the Lord, these habits will become things of the past. For instance, a sister who once loved to wear jewelry or inappropriate attire may find that after her encounter with the Lord, she no longer desires those things.

The Virtues of Salvation and the Necessity of Fresh Encounter

The virtues of salvation are not tied to your background, your birth circumstances, your parents, ancestors, or even your current condition. Regardless of where or how you were born, at some point in your life, a **fresh encounter** with God is essential for genuine salvation. This encounter marks a point of spiritual transaction within the lifespan of a person. For one to live eternally with God, they must have this encounter with the Lord before entering the grave.

If a person misses a divine encounter before death, they cannot inherit eternal life, and the consequence is eternal damnation. Just as every individual has a physical birthday, there must also be a

spiritual birth. This spiritual birth can only happen through a fresh encounter with the Lord. The day you are born of God is the day you have encountered the Lord Jesus, and it should be an unforgettable moment for anyone called by His name—just as the day of your earthly birth is a significant milestone.

True Encounter: Beyond Confession

A fresh encounter goes beyond merely confessing Christ as your Lord and Savior with your lips. Many people make verbal confessions, but without a circumcision of the heart, they remain unchanged. This is why some confess Christ but continue in their old ways, because their confession is superficial, lacking the inward transformation needed.

True transformation requires the circumcision of the heart, where the foreskin of the heart is removed, allowing the Word of God to take root and flourish. This leads to purification, sanctification, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. At this point, a new heart—one that yearns for righteousness—is received, and transformation begins. As the Bible states, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Three Essential Phases of True Encounter

1. **Calvary Experience** – This is where you are spiritually nailed to the cross with Christ, dying to yourself and

becoming alive in God through Jesus. It is the point of total surrender and repentance.

2. **Circumcision of the Heart** – This is the removal of the spiritual foreskin, allowing you to receive a new heart. Without the circumcision of the heart, living a Christ-like life becomes nearly impossible. The Bible tells us, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). The unredeemed heart harbors wickedness, pride, arrogance, and other sinful traits. However, after the heart is circumcised, the nature of God begins to replace these old ways with the fruits of the Spirit—love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).
3. **Encounter with the Will of God** – To be a partaker in God's kingdom, you must have an encounter to understand His specific will for you. God's will extends to every aspect of your life—how you should live, dress, work, worship, and conduct yourself. Many are confused today due to conflicting doctrines in churches, but a personal encounter with the Lord clarifies these issues.

The Nature of Man versus the Nature of God

What we inherit from the first Adam is a selfish, self-centered nature—focused on self-love, pride, and disregard for others. This fallen nature is evident in arrogance, envy, and an obsession with self-preservation at the expense of others. However, when we encounter Christ, the second Adam, we inherit a new nature. This nature is characterized by love, peace, gentleness, humility, empathy, and all the attributes of God.

Without a fresh encounter with divinity through Christ Jesus, the old nature of man remains dominant. For instance, a man who presents himself as kind may secretly harbor dangerous or selfish motives. A person who gives generously may do so with ulterior motives, seeking personal gain rather than out of genuine love. As the Bible says, "The way of man is deceitful," and only God can truly know the heart of man.

The Deceptive Nature of Good Works without Transformation

The nature of man can be deceptive. Someone who appears good on the outside may be harboring evil intentions. For example, a person may give you a gift, not out of love, but to manipulate or harm you. A man may give someone clothes to cover their nakedness, but in his heart, he desires to expose their nakedness to

the world. Without a fresh encounter with God, even the seemingly good works of man can be tainted by selfish motives. Genuine love, as expressed in 1 Corinthians 13, does not manipulate or harm others, but seeks the good of all.

Only after the nature of man is subdued through an encounter with the Lord can the true nature of God—love, humility, and holiness—take root in a person's life." Until that encounter happens, even the best among us are subject to the deceptive and selfish tendencies of the human heart.

The Importance of Knowing God's Will

A fresh encounter with the Lord is essential for understanding His will for your life. This includes every aspect—from how you should dress, the job you should pursue, to the church you should attend. Many are misled by differing doctrines or by relying solely on what their pastors or spiritual leaders tell them. While spiritual guidance is important, it must be supplemented with a personal encounter with God.

For example, the Bible clearly states, "The woman shall not wear that which pertains unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abominable unto the LORD thy God" (Deuteronomy 22:5). Yet, many argue or rationalize these instructions, saying they are outdated or meant for another culture.

A fresh encounter with the Lord, however, will clear up any doubts and reveal the truth of His Word directly.

Without this encounter, people may continue to follow traditions or beliefs that contradict God's will, unknowingly putting themselves at risk of eternal damnation. But through a personal encounter, the Holy Spirit convicts and transforms, leading to a life that is pleasing to God.

There is a necessity for everyone on the journey to eternity to have a personal encounter with the Lord, to know His mind on what they ought to do to be partakers of eternal glory. When you have a personal encounter with the Lord, it clears your doubts and authenticates or solidifies your doctrinal beliefs. It informs you whether your life is truly aligned with the ways of the Lord or if you are on the path to destruction.

In our world today, we see that many religious practices are based on human nature. Some religions are even characterized by human nature, and these practices are often filled with wickedness. Imagine someone placing a knife to another person's throat, slaughtering them, cutting off their head, yet praising God and believing within themselves that they are serving Him. It is only in Christ that we find the true nature of God. Every other path that men believe leads to heaven actually leads to destruction because these religious

practices are rooted in human nature and wickedness. The scripture says, *"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in wickedness"* (1 John 5:19).

Why is this so? It is because in these religious practices, there is no connection between divinity and their humanity. They live their lives, including their religious practices, still operating under the Adamic nature. However, with a fresh encounter with the Son of God, the Word of God, and the Spirit of God, man receives freedom from the cycle of human nature. All the wickedness you can imagine or witness in human society boils down to this human nature, which began with man's first encounter with the world. But when a person has the privilege of encountering the Lord Jesus, regeneration takes place in the heart.

Without a fresh encounter with the Lord, you could be born into a Christian family, or your father may be a pastor or bishop, or you may be a regular church goer or worker in God's vineyard. You may even have memorized the whole scripture due to your background as a child of a Sunday school teacher. However, these things do not automatically grant you the nature of God. The nature of God can only be found in Christ Jesus. Without a fresh encounter with the Lord, a person cannot attain the height of holiness, which is God's nature. Human activities cannot grant automatic access to God's nature; it is only found in Christ Jesus.

As you grow up, whether in a Christian family, as the child of a pastor, or no matter your background in life, there must be a time in your life when a fresh encounter takes place for you to acquire the nature of God. It is necessary to encounter the Lord as you grow, regardless of your background—whether you are the son or daughter of a bishop or your father is a priest in an occultic shrine. No matter who you are, there must be a moment in your life when you encounter the Lord and become an adopted son or daughter of the Most High God. This is what we refer to as a salvation experience. Many people who profess to be Christians today cannot truly share what we call a salvation experience. As a child of God, to be a true follower of Christ, there must be a salvation experience. This is the point of encounter that gives birth to what we call being "born again," and this is what is missing in much of the Christian community today.

Being born into a Christian family does not automatically make you born again or saved in the Lord. Your family may introduce you to the church, to the world around you, or even to Christ, but without personal conviction or an encounter with the Lord, you will not experience salvation. The point of fresh encounter with the Lord is what gives you the salvation experience, which results in being "born again."

We have so many shallow Christians in this age because there is no point of encounter with the Lord. Though many are led to Christ through altar calls, only a few have had a genuine encounter with the Lord.

Until you have a personal encounter with the Lord, you will continue to be vulnerable to false or superficial pastors, a trend that is prevalent in the world today. A personal encounter is essential to know what the race to heaven requires. It is essential to know Christ personally, to experience genuine repentance, and to understand what habits, lifestyles, or fashions must be removed from your life. These may be acceptable in society but are detested by God, and anyone who wants to inherit the kingdom of heaven must also detest them. A fresh encounter with the Lord is something everyone should pray for—both the young and old, and even those who are not yet Christians. It is something we should pray for on behalf of our loved ones who have not yet come to know Christ, whether they are Muslim, pagan, Buddhist, or of any other religion. If we pray to the Lord to give them a fresh encounter with Him, no one will need to preach to them before they come to the knowledge of Christ.

Examples of people who had an encounter with the Lord include Apostle Paul on his way to Damascus, Zacchaeus, and the Ethiopian eunuch. We also see modern-day examples, like the great

Evangelist Binta Jalingo, a former devout Muslim who was converted through an encounter with the Lord. Reading her story will provide a deeper understanding of what it means to have a fresh encounter with the Lord.

