

Bible Study Vol. 4 - Last Sermon of Jesus



Be AN Overcomer

Moses Soo

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AN
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Introduction

Last Sermon of Jesus

An Overcoming Christian

The establishment of the New Covenant was officiated by His first holy communion with His disciples, the covenant of His blood to be shed on the cross.

Our Lord Jesus reiterated the only, easy and simple approach in becoming overcoming Christians; believe Him by keeping His word.

He had completed His perfect work of salvation and glorification on the cross. After His resurrection, He gifted them with the Holy Spirit of Redemption. In addition, He also gave them the Spirit of truth to help sanctify them and the Spirit of Christ to help transform them into perfection.

True Humility

John 13:5 *After that, He poured water into a basin and **began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.***

Our Lord showed humility by washing the feet of His disciples. Are you ready to emulate this act of humility?

True Love for Brethren

John 13:34 *A new commandment I give to you, **that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.***

Jesus died for us! Are you willing to help and lay down your life for our brethren? If your answer is yes, then we have truly loved.

True Anointing

John 14:15-17a,26 *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He*

*may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

Do you want the greatest teacher that no amount of wealth can buy to be your personal aide? Keep His commandments.

True Empowering

*John 16:13-14 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

With the truth in us, we will be able to overcome all bondages, deceptions, temptations and heresies of the evil one.

True Glorification

*John 17:22-23 And **the glory which You gave Me I have given them**, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

Once we have kept His words, the Spirit of Christ transforms us into His image. Glorification ascends us to be seated on His throne as His sons or as the bride of the Lamb.

*Rev 3:21 **To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

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LS01 Humility and Servanthood

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

*John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, **having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.***

Before His impending death, and out of His dying love for us, our Lord gave His ultimate instructions to His disciples, We must obey them at all cost since it is the route to His blessings, peace, security, abundant lives, protections, and eternal rewards.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can discern His teachings in John 13-16. With that, we can gauge our present spiritual conditions and turn from our worldly ways to be led by the Holy Spirit by keeping His words.

*Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but **made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.** And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.***

Jesus, the Almighty God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth humbled Himself by being born in the stable among animals and became an obedient servant sentenced to death.

John 13:5-7 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

He demonstrated His servanthood once again by washing His disciples' feet. Before anything else, are we willing to lower ourselves to serve others? Brethren, bring yourselves down to the level of your friends, employees, sheep, poor brethren and children to enjoy their fellowship and you will be surprised at how God will bless you with His peace, joy and comfort.

The moment we crucify our old man through humility, our spiritual man will be able to manifest His gifts, empowerment and anointing thus bringing glory to His Name.

*John 13:13-15,17 "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. **If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you... If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."*

*Mat 20:26-28 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but **whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.** And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

LS02 A New Commandment

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 13:34 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*

Mat 22:37-40 *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

Our Lord told us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Lev 19:18 *"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."*

Loving our neighbours as ourselves is also included in the old commandment.

1 John 2:7 *Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.*

What is this new commandment?

1 John 2:8 *Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.*

The wicked Jews who dwelled in darkness abused the old commandment by making excuses. The priests and the Levites in the parable of the good Samaritan assumed that if one was starving, one could survive on wheat alone. So it is reasonable to give a starving family only one kg of wheat! Is this how much I love myself?

So when the true Light comes, this darkness will disappear. After our Lord had suffered and died for mankind, He repeated this new commandment to us.

*John 15:12-13 “This is My commandment, **that you love one another as I have loved you.** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”*

Brethren, we have to love one another as our Lord Jesus loved us. He was lashed thirty nine times for our healing and died on the cross for our propitiation. Out of His great love for us, He suffered and died. Please see the love of Jesus in ‘Passion of the Christ’, as an example for us to follow. We too, can show our love to our brethren, by suffering and dying for one another.

What is Love?

1Cor 13:4-8a Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...

LS03

True Discipleship

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Our Lord stated that when we love one another as He had loved us, then all, including Christians, will believe that we are truly His disciples. This is the beginning of a revival.

Acts 2:7-11 *Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."*

The disciples were astounded that Jews from the four corners of the earth were hearing the gospel in their own language, from where they came from.

Acts 2:41-42,44-47 *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

When the disciples saw that thousands were saved, they were filled with so much joy that they gave up everything they owned.

Acts 4:13-14 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

Even the priesthood marvelled at those uneducated fishermen disciples of Jesus, who preached fearlessly and performed miracles.

Acts 4:32-35 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

Our Lord Jesus knew that at His death, His disciples' faith would be badly shaken. They witnessed first-hand how the crippled walked, the blind saw, the deaf heard, the dead resurrected and they believed that He is the Son of God. Their misconception led them to believe that the Messiah was the king who would deliver Israel.

Therefore, it was preposterous that an immortal God could suffer and even die eventually. The disciples' hope and dreams died along with Jesus on that day.

The truth is, God did not die. The flesh that God came in must suffer, for by His stripes we are healed; and then killed, for by His death we are redeemed.

Regrettably, His disciples believed only what they saw for to them 'seeing is believing'. Disoriented, His disciples, including Peter went back to fishing.

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

'You believe in God'

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb of God.

John 1:35-36 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

'You also believe in Me'

Mat 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Our Lord constantly reminded His disciples that as the sacrificial Lamb of God, He must suffer many things and then be killed, and on the third day, He would resurrect.

Mat 20:18-19 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."

Our Lord was trying to raise their faith level by telling them things to come so that they could believe.

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Brethren, we must not be like the heathens or those without the Helper or Spirit of truth, who could only believe what they see. Let us move on to the next level of faith, whereby we believe the promises of God in accordance to His words and will.

LS05 Where Are You Going?

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Our Lord told His disciples that after His crucifixion, He will be with the Father in heaven. So the Roman soldiers actually helped God to fulfill His plan by sacrificing Jesus' physical body to redeem mankind. Our Lord, having completed His work on earth is now in heaven preparing a place for each one of us. This was to comfort His disciples that He was in full control of the situation.

John 14:4-5 "And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

Our Lord must be disheartened to see that Thomas and possibly His other disciples were still ignorant of the gospel; that believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God will give them eternal life in heaven. These disciples were with our Lord for three years, yet they failed to comprehend salvation. An emergency had arisen on the ground that our Lord would be betrayed that very night! How could these unlearned, naive and ignorant; possibly stupid, simple folks be expected to carry His gospel to the ends of the world? Besides, their disappointment of His death, His failure to come as the King of the Jews and the fear of persecutions and martyrdom had blinded them.

John 20:21-22 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Can you see that His disciples were only a group of simple minded, ordinary folk? Nevertheless, after the coming and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts, these same disciples were immediately transformed into knowledgeable, wise, bold and powerful preachers of His everlasting gospel of truth and grace.

Brethren, we too, can be mightily used by Him if we express our faith in Him by obeying and keeping His words and commandments.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

It is clear that Jesus is the only way to salvation and to God.

Rom 10:9 *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

When we sincerely confess Jesus as Lord, we have surrendered our lives to Him. He becomes our Lord and Master and we are then His bond servants. His every word becomes our command. The death of our Lord Jesus at Calvary had redeemed us and the Holy Spirit dwells within us as His seal of redemption (John 20:21-22).

Acts 4:11-12 *"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Rom 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

God, then becomes our Father and being His children, the devil no longer has any control or power over us since we have been delivered from Satan or the evil one.

2 Cor 13:5 *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.*

We are reminded to examine ourselves whether we are keeping His words and commandments by bearing fruits of righteousness and of the Spirit. Only then He is indeed the Lord of our lives. This

is the ultimate test of our faith in Jesus, otherwise we may be disqualified, even possibly losing our salvation, if Jesus is no longer our Lord.

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Paul kept the faith that 'Jesus is his Lord' by obeying His words, will and commandments, thus allowing Jesus to be the finisher of His faith.

Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 2:20, 26 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Brethren, try to give one hour every morning reading the NT and another hour every night the OT, so that we can complete reading the NT every month and the OT, once every three months. Then we can have a better assurance of knowing His words, commandments and will.

LS07

I Am The Truth

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

John 8:31-32,36 *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free..... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."*

If we obey and keep (abide) His word then we will know the truth, which will set us free from the flesh, worldliness, wickedness, falsehood, lies, covetousness, addictions and bad habits, fears, doubts, unbelief, deceptions and bondages.

Mark 4:34 *But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.*

All this while our Lord Himself taught His disciples, the mysteries and truth hidden in His parables.

Luke 18:28 *Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You."*

His disciples obeyed and followed Him all those years, but still they were not able to know the truth because they had not yet received the Spirit of truth (another Helper).

John 14:15-17, 26; 16:3 *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you... However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own*

authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

When we love Him (by keeping His words and commandments) at the request of our Lord Jesus, God will give us the Spirit of truth.

Acts 1:5,8 “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Our Lord instructed His disciples who loved Him, to wait until they had received the power of the Holy Spirit. So immediately after the baptism of the Holy Spirit, His disciples, having known the truth which is the knowledge and understanding of the mysteries and wisdom of God), preached the gospel boldly and fearlessly.

Brethren, when we keep His words and commandments, our Lord will baptize us with the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of truth), Who will guide and teach us the truth hidden in the words, teachings and parables of Jesus.

Note - Devout Jews (non-Christians) filled with the Holy Spirit were given the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but only those baptized in the Holy Spirit know the truth.

Acts 2:6-8 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?”

Luke 1:41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied...

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:6 *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

The Way - Baptism of Water

Whoever sincerely believes our Lord Jesus, he is a child of God and a born again (born of water) Christian. His sins are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. The Holy Spirit then dwells in his body as the seal of redemption. His water baptism signifies his acceptance of Jesus Christ as His Saviour. Whenever he is filled with the Holy Spirit, he will operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as healing, tongues, faith, prophecies, etc.

Brethren, we cannot stay as a child, but move on to maturity through the knowledge of Jesus (below)

Eph 4:11-15 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

The Truth - Baptism of Holy Spirit

Whoever obeys Jesus, He will baptize him with the Holy Spirit by completely immersing his spirit in the Holy Spirit, Who will then be able to guide and lead him into all truth. (Rom 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God*)

1 Pet 1:22-23 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

Having crucified the flesh (old man) we are now born again not only of water but also of the Spirit.

The Life - Baptism of Fire

The abundant life given by our Lord is joyful and exciting, for we always experience His presence during our testing and trials. His peace and joy, comfort us and His powers and miracles surround and protect us, but our final testing is His baptism of fire.

Mark 9:49-50 “For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

We rejoice, though we suffer great pains by helping and loving others, so that we can live in peace with them by forgiving their persecutions, reviling, etc.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

When we are offered as a living sacrifice by fire (pains caused by persecution, deceptions, lies, hatred, sickness, poverty, imprisonment, torture, martyrdom, betrayal, rejection) let our sacrifices be holy and acceptable (out of love for one another). Let us also glorify Him by joyfully accepting His painful will for us, just like our Lord Jesus joyfully endured the cross.

Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

LS09 Knowing God - Through Jesus

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:7-9 *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*

Rom 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

Brethren, just by virtue of sincerely believing Jesus as the Son of God and accepting Him as our Lord and Saviour, we are now adopted as children of God as well.

Having lived with the OA deep in the jungle, we acknowledge that they are ignorant of good hygiene. Since their houses are made of bamboo, we have to walk and sleep on the bamboo floor covered with their red spits (colour from chewing the betel nut). At night, they just remove the loose bamboo floor and relieve themselves, leaving us to suffer the foul smell of raw sewage.

When their children excrete worms, they just pull them out with their bare fingers. Having accepted the Lord and our teachings along with good food and good hygienic practices, our brethren are healthier, cleaner and happier. Many OA still gives out foul smell even with clean clothes on.

We have temporary adopted fifty OA tots who are five to ten years old for schooling. Should we allow them to continue with their unhygienic and filthy ways in their new home with us? We treat their sores, wounds and lice and also deworm them. We taught them how to use the toilet, toothbrush, soap and hygienic practices.

We feed, teach and educate them. Initially, we have to wash their excretions in the rooms, halls, walkways and even on roads! Within two to three weeks, these sickly, foul smelling tots look fresh, healthy, and most of all happy. Caring, playing and carrying these cute, clean, fragrant and cheerful OA tots is a joy and a blessing of God.

Col 1:21-23 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Brethren, since we have been adopted by God, we are now part of the family of God. To live In God's home, we have to leave behind our foul and filthy deeds of the old man (sins, pride, covetousness, hatred, deceptions, anger, wicked ways, worldliness, lies, etc.) and put on the fragrance of Christ (love, mercy, long suffering, temperance, compassion, faith, etc.) by keeping His words. Without this transformation, putting on the righteousness of Jesus by constant repentance will not cover the unhygienic and smelly, sinful nature of the old man.

How much joy will it give God, that by obeying His word, we can present ourselves holy, godly and joyful (clean, fragrant, healthy and cheerful) before Him.

LS10 Is God Filled with Humility?

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:7-9 *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*

Birth of Jesus

He was humbled for being born among the animals in the stable.

Luke 2:7,11-12 *And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn... For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."*

Word Made Flesh

Born as a bondservant in the form of a man.

Philippians 2:5-7 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

Baptized by John the Baptist

He humbled Himself to request a human bring to baptize Him.

Mat 3:13-15 *Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.*

Washed Disciples' Feet

Our Lord displayed His humility by washing His disciples' feet.

John 13:5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

Lamb of God

The Son of God humbled Himself by dying on the cross as the sacrificial Lamb to redeem mankind from their sin.

Philippians 2:8-11 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

From the above scriptures, we find that our Lord Jesus was filled with humility. Is it possible that our heavenly Father, the Almighty God and Creator of heaven and earth is also filled with humility?

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Our Almighty God will humble Himself and make the human body of anyone who loves Him and keeps His word as His home (throne or temple). He will become a friend and bondservant by living in his physical body, just like Jesus came in the flesh, so that He can teach, help, heal, protect, guide and minister to mankind.

Brethren, when we love Jesus by keeping His word, God will reveal His love and humility to us so that we can easily come before His face.

LS11

Is God Our Friend?

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:7-9 *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*

James 2:23 *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.*

Abraham and Moses were friends of God, for they believed Him and obeyed all His commands.

Gen 18:17,23-24 *And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,.. And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?"*

Abraham and Moses both talk to God as friends, and they even negotiated with God as they made their journeys to the promised land.

John 15:14-15 *"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."*

When we obey Jesus' commands, we become His friends, then He will reveal God's will, plan, work and truth to us, and we will no longer be fearful or in darkness.

John 15:7 *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."*

Brethren, as God's friends (if we obey His word), we have the privilege to talk to Him anytime, anywhere and anyhow or when His Holy Spirit impresses on us to intercede. He will always grant our requests because we ask only for good and helpful things such as wisdom, knowledge of God, truth, love for one another, peace, the Holy Spirit, riches in Christ Jesus, needs, and not the things of the world, which will lead us to covetousness, jealousy, carnality, pride, worldliness. Without repentance, our worldly desires will silently but surely destroy us.

John 16:24 "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

Mat 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

Brethren, when we pray in secret in our rooms, let us always worship our heavenly Father, the Almighty God, by bowing down to Him, for He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:7-9 *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*

John 2:13-17 *Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."*

Our Lord ensured that the temple of God, where God dwells is not defiled. Though the traders (for the convenience of the Jews from afar) were only selling oxen, sheep and doves, all meant for sacrifices to God, still, our Lord would not allow this to defile His temple.

Note - Churches and Christian missions must not be involved in any type of business, investments in banks, stocks, properties, etc. Let God bless our brethren businessmen, who make the money and offer it to God as tithes or love offerings. (Please read Mal 1:8-12)

John 2:19-21 *Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body.*

Since our physical bodies are temples of God, God will be zealous to ensure that we keep them holy otherwise He may not dwell within us. For God in us is the hope of glory.

1Cor 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Col 1:26-27 The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Col 3:8-10 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

LS13 The Father's Revelation

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:7 *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*

Jesus' disciples witnessed His numerous miracles. Healing the sick, blind, crippled and deaf, casting out demons, walking on water and raising the dead. To Him nothing was impossible. They also believed that He was the coming Messiah to deliver Israel.

Mat 16:14 *So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

Because of their deeply ingrained Jewish convictions, the Almighty God, Yahweh is esteemed as a righteous, holy but judgmental God. No sinful human having seen God could stay alive, so they could only believe Jesus as another prophet like Elijah or Moses. When our Lord taught them things that were too difficult to accept, they just abandoned Him.

John 6:66 *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.*

John 6:67-69 *Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

The twelve disciples, who followed Him and had been living together with Him in His new found family, confessed Him as 'the Son of the living God' which was revealed to them by God.

Mat 16:15-17 *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."*

Brethren, to get revelations from God, just like the twelve disciples, we need to spend as much time as possible before His presence in our quiet time. Meditate on His word while reflecting on His love, long-suffering, and deliverance for the rebellious Jews in the OT. Take heed of His warnings concerning heresies and depraved Christians in the last days, so that we are immerse ourselves in prayers of gratitude for perfecting our sinful nature to the fulfilment of His will and the advancement of His kingdom.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:7-8 *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."* Philip said to Him, *"Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."*

The Jews feared God very much, for they realized that they had not loved Him nor kept His commands. They dare not mention His Name but just YHWH because He is righteous, holy and just, the Almighty God, who quickly metes out judgment and chastisements.

Deut 11:1-2 *"Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always. Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the LORD your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm"*

Deut 28:1-2 *"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:"*

Yahweh is a God of justice, who bless those who obey His commands, but curse those who disobey Him. Since Yahweh is a righteous and just God, how can He be merciful? So the only mercy that the Jews could expect from Yahweh was possibly the reduction of chastisements for their sins.

Deut 28:15 *"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:"*

Hosea 6:6 *“For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”*

The Jews did not realize that Yahweh is all merciful, for His throne is the mercy seat and He desires mercy more than sacrifices.

Luke 23:34a *Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”*

Our Lord displayed the love and mercies of the Father on the cross. All those who know Jesus has seen the attributes of the Almighty God - merciful, compassionate, humble, righteous, faithful, upright and just.

Brethren, love God! It is by His grace that our sins are forgiven whenever we confess and repent of our iniquities. Our Lord Jesus was judged for our sins on the cross at Calvary, otherwise, hell fire awaits us! As such, we too must forgive our brethren who have sinned against us.

LS15

God Became a Man

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

Phi 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Our Almighty God relinquished all His divine authority and powers, when He incarnated into human form, called Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know"

Luke 2:21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Jesus' parents decided that He should grow up as a Jew so that Yahweh can bless Him and bring Him up. So, on the eighth day by faith, Jesus was circumcised. Just as by faith, we have our children baptized into the body of Christ.

Luke 2:39-40 So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Just like Samuel and Samson, God was with Jesus and filled Him with wisdom.

1 Sam 3:19 So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

Judges 13:24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

The only difference between Jesus and the chosen Jews lies in the fact that the Spirit of Jesus is the Spirit of God, but the others were human spirits created by God just before they were formed in the wombs.

Isaiah 44:24 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;

So, if God is still creating human spirits and has not completed His creation work, then we are still living in His sixth day of creation. (Note: the new heaven and the new earth have not been created yet.)

Gen 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Since the Hebrew language has no vowels and no tenses, the above scripture can be translated as such.

And God will bless the seventh day and will sanctify it because He will rest from all His work which He has created and made. (Had God rested after creating Adam, and if 1 creation day is taken as 1000 years, then Adam must be over 1000 years old, but Adam died at the age of only 930 years old.)

Heb 4:1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

This will be our rewards - entering His rest, we will be with the Lord forever in the new heaven and the new earth.

On the sixth day, God created all living things, Adam and Eve. If God is still creating human spirits for every new born and the coming new heaven and new earth, then one creation day can be one billion years. The hypothesis revealed that science is just a discovery of the mysteries of the creation of God such physical, chemical, thermodynamic and gravitational laws, forces, molecules, DNA, stem cells, viruses and medicine.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

Luke 1:35 *And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."*

Jesus was born a human being but His Spirit was the Holy Spirit. Since He gave up His divine powers and authorities, His Spirit is similar to that of the human spirit. Baby Jesus was circumcised (Luke 2:22) to become a Jew, so that the Holy Spirit can protect Him. Similarly, by faith when a child is baptised into the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit will protect, guide and lead him to be God fearing with godly wisdom.

Acts 16:15a *And when she (Lydia) and her household were baptized,...*

Whole households or families (must include babies and children, otherwise it will be specified) were baptized by the apostles.

Acts 16:33 *And he (jailer) took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.*

Mat 15:38 *Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.*

Isaiah 3:4-5 *"I will give children to be their princes, And babes shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, Every one by another and every one by his neighbor; The child will be insolent toward the elder, And the base toward the honorable."*

When a generation is wicked, babies and children will become rulers, especially in their homes. During these last days, children are so rebellious and disobedient that they cause great pains, sorrows and troubles in many homes. Thank God that our God fearing children (those baptized) will not be like them, for the Holy Spirit

through His word will lead them to love, honour, respect and obey their parents.

Mat 3:13,16-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him...When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

When Jesus humbled Himself to be baptized by John the Baptist, God sent the Holy Spirit (to baptize) to be with Him for He had pleased God by His obedience of humility.

Matt 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

After our Lord had overcome the temptations of Satan, He was full of the Holy Spirit for His ministry.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to perform signs and wonders in accordance to God's will.

John 7:16-17 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

God also leads Him into all truth and doctrines, and whoever sincerely wants to do God's will, he too will be able to understand His truth and doctrines.

Brethren, when we continuously obey His word, Jesus will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. If Jesus (a man and elder Brother), Who was led by the Holy Spirit could fulfil God's will, we too can be transformed into His image to do His will, if we are led by the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit.

LS17 Believe In Him Whom God Has Sent

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 6:28-29 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

A farmer's work will include clearing the land, tilling the earth, sowing the seeds, watering the seedlings until the harvest. Similarly, for those doing the work of God, they are expected to believe in Him, whom God sent until they are called home (His harvest).

James 2:17-18 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

Thus, believing is working out our faith in God. When we read the bible, we begin to understand the attributes of God, His creation, the fall of man, His deliverance and salvation. Then, it is our work to ensure that we believe these scriptures as the word of God and not just myths. If anyone thinks that creation and OT events are myths, then he is a non-believer.

Once we believe the bible is the word of God, then our work is to try to understand God's redemption plan, the sacrificial Lamb of God, the Saviour, the Baptiser of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Teacher and the Messiah so that we can believe that Jesus was the One sent by God.

Once we believe that Jesus is the Christ, then from studying the bible we will know His words, teachings, commandments, instructions, and then, it is our work to believe them by obeying them.