Many people are engrossed in celebrating the day they were born into this world. Their birth date is clear to them, often marked by a birth certificate, and they celebrate it regularly. While it is good to celebrate, the truth and beauty of life is this: it is not the day you were born into the world that you should celebrate, but the day you were born in Christ. The day you received the ticket that will take you to heaven is the day that truly matters because, without being born of God and becoming a new creature, your arrival in this world is ultimately in vain

It is one thing to be led to Christ by someone or a preacher; it is another to have a personal encounter with the Lord. If you have been led to Christ without a personal encounter with Him, sin might still have dominion over you.

If there is anything anyone should desire daily, it is to have a fresh encounter with the Lord. Consider the case of hardened criminals or religion fanatics who were once major persecutors of the gospel of Christ but later became Disciples of Christ Jesus. It wasn't anyone's effort that got many of them converted but the work of a

divine encounter with the Lord. I mentioned Apostle Paul earlier; no preacher dared to confront him about the kingdom of God, but it was the hand of God that overtook him and led to his conversion. Another example is Evangelist Shuahib, who was once part of the deadly Islamic sect Boko Haram in West Africa. Through the Holy Spirit, he was converted and became a preacher of the gospel of Christ. These and many other conversions are only possible through a divine encounter with the Lord, a point where Christ reveals Himself as the only Savior of the world.

I pray that you will not miss your divine appointment that will give you a fresh encounter with the Lord, in the name of Jesus.

No one has an encounter with the Lord and continues to play with sin. If there is anyone who desires to be in heaven but still indulges in sin and is rooted in worldliness, take their case to the Lord and ask Him to reveal Himself to them at the point of encounter. You will no longer need to struggle or waste time preaching to them again. A fresh encounter with the Lord will give them a revelation of heaven that will bring about total repentance.

No one is born again at birth; we all get converted at a particular point in our journey through life. Though you may have been born into a Christian family and grown up in the church that does not automatically save you. There must be a point in your life where

you meet the Lord, which is the point of encounter. If there has been no moment in your life where you met the Lord, no matter the position you hold in the body of Christ, there is no assurance of your salvation. The salvation of such a person is questionable.

The point of encounter is the point where you move from being a mere church member to becoming a member of God's household. It is the point where a sinner becomes a saint, the point of transformation, where you are born of God. The day of your encounter with the Lord is the day salvation enters your house, just as it did with Zacchaeus:

“And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must abide at your house. And he made haste and came down and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying that He had gone to be a guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood and said unto the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.’ And Jesus said unto him, ‘This day salvation has come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham’” (Luke 19:5-9).

We can see what happened at the point of encounter: Repentance, Restitution, and Salvation (RRS).

For someone's salvation to be genuine, there must be a fresh encounter. Without this, a person might spend decades in the house of God, even serving Him, but still be living in the Adamic nature—the old life that must die at the point of encounter for the new man to emerge. To be saved from the power of sin, you must cry for a fresh encounter, and when it happens, your life will never be the same.

Amen.

Pray the following prayers before you continue:

1. "Lord, I thank You for noticing me just as You noticed Zacchaeus. Thank You for calling me by name and desiring to dwell in my life. Help me to respond with joy and readiness to Your encounter, in the name of Jesus."
2. "Lord, I confess any wrongdoing or sins that I may have committed, knowingly or unknowingly. Like Zacchaeus, give me the strength and willingness to make restitution where necessary and to live a life of integrity and righteousness."
3. "Fire of salvation, pass through my life for a fresh encounter with the Lord, in the name of Jesus."

4. "O Lord, I need a fresh encounter with Your Spirit and Your Word, to walk in the newness of life, in the name of Jesus."
5. "Power of fresh encounter, rest upon me now and give me a new life in Christ, in the name of Jesus."
6. "Father, help me to open my heart and home to you, as Zacchaeus did. May I welcome your presence in every aspect of my life, and may your presence transform me."
7. "Heavenly Father, let the 'new man' in me emerge as I live out my faith in You. Help me to walk in the newness of life, leaving behind the old ways and embracing the new identity I have in Christ Jesus."
8. "Lord, just as salvation came to Zacchaeus' house, I pray that your salvation will touch every member of my household. May we all experience a fresh encounter, saving grace, and live as true children of God, walking in faith and obedience, in the name of Jesus."
9. "Father, help me to obey you quickly and joyfully, just as Zacchaeus did when you called him. May my obedience to Your Word be filled with enthusiasm and faith, knowing that you have great plans for me, in Jesus' name. Amen."

2

CHAPTER

Human Desire and the knowledge of God's will



As discussed earlier in the previous chapter about the birth of a man, the events that followed, and other occurrences required for a man to be accepted as a member of human society, life begins to take shape after these foundational events. As a man embarks on the journey of life, processes such as physical growth, human development, enculturation through interactions with the world, and acculturation due to exposure to new environments take place.

Through these processes, an individual's personality begins to form and develop. Desires emerge, and feelings such as love and hatred

for certain things start to influence the mind of a man. What a man acquires through life's experiences determines what he has to offer society. The picture of the life he wishes to live is shaped by his desires and established through his willpower.

Every person who desires something does so in their own best interest. That is, every desire serves the benefit of its owner. Sometimes, however, human desires go against societal norms and values, making individuals deviant or offenders in the eyes of society or even God, the Creator. Often, people pursue their desires without considering the potential negative outcomes or the consequences such desires may have on others or on the social fabric.

As man grows, his desires develop. Society and the environment attempt to shape these desires, often with limited success. This is one reason the world is plagued by corruption and violations of both criminal and customary laws. This leads to a society that sometimes feels unsafe for law-abiding citizens or individuals who strive to live in accordance with societal norms.

A man's desires begin with basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter. These fundamental desires serve as the basis for character development. Desires emerge as soon as a child is born—like the baby's instinctive desire for breast milk—and grow increasingly

complex as man encounters the world. Desires multiply as life progresses, continuing until man returns to the dust.

The birth of man is not accidental or coincidental but is part of God's plan. God's first desire for man is to be like Him. As stated in Genesis 1:26:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

God's second desire for man is to have dominion over His creation. Genesis 1:26 (b) continues:

"Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Another desire of God for man is found in Ecclesiastes 12:13:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

The arrival of man on Earth is not accidental but intentional, as part of God's design for each element of creation—be it living or nonliving.

For man to truly fulfill God's purpose, his desires must align with God's will. The first Adam failed because his desires contradicted God's instructions. Genesis 3:6 recounts:

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

This failure brought judgment upon all humanity:

"Therefore, as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." (Romans 5:18)

After the fall in the Garden of Eden, God's desire is to restore man to Himself through redemption:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

This is the privilege granted to man as a sojourner on Earth: to acknowledge God while still alive. However, while the spirit of man may desire to fulfill heaven's purpose, the flesh often has contrary desires. Romans 8:8 states:

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

For the flesh to align with God's will, it must be crucified, which can only occur at Calvary, where the Lord was crucified. Calvary

represents the point of encounter with God for those who seek to align their desires with His. It is at Calvary that the flesh and its contrary desires are nailed, allowing the law of the Lord to take root in man's life. As Psalm 19:7 declares:

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

Every desire outside God's will is centered on three key concepts:

1. The lust of the flesh
2. The lust of the eyes
3. The pride of life

When a person becomes enamored with the world, these desires take hold. The Bible warns in 1 John 2:15-17:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

The ultimate goal of a carnal man is centered on these worldly desires. Until the will of God governs a person's life, their desires will remain focused on vanity, the pursuit of life itself.

The knowledge of God's will.

For everything created by God, there is a purpose and a detailed plan. Nothing created by God is accidental or coincidental. In everything He does, there is a reason. The will of God for every man encompasses the life and destiny of that individual. The blueprint for each life is God's intentional plan, carefully designed before creation.

Our desires must align with God's will, which is inscribed in the divine blueprint for our lives. Any deviation from this heavenly agenda results in problems.

The will of God for His creation can be categorized into two segments:

1. To Bring Glory and Honor to God

God's ultimate purpose for all His creations is to bring glory and honor to Him alone. As stated in Revelation 4:11:

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

As individuals, whatever we plan or intend to do must bring glory to God. Anything that does not glorify God is not worth pursuing. Our desires and actions must align with heavenly pleasure.

2. To Live According to His Blueprint

The second segment of God's will involves living a life that adheres to His divine blueprint. Whether in marriage, business, relationships, or any other area of life, we must ensure our actions align with God's will. This is why the greatest prayer anyone can pray is, *"Lord, let Your will be done."*

Before embarking on any endeavor, ask yourself:

- *Does this glorify God?*
- *Does this business glorify God?*
- *Does this relationship honor God?*
- *Does this friendship bring glory to God?*
- *Does my speech glorify God?*

If the answer is no, it is clear that heaven gains nothing from such endeavors.

The knowledge of God's will, however, is the truth we need to know to become His friend. A man can only be a friend to someone when he is aware of who that person is. No one can be a friend of someone they do not know. For instance, if someone asks you,

“Are you a friend of Mr. John?” and you respond, “Mr. John?” Then the person says, “Yes, Mr. John Henderson,” your response will be, “Yes, he is my friend”—that is, if you truly know him. But if you don’t know him, your answer will naturally be “No.” Why? Because friendship is based on knowledge. To be a friend of God, a man must know Him and understand what He stands for—which is **truth**.