Brethren, it is only when we obey and kept all the words, the teachings and commandments of Jesus, that we are doing the work of God.

John 5:44-47 “How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

Anyone, who seeks the approval of men, will reject Jesus’ teachings. To satisfy the desires of worldly, carnal and covetous Christians, he will teach the distorted truth and heresies for their itching ears.

Mat 15:8-9 “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

The biggest problem today is the craze for distorted doctrines and false teachings of men, which led many to worldliness and destruction. The truth in the Word of God that leads to holiness and eternal life, is shunned by depraved and covetous pastors, Christians and Christian leaders.

LS18

The Father In Me

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:10a *"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."*

John 14:23 *"Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."*

Unless we love Jesus by keeping His word, the Father will not be with us. Our Lord Jesus kept God's word and will, so the Father was in Him.

John 10:37-38 *"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."*

Signs and wonders can only be performed by God and not by man. So, whoever consistently perform signs and wonders, then we know that the Father is in him, for the Father in him is performing all these miracles. This is different from those 'filled with the Holy Spirit' whom God uses to perform the miracle just once to meet the need.

Note - whoever is filled with the Holy Spirit, he will be given the gifts of the Holy Spirit to meet the needs then. Read 1Cor 12: 7-11

John 5:19 *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."*

However, our Lord could only perform the miracles which God wanted Him to do otherwise He could not do them.

Matt 15:24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Jesus was sent by God only to minister to the Jews, and He was not authorized to heal non-Jews.

Matt 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Out of God's mercy to the Gentiles who had great faith in Him, He gave them healing; the Centurion in Mat 8:5-13 and Naaman the leper, in 2 Kings 5:5-14). Thus, our Lord Jesus was able to heal the Canaanite's daughter and the Centurion's servant.

1 Tim 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

So when these unlearned and covetous televangelists and pastors display their pride and healing powers in public without God's approval, God will not perform miracles for He is our Lord and King, not our servant. These depraved televangelists and pastors, who are without conscience, will therefore resort to lies and false miracles.

Brethren, have nothing to do with them otherwise we may be found to be partakers of their deceptions.

LS19

Doing Greater Works

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:12-14 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

If we believe in Jesus as -

Saviour - we will fervently be preaching the gospel everywhere.

Lord - As servants, we must faithfully obey all His words, instructions and teachings.

King - Jesus' commandments, will and words are our decrees.

Provider - Jesus will meet all our needs and we don't need to hoard up.

Healer - Jesus will heal and we don't need any other physician.

and also as Teacher, Protector, Deliverer, Comforter, Advisor...

then we can do greater works than what our Lord Jesus had done before. Millions of us are faced with different type of difficulties and challenge when we do His work and preach His gospel. In the book of Acts, many miracles found were different from those performed by our Lord Jesus.

During our thirty years of ministering in remote and inaccessible areas that are without any medical facilities, we constantly experience His power, presence, deliverance and healing. Here are some of the testimonies that glorify God.

OA woman in labour, suffered for two nights, suspected baby in breech position, gave birth immediately after prayer.

A tigress guarding its cub who was caught in a wild boar trap, fled on seeing our unsuspecting tiny OA brethren as an angel advancing, **An OA child was drowned** for more than ten minutes under the river bed was revived instantly after prayer.

It is normally these simple and obvious miracles that bring the heathens to believe in Jesus, that our Father in heaven is glorified.

Signs and wonders are still common in remote, poor and needy areas.

Brethren, most of our prayers of salvation, provisions, deliverance, and healing for the benefits of the poor and desperate Chinese villagers and the almost inaccessible OA brethren deep in the jungle were joyfully answered by our Lord.

LS20

The Spirit of Truth

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:15-17a *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- the Spirit of truth,"...*

The Spirit of truth is given only to those who love Him by keeping His commandments.

Acts 1:5, 8 *"for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now...But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Our Lord Jesus told them to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Who will empower them, and they will be His witnesses.

Acts 2:4-6 *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.*

At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came, all the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke in tongues. The devout Jews, who came to Jerusalem to worship and to offer sacrifices to Yahweh also had the gift of the interpretation of tongues just like other godly Jews who were filled with the Holy Spirit:- Elizabeth (Luke 1:41-45 Word of wisdom), Zachariah (Luke 1:67-79 Prophecy), Simeon (Luke 2:25-32 Word of knowledge), and in the OT when the Spirit of God was upon Saul and his messengers, all of them also prophesied, etc.

The manifestation of any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is normally the sign of those 'filled with the holy Spirit'. Speaking in tongues is the most prominent.

Acts 2:14, 36 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words"..... "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

At Pentecost, as promised all the disciples, who had followed and obeyed Jesus, were baptized with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of truth then leads them into all truth. Peter, a fisherman being empowered by the Holy Spirit became His witness, who fearlessly preached the gospel in truth.

Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The anointed preaching of Peter convicted the hearers. 'Witnessing in truth fearlessly' is possibly the sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and 'speaking in tongue', is possibly a sign of those 'filled with the Holy Spirit', or a gift for service in the church in 1Cor 12:28.

Today, with depraved and covetous pastors and televangelists boldly and zealously preaching the prosperity gospel for personal gain, we can discern these wolves with the fruit of the Spirit as stated in Gal 5:22-25.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:15-16 *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **He may abide with you forever.**"*

When the Israelites disobeyed God, God suffered greatly for their sins and iniquities. Similarly, our disobedience will bring great suffering to God.

Eze 4:5,9,12 *"For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.... Also take for yourself wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt; put them into one vessel, and make bread of them for yourself. During the number of days that you lie on your side, three hundred and ninety days, you shall eat it.... And you shall eat it as barley cakes; and bake it using fuel of human waste in their sight."*

God abhors sin, that He has to drive Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. It is so nauseating and revolting to eat bread bake in human excretion, and this is what sin is to God.

Eph 1:13 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

When we become a Christian He gives us His holy Spirit (the seal of redemption) to dwell within us. Whenever we sin, our body is full with sin (excreta), and the holy Spirit dwelling in us will be forced to be immersed in excreta. He will always suffer greatly from this nauseating, and revolting humiliation whenever we sin. His holy Spirit will not leave us, otherwise we will lose our salvation and be condemned to hell.

Phil 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Brethren, until we confess and repent of our sins and the blood of Jesus cleanses these filthy sins, the Holy Spirit dwelling in us is grieved and has to suffer the nauseating sin committed by us. This great love of God for us is beyond our imagination (Please read Rom 8:35-39).

It is only when we know Him and understand His sacrifices, love and sufferings that we begin to appreciate His love by keeping His words. Only then can He baptize us with the Holy Spirit, so that God can work in us, with His Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth and setting us free from the corruption of this world.

Brethren, God loves us so much that He wants to dwell in our bodies forever. Are we going to perpetuate His suffering by immersing Him in our sins (excreta)?

*John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **He may abide with you forever.**”*

*Mat 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**” Amen.*

Brethren, when we evangelise and disciple the new converts according to the truth in His words, our Lord will be always be with us. He will lead, guide, teach and protect us especially during these last days of great distress and tribulation.

LS22

World Cannot Receive

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:16-17 *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

The Spirit of truth is holy and He cannot dwell in any filthy or sinful temple.

Gen 3:8 *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

God created Adam and Eve so that they could walk alongside Him as friends in the cool of the day. Instead, they sinned by disobeying God, God had to chase them out from the Garden of Eden.

Gen 5:24 *And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

God continued to walk with Enoch as with Adam and Eve, and Enoch did not see death, for he was physically taken up to heaven.

Gen 18:16-17 *Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,"*

God continued to speak to the Patriarchs, and in this case with Abraham in the appearance of a man.

Gen 6:5-6 *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*

Mankind was a great disappointment to God, since they were filled with great wickedness and their every intent was continually evil.

In those days God Himself came down to earth to talk and walk with man, but when He was not around, they rebelled against Him. Thus, 2,000 years after creation, almost all mankind became idol worshippers. Man was so sinful that the Spirit of God could not dwell among man.

'The Law and Commandments'

Because of His great love for man, God was prepared to endure the nauseating and revolting sins dwelling in the bodies of men. All for the sake of delivering man from their bondages. He called Abraham out from Ur, and because of Abraham's obedience and faith in God, He gave laws to his descendants through Israel (Jacob) to observe, so that they were sanctified by the sacrificial lamb.

Then, God sent His Spirit to dwell with all His anointed kings, priesthood and prophets in order to help them overcome the evil and wickedness in man.

[Warning - God cannot dwell in any defile temple i.e. sinful human physical bodies]

2 Tim 3:1-7 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, thankless, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Beware brethren, that in the last days, not only unbelievers but Christians too will be filled with evil and wickedness. This will grieve the Holy Spirit dwelling within them.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:16-17 *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

Mankind had always rebelled against God since the days of the Patriarchs. God resolved to dwelling in the physical body of man in order to assist him in overcoming the flesh and the devil's temptations.

God anointed the kings, priests, prophets, etc. to serve Him by sending the Spirit of God to dwell in them. This is equivalent to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as a seal of redemption of a new Christian. So, whenever the Spirit of the Lord was upon any of the anointed, they could perform signs and wonders.

Today, when a Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit, he too can perform miracles in faith, healing, prophecy, speak in tongues, cast out demons...

Jer 23:11,13-14 *"For both prophet and priest are profane; Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness," says the Lord.... And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal and caused My people Israel to err. Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; they also strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah."*

Similarly, today many of these so-called "anointed" (supposedly having the Holy Spirit) but depraved Christian leaders will deceive ignorant Christians through false prophecies, deceptions and heresies for personal gains. These abominations lead no one to repentance but only to pride and self-glorification.

1 Sam 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Likewise, when the Holy Spirit can no longer bear a Christian's wickedness which is foul, nauseating and extremely revolting to God, the Holy Spirit will leave. As such, this Christian, had lost his salvation by quenching the Holy Spirit.

1 The 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

Brethren, when we walk this narrow and difficult path to eternal life, we will make many mistakes, sometimes through negligence for not seeking His approval nor trusting in His guidance. We thank our Lord Jesus Christ that whenever we repent of our sins, He is righteous and faithful and will forgive us of all our sins and iniquities. With our sins cleansed, the Holy Spirit dwelling in us will no longer be grieved, so that He can continue to do His wonderful and beautiful work in us and through us.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:16-17a *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- the Spirit of truth,”*

Though God gives us the Holy Spirit as the seal of redemption and frequently fills us with His Holy Spirit, giving us joy to strengthen our faith, yet we often walk in ways contrary to His word, leaving us to regret our unfaithfulness to Him.

Rom 7:24-25 *O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death?** I thank God- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.*

As a Christian, with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, our mind (understanding) is to serve Him, for He is Yahweh the Almighty God, our loving Father and Saviour. But our flesh is still under bondage to the sinful desires, cravings and addictions that only this world can satisfy.

Gal 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

All those who walk in the flesh cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 8:31-32 *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And **you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”*

We must abide in His word so that we will know the truth, for only the truth can set us free from our flesh.

John 16:8-11 *“And when He (the Helper) has come, **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**”*

Of sin, because they do not believe in Me

When the Helper is in me, then He can convict me of the sins of unbelief. If I believe Jesus is Lord, then I must obey His word. But if I do not obey them, then (in my flesh) Jesus is not Lord, for I have not walked in faith. This is the truth. By walking in faith, we bring our flesh under His subjection. **Faith without works is dead.** Thus, in a similar manner, He will convict us of unbelief in Him as the Almighty God, the Healer, the Protector, the Provider, the Advocate...

Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more

He will convict us that God has forgiven our sins, when we confessed and repented of them, and His righteousness is now upon us.

Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged

Satan was judged the defeated foe and therefore, no longer has any power or authority over us. He cannot touch, hurt nor harm us. **For we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.** Thus, all our sufferings, sicknesses, accidents, death, pains and blessings are sent by our Father to refine, chastise or encourage us. Satan can only destroy our faith by using temptations, false prophecies, lies, deceptions, distorted truth, heresies, etc.

John 16:13 *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*

God has given us the Spirit of truth who is our Helper, to lead us into all truth so that we may be free from the flesh.

LS25 I Will Not Leave You Orphans

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:16,18 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—.... I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

Our Lord promised His disciples, who had given up everything to follow Him, that He will come back again and ensure that they will no longer be orphans. After this last sermon, our Lord was arrested, whipped, and crucified. After His resurrection, He appeared to them a few times. Then, He ascended back to heaven, leaving them as orphans.

John 1:33 "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'"

Up to His ascension, there was no record of Jesus baptizing anyone with the Holy Spirit.

Mat 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

These 2 events must be fulfilled for He is faithful to His word. Our lack of understanding of the bible is probably caused by:-

- Not enough time for the bible,
- Incomplete faith in His word,
- Not keeping His commandments,
- Reject His word and teachings,
- Unable to understand the truth.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

So while the disciples were waiting for Pentecost, our Lord Jesus could have made His home with them, for they had loved Him by keeping His word.

Acts 1:4-5 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down to fill his disciples and the devout Jews, giving them the gifts of tongues and interpretations of tongues. Meanwhile, our Lord Jesus, who was dwelling in His disciples' physical bodies, baptized each faithful disciple with the Holy Spirit by immersing their very own spirits, one by one in the Spirit of truth.

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the transformation of a timid and unlearned fisherman Peter, into a bold and anointed preacher of His everlasting gospel.

On the day of Pentecost, our Lord Jesus baptised His disciples with the Holy Spirit and also ensured that they were no longer orphans by sending the Helper to shepherd them while abiding in them forever. Praise the Lord that He will always ensure that the scriptures are fulfilled.

Mat 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:19-20 *"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."*

Just after this last sermon, our Lord Jesus was arrested and then crucified. On the third day our Lord rose from the dead and lives, so that we (after our old men or flesh have been crucified) will also live in His new resurrected and abundant life.

Gal 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

After His death, the world can no longer see Him anymore. But after His resurrection, He appeared to His disciples many times to encourage and strengthen their faith in Him. He also told them that on a particular day they will understand and know His teaching: "I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

Luke 24:45-49 *And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

So before His ascension, He taught them to enlighten their understanding of the everlasting gospel and to wait for the Promised of the Father - the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:51-52 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

On the day of His Ascension, when His disciples saw Him being lifted up to heaven, they knew that Jesus is the Father Himself (I am in the Father). Then, they also believed in the Promise of the Father and soon, they were baptized with the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem.

Acts 1:4-5 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

They knew that at the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must first come to dwell in their physical bodies (me in you). Then, the Holy Spirit will completely immerse their spirit in His Spirit (you in Me) just like in the baptism with water when their physical bodies were completely immersed in water.

Hallelujah, these prophecies were fulfilled after His crucifixion and on the day of Ascension this was fulfilled- 'At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you'.

When Christ is in us (me in you), it is the hope of glory. When we are in Christ (you in Me), He is literally carrying us by taking over all our problems, sorrows, sicknesses, regrets, worries, and sufferings and replacing them with His love, peace, joy, assurances, and faith. Only then we can confess that we are truly living in His abundant life.

Brethren, the bible is truly the word of God and is written by the Holy Spirit. It is filled with truth. Read it for your guidance and blessings. Amen.

LS27

He Who Loves Me

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:21 *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

When our children express their love for us, we are filled with joy. However, when they refuse to listen to us, nor to our reasonable requests, then we know that these are disobedient children (though they keep saying that they love us). Similarly, God will judge our love for Him by our obedience to His commandments.

What are the commandments?

Mat 22:37-40 *Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' on these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

When we love Yahweh with all our heart, and love our neighbour as ourselves, then we have fulfilled the laws.

John 13:34 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*

Jesus suffered the whipping for our healing, the crucifixion for our redemption. He set an example for us to sacrifice ourselves for the salvation, encouragements and benefits of others. Thus, this new commandment is the fulfilment of all the other commandments.

1 John 3:16 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

Mat 7:11 *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"*

Our Father God loves us very much and wants to bless us by giving us good gifts. Being a righteous and just God, He has to be fair to all of His children. Hence, He sets out the conditions beforehand so that we will know the type of good gifts we can expect, in obeying Him.

So in this case when we keep His commandments we show our love to Him, this is a sign of obedience and submission to Him. With this simple action, we honour Him by declaring Him as our Lord and Master. So His reward to us will be that He will love us and manifest Himself to us.

His manifestation may produce in us the joy of sudden worship and thanksgiving, gifts of the Holy Spirit, empowering of His Spirit, appreciation of His love and truth, healing, understanding His will, enlightenment of scriptures, love, mercy, humility, and faith.

1 John 2:3-4 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Not keeping His commandments will mean that we do not know Him nor love Him. So whenever we sing and proclaim that we know Jesus or love Jesus, but do not keep His commandments, then we are liars and untruthful.

Brethren, love one another as Jesus had loved us, then we will have a joyful and victorious living with the manifestation of Christ in us.

LS28

Not To The World

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:21-22 *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."* Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, *"Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"*

Judas posed this question because he doesn't understand God's will and plan. Similarly today, there are all types of contradicting and destructive doctrines, which were prophesied by Hosea;

Hosea 4:6 *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."*

Whenever we interpret scripture, we must ensure that it is not against the Attributes of God, His words of the prophets, Jesus' words and promises, nor the whole counsel of God.

Some of God's Attributes: He is the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, never changes, a God of justice, righteous, just, faithful, merciful, love, upright, etc.

Righteous:- God cannot sin,

Just:- Everyone who believes in Him will be saved,

Faithful:- He must fulfill His word,

Upright:- His works are meant for the good of man,

Words of Jesus

Mark 13:31 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*

Promises of Jesus

John 15:14 *“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”*

If we can discount Jesus’ words and promises (which do not need to be fulfilled), then this distorted doctrine or heresy has made our Lord Jesus Christ a liar and deceiver.

Titus 3:4-7, 9 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.... But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and striving about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

Throw away all denominational doctrines, which are unbiblical, and come back to the word of God. Then, we will be able to find the love and unity that our Lord requires of us. Brethren, just imagine the sorrow we have given Him by our divisions, caused by our pride in keeping the traditions of men.

Mat 15:7-9 “Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

LS29

If Anyone Loves Me

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

God has given us the free will to decide our own future. If we want to follow Him, then He will help us to fulfil His perfect, wonderful and glorious will and plans for us. If we do not want to follow Him, then He cannot help us. He will not impose His will on us and that is why the bible is full of **'ifs'** in both the OT and NT.

Deut 11:26-28 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known."

Brethren, God has given us the complete freedom to choose our own destinations. If we choose to obey Him, then He can bless us, but if we reject Him, He cannot bless us and in the OT the curse.

Though God is sovereign, He is also righteous and He cannot sin nor lie. Therefore, He must be faithful to His words through His prophets and our Lord Jesus. If anyone teaches that God can lie by not fulfilling His words then this is heresy. There were very few individuals (man born blind and a few prophets) that God created especially for certain types of work, but they still can choose to believe or to reject Him.

God's will is that all mankind be saved and be transformed into His image.

So when we make the decision to believe and accept Jesus Christ the Son of God as our personal Saviour, then we have given Him the right to save us. Immediately, the blood of Jesus cleanses away all

our sins and the righteousness of Christ is imputed upon us. The Holy Spirit dwells within us as the seal of redemption and He will lead us onto holiness by convicting us of our sins.

Again, if we decide to obey the convictions of the Holy Spirit and the word of God in the bible, then we have given Him the right to help us into holiness. So if we decide to keep His commandments, He will manifest himself in us, to encourage and strengthen our faith, to overcome the trials and transformations ahead of us.

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Again, if we decide to keep His words (sayings, teachings, truth in the parables, commandments, advice, etc.), we have surrendered ourselves completely to God. The Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in us will then begin to crucify our flesh and transform us into His image.

Gen 6:5-6 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Brethren, just imagine the great love that God shows to those who are obedient to Him by having the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit working together to transform their sinful flesh into holy vessels. Realise also the great wickedness of our sinful flesh, that needs the working of the triune Godhead.

Our complete faith and obedience to Him and His words are required for Him to finish His good works in us. Great is His love and faithfulness towards us, which are far beyond our comprehension. To God be the glory always. Amen.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:24 *"He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."*

The words spoken by our Lord Jesus were the very words of the Father Himself. So God cannot contradict His own words. God is fair to everyone by teaching us how to judge ourselves whether we love Him or not. If we keep His words, we love Him, but if we do not keep His words, then we do not love Him.

1 John 2:5-6 ***But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.***

This is another test. Whosoever loves Jesus will be like Him - washing the feet of his servants or staff (disciples); full of humility, mercy, love, goodness and compassion; rejoices in giving, helping, charities, sacrifices, persecutions and sufferings; prays, forgives and blesses enemies; etc.

1 Peter 3:8-10 *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

Deut 28:45-47 *"Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, **because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.** And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever. Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,"*

For all those who did not keep His words were cursed in the OT. Jews were the people of God, and today, Christians are the people of God. Since God does not change and is just, He will also chastise all those who refuse to keep His words with pains, worries, sorrows, sufferings, losses, problems, defeats, sicknesses, etc. just like in the OT.

We thank God that in Christ Jesus, all our sins are forgiven once we repent of them, thus freeing us from His chastisements.

1 Tim 6:3-5 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

The doctrines of God will always lead us to godliness and holiness, so that we can conform to His image. But false doctrines and distorted truth will always lead to divisions and destruction (usually to please and satisfy the flesh or carnal man).

Brethren, since God wants us to decide our own destinations, let us ensure that He has full authority over us and is in complete control of our lives. Thus, when we keep His word, in this world we will inherit an abundant life led by the Spirit, and after that, inherit the kingdom of God by His good works in us.

LS31 Told You Before It Comes To Pass

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:25, 29 *"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.... And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."*

Our Lord Jesus always told His disciples the events beforehand so that when these events came to pass they might believe Him and His prophecies. Their faith in Him would definitely increase causing them to wait patiently and joyfully for the fulfilment of the next prophecy.

Mat 16:21 *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

Our Lord told His disciples repeatedly about His impending sufferings in the hands of the elders and the chief priests, His death and finally His resurrection on the third day.

Mark 10:33-34 *"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."*

This prophecy described in great detail the chronology of events leading up to His death and resurrection. It accurately pointed out His betrayal, death sentence, delivered to Pontius Pilate, humiliation, torture and death inflicted by the Roman soldiers.

When the disciples witnessed His sufferings and death, they should be rejoicing! Instead, the fear of being caught blinded them so much so that they completely forgotten about His prophecy.