The Bible says, *"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."* The truth we ought to know is the **will of God**—and the will of God is what pleases Him and brings glory to His name.

To everything that exists, there is a will of God for it. Likewise, for every man that lives on earth, there is a divine will established even before he was conceived in his mother's womb. From cradle to grave, there is a specific will of God for every step he or she ought to take. When a man's steps do not align with God's will, what often follows is **regret**.

Many people are in church today claiming to be born again based only on mere confession—without the knowledge of God's will, which leads to **genuine conversion**. One of the most important things anyone should seek as a pilgrim on the journey to the Kingdom of God is **the knowledge of God's will**.

If we look into our society or even the church today, we will notice that people are in a state of confusion. Believers can no longer differentiate between the sacred and the profane. That is why we often cannot distinguish gospel songs from secular ones. Dances meant to glorify God are now mixed with dances that originated from idolatrous worship, meant to edify the devil and pollute society. We can hardly tell the difference between godly dressing and worldly dressing, between godly dance and worldly dance. All of this confusion is a result of the **lack of knowledge of God's will.**

Some claim to have this knowledge because of the positions they hold in church, yet they remain confused. In this confusion, they cling to popular phrases like, "*It doesn't matter.*" Many have become victims of false teaching and doctrine because they lack true understanding of God's will.

A fresh and genuine encounter with the Man of Calvary, the Lord Jesus, brings the knowledge of God's will. This truth sets us free from false teaching and equips us to discern what truly honors God from what is profane. No one can truly know God's will without an **encounter with Christ.** Such an encounter reveals what pleases God and the life He wants you to live so that you may become an heir of eternal glory.

Some believers place more trust in what their pastors say or what pleases their pastors than in what pleases God. They feel comfortable, lacking the hunger to seek the knowledge of God's will for themselves. Meanwhile, these false teachings—often rooted in “stomach infrastructure” (personal gain)—are served as church doctrine. The people are made to feel they are on the right path, when in reality, they are only being used as a source of income. They are unaware that they are on the **broad path that leads to destruction**.

Some even argue over Scripture based on what they've been taught, their education, societal norms, or what seems "civilized." But they fail to realize that **God's ways are not man's ways**. The way to understand God's will is by **seeking it personally**. At that point, academic qualifications, societal standards, and even pastoral opinions that contradict God's Word are meaningless.

What matters most is this: **Whatever God says is right, is right. Whatever He says is truth, is truth**. Even if it seems odd or outdated, accept it because it pleases Him. Follow His will, even if it means being seen as foolish or old-fashioned. That is the cost of truly walking with God.

For example, the Bible says in **Deuteronomy 22:5**:

"A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God."

And the consequence of such actions is found in **Revelation 21:8**:

"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

While these scriptures may be interpreted differently across cultures, we must remember this: we do not operate under **human culture** but the **culture of heaven**. Scripture should not be interpreted from a human perspective. What you consider normal may not be normal with God. This topic requires divine encounter and revelation to avoid confusion.

Your pastor might say, "Wear anything; it doesn't matter. God looks at the heart." But trusting in your pastor's opinion will not justify you—regardless of his education or theological training. You must **seek personal encounter** with Christ so you can know for yourself what is acceptable in this race to eternity.

Many are confused simply because their pastor said something is acceptable—and because it aligns with societal trends, they follow

without question. Some even argue over the use of attachments, wool, or jewelry because they see it as fashion, unaware that these may be abominable to God. They follow trends without seeking the knowledge of God's will.

Once you decide to follow Christ and surrender your life to Him, you are no longer living for yourself but for Him.

As 2 Corinthians 5:15 says:

"And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again."

You can only live for Christ when you have a **clear understanding of God's will in Christ Jesus**—not based on what you or others think is right, but based on what pleases God.

The will of God is what pleases Him and is suitable for man, even though it may not always please man due to his exposure, education, or societal pressures. The will of your friends, your church doctrine, or the society **cannot take you to heaven**. Only the will of God, rooted in His knowledge and glorifying to Him, leads to the Kingdom.

God was well pleased with Christ Jesus because Jesus always did the will of the Father.

As **John 4:34** says:

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work."

And in **John 5:30**, Jesus said:

"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

And in **Hebrews 10:7**, we read:

"Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God."

From these verses, it is clear: what made God pleased with Christ was that He came to do the Father's will—even to the point of death.

Therefore, for any man to please God, he must live entirely in the **knowledge of God's will**—in academics, career, life partner choice, location, lifestyle, speech, character, and relationships. Every area of life must bring glory to God, and that is only possible through a clear understanding of His will.

I pray that you will have a **fresh and genuine encounter** that leads you into the knowledge of God's will.

In Jesus' name.

What Is the Will of God?

1. **To Submit to His Authority**

God's will is for every man to submit to His authority, observe His statutes, and live according to His purpose.

2. **To Recognize God's Position**

Man must recognize his place as a creation and honor God as the Creator. It is not man's role to usurp God's authority or interfere with the divine order.

3. **To Fear God with Reverence**

God's will is for every soul to fear Him—not with the fear of a slave for a taskmaster, but with the love and reverence of a son for his father.

4. **To Keep His Commandments**

Keeping God's commandments should not feel burdensome but rather be seen as our duty and the way to true life.

5. To Depend on God's Mercy

God's will is for man to live in liberty, enjoying peace without unnecessary struggles, while depending on Him for guidance and sustenance.

6. It is the plan of God for every individual and all of His creation.

7. "To Return to God

Life on Earth is a journey, and God's will is for every man to return to Him after their sojourn here.

8. To Uphold the Truth

God's will is for man to stand for truth, regardless of circumstances. God Himself is truth, and His desire is for humanity to walk in truth, showcasing His glory and righteousness through good works.

Walking in the Will of God

To walk in God's righteousness and align with His desires, there must first be an encounter with His only begotten Son, His Word, and His Spirit. The Word of God serves as the light that guides a righteous man. Psalm 119:105 states:

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

The first step toward salvation is an encounter with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is the Word through whom all things were created and in whom God's fullness and will are revealed.

The essence of every creature is shaped by their desires. However, the highest and noblest desire is to walk in the path of righteousness. The ways of the heathen lead to destruction. Any thoughts or desires outside God's will, which is found in Christ Jesus, ultimately lead to death and eternal damnation. Jeremiah 8:3 states:

"And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of them that remain of this evil family, which remain in all the places."

Many choose destructive desires that leave them hopeless. To live an eternal life, one must align with the eternal King, who reigns from eternity to eternity.

The Danger of Desires outside God's Will

Desires outside God's will often stem from self-pleasure and vanity. Many unknowingly run the race of self-gratification rather than the race of righteousness. Even some who proclaim to be God's servants may fall into the trap of pursuing personal gain or wealth instead of the kingdom of God.

The Bible warns against such pursuits:

"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." (Philippians 3:18-19)

You cannot run the race of self-pleasure and expect the reward of a diligent servant, which is the crown of righteousness at the end of life's journey.

Here's a refined version of your text, with improved grammar, structure, and clarity:

Heaven Is Beyond Human Imagination

Heaven is far beyond the limited thoughts or sensual imaginations of what men think it ought to be. Unfortunately, many have fallen by the wayside in the race to eternity due to nonchalant attitudes and the pervasive mindset of "it doesn't matter." This lack of daily self-examination and disregard for God's standards has led many astray.

The slogan "it doesn't matter" has become a justification for desires and behaviors that contradict the heavenly race. For example, wearing half-naked clothing as a Christian, using excessive jewelry, piercings, and artificial attachments like eyelashes—even when attending the church of God—are often dismissed as insignificant.

These practices stem from ungodly desires that do not align with the call to holiness and righteousness.

God's Standards Are Unchanging

It is crucial to understand that God will not change His Word or ordinances to accommodate human desires or societal trends. Whether it doesn't matter to you, your society, or even your pastor, the fact remains: **whatever matters to heaven will stand as the standard to inherit the Kingdom of God.**

It is not up to man to tell God what is acceptable. God, in His sovereignty, has set the rules and principles that guide His Kingdom. No matter how good or appealing something may seem to humans, if it contradicts God's Word, it remains unacceptable. Societal changes and modernization cannot make wrong things right before God.

The Bible declares that *God is not a respecter of persons; He will repay every man according to their deeds* (Romans 2:6). He is sovereign, above all, and everything is subject to Him. He does whatever pleases Him without consulting anyone for approval.

This is why we must tremble before Him, and this reverence must reflect in every aspect of our lives—from our desires for earthly things to our life's purpose and pursuits.

We are clay in the hands of the Divine Potter. As creations, we cannot dictate to the Creator what is acceptable. As the Bible asks:

"Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou?" (Isaiah 45:9).

The moment a creature begins to decide for the Creator based on self-pleasure or convenience, it becomes a clear act of rebellion. This rebellion leads to a contradiction of God's will.

It is far better to seek justification from God than to receive the approval and applause of man. Human approval is fleeting and powerless over the soul, but God's judgment is eternal.

The Bible teaches in Matthew 4:4:

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

This verse reminds us that our lives should not revolve around satisfying our desires or self-gratification. Instead, we must live by God's instructions, which are designed to guide us into righteousness.

Self-sanctification—attempting to justify actions outside the will of God—ultimately leads to disobedience. The sin of disobedience earns nothing but eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

The Bible is clear: God does not condone actions that contradict His commandments. I pray that you will not regret your actions or inactions at the end of your earthly journey, in Jesus' name

3

CHAPTER

The Choice



One of the greatest gifts of life is the ability to make choices from the numerous opportunities life presents to us. You have the power to choose what is best for you.

Choice is a free will—the gift of God to humanity—born out of the power of self-will. It enables us to select what is suitable and aligns with our best interests. The foundation of choice lies in the power of reasoning. It is the ability to choose from the wealth of thoughts that flow in our hearts. This power of reasoning is what makes humanity unique among God’s creations. Only humans have been given this gift to decide for themselves what seems best.

The Almighty God, who created the heavens and the earth, does not impose His will on anyone. This distinguishes the God of the Bible from any other deity or religion.

In the book of **Deuteronomy 30:19**, it is written:

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

Choice is one of the greatest freedoms we enjoy as humans. It reflects the ability to reason and think for ourselves.

Further, in **Isaiah 1:19**, the Lord says:

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.”

Despite being Almighty, all-knowing, and sovereign, God does not impose His will on His creation. Though He holds the key to life and death, He allows us to think and decide for ourselves. He merely provides guidance, highlighting the consequences of following or rejecting Him. Ultimately, it is up to each individual to decide.

Life is about choices. God doesn't force anyone to do His will; He only urges us to align our choices with His divine plan for our benefit. He has given us the power to make decisions, but He

retains control over the outcomes of those decisions—something we cannot change. You have the power to choose, but you do not have the power to control the results of your choice.

Unfortunately, many have taken wrong steps and made poor decisions that led to untimely deaths or lives filled with regret. Some decisions have trapped people in situations with no apparent way out. Others are struggling with battles they inherited from the choices of others.

Any choice made outside the will of God is like a five-year-old attempting to pilot a jet. Life is all about choices! To live is a choice; to end one's life is also a choice. To marry or remain single, to have children or not, to pursue education or remain illiterate, to be kind or arrogant—these are all choices. To follow the crowd or to stand out, to follow the ways of man or to follow Christ Jesus, are decisions left to individuals.

God has given us the privilege and power to decide for ourselves. The inability to foresee the consequences of our actions or ignorance of the repercussions often leads to wrong choices, resulting in regret and “had I known” moments.

If we could see the end of our actions at the beginning, many wrong decisions would be avoided. But life's circumstances often blindfold people, preventing them from discerning the dangers

ahead. Immediate satisfaction, anxiety, friendships, indecision, and worldly pleasures influence our decisions, leading to outcomes we may later regret.

However, when it comes to heaven and hell, God has clearly warned us about the dangers of sin and the eternal consequences. God is not a man; He knows our weaknesses. That is why He has provided guidance and even given us clues about the right answers. Yet, the choice remains ours.

No one will have an excuse before God on the Day of Judgment, claiming ignorance of the consequences of their choices. The gospel has been preached far and wide, in cities and villages, leaving no room for denial. It is now up to each individual to decide where they will spend eternity.

As written in **Deuteronomy 30:19**

“This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.”

I pray for you: May you never make a decision that leads you to hell, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Factors That Influence Human Decisions

A rational person considers a range of factors before making a decision at a particular time. Some people base their decisions on life circumstances and situations, choosing what they deem most suitable for a given period. The choices we make shape our lives. The life we live today is often the result of decisions made in the past, whether by us or others, and the decisions we make today will determine our tomorrow.

Every individual has the power to make choices, but the factors that inspire or compel us to act differ from person to person. To better understand this subject, we must ask ourselves: **What influences or inspires me to make certain decisions in life?**

Some common factors that influence decisions include:

1. **Friends** – Peer pressure or the company we keep often shapes our choices.
2. **Environment** – The surroundings in which we live can significantly influence our decisions.
3. **Family** – Parents and close acquaintances play a major role in shaping our decisions.
4. **Circumstances** – Life's challenges and opportunities often compel us to act in specific ways.

The Bible says, "The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge" (Proverbs 18:15).

Any decision not rooted in God's will or inspired by Him will not yield lasting good results. While human counsel may seem helpful, relying solely on it can lead to mistakes. The Bible cautions, "*Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails*" (Proverbs 19:21).

The Danger of Wrong Influences

Relying on friends, family, or even enemies for guidance can lead to poor decisions. For example:

- Some people delay accepting Christ because they fear what their friends might say.
- Others seek advice from untrustworthy sources, leading to disastrous outcomes.

If we allow the devil even a small foothold, he will exploit it fully. Decisions made in haste, anger, ignorance, or to satisfy immediate needs often lead to regret. Consider Esau, who sold his birthright for a meal, or Samson, whose lust and disobedience cost him his destiny. These examples show how wrong motivations can ruin a person's future.

The question now is: What decisions are you making about your eternal destiny?

Biblical Examples of Poor Decisions

1. **Esau** – Chose immediate satisfaction over lasting inheritance.
2. **Samson** – Made poor choices driven by lust and disobedience.
3. **Judas Iscariot** – Let greed and covetousness lead to his downfall.
4. **Saul** – Disobedience and envy caused his reign to end in shame.
5. **Judah** – Fell into sin due to lust and lack of self-control.

These examples remind us that decisions driven by selfishness or personal gratification often lead to ruin.

The Role of God in Decision-Making

Every decision we make should be inspired by God and return glory to Him. For instance:

- In marriage, choosing a partner without God's guidance can lead to a lifetime of struggle. A marriage without God at its center often becomes a burden rather than a blessing.

- In life's journey, decisions made with God's guidance ensure peace and fulfillment.

The Bible says, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33). Prioritizing God in our choices leads to a smoother, more purposeful life.

The Importance of Eternal Choices

The most crucial decision in life is choosing where to spend eternity. Life on earth is short, but eternity is forever. The Bible says, *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live"* (Deuteronomy 30:19).

You can choose to:

- Travel abroad, start a business, pursue a career, or acquire wealth.
- Or you can choose to follow Christ and secure eternal life.

None of life's material achievements can guarantee eternity. The only decision that matters is to follow Christ and live according to God's will.

Everything in life is about the choices we make. The best choice you can make is to follow Christ and align your life with His

purpose. I pray that you will not choose a path that leads to destruction in the name of Jesus.

May God guide your decisions and grant you the wisdom to choose life in Christ. Amen.

4

CHAPTER

The Battle of Life



Life is often described as a battlefield, and the journey of life itself is a battle. As the saying goes, "*Just as there's no smoke without fire, there's no battle without a cause.*" Similarly, we must understand that every occurrence in life has a cause or something that propels it. Every situation exists the way it does because of specific reasons. The battles of life don't happen randomly; they arise due to causes or reasons. Nothing exists without an origin.

In this context, there are two primary factors we need to consider that often bring about battles in life. These factors can be described as forces that introduce or initiate battles.

1. The Presence of Satan in the World

The first force that introduces battles into the world is the presence of Satan. The Bible states in Revelation 12:12: *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath."*

One key reason for the battles we face is that humans live in a world where Satan dwells. We must clearly understand that there is no peace wherever Satan is present. In the same book of Revelation, the Bible speaks of war in heaven because of Satan's presence there. The presence of Satan in heaven brought about significant conflict.

You may ask, *"Why must Satan be the source of my battles when I haven't wronged him?"* Here's the fact: as descendants of Adam, there is inherent enmity between humanity and Satan. Genesis 3:15 says: *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed."*

The battle began the moment Satan was cast to the earth. If his presence in heaven caused accusations against the angels of God, we should not expect a battle-free life on earth. His presence on earth inevitably brings chaos to its inhabitants.

2. Inability to Resist the Devil

The second factor that introduces battles into our lives is the inability to resist the devil, which often results in disobedience. Disobedience leads to sin, and sin ultimately brings punishment. James 1:15 says: *"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."*

Sin arises because of man's inability to resist the devil and remain obedient to God. Disobedience is the root cause of many life battles. Ecclesiastes 10:8 warns: *"Whoso breaketh a hedge, a serpent shall bite him."*

Disobedience to God essentially means breaking the protective hedge He has placed around us. To break this hedge is to step outside of God's protection and defense. When a person strays from God's presence, the devil gains an advantage over them.

God, however, has a special love for humanity. Every soul is like a precious jewel in His hands. He watches over us, provides for us, cares for us, and protects us, much like a loving father protects his children. God does so many things for us behind the scenes, things we are often unaware of.