John 19:26 *When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"*

John was the only disciple who was at the foot of the cross during His crucifixion along with His mother Mary and a few women. The rest of the disciples were fearful and witnessed from a distance. He was not fearful of being caught or killed because of his faith and love for Jesus.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Because John loved Jesus, so our Lord Jesus was very pleased to fulfill His promise by loving John [he who loves Me...I will love him - John 14:21]. He wants us to realise that He is faithful to His words, and He will also love us if we love Him. Therefore, He kept declaring consistently in the bible that John was the disciple whom Jesus loved.

the third day He will rise again

John 20:8-10 Then the other disciple (John, the one Jesus loved), who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

Although He told His disciples beforehand He would be resurrected; none of them believed Him! They did not understand His resurrection except for John (the one Jesus loved), who received the revelation from our Lord.

Brethren, when we love Jesus by keeping His words, He will love us and give us another Helper, the Spirit of truth, who will guide us into all truth so that we are free of worries, doubts, and fear. Then, being led by the Spirit, we can serve Him joyfully with truth and understanding.

LS32 He Will Tell You Things To Come

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:25-26 *"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**"*

When the Helper comes, He will teach us all things and awaken our memories of the words spoken by our Lord in the bible.

Luke 24:44-47 *Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

Before His ascension, He taught them the gospel and instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the promised baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:36-38 *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Following the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were filled with understandings, truth, and power. Peter, who was timid and an unlearned fisherman, was empowered to preach the gospel which convicted devoted Jews to repentance.

John 16:13 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

Only after we have kept His words can Jesus baptize (immerse) us with the Spirit of truth sent by the Father. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). We are truly born again when His Spirit is in complete control of our spirits.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

He will tell you things to come

In the last days, the Spirit of truth will disclose the future to us by opening our understanding of end time events as recorded in the bible. No wonder, our Lord Jesus constantly warned us in great details concerning persecutions, tribulations, wars, pestilences, deceptions, false christs, false prophets and the Antichrist. All these will occur before the Rapture (His appearance in the cloud to collect His elects). So, brethren, let us understand end time events and teach them to our sheep. Let their faith be strengthened when the Spirit of truth brings the knowledge back to their remembrance in the last days.

Brethren, until our Lord Jesus baptize us with the Holy Spirit, we will not be able to understand end time prophecies and events. Without the Spirit of truth leading us, we will easily be deceived by false teachers, false prophets and the Antichrist in the last days.

LS33

He Has Nothing In Me

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:30 *"I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me."*

Our Lord Jesus said that He is not bothered with Satan, even though He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan.

Mat 4:1 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

Our Lord Jesus was more concerned with the carnal people (easily led by Satan) around Him, who tried to discourage and destroy Him. Some of these are:-

Peter His Disciple

Mat 16:21-23 *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

Peter was with the Lord all the time and had witnessed His powers in healing the sick, walking on water, raising the dead, etc., His relationship with the Father, His knowledge of the Scriptures and His great wisdom in silencing the Pharisees. Yet, when our Lord told His disciples that He must suffer and be killed, Peter objected to it. Peter, then in the flesh was led by Satan to admonish Him for such stupidity. Similarly, carnal and unlearned Christians (led by Satan) will judge all unpleasant situations or sufferings as evil and sinful - as the punishments of God or attacks of the devil. Beware of advice, comments, judgments, teachings and prophecies of carnal and worldly brethren and pastors.

1 Pet 4:1-2 *Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*

His Worldly Disciples

John 6:61, 66 *When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?.. From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more"*

Brethren, just as many disciples of our Lord Jesus rejected the truth, ours too will also reject the truth and some may even persecute us.

2 Tim 4:14 *Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.*

Covetous Religious Leaders

Luke 16:13-15 *"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." **Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.** And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."*

Our Lord admonished the religious leaders as hypocrites in Mat 23. Similarly, covetous and depraved pastors and church leaders will always persecute Bible believing Christians and unless they repent they will have to face His wrath.

1Tim 1:5-7 *Brethren, the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.*

LS34

The World May Know

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 14:31 *"But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here."*

Why would our Lord Jesus want the world to know that He loves the Father? How did He love the Father?

The only way for Jesus to love the Father is for Him to keep and obey the Father's commandment.

John 14:21 *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

Similarly, the only way to love our Lord Jesus is by keeping His word and commandments.

John 14:24 *"He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."*

Brethren, if we do not keep Jesus' words, then we just do not love Him. We can cry, sing, pray, declare, confess that 'we love Him', but if we have not kept His words (the pure word of God and without distortion nor wrong interpretation), then we are only deceiving ourselves. Jesus' words include His commandments, sayings, warnings, teachings, prophecies, promises, etc. An example of each:-

Commandments:

John 15:12 *"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

Sayings and Parables (Mat 5-7):

Mat 7:26 *"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:"*

Warnings:

Mat 12:31 *"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men."*

Teachings:

Mat 7:20 *And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness."*

Prophecies:

Mat 17:22b-23a *Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up."*

Promises:

Rev 3:21 *"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."*

Luke 23:34a *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

When our Lord was in great agony being crucified, He still called out to the heavenly Father, to forgive those responsible for torturing and killing Him. By this, the world witnessed His love for the Father.

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Similarly, if we love one another, then the world will know that we are truly the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will then believe that our Lord Jesus is the Son of God, whom God had sent into the world to be their Saviour.

**Father, I know that I am nothing
if I have not loved the brethren**

1Cor 13:1-3 *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

LS35

I Am The True Vine

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:1 *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine dresser"*

Our Lord Jesus compared Himself to the vine. Since He is the 'true' vine, which produces good fruits, then there are also the false or bad vines, which produce bad fruits.

Jer 2:21, 28 Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?... But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble; for according to the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah.

God delivered Israel from Egypt using signs and wonders. God gave them the laws through Moses, so that He could dwell among them in the tabernacle (temple of God). God guided them into Canaan Land with a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night.

He gave Jericho over to them by causing its walls to come tumbling down. He also fought the battles for them and handed to them the Promised Land. Yet, the descendants of the Israelites (noble vine) became an alien or bad vine (worshipping idols and committing abominations). This bad vine can only produce wild or sour grapes.

Isa 5:4-5 "What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; and break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down."

Mat 7:15-16a "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits."

It is by the fruit that we can recognize whether a tree is good or bad. A true vine (our Lord Jesus) produces sweet grapes, which can be used to produce new wine (children of God or Christians). The sour grapes of the bad vines will produce vinegar (children of the devil).

A mysterious visit to heaven

In early 1998, a poor, elderly widow healed of arthritis accepted the Lord. She was illiterate, but godly and filled with the love of God. She helped us to lead many families in Cheroh to the Lord. She happily sacrificed herself by feeding us with chicken and meat, but kept the leftovers as her food for the next few days until we found that out.

In 2003, she was in a coma in hospital for 3 days. When she awoke, she told us that she had met our Lord Jesus, who showed her around in heaven. Besides those described in the Bible (all wore white, street of gold, etc.), some of the mysteries that she said were:-

1. Everyone shone with a brilliance, whose faces glowed and were fair in appearances (glorious body),
2. Only children (unless we are converted like children - Mat 28:2-3)
3. No bricks nor concrete, but a building made of beautiful, shining stones (living stones -1Pet 2;5)
4. A big tree bearing many beautiful fruits (tree of life). She was only able to recognize one of them.

I have always been skeptical of those claiming to have visited heaven, especially when their books are so expensive.

I believed this old widow, when she mentioned the living stones. I rejoiced when one of the fruits she recognized, is confirmed in the Bible which is found in heaven.

Remember that this 80 year old widow was illiterate and I was surprised with some of the mysteries she said. In fact, I was not even aware that this fruit is found in heaven.

Brethren, what is this earthly fruit that is also found in heaven?

LS36

It May Bear More Fruit

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:1-2 *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."*

Every tree will have branches which look stunted and unable to branch out. While the other branches grow stronger, taller and have many more branches, the stunted branches remain thin and weak (suffering from malnutrition) and stay at the bottom of the tree. They cannot bear any fruit.

Brethren, these are those who have accepted the Lord but are stunted because:-

- Hardly read the Bible
- Keeping worldly lifestyle
- Still following own will
- Still led by worldly wisdom
- Refused to follow Jesus' example
- Rejected His teachings in Mat 5-7
- Filled with distorted truth (heresies)

All the above will not bear fruit unless they repent and change their wicked worldly ways. Only a lifestyle of compliance to our Lord's teachings and godliness will bear fruit. In any case, they will be rejected (cut off) by the Father and eventually thrown into the lake of fire.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Godly Christians who keep His words will bear fruits. The Father will trim the fruit bearing branches to propagate more branches into multiplying more fruits. Trimming is painful, for it is the process of crucifying the flesh.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Grapes on tree of life in heaven

Mark 4:25 “Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

One day, an old, godly illiterate widow from our church told me that she saw grapes on the tree (tree of life) in heaven, I was taken aback as I could not correlate the significance of what she had narrated. After much pondering, the understanding was unveiled in Mark 4:25. She had undoubtedly visited heaven because she had no forethought about vine in heaven. I was greatly encouraged and grateful to God for the revelation.

Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Brethren, unless we crucify our flesh we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

Harvest of the children of Satan

Rev 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Since our Lord Jesus is the true vine bearing sweet grapes, the bad vine will bear sour (bad) fruit. These are the children of Satan, who will be condemned to the wrath of God.

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:3 *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."*

Our Lord compares us with the branches of the vine. If we attempt to break a young branch, we will certainly tear into the vine, destroying the whole plant in the process. When we abide in the vine, we are part of the vine. As the vine grows, the stronger branch becomes the stem itself, lending support to other branches.

1John 4:15 *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*

Everyone who sincerely believes that Jesus Christ, the Son of God was sent by God, to be the sacrificial Lamb for his sins, and accepts Him to be his Saviour is saved. At his salvation, the Holy Spirit will dwell in him as the seal of salvation. Only then is he a Christian.

Since God abides in him, he is now a branch of the vine. In order to continually abide in the vine, he must ensure that he is transformed to be like Jesus. Only then will he be able to bear fruits. Otherwise he will be removed by the Father.

Who was Jesus then?**God became flesh (man)**

Phil 2:5 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the flesh;*

Jesus was the Word of God

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we*

beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. and likeness of men;

Jesus was baptized in water

Mat 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him;

Baptized in the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Jesus was the Son of God

Luke 22:70 Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am."

Brethren, can the world see Jesus in us? Someone who is filled with love, compassion, wisdom, righteousness, mercy, power of the Holy Spirit, fruits of repentance and the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

John 6:60, 66 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?... From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

Unfortunately, many Christians will be cut off just like those disciples who ditched Jesus, It hurt them too much to obey His difficult, sacrificial and painful commands:-

Understand and obey His words

Bless the enemies;

Love one another;

Pray for the persecutors;

Help the poor, needy, etc.;

Preach the gospel everywhere;

Forgive your brethren;

Rebuke sinful brethren;

John 6:67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

LS38

Does Not Abide In Me

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:6 *"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."*

Who are these who do not abide in the vine and are cast out into the eternal fire?

Seed Sown by the Wayside

Mat 13:19 *"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside."*

These are the ones who heard that Jesus the Son of God can heal all diseases, especially in evangelistic meetings and fellowship, but have not understood the message of the cross. When they were not healed after prayers, the devil will destroy their little faith. Brethren, ensure that all these desperate hearers who want instant results really understand the gospel.

Mat 9:28-29 *And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."*

Let them understand clearly that the Healer is our Lord Jesus, and often they have to wait until He is satisfied with their faith in Him.

Seed Sown on Stony Places

Mat 13:20 *"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles."*

This new convert has understood the salvation message and has sincerely accepted our Lord Jesus as his Saviour because he believes that Jesus is able to resolve all his problems (stony place).

Do not expose a new convert, with the exception of miraculous healing which is self-evident for fear of persecution from his family members and acquaintances. Disciple him until his faith is strengthened with good knowledge and understanding of the gospel and the word of God so that he is ready to witness and to endure persecutions.

Seed sown among Thorns

Mat 13:22 "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful."

Most Christians are trapped by the things of this world. Their sinful nature is not being crucified, when they refuse to understand God and to submit to His words.

Rom 1:28-32 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Unless they bear the fruits of repentance by abiding in His words, they will not know the truth. Only the truth can set them free from the snares of the world. Otherwise, they will be cast into the lake of fire.

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

‘Last Sermon of Jesus’

John 15:7 *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”*

Abide in Christ

Col 3:3-4 *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

Col 3:3 *is the best description of ‘Abide in Christ’. We have died (crucified with Christ) to the world, and our new lives are hidden with Christ making Him our new Master, for we have willingly surrendered ourselves (living sacrifice) to His complete control (led by the Spirit).*

Gal 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

In order to abide in Christ, we must be like Him. A few examples:-

1. Be Holy

1Pet 1:15 *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct;*

2. Cease from Sin

1Pet 4:1 *Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin;*

3. Cease from doing own will

1Pet 4:3 *For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries;*

4. Partake in Christ’s sufferings

1Pet 4:12-13 *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to*

you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy;

5. Full of Grace and Truth

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth;

6. Full with Wisdom

Jas 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy;

7. A living Sacrifice

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Truth will set you Free

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The word of God is the truth, it is only when we abide in His word, that we will know the truth.

John 14:15-17a;16:13 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth...However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

When we love Jesus by keeping His commands and words, then God will give us the Spirit of truth (His word) to abide with us forever.

When we love God and are transformed into His image, we abide in Him, and when He gives us the Spirit of truth, His words abide in us and then whatever we ask of Him, He will grant us.

Brethren, we thank our loving Father who will honour His promise of granting what we ask for when we keep His commandments and do things that are pleasing in His sight. (1John 3:22)

LS40

My Father Is Glorified

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:8 *"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."*

What are the fruits we must bear to glorify the Father in heaven?

Fruits of Repentance

Mat 3:8 *"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance."*

Luke 3:9-14 *And even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?" He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you." Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."*

Fruit of the Spirit

Gal 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Good works

Mat 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Counted worthy of His calling

2Thess 1:11-12 *Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ;*

Abilities empowered by God

1Pet 4:11 *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen;*

Unity in Christ Jesus

Rom 15:5-6 *Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

Honorable conduct (behavior)

1Pet2:11-12 *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation;*

Complete faith in His promise

Rom 4:20-21 *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform;*

Partake of Christ's suffering

1Pet 4:12-13 *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*

Rom 6:22-23 *Brethren, now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

LS41 You Will Be My Disciples

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:8 *"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."*

The twelve disciples were with Jesus all this while, and this was His last sermon to them after the last supper (John 13).

John 13:1-2a *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended...*

Who are His disciples?

Abide in His words

John 8:31 *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*

It is only when we spend time reading and meditating on His words that we begin to understand Him. Then, we can begin to trust and obey Him and His words.

Do the will of the Father

Mat 12:49 *And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."*

It is the will of God that we must be subservient to Him alone, not man's will nor worldly wisdom.

Wash another's feet

John 13:14-15 *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."*

If we can wash a brother's foot, we have loved enough to help him through his problems and difficulties.

Love others as Jesus loved us

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all*

will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jesus loved us by dying for us and we need to love one another as He had loved us.

Bear much fruit

John 15:8 *“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*

All disciples of Jesus must be transformed into His image and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Hate all who prevent us from God

Luke 14:26 *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”*

Our Lord told us to honour our parents. It is only when they forbid us from following Jesus that we have to hate their blindness caused by unbelief. But we must respect and love all of them.

Bear his own Cross

Luke 14:27 *“And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”*

Our Lord went to the cross to redeem us for God. Thus, we need to bear our cross so that others too can be redeemed to God through Christ Jesus.

Forsake All

Luke 14:33 *“So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

All the disciples of Jesus gave up everything to follow Him.

Mat 19:27 *Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”*

Brethren, the Apostle Paul, a devout disciple of our Lord Jesus, will be crowned a king in heaven alongside our Lord Jesus Christ who is the King of kings. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2Tim 4:6-8)

LS42 As The Father Loved Me

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:9 *"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."*

Why did the Father love Jesus?

He obeyed God's commandments:

John 14:31a *"But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do."*

He always pleases the Father:

John 8:29 *"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*

Greatest love shown:

John 15:13 *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*

He laid down His life:

John 10:17-18 *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

Our Lord Jesus willingly laid down His life for us in order to redeem us from the eternal lake of fire. We too, should lay down our lives for our brethren in appreciation of His great love for us, which will please Christ just as He had pleased the Father.

How did God love Jesus?

Gave Him all things:

John 3:35 *"The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand."*

Showed Him greater works:

John 5:20 *"For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."*

Taught Him all things:

John 8:28 *"Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son*

of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.”

Power to give life:

John 5:21 *“For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.”*

Power to judge:

John 5:22 *“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,”*

Power to set free:

John 8:36 *“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”*

Power to baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:8 *“I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

Given all authority in heaven and on earth:

Mat 28:18-29 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

How did Jesus love us?

Phil 2:5-8 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

Heb 2:14-15 *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

Brethren, *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.* (1John 3:16)

LS43

Abide In My Love

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:10 *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."*

Our Lord abode in God's love by keeping His commandments and we too can abide in Jesus' love by keeping His commandments.

Jesus Commandments

1. Love one another:

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

2. Your light shines before men:

Mat 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

3. Reconcile with your brethren:

Mat 5:23-24 *"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*

4. Turn your other cheek:

Mat 5:39 *"But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also."*

5. Give to those who ask you:

Mat 5:42 *"Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away."*

6. Love your enemies:

Mat 5:44 *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,"*

7. Bless those who hate you;

8. Do good to those who hate you;

9. Pray for those who spitefully use you;

10. and those who persecute you;

11. Be perfect:
Mat 5:48 *“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*
12. Forgive men their trespasses:
Mat 6:14-15 *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*
13. Do not lay treasures on earth:
Mat 6:19-20a *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,”*
14. Cannot serve two masters:
Mat 6:24 *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*
15. Seek first the kingdom of God:
Mat 6:33 *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*
16. Do not judge your brother:
Mat 7:1-2 *“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”*
17. Do also to others:
Mat 7:12 *“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*
Gal 5:14 *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*
18. Beware of false prophets:
Mat 7:15-16a *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”*

The above are only some of the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we keep all His commands we will abide in His love and He will give us greater powers and rewards on earth, as well as, in heaven.

Brethren, and whatever we ask, we will receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do things that are pleasing to Him.

LS44 My Joy May Remain In You

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:11 *"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."*

What had our Lord Jesus said that would give them immense joy?

John 13:5 *"After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."*

After they witnessed the Lord's ascension, they will never forget that the Messiah, the Almighty God had washed their feet! Oh, what a great honour bequeathed upon those common folks and fishermen.

Our Lord Jesus will satiate us with similar joy when we give up all to follow Him.

Mat 19:27 *Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"*

John 13:19 *"Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He."*

Our Lord kept telling us the things to come so that when they are fulfilled, we will believe Him as the Messiah. Brethren, do not hesitate to teach end time signs and events in consonance with biblical chronological order.

John 14:29 *"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."*

John 14:2 *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

Very often, we hear testimonies of dying brethren who saw the Lord coming to take them back to heaven just before their last

breath. The realisation that the Lamb of God Himself escort His disciples into the heavenly dwelling is a fulfilment of His promise that brings immeasurable pleasure.

John 14:15-17a,26 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

When we love our Lord by keeping His commandments, He will baptize us with the Spirit of truth, who will teach us everything. How joyful it will be when we finally understand our Lord, His will, His words and His great wisdom.

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Whenever there are worries, sorrows or problems, our Lord’s peace will delight us and His joy will fill us.

John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

If we abide in Him, our Lord will grant our hearts’ desires to gladden us especially during times of difficulties, persecutions and trials.

Brethren, the joy of the Lord is our strength - the strength to overcome faithlessness, sufferings, sicknesses, sorrows, persecutions, despairs, temptations, and the wicked things of this world.

Warning: Deu 28:47-48 “Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.”

LS45

You Are My Friend

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:12-14 *"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."*

Just as He had laid down His life for His friends (us), we also need to lay down our lives for our brethren. If we keep His commands, then we are His friends.

Isaiah 41:8 *"But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend."*

Abraham was also His friend.

What had Abraham done?

Heb 11:8 *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

Similarly, all Christians are only pilgrims on this earth for their inheritance is the kingdom of God. Have we started our journey to inherit the kingdom of God by forsaking (getting out of) this world?

1Pet 2:9-11 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.*

Heb 11:9-10 *By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promises; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Although he was dwelling in the Promised Land, he did not build permanent homes, but dwell in tents, for he was looking forward to the New Jerusalem as his eternal inheritance. Similarly brethren, we are to lay treasures in heaven our eternal home and not on earth.

Heb 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.

His faith and love for God were perfected for he even offered Issac his only begotten son, to be killed as a sacrifice to Him.

Brethren, will you do it?

Heb 11:18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Abraham believed that after Isaac was killed, God would raise him from the dead, for Isaac was the promised one in his inheritance. What great faith and obedience, Abraham had towards God! No wonder, Abraham was God's friend.

Rom 4:19-21 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

To become Jesus' friends, we thank our Father God that He did not call us to kill our children, but to love one another as Jesus had loved us.

Brethren, by this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him. My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (1John 3:16-18)

LS46 No Longer Do I Call You Servants

‘Last Sermon of Jesus’

John 15:15 *“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**”*

When we love one another and keep His commands we will no longer be His servants (slaves) but His friends.

Rom 6:16 *Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*

The moment we accept the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, our sins are cleansed by His blood and we put on His righteousness. The Holy Spirit then dwells within us as our seal of our redemption. We must repent of our sins and become the slaves (servants) of God by obeying Him and His words.

1Pet 4:1-3 *Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that **he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.***

Rom 6:17 *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

After becoming a Christian, we will find that we are still worldly and carnal for we are still the slaves of sin. We thank God that if we keep to the right doctrines, we will be free from sin.

Rom 6:22 *But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.*

Having become slaves to God, we must bear the fruits of repentance and the fruit of the Holy Spirit which will lead us to holiness. **Unless we are holy, our Lord Jesus cannot baptize us with the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of truth, who will lead and teach us all truth.**

1Pet 1:13-15 *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.*

Blessing being a friend of Jesus

John 16:13 *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

God told Abraham His friend, of the impending judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Similarly, if we are His friends, then He will reveal to us of things to come, especially end time signs and events if we are living in the last days. Not only that, He will guide us into all truth so that we can appreciate and understand His teachings, wisdom, words and will. Finally, we will be helping Him to rule all His creation as His kings for He is the King of Kings and Lord of lords.

Brethren, since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart. (1Pet 1:22)

LS47 I Chose You To Bear Fruit

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:15b-17 *"... but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.**"*

Brethren, this verse clearly states that friendship with Christ is exclusively His prerogative to grant and the appointed ones are summoned to bear fruits.