All these blessings are not because of our works or righteousness but because of His love for us. The only thing God requires of us is to submit our will to Him. By doing so, we allow Him to continue protecting us from powers stronger than us. Submission to God enables Him to take charge of our lives and keep us safe.

The Way of Man and the Will of God

The Bible says, *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes."* Yet, the way of man often leads to errors and mistakes. However, when God is in charge of our lives, He leads us rightly. While God protects us without our knowledge, we are less likely to walk into trouble of our own making. But when a person refuses to surrender their will to God and allow Him to take charge of their life, they become prey to the stray enemy of our souls—the devil.

The first will of God for every person is to come to the knowledge of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him, we can align ourselves with the will of the Father and fulfill His purpose for our lives. No amount of human knowledge or skill can protect a person or help them escape the devil's schemes without God's guidance. But with God's help, we are more than conquerors.

If we remove God's hand from a person's life, what remains is merely a walking corpse. Humans are limited to their physical senses—seeing with their eyes, hearing with their ears, smelling with

their noses—but the devil we contend with is a spirit, capable of seeing beyond the physical and knowing beyond the ordinary. For a mortal human to gain an edge over the devil, they must operate at a higher spiritual level, which is only possible through the Lord Jesus Christ.

To overcome this spiritual enemy, we must rise from the natural human state to the level of divine revelation (*Rhema*), where we operate and communicate with the spiritual realm through the power of the Holy Spirit. However, before this transformation can occur, the gap between humanity and God, created by sin, must be closed. This gap, caused by the disobedience of the first man, Adam, can only be bridged by the righteousness and sacrificial blood of the second Adam, Jesus Christ. This is possible when we have a fresh encounter with Him.

The communication channel between God and humanity, destroyed by Adam's sin, has been repaired and restored through the obedience of Jesus Christ. Yet, the devil continues his work today, turning people against God and ensuring they do not listen or yield to His voice. The Bible says in Isaiah 59:1–2: *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."*

The gap created by sin is the root cause of life's battles. Sin entered the world when the devil was cast into it. His presence brings suffering and punishment, which are the works of his hands. Disobedience created a wide gap between God and humanity, making communication with Him difficult. Even when God speaks, humanity cannot hear, and when people cry out to God, their voices often go unheard because of the gap sin has created.

In their attempt to reconnect with God, humans have tried various means—sacrificing animals, creating idols, and establishing rituals to reach heaven. However, none of these efforts could bridge the gap because only a perfect sacrifice could cleanse humanity's sin. This perfect sacrifice was made on the cross of Calvary when the Lamb of God shed His blood for the remission of sins. This blood removed the gap between God and humanity.

When a person refuses to accept this great opportunity to reconnect with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, they become victims of the devil's activities. The devil and his hosts begin to exploit such a person, destroying their destiny and making battles an everyday occurrence in their life. A person who refuses to yield to the will of God opens themselves up to attacks, errors, and unjust punishments from the kingdom of darkness.

Though such a person may run from pillar to post in search of solutions to the battles of life, help will not come until they have a divine encounter with the Lord. This divine encounter is the point where the gap between God and humanity is removed, and a person becomes a friend of God. He then becomes their protector, standing as a wall of defense against any intruder.

Until the gap between God and humanity is closed, things may not work as they ought. This reconciliation is only possible through the blood of the Lamb of God, shed on the cross of Calvary. As the Bible declares:

"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity..." — Habakkuk 1:13

As long as a person fails to find Christ Jesus, the eyes of the Lord will remain closed toward them, and His hand will not deliver them from the battles of life. However, at the point of a fresh encounter with Christ, the way out of life's battles is revealed, with the assurance of a glorious life both here and in eternity.

The moment we have a fresh encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, sin—which the blood of bulls, goats, or other animals could not cleanse—is automatically washed away. Humanity is no longer under the manipulation and control of the devil.

Life and the battles within it are inseparable. As long as the devil roams this world, battles will persist. Yet, those who know their God will achieve great exploits amidst life's challenges. Were it not for the grace we have found in Christ Jesus, the devil would have molested, enslaved, and destroyed countless lives without escape. But we thank God for the grace and mercy we have received through the blood of Jesus, which grants us victory over the works of the devil. With Christ by our side, we are more than conquerors.

"Only those 'kept by the Lord' can escape the battles of life."

As long as heaven and earth remain, battles will persist until the day of the Lord. To be among those whose names are recorded in heaven for divine protection, our lives must be acceptable to God—not through self-righteousness or religious practices, but by living according to His will. Self-righteousness cannot guarantee safety from the devil, nor can it justify us before God's throne of mercy. As the Bible states, *"Our righteousness is as filthy rags before the Lord."*

A person who lives in Christ is justified. Their past iniquities and transgressions are forgotten, and they become a new creation: *"Old things are passed away; behold, all things become new."* God no longer sees the sinner—the murderer, fornicator, or thief—but rather the image of Christ in the redeemed person. This transformation is

exactly what happens at the transition to glory. A person who dies in Christ enters heaven by the power of Christ's redemption. They are justified and made righteous through His righteousness.

Those who live and die in Christ will rise to eternal glory, transcending from death to everlasting joy. However, those who live and die in the ways of the world will face eternal damnation.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." — John 3:36

The Inevitability of Life's Battles

It is impossible to live in this world without encountering battles. Amid life's storms, humanity acknowledges the greatness of God. As Job says:

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble."
— Job 14:1

Yet, in the face of life's troubles, there is one assurance:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." — John 16:33

Though battles are inevitable, peace is also assured in the midst of the storm—when Christ is by our side. In Him, we find confidence to navigate life’s challenges. Without Christ, the vision of the future, both here and in eternity, remains blurred and uncertain.

Life is filled with unexplainable events and experiences that can be categorized into different types of battles:

1. Battles with the Unknown (Unforeseen Battles)
2. **Foundational Battles** (Inherited or Generational Battles)
3. Environmental Battles
4. Family Battles
5. Battles with Acquaintances
6. Self-Acquired or Self-Imposed Battles

Each battle originates from a specific source, and the type of battle determines the weapon needed to overcome it. Ultimately, however, victory can only be found in Christ Jesus through His death on the cross of Calvary.

The Battle against Sin

The first and most critical battle to fight and conquer is the battle against sin, which originates from the flesh, the world, and the devil. The only weapon to conquer sin is the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross of Calvary. This battle must be fought and won before

addressing any other battle in life. Once a person is free from the power of sin, they can face other battles with the assurance of victory.

Without a genuine encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, deliverance from life's battles is impossible. Though temporary relief may come from other sources, it will not last. Many people seek solutions to life's battles in various places, but in the long run, they return to the same struggles.

The only lasting solution to the battles of life is found in Christ Jesus. As He said:

"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

For instance When dealing with foundational battles, seeking refuge outside the will and love of God in Christ Jesus will only worsen the situation. solving the problem, with such approach will only compounds it, creating new strongholds and laying faulty foundations for future generations.

Foundational battles stem from the actions and inactions of ancestors. In life, one either solves the problems created by those who came before or creates more problems for those who follow.

Christ is the only sure foundation upon which life can be built to ensure stability and hope for eternity.

The Scripture declares:

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;" — 1 Corinthians 3:11-12

Building on the solid rock of Christ ensures stability regardless of life's challenges and provides hope for eternal life. To build on this foundation, you must surrender all to God in Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to take full control of your life. This guarantees a foundation that can withstand the tests of time for both you and the generations to come.

The Constant Presence of Life's Battles

As long as there is day and night, as long as time and seasons exist, and as long as the devil roams the earth, battles will persist until Christ returns. But the good news is this: there is a Savior who is always ready to deliver.

Battles can arise from any angle, through anyone, and for anyone. However, one certainty remains: God is able to deliver, no matter where the battle originates. Victory is assured when the Lord is by

your side. The key is to acknowledge Him in all your ways, as Proverbs 3:6 states:

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

The Power of Light over Darkness

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can dispel it. The world is filled with darkness, and the battles of life stem from this pervasive darkness. The only way to overcome this is through the light of Christ Jesus. Jesus Himself declared:

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." — John 8:12

The only escape from the darkness dominating the world is found in Christ Jesus. Any alternative route leads to destruction. Attempting to use darkness to chase out darkness only intensifies the darkness and compounds the battles, creating a legal ground for future troubles.

Even the smallest glimpse of light forces darkness to retreat. Similarly, life outside Christ is full of darkness and confusion. A fresh encounter with the light of God—through Christ—is the only way to experience true illumination.