We can only bear fruit when we work out our faith by loving one another for faith without works is dead. Friendship with God cannot be purchased through prayers nor pleading until we fulfil this condition - **love others**

1John 4:20-21 *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that **he who loves God must love his brother also.***

We know that we truly love God when we love our brethren through act of forgiveness, compassion, mercy, concern and helpfulness. We can sing, declare and testify of our love for God but if we have not loved our brethren, then, we have not loved God.

1John 4:11-12 *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. **If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.***

When we love one another we abide in Him and bear much fruit.

John 15:5 *“I am the vine, you are the branches. **He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**”*

Our Father is a just and righteous God and He will only choose those who love and abide in Him to be His friends and to bear fruit.

1John 4:16-19 *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. **God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.*

Warning - All those who still love the world cannot love their brethren because the love of the Father is not in them.

1John 2:15-16 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life- is not of the Father but is of the world.*

Brethren, if we desire our Lord Jesus to be our Friend and to bear fruit, then we have no other choice but to love one another by keeping His commands. When God is satisfied that we are abiding in Him, for we have kept His commands. When our obedience brings pleasure to Him, **then as a just and righteous God, He will choose us to be His friends and appoint us to bear fruit.** Our faithful Father will then grant us, according to His words and promises, whatever things we asked of Him in the name of Jesus.

LS48 The World Hated Me First

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:18 *"If the world hates you, **you know that it hated Me before it hated you.** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."*

Since the world hated our Lord Jesus, we who are His disciples will also be hated by those who are of the world.

1John 3:11-13 *For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. **And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.** Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.*

After the fall of Adam, the wicked will always persecute the godly and it started with Cain who killed his brother Abel. Men became more and more wicked until God destroyed them in the deluge.

Gen 6:5-7 *Then **the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."*

John 3:19-20 *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."*

When our Lord Jesus came into the world, the world hated Him because He was the light of the world. Men loved darkness (evil), they hated the light for it exposes their wickedness.

John 7:7 *“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.”*

John 8:42-45 *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.*

Although the Israelites then were the people of God, they went astray and had become like the world, filled with wickedness and rejecting the truth. Similarly, many Christians today are serving the devil and will persecute godly brethren who live by His words.

John 17:14 *“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”*

Brethren, therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, **they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.** (1Pet 4:1-4)

LS49

If They Persecute Me

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:20 *"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.**"*

As true disciples of Jesus, we must obey and teach His words only. Anyone who disregard His teachings is deemed unfit to be His disciples.

Those who twist and corrupt the word of God are committing blasphemy. The audacity to distort the truth had relegated the word of Christ as inferior in contrast to the superior wise words of men. These renegades have made themselves, wiser and better than the Creator.

Luke 16:13 *"**No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**" **Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.** And He said to them, *"You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. **For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.**"**

The covetous religious leaders who mocked the Lord's teachings were admonished by Him. Likewise, prosperity preachers and covetous pastors will discredit and condemn Bible believing Christians who refused to believe and serve unrighteous Mammon.

John 11:47-48 *Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."*

The religious leaders feared that had our Lord Jesus been made the King of Israel, the Romans would annihilate Israel. They feared men more than God. Similarly, depraved Christian leaders will fear men in authority who are rich and powerful, instead of God.

Mark 5:10 For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them. Pilate answered and said to them again, "What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?" So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!"

The religious leaders crucified our Lord Jesus out of envy. Depraved pastors and leaders will destroy godly Christians and their ministries by spinning false testimonies and malicious reports concerning them.

Act 5:27b-29 And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

The religious leaders forbid any teaching in the name of Jesus. Hence, depraved pastors and leaders will prohibit the teaching of the truth in an attempt to cover up their watered down and heretic sermons.

Luke 17:1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!"

Brethren, please ensure that we have not wrongly persecuted or judged any Bible believing brethren.

LS50

No Excuse For Their Sin

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:22 *"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin."*

Our Lord Jesus taught the Jews that He was the Son of God and Messiah, who came as the sacrificial Lamb of God and not as an earthly King.

Luke 1:76 *"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins,*

Zechariah prophesied John the Baptist's ministry and the birth of the soon coming Messiah. Prior to the commencement of Jesus's ministry, God laid the groundwork so that all religious leaders were made aware of the coming Messiah who would give them salvation, by the remission of their sins. Even so, they refused to accept Him as the Lamb of God and crucified Him instead.

Luke 2:11,17-18 *For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

Six months later, they heard the shepherds proclaiming the Messiah's birth in a stable in Bethlehem as announced by the angels.

Mat 2:4-5 *And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where **the Christ was to be born.** So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,"*

Not long after that the priesthood and scribes were summoned by Herod, who demanded of them to show the visiting wise men (magi) the birthplace of the Messiah. So once again, the religious leaders were told of the birth of the Messiah.

John 1:29 *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"*

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah, reminding them that He would come as the sacrificial Lamb of God, since the Jews were expecting Him to come as the King of Israel.

John 6:32-33 *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

Our Lord Jesus is the Word, which is our spiritual food (true bread from heaven) and by abiding in it, we will find eternal life.

Mat 20:18-19 *"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and **they will condemn Him to death**, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."*

Again and again, our Lord Jesus told them that He would come as the Lamb of God, Who will cleanse them of their sins by replacing their imperfect animal sacrifices.

Heb 9:13-14 *For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **how much more shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Mal 4:5 *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet (John the Baptist) before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*

The great and dreadful day was upon the Jews, the moment they rejected and crucified our Lord Jesus. Since then, the Jews are no longer the people of God.

Brethren, Jews are no longer the people of God and their salvation is only in our Lord Jesus.

LS51 Hates My Father Also

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:23 *"He who hates Me **hates My Father also.**"*

Our Lord Jesus was sent by the Father and He acted in obedience in words and deeds as a Son. Therefore, whoever hates Jesus actually hates the Father as well.

John 5:19 *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."*

The World hated Jesus

John 7:7 *"The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil."*

The world hates our Lord for He exposed their evil works.

Mat 10:22 *"And **you will be hated by all for My name's sake.** But he who endures to the end will be saved."*

The Jews hated Jesus

Mat 21:45-46 *Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.*

The religious leaders hated Jesus because He exposed their sinful and evil deeds (Mat 23)

John 8:42, 44 *Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you would love Me,** for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me... You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."*

Many disciples left Jesus

*John 6:56, 60, 66 “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”.. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?“. **From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.***

Many of Jesus’ disciples left Him when He told them to eat His flesh and to drink His blood. They hated the idea because of their lack of knowledge and understanding. It is a metaphorical reference to eating the Bread of Life and drinking the cup of communion.

Similarly, many Christians turned their backs on our Lord Jesus because they hated His teachings, which in the flesh, seems difficult to obey. (Please also read Mat 5-7)

When we hate any teaching of Jesus, we hate God the Father.

Mat 19:27-28 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”

Our Lord wants us to surrender everything to Him, so that we can obey His words and do His will. Then, just like His disciples, He can anoint and empower us to do great exploits to His glory.

Heb 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Unfortunately, many Christians are satisfied with just having their sins cleansed, but forgetting that we have to work out our salvation with fear and trembling by keeping true His words and eagerly awaiting His appearing.

Brethren, therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (Phil 2:12-15)

LS52 Works No One Else Did

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:24 ***"If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father."***

The religious leaders knew our Lord Jesus was the Messiah by the many signs of His birth and by John the Baptist's testimonies. Even though His miracles were beyond those done by the prophets, yet they rejected Him as their Messiah.

Healing of one born blind

John 9:31-32 ***Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.***

Winds and Sea obey Him

Mark 4:37-39 ***And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.***

Feeding 4,000 with 7 loaves

Mat 15:36-38 ***And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.***

Walking on the sea

Mat 14:26 ***And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out***

for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Transfiguration of Jesus

*Mat 17:1-2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and **He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.***

Withering of the fig tree

*Mat 21:19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "**Let no fruit grow on you ever again.**" **Immediately the fig tree withered away.** And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"*

Raising Lazarus after 4 days

*John 11:43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And **he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth.** Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

*Mark 12:6-8 "Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those vinedressers said among themselves, '**This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.**' So they took him and killed him and cast him out of the vineyard."*

Although the religious leaders knew that Jesus was the Messiah, as confirmed by numerous signs and wonders, they refused be under His Lordship on earth. They preferred to worship Yahweh in heaven, so that they could continue with their evil deeds. No wonder our Lord commanded us to love our brethren whom we can see.

Brethren, If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (1John 4:20-21)

LS53 Hated Me Without A Cause

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:25 *But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, "They hated Me without a cause."*

Our Lord Jesus continually reminded the Jews that He was sent by the Father to do everything according to His instructions and commands, yet the religious leaders hated Him without a cause.

Mat 23:1-7 *Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do... But all their works they do to be seen by men. (Please read Mat 23).*

These religious leaders no longer served Yahweh, but themselves. John the Baptist, a prophet of God, was sent before our Lord to prepare the way. Many Jews repented, but not the religious leaders who were blinded by wealth, power and their high positions.

John 8:42 *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me."*

Although the religious leaders knew that our Lord Jesus was the Messiah, they refused to accept Him, for they feared that He and His disciples would take over all their religious functions and abolished the priesthood, leaving them jobless and in disgrace. The fear of losing everything blinded them leading to their evil scheme. The fear of the Lord no longer existed in them, nor were they fearful of the displeasure and wrath of the Father.

John 5:18 *Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

Jude 1:5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Similarly, many pastors and church leaders no longer believe Him and His words. They have corrupted the word of God to justify their greed for power, position and money. They can be likened to the Pharisees in the days of our Lord Jesus, serving themselves in the name of God!

Luke 16:14-15 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

Are these still the words of God?

Why are God's money hoarded up?

Mat 6:19a,21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Why are churches in business?

Mat 21:22 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer', but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

Authority over men?

1Tim 2:12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

Why are pastors sodomites?

1Cor 6:9b-10 Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Brethren, do not hate nor persecute Christians who go by the book without a cause. They are conforming to the pure Word of God.

LS54 Spirit Of Truth Will Testify

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 15:26 *"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."*

When we love the Lord by keeping His commands, He will give us the Spirit of truth, who will abide in us forever (or baptism of the Holy Spirit) and then we will begin to testify for Him.

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Act 8:15-17 *who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

When we baptize (Mat 28:19-20) or pray for a brethren, he will receive the Holy Spirit as the seal of redemption or be filled with the Holy Spirit manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1Cor 12:7-11).

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-17a *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

When our Lord prays to the Father for those who love Him, they will be baptized by the Holy Spirit (the Helper or the Spirit of truth), Who will abide with them forever.

Act 1:5 *"for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

Act 1:8a *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;"*

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were filled with His knowledge, understanding, wisdom, truth, and power and they also bore the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).

1. Boldness preaching the gospel

Act 1:8b *“and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

2. Understand all things

John 14:26a *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things”*

3. Recall His words and events

John 14:26b *“and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

He will help us to recall all His scriptures, teachings, commands, words, etc. whenever needed.

4. Know (guided into) all truth

John 16:13a *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth”*

Having a good understanding of Scriptures, His attributes, words, works, ways, wisdom, and will.

5. Will be able to hear from God

John 16:13b *“for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak;”*

God will speak to us through the Holy Spirit, for He will not speak nor prophesy apart from the Word of God.

6. Know the things to come

John 16:13c *“and He will tell you things to come.”*

He will teach us end time signs for our understanding, and also show us future events.