Becoming the Light of the World

When you encounter the Lord, His light transforms you, allowing you to illuminate the paths of others and fulfill your God-given purpose. As the Scripture says:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." —
Matthew 5:14

This transformation occurs through God's glory reflected in your life. It is this glory that enables you to shine as a star in this world and in the world to come. Fresh encounters with the Lord grant the grace to become the light. As John 3:19 notes:

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Until a person encounters the Lord, they walk in darkness. Their ways, deeds, and everything about them remain under the influence of darkness. But a fresh encounter with the Lord, coupled with a commitment to walk uprightly with Him, turns an individual into a mysterious wonder, even in the midst of life's battles.

Victory through Walking with the Lord

When you walk with the Lord, the battles of life are brought under your feet. You become the light of the world, and your desires and aspirations align with God's will. As 1 John 2:6 says:

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

Walking with the Lord enables you to live in the Spirit, leaving no room for the lusts of the flesh or the pride of life. Only the will of the Father will remain in you.

I pray that you will experience a fresh encounter with the Lord and walk in His light, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

5

CHAPTER

Wealth and Riches



"Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all."

—1 Chronicles 29:12

Riches and wealth are resources that enhance life, providing stability and comfort. Without them, life can feel incomplete. While mere existence does not depend entirely on wealth, true riches bring peace to the soul and support a life free from presumptuous sin.

Without sufficient resources, even a devoted Christian might resort to dishonesty or compromise their values just to meet basic needs.

Poverty often brings frustration and can lead to moral failures. Scripture reminds us that "the love of money is the root of all evil," but it is equally true that a lack of basic necessities can cause people to deviate from their faith. Money, therefore, serves as a vehicle for sustaining the gospel and meeting human needs.

Poverty is not limited to material lack. The most significant form of poverty is the poverty of ideas and good deeds. To remain in poverty without seeking a way out reflects a lack of the wisdom necessary for change. As Ecclesiastes 7:12 says, "For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense: but the Excellency of knowledge is that, wisdom giveth life to them that have it."

To rise above poverty, one must acquire the excellency of knowledge and the wisdom that leads to true riches. Money, though essential, must not overshadow our commitment to salvation. Without money, life becomes challenging, and even our service to God may suffer setbacks. However, salvation—the gift of eternal life—is immeasurably more valuable than wealth. As Jesus said, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

God First: The Priority of a Balanced Life

Since life's journey and the race to eternity are inseparable, and money serves as a necessary tool, it is vital to balance our spiritual

and material pursuits. How can we live holy lives while striving to earn a living without disappointing God?

Understanding the hierarchy of life's priorities is key: God must always come first. Whatever your pursuits, plans, or goals, ensure they align with His will. If something does not glorify God, it is not worth pursuing. This mindset reflects the fear of God, which is the foundation of wisdom. As Proverbs 9:10 states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

The fear of God acts as a bridle, guiding and restraining us from actions that would dishonor Him. Amid the hustle and bustle of life, this reverence keeps us grounded. The Bible commands us to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

The School of Salvation

Repentance is the first step in the journey of salvation. As a student in the "school of salvation," certain attributes and disciplines must accompany you to ensure you stay in the course. The ultimate goal is the kingdom of God, and the reward is the crown of glory. These attributes include:

1. **Faith:** Trust in God's promises even when circumstances seem dire.

2. **Patience:** Persevere in trials and maintain hope for better days.
3. **Wisdom:** Seek knowledge that leads to good decisions and aligns with God's will.
4. **Contentment:** Learn to appreciate what you have while striving for growth.
5. **Generosity:** Share your blessings with others, knowing that true riches are measured by what we give, not just what we have.

By prioritizing these values, you can navigate life's challenges with integrity and purpose, ensuring that wealth and riches serve God's glory rather than detracting from it.

The first attribute that must accompany your conversion in the school of salvation is the **fear of God**. Where there is no fear of God, people indulge their desires recklessly, disregarding how their actions impact others. But where the fear of God reigns, integrity prevails. What God says matters more than what one might gain through unchecked actions. As Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 states:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Reverence for God, obedience, and accountability are essential elements that must define a believer's life. Unfortunately, these are absent in the lives of many who claim to have encountered the Lord. When you see believers serving God with a nonchalant or careless attitude, it is a sign of the absence of the fear of God.

When someone in a position of power misappropriates what does not belong to them, or when a person tampers with just measures for personal gain, it reflects a lack of fear of God.

True Encounter with the Lord

A true encounter with the Lord transforms an individual's lifestyle, attitude, and pursuits. No one who has truly been to the cross will live solely for themselves. Those who have been crucified with Christ carry God's presence, evidenced by their reverence and awe of Him.

The fear of God is the constant awareness of His presence, even when no one is watching or monitoring your actions. It is impossible to live in the consciousness of God's presence and yet misbehave in the presence of man.

Conversely, the absence of the fear of God leads to pride, where individuals elevate themselves to positions of authority over others due to wealth, power, or social standing.

Contentment

Another critical element of the school of salvation is **contentment**. Without it, people constantly chase perishable goods, often at the expense of eternal glory. Contentment fosters focus, self-discipline, and sanctification regarding material things.

The Bible emphasizes this in 1 Timothy 6:6-7:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

Understanding this principle early ensures a healthier perspective on earthly possessions. Material wealth is a significant stumbling block for many, even among believers. Lack of contentment breeds greed, leading to the desire for what does not belong to you.

Two major stumbling blocks in the pursuit of wealth are:

1. **Covetousness** in seeking to gain wealth.
2. **Lack of contentment**, which manifests as pride and selfishness after acquiring riches.

These two forces often draw people away from God. As the Bible warns in 1 Timothy 6:17:

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

Service to Heaven

Earthly possessions are tools for serving God. When you understand this, you'll realize that material wealth is meant for God's glory, not for personal display or oppression of others.

This truth is evident in our giving—our tithes and offerings in service to the Lord. Under the Old Testament law, God required ten percent of one's possessions (Malachi 3:10). In the New Testament, under the dispensation of grace, God requires **everything**—a hundred percent of your:

- **Time:** Your moments and opportunities belong to Him.
- **Possessions:** Your wealth, money, and properties are for His service.
- **Life:** Total submission to His will.

Everything we have ultimately belongs to God and is given to us as a means to render good service to Him.

In the **Old Testament**, tithes were brought to the temple, constituting 10% of a person's possessions. These tithes were designated for the priests and Levites. However, in the **New**

Testament, believers brought all they had to the feet of the apostles, emphasizing collective responsibility in the service of heaven.

Today, what you bring to the Lord belongs not just to the pastor or minister but to the entire body of Christ. The church is a steward of these resources, ensuring equitable distribution among its members and beyond. Sadly, the modern church often falls short in fulfilling this biblical principle. For a deeper exploration of this topic, refer to the book titled *My Service*.

Our lives are intended for God's glory. As the Bible says:

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

— 1 Timothy 6:17-19

God entrusts wealth to us so we can act as custodians, using it to answer prayers, help the needy, and glorify His name. As Isaiah 43:21 declares:

"This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise."

Custodians of God's Blessings

Everything we have—our lives, wealth, education, and time—is meant to glorify God. To serve Him truthfully and righteously, we must recognize this fundamental truth. As ambassadors of heaven, we are entrusted with blessings to distribute justly, as God desires.

To fulfill this responsibility, we need a clear understanding of these facts:

1. **No one truly owns anything.**
2. We are merely caretakers for a period before someone else takes over.
3. **We determine our eternal outcomes.**
4. Our actions, both on earth and hereafter, are shaped by our choices and relationship with God.
5. **Man's nature is inherently flawed.**
6. Without encountering the Lord, selfishness, pride, and arrogance dominate our actions. Only through a fresh encounter with God can our nature be transformed, allowing us to render acceptable service to heaven.

The Necessity of a Fresh Encounter

To serve God with your possessions in a manner that is acceptable to Him, you must first have a **fresh encounter** with the Lord.

Without this encounter, service becomes self-centered, driven by a desire for recognition or praise. The Bible reminds us that:

"All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." – Isaiah 64:6

The light of God at the point of encounter refines a person, aligning them with God's will. It transforms life into a tool of service for heaven. Without this transformation, all good deeds remain mere moral obligations, governed by societal expectations and the law of sowing and reaping. Such deeds, however noble, have no eternal value if Christ is absent from a person's life.

Service with Eternal Value

After a fresh encounter, the service you render takes on eternal significance. While it still adheres to the principle of sowing and reaping, it carries the assurance of heavenly rewards. Without Christ, all efforts to please humanity amount to personal righteousness, which cannot justify a person before God.

As Romans 12:1 states:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

True service flows from a regenerated heart and a life renewed by the thirst for righteousness. This is the essence of reasonable service to God—service that glorifies Him and ensures eternal rewards.

6

CHAPTER

God's Plan for Humanity



Genesis 1:26-30

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

God's original plan for humanity was to establish mankind as His representatives on earth—ambassadors of heaven entrusted with dominion over all creation. Just as an ambassador represents their home nation in a foreign land, humanity was designed to represent God's kingdom on earth.

Humanity as God's Representatives

Man was created in God's image, endowed with His essence, and equipped with the mind of God. Humanity's role included:

- **Dominion** over creation.
- **Fellowship** with God, dwelling constantly in His presence.
- **Stewardship** of the earth, ensuring the care and flourishing of God's handiwork.

As a representative of God, man was not meant to experience suffering, lack, or hardship. The earth was designed to serve humanity, just as humanity was created to glorify God.

God's Plan for Abundance

God's original intention was for man to enjoy the fullness of His blessings, including:

- **Power**
- **Fruitfulness**
- **Authority**
- **Immortality**

Man was meant to reign as a king over creation, reflecting God's glory. Sin, however, disrupted this divine blueprint, introducing suffering, poverty, and hardship.

The Impact of Sin

Man's disobedience, prompted by lust, pride, and a lack of discipline, caused him to fall from his exalted position. As James 1:14-15 reveals:

"Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Genesis 3:6 illustrates this with the fall of Adam and Eve:

"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat."

Sin introduced:

- **Separation from God:** Sin shattered the fellowship between man and God.
- **Shame and Fear:** The fall brought disgrace and fear into the human experience.
- **Hardship and Suffering:** Man was now subject to toil, pain, and struggles for survival.

Sin: The Barrier between Man and God

Sin is the root cause of humanity's estrangement from God. As Habakkuk 1:13 states:

"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity."

While man's sinful nature gravitates toward iniquity, God's holiness rejects it. This chasm between humanity and God disrupted His original plan for man's dominion and harmony.

Redemption through Christ

Despite the fall, God's plan for humanity includes redemption. Through Jesus Christ, the damage caused by sin is repaired, and the barrier separating man from God is removed.

Romans 5:12 explains:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Christ's sacrifice restores humanity's relationship with God, providing

an opportunity to return to the original purpose: stewardship, dominion, and fellowship with the Creator.

The Segments of God's Plan

God's plan for humanity can be understood in two phases:

1. **Creation:** Humanity was created to have dominion, replenish the earth, and live in unbroken fellowship with God.
2. **Redemption:** After the fall, God implemented a plan of salvation through Jesus Christ to redeem mankind from sin and restore His original design.

The Consequences of Sin

The entrance of sin into the world had devastating effects, including:

1. **Separation from God:** Man was expelled from God's presence.
2. **Suffering and Hardship:** Pain, sorrow, and struggles became part of human life.
3. **Loss of Authority:** Sin stripped man of his dominion and dignity.
4. **Spiritual Death:** Sin introduced death, both physical and spiritual.

Sin has robbed humanity of its joy, peace, and freedom, turning man into a wanderer in the very world he was meant to rule.

God's Ongoing Plan for Humanity

Through Christ, God invites humanity to return to Him. His plan is for every individual to:

- **Live in His presence.**
- **Enjoy His blessings.**
- **Fulfill their role as stewards and ambassadors of heaven.**

The Bible reminds us of our ultimate purpose:

"This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise." – Isaiah 43:21

By aligning with God's plan, humanity can once again experience the joy, abundance, and fellowship for which it was created.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, humanity was given the ultimate pathway to conquer sin and restore its relationship with God. The wall of separation between God and man, erected by sin, was removed at Golgotha. By connecting with Christ—the Man of Calvary—the sting of sin is eradicated, and believers are restored to the intimacy with God that Adam enjoyed before the fall.

God's Plan of Redemption

God's original plan of communion and stewardship was disrupted by sin, but His second plan, the **Plan of Redemption**, was set into motion. This plan was perfected through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who became the bridge that reconnects humanity with God.

Isaiah 53:5-6 reminds us of the cost of this redemption:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

The Journey to Calvary

The crucifixion of Jesus was not an afterthought but a divine orchestration to rescue humanity from self-destruction. As **John 3:16** 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."

Jesus' sacrifice reconciled humanity with God, erasing the punishment of sin and granting access to eternal life. This redemption plan supersedes all other plans and purposes for humanity.

The Importance of Fresh Encounter

To fully experience God's purpose for your life, you must have a fresh encounter with Christ. This encounter:

- Removes the sting of sin.
- Restores communion with God.
- Enables spiritual discovery and renewal.
- It give knowledge of God's will in the race to eternity

Without redemption, man remains a "lone ranger," vulnerable to depression, confusion, and spiritual defeat. But through Christ, believers overcome these challenges and walk in victory.

Romans 3:25 emphasizes the importance of faith in Christ's redemptive work:

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."

Redemption Unlocks Divine Blessings

The redemptive work of Christ is the foundation upon which all of God's blessings are accessed. While general blessings like food, shelter, and health are available to all, eternal blessings are reserved for those who embrace the plan of redemption.

Matthew 6:33 underscores this principle:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Without redemption, no amount of earthly success can substitute for the eternal blessings that flow from a restored relationship with God.

The Culmination of Redemption: Christ's Second Coming

While God's plans for individuals vary—be it to become leaders, innovators, or ministers—they are all anchored in the overarching plan of redemption. The ultimate fulfillment of God's plan is in Christ's second coming, where all of creation will be reconciled to Him.

Genesis 8:22 reminds us of God's unchanging purpose:

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Even as seasons and times continue, God's goodwill toward humanity remains steadfast. However, His ultimate plan culminates in the Rapture, where believers will experience the fullness of redemption.

No Excuse for Missing Redemption

God has provided every opportunity for humanity to embrace His plan of redemption. The gospel has been preached, and Christ's sacrifice remains an open invitation. Refusing this gift is a personal choice with eternal consequences.

John 14:6 states unequivocally:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The Birth of Christ: A Divine Seal of Redemption

The birth of Jesus Christ marked the fulfillment of God's concealed plan to redeem humanity. God, in His infinite wisdom and omnipotence, orchestrated this plan without revealing it to the rulers and spiritual forces of this world. As the scriptures declare:

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." — **1 Corinthians 2:7-8**

This profound mystery was revealed through Christ's birth, paving the way for humanity to be saved from eternal damnation. It

signifies God's unending love and commitment to restoring mankind to His original plan of communion and righteousness.

The New Birth in Jesus Christ

While every person is born physically with a "birthday," the journey to salvation requires a **spiritual rebirth**—a "new birth" in Christ. This spiritual birth is the day one dies to the world and begins a new life in Christ Jesus.

The Analogy of Two Births and Two Deaths

- **Born Once, Die Twice:** Those who only experience physical birth will face both physical death and eternal separation from God (the second death).
- **Born Twice, Die Once:** Those who experience both physical birth and spiritual rebirth will only face physical death, escaping eternal damnation.

The new birth is not about religious activities, family heritage, or good deeds. It is about having a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and living a life that reflects genuine salvation.

Misconceptions about Salvation

Many people mistake religious affiliations or activities for evidence of salvation. Here are common misconceptions:

1. **Born into a Christian family:** Salvation is not hereditary.
2. **Father is a pastor or bishop:** Your lineage does not guarantee a place in heaven.
3. **Bearing biblical names:** Names like Peter, Ruth, or John do not equal salvation.
4. **Growing up in church:** Proximity to church activities does not equate to being born again.
5. **Exercising spiritual gifts:** Manifesting gifts is not a guarantee of salvation.
6. **Contributions to church work:** Financial giving or regular attendance does not secure a place in heaven.
7. **Familiarity with spiritual leaders:** Recognition by humans does not translate to approval by God.

Salvation is solely through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Evidence of New Birth

True salvation is marked by:

1. **A genuine encounter with Christ:** You must have a personal story of how you came to know Jesus.
2. **Transformation through the Holy Spirit:** This results in the manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

3. **A life of righteousness:** Abiding in Christ is the evidence of true salvation.

Without an encounter, you may exhibit spiritual gifts, but the fruits of the Spirit, which signify true transformation, will not manifest.

The Sole Path to Salvation

The Bible clearly states:

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." —

Acts 4:12

Jesus is not one of many ways to salvation; He is the **only way**. Choosing Christ is the most important decision anyone can make while alive.

Isaiah 64:6 reminds us of the futility of self-righteousness:

"All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."

The Reality of Eternal Rewards

Acknowledging Christ while alive leads to eternal life, but rejecting Him results in eternal damnation. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) highlights this truth:

- The rich man realized too late the consequences of a life without God.
- Lazarus, who lived a life of faith, was comforted in Abraham's bosom.

This underscores the urgency of accepting Christ now:

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." — **2 Corinthians 6:2**

A Prayer for Salvation

If you desire to experience the power of God and secure your eternal destiny, say this prayer with sincerity:

"Lord Jesus, I come to You today as a sinner. Have mercy on me and wash me with Your precious blood. I accept You as my Lord and personal Savior. Take control of my life and lead me in Your path of righteousness. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

7

CHAPTER

Prayer for a Fresh Encounter



Regardless of what you desire in life, the **prayer of encounter** has the power to bring it into manifestation.

- Do you desire to live a holy life?
- Are you struggling with a habit you long to break?
- Are you facing difficulties in any area of your life?
- Do you need unparalleled favor and breakthrough?
- Do you want to live a purposeful, meaningful life?
- Are you tired of the unending battles and challenges of life?
- Do you long to be actively involved in the work of God?
- Do you want to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ?
- Do you desire freedom from the power of sin?

- Do you want to have dominion over life's situations and rule as a king in your generation?

Whatever your desire may be—and above all, if you long to live according to God's will and the divine blueprint of heaven, so that you may inherit the Kingdom of God in the life after—if your answer to any of the above is **yes**, then it is time to **pray your way into victory**.

Make these confessions loud and clear:

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary."

— *Psalm 63:1-2*

"Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence."

— *Isaiah 64:1*

"And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be

gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."

— *Exodus 33:18-19*

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

— *Jeremiah 33:3*

Pray the following prayers

1. Thank you lord for given me the grace to be a partaker of your eternal glory in the name of Jesus
2. Anything in me that is hidden the face of God from me be remove now by the power in the name of Jesus
3. O' Lord open my spiritual eyes, ears and heart to see and hear you clearly, so to stare clear from unprofitable works of the devil in the name of Jesus
4. Quicken my spirit o'lord to run away from sins that bend to lead me to unpardonable error that would deprive me of eternal life in the name of Jesus
5. I sharpen my spiritual vision with the fire of Holy Ghost to connect to the throne of grace by the power in the blood of Jesus

6. My life hear the voice of the Lord be align with the will of God by the authority in the name of Jesus
7. Anything in my life or in my foundation that has made me a deaf and dumb, visionless Christian, Blood of Jesus flush them out in the name of Jesus
8. O'lord show me the knowledge of your will on every area of my life in the name of Jesus
9. O'lord give me the grace to know your will and live according to your will in the name of Jesus
10. The death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus will not be in vain over my life in the name of Jesus
11. My divine appointment for fresh encounter with the lord will not be terminated by the power in the blood of Jesus
12. My life will not be a deficit to heaven, I will be a gain to heaven and also fruitful in every good works in the name of Jesus
13. My life will be profitable to my Lord Jesus also be profitable to me in the name of Jesus
14. My race to eternity will not end in shame and disgrace in the name of Jesus
15. Fire of revival like the day of old fall upon me now fresh encounter in the name of Jesus
16. Lord Jesus let your word have a root in my life

17. Every Adamic nature in me that is waging war against my spiritual growth die by the power in the blood of Jesus
18. O' lord open my spiritual understanding to know your will in my journey in life in the name of Jesus
19. The power of sin will not have dominion over me, I will not be subjected under the grip of ruler of darkness by the authority in name of Jesus
20. Lord Jesus give me the grace the live the life that is pleasant to you, and power to obey the voice of Holy Spirit always in the name of Jesus
21. I possess the nature of God which is in Christ Jesus to rule over sins and power of darkness in the name of Jesus
22. Divine encounter to overcome the power of sin overshadow my life in the name of Jesus
23. Lord Jesus by your mercy give me the grace to have a personal encounter with you in the name of Jesus
24. Spirit of newness in Christ Jesus regenerate in my life by the power in the blood of Jesus
25. By the resurrection power of Lord Jesus I decree fresh encounter with lord Jesus to (mention the name of person) that you want to the Lord to be save, or your family, friend, anyone that you know who practice religion but yet to have encounter with lord for genuine salvation ,

26. I will not desire what will take away my salvation, I will not be trap with the beauty and substance of this world in the name of Jesus
27. My earthly pursuit will not stand as a setback to my heavenly goal in the name of Jesus
28. Gold and silver of this world will not replace my crown of glory by the power in name of Jesus
29. My earthly desire and pursuits will not send me to early grave, and I will not trade my salvation with gold and silver of this world the power in the blood of Jesus
30. Hell fire will not be final destination at the end of my race on earth, in the name of Jesus
31. I will not fall by the way side in my journey to eternity, the crown of life will be my lot at the last triumph in the name of Jesus
32. I take dominion over all the creations and I command everything created by God to begin to work in my favor in the name of Jesus
33. My earthly desire will not turn me to enemy of God in the name of Jesus
34. Heaven will not be disappointed over my life, I will not bring shame of the name of the Lord in the name of Jesus

35. My life will not bring shame to the name of the lord rather the name of the lord will glory through my life and earthly pursuit in the name of Jesus
36. Heaven will not be disappointed over my life,
37. The lord will be glorify in me in the n name of Jesus
38. IF there anyone that you know but are yet to give their live to Christ, whatever religion they practice please pray thus for them, if possible for you to fast, please do and ask the lord to give them fresh encounter so that they will be deliver from religion spirit and come to the knowledge of Christ
39. O, Lord as Paul had encountered with you on his way to Damascus, let (mention their name) have a fresh encounter with you so that he/she will be save in the name of Jesus
40. Let the fire of salvation pass through the life of (mention the name of the person here) in the name of Jesus
41. I will not take any decision that will take my life and send me to hell in the name of Jesus
42. Every negative decision I have taken in the past that have open my life into battle, mercy in the blood of Jesus deliver me in the name of Jesus
43. Presence of darkness within and around me scatter by the authority in name of Jesus
44. I resist the devil in every area of my life in the name of Jesus

45. I resist the devil in my marriage, in my calling and ministries,
and in my entire life by the power in the blood of Jesus
46. O' lord if my ways is going contrary to your will redirect me
by your mercy in the name of Jesus
47. Battle of life assigned to drag me to hell fire, receive divine
48. Every invisible hand create attacking my destiny with
strange battles of life wither by the authority the dry off the
hand of jeroboam
49. Every battle I brought upon myself as a result of
carelessness and inability to listen to the voice of Holy Spirit
mercy in the blood of Jesus deliver now in the name of Jesus
50. I overcome the power of sins by the authority in the blood
of Jesus,
51. My spirit, soul and body begin to yield to the voice of Holy
Spirit and begin to rebel against voice of the Satan and the
world in the name of Jesus
52. O' lord let your presence abide with me always and let every
presence of darkness within and around me disappear in the
mighty name of Jesus
53. Light of God shine on my path and let every darkness on
my way disappear in the name of Jesus
54. My life begin to showcase the light and glory of God
everywhere you go in the name of Jesus

55. I am victorious through the power of Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus
56. O' lord decorate my life with heavenly riches and earthly fortune to make my race and service to you easy in the name of Jesus
57. Every spirit of poverty following me about receive coal of fire burn down to ashes in the might name of Jesus
58. Seed of poverty in my foundation catch fire and burn down to ashes in the name of Jesus
59. Evil hand sponsoring poverty in my life dry off now by the power in the name of Jesus
60. Anointing of prosperity fall upon me now in the mighty name of Jesus
61. Christ was made poor, so that I can be rich therefore I claim my heritage in Christ Jesus as a kingdom heir and a lender to the nation in the mighty name of Jesus
62. I rise above poverty and lack, the abundant of seas and wealth of the gentiles are all deposited in my bosom in the mighty name of Jesus
63. Devourers assigned against my effort to make me poor I kill you now by the fire of Holy Ghost in the mighty name of Jesus

64. Wasters assigned against my resources to keep me in the school of poverty be destroyed now by the fire of Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus
65. Spirit of poverty living inside me and my home be destroy now by the power in the blood of Jesus
66. I rise above poverty line by the power of Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus
67. It is written, who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed, Isaiah 53:1 ... for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my father which is in heaven Mathew 16:17b,O, LORD reveal yourself as the savior of the word, to (mention the name of the person) and let them see the light of salvation so that will be free from grip religion practice without salvation in the name of Jesus
68. Presence of darkness within and around me that is hindering me from living a holy life and the life that glorify God, I command you to scatter by the authority in the name of Jesus
69. I resist the devil in every area of life by the power in blood of Jesus
70. O'Lord let my will be align with your will, your desire and plan be my guiding light in the name of Jesus

71. O' lord give me discerning spirit to see and understand beyond physical, to have an edge over the device of the devil in my race to eternity in the name of Jesus
72. O,lord let your hand and your presence abide with me always, and give me the grace to live according to your will
73. Every gap between me and my God which was created by sin be close now by the power in the blood of Jesus
74. O; lord hide me under the shadow of your wings and protect me from the range of the wicked in the name of Jesus
75. Keep me in the hollow of your hand o;lord and let your eyes be upon me for good in the name Jesus
76. O,lord make me the light of the world to destroy the work of the devil in the name of Jesus
77. I am victorious through the power of the cross of Jesus Christ in the name of Jesus
78. Lord, let your hand be upon me for good and keep me at the center of your will in the name of Jesus
79. I close every gap between me and my lord Jesus which sin as created by the power in the blood of Jesus
80. I close every gap between where am presently and where God as predestined me to be by the power in the blood of Jesus

81. I close every gap between me and my destiny helpers in the name of Jesus
82. Every known and unknown battles in my life received coal of fire and expire now I n the name of Jesus