7. Free from worldliness and sin

John 8:31-32 *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

John 16:14 *“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”*

Brethren, all those baptized in the Holy Spirit, will be led by the Spirit and they will glorify His name for everyone will see Christ in them.

LS55 You Also Will Be Witness

‘Last Sermon of Jesus’

John 15:27 *“And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”*

The disciples were to bear witness of our Lord as the Messiah, and also His divinity, powers, love, sufferings, death and resurrection.

Peter preaching to the Jews

Act 2:22-24 *“Men of Israel, hear these words: **Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know - Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.**”*

Peter preached Jesus Christ, the Son of God, sent by God to redeem all mankind from sin and from Hades. It is strange that Peter being a fisherman and considered as unlearned should be sent by the Lord to preach to the learned Jews. Since the Jews were knowledgeable in the OT, he used the OT to prove that the Messiah, from the seed of David, must first suffer and then crucified, but death could not hold Him for God would resurrect Him.

Act 2:29-32 *“Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.**”*

Paul preaching to Gentiles

*Act 17:22-24 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, **the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.”**”*

Paul, a Pharisee, knowledgeable of the OT, but rejected by the Jews, was sent to the Gentiles. He showed that the God in heaven, whom they worshipped and without any name, is the Creator of heaven and earth. He is not an idol but the Almighty God. God wants everyone to repent of their sins for He will come to judge with righteousness through His Son Jesus Christ who was raised from death.

Act 17:28-32 “for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Brethren, we too must preach the full gospel of the message of the cross, where we have to work out our faith to be like Him and be with Him.

1. Redemption by faith
2. Crucify our flesh
3. Abide in Jesus
4. Keep His words and commands
5. Baptized in the Holy Spirit
6. Love the Lord
7. Love one another

LS56 You Should Not Stumble

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:1 *"These things I have spoken to you, **that you should not be made to stumble.**"*

Our Lord knew that His time to complete His mission on earth was near, and before His crucifixion, He taught His disciples in this final or last sermon. He loved them very much and summarized for them how they will not stumble or sin. This sermon will also help us not to stumble or sin if we carefully observe His teachings and words.

John 13:1 *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when **Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.***

First and most important lesson

John 13:5-7 *After that, **He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."***

Have you ever wash your staff or servant's feet?

Because our Lord loved His disciples, He humbled Himself to be their servant and cleansed their dirty feet. If God can do this humiliating job, then why can't we? He gave up His heavenly glory and came to earth as a servant to man to show His love for us sinful and wicked men.

Only our parents will wash our dirty feet, and from this significant gesture our Lord had revealed Himself as our loving Father, Who will give us everything to help us to obtain salvation, holiness and perfection.

Phil 2:5-8 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

Allow our Lord Jesus to help us

John 13:8 *Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”*

Let our Lord Jesus, help us in all our weaknesses, sins, needs, problems, sicknesses, worries, etc. for only He alone can set us free.

John 8:36 *“Therefore **if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**”*

Wash our brethren’s feet

John 13:14 *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another’s feet.** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”*

Brethren, If we can wash our brethren’s feet, then we can forgive him of all his debts, hatred and wicked deeds against us. This is the sign of our love for one another.

John 13:34-35 *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**”*

Brethren, this is true Christianity and the only command of our Lord Jesus Christ that we love one another as He had loved us and *by this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.* (1John 3:16)

LS57 Persecute And Kill You

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:2 *"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service."*

At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples of Jesus and also upon the devout Jews from afar, who came to Jerusalem to worship Yahweh. Three thousand souls believed in Jesus Christ, and they were baptized after having understood the gospel.

Act 2:1-2,40-41 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting... And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

Act 2:43,46-46 *Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles... So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

As the disciples and new converts gathered daily in the temple, more and more were added into the kingdom of Jesus. This brought fear upon the priesthood and they planned to stop this new religion by forbidding everyone to speak or use 'the Name of Jesus',

Act 4:16-17 *saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But **so that it***

spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.”

Act 6:13-14 *They also set up false witnesses who said, “This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.”*

The Jews believed the lies of the wicked priesthood and thought that the believers were all blasphemers who must be killed. This prophecy was fulfilled with the great persecution of Christians in Jerusalem, resulting in the killing of Stephen. The bloodshed forced believers to flee Jerusalem, which indirectly brought the gospel to Judea and Samaria. Though the believers were hated, persecuted, tortured and even martyred, they counted it a privilege to be partakers in His sufferings.

Act 8:1b-3 *At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.*

Brethren, we too can potentially be persecuted or executed for our faith in Jesus and His words. The heinous act can be inflicted not only by the heathens, but also by our covetous, worldly, carnal and depraved pastors and church leaders. ***For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.”*** (Luke 9:25-26)

LS58

Do Not Know The Father

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:2-3 *"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And **these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.**"*

All "Christians" and religious leaders, who exclude, persecute and kill Bible believing Christians, do not know God nor His will, words, works and plans. These are merely religious people who follow the letter (laws), null and void of the Spirit of truth. And because they do not have truth in them, they are still ensnared by the things in this world. Without the Spirit of truth in them, they cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit. Hence, they still walk in the flesh just as the heathens.

Gal 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

John 8:42,47 *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me... **He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.**"*

The religious leaders during the time of our Lord Jesus were selfish, covetous and carnal and were blinded by power and materialism. They persecuted our Lord. They had forgotten mercy, justice and faith but demanded sacrifices. Similarly, many pastors and leaders today being selfish, covetous and carnal are building their own kingdoms. Blinded by worldly pursuits and successes, they

do not know God nor understand His will anymore. This leads them to believe and teach heresies in order to justify their sinful cravings, covetousness and lusts.

Mat 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

*John 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a liar and the father of it.**”*

Our Lord condemned those religious leaders who lied and resisted the truth as children of the devil. Similarly, all pastors and leaders who resisted His words and who persecuted the brethren who walk in truth, are likely to be the devil’s servants, ministering as false apostles in the churches.

*1Tim 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times **some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.***

*Brethren, but there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, **who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.** (2Pet 2:1-3)*

LS59

Told You Beforehand

‘Last Sermon of Jesus’

John 16:4 *“But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.”*

Our Lord kept mentioning that the reason He had told His disciples those things beforehand, was that when those things come to pass, they will remember what He had told them, and then they will believe.

John 14:29 *“And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.”*

Faith of the Israelites

From the OT, the Israelites saw the numerous miracles of how Yahweh delivered them from Pharaoh, such as the parting of the Red Sea. Nevertheless, when they saw the giants and high walls of Canaan, they rebelled against Moses and God.

Deu 11:18-19 *“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”*

But the new generation that was raised up in the wilderness were taught and filled with the word of God. By faith, they fearlessly entered and possessed the Promised Land.

Our Faith in the Great Tribulation

Many godly pastors will be crucified by the authorities under the New World Order. The gory sights will frighten unlearned Christians to apostate. Our Lord instructed us to prepare them so that before they face any persecution, they must be ready and have complete

faith in His words. So when they can rejoice seeing Jesus' end time signs being fulfilled one by one, then they will be ready to face the great Tribulation.

The next Sign - World War 3?

*Mat 24:6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, **but the end is not yet.**"*

I believe that the next sign to be fulfilled will be World War 3, which will be so intense, extensive and deadly that over a billion will perish as though it is the end of the world. This will correspond with the Fourth Seal which revealed that a fourth of all mankind killed.

Judgement begins in His house

*1Pet 4:17 **For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?***

Before the first advent of Jesus, John the Baptist was sent to prepare the Jews towards repentance. Under other conditions, they will not be able to accept the true light. Similarly, before the Rapture, the Holy Spirit will convict us to repent of worldliness, covetousness and heresies, otherwise God will not protect us in WW3. I believe that all depraved pastors, leaders, false Christs, hypocrites and unfaithful stewards who hoarded or stole His money will all be killed during WW3, just as tares are cast into Hades. Being free of heresies, we will be able to walk in truth and overcome the great Tribulation with joy.

*Tit 2:11-13 **For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,***

*Brethren, for what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
(Mat 16:26)*

LS60

The Poor Widow's Mite

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

Mark 12:38-40 *Then He said to them in His teaching, "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, **who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers.** These will receive greater condemnation."*

Our Lord Jesus condemned the depraved condition of the religious leaders during His time. They were so covetous of money that they would even devour widows' houses, which is an abomination.

Mat 23:14 *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers.** Therefore you will receive greater condemnation."*

Mark 12:41-44 *Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then **one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.** So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, **but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.**"*

These covetous religious leaders would not spare any poor widows, but would deceived them into giving to Yahweh their whole livelihood, leaving them to face hunger and starvation. It is no wonder that our Lord clearly warned us, that when we are covetous, we cannot serve God.

Luke 16:13-15 *"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is*

highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

*2Tim 3:1-7 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters,... despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! **For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

In these last days, covetous Christian leaders are not qualified to serve God. They shamelessly devour the homes of single mothers, widows and fornicators (gullible women loaded down with sins). These poor single mothers deceived by false prophecies and heresies using the name of God, give sacrificially to the deceivers in order to receive healing, deliverance and blessings for their children. These single mothers normally, cannot afford medical help, and just like the widows during the days of our Lord, these depraved religious leaders will not spare them, thus leaving them to face poverty and greater financial difficulties. Repent, you evil workers and deceivers, or else, you will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Rom 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Brethren, if we have supported or approved the abominable practices of these covetous leaders, then we too will have to repent.

LS61 Now I Go To Him Who Sent Me

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart."

The disciples had the wrong impression that their Messiah will soon establish His earthly rule as the King of Israel. Jesus had to repeatedly remind them, that He is the Sacrificial Lamb sent by God to die for their sins. He also reiterated that He would go back to His Father.

Mat 16:20-21 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Jesus withheld the facts of His impending suffering until His disciples were convicted and convinced that He is the Son of God and the Messiah. Likewise, we can only teach new converts that they must endure sufferings, which is a process of refinement in preparation to be His bride, after they had understood the message of the cross.

Our Lord kept reminding His disciples that He will be killed as their sacrificial Lamb, which they didn't seem to understand nor accept.

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Our Lord had chosen the way of the cross so that through His death He can bring all believers into the Father's house.

John 20:17, 20 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”... And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

When a new believer sincerely accepts Jesus as his sacrificial Lamb, Lord and Savior, all his sins are cleansed by His blood. Immediately, the Holy Spirit dwells in Him as the seal of redemption.

John 14:15,-17a “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever- the Spirit of truth,”

When one appreciates and understands Jesus’ great love for him, and is grateful and reciprocates His love by keeping His words and commands, then our Lord Jesus will baptize him with the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of truth. Only after knowing the truth, will he be able to understand Him, His words and His will.

Subsequently, he will be led by the Spirit into his service for God. He will always be joyful even in sufferings, tribulations, sorrows, persecutions, sicknesses and pains, just as His disciples were, in the book of Acts.

Brethren, the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (Rom 8’16-17)

LS62 When The Helper Comes

‘Last Sermon of Jesus’

John 16:7 *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”*

This prophecy was fulfilled after the death of Jesus. At Pentecost, our Lord sent the Helper, the Holy Spirit to fill His disciples. The manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit was made evident when they began to speak in tongues.

Act 2:1,5 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, **devout men, from every nation under heaven.***

Devout Jews were followers of Judaism who kept the Mosaic Law and the Prophets. Judaism was made obsolete after the crucifixion of the Messiah. The Jews were no longer the people of God. So, all Jews need to believe in the gospel of Jesus in order to gain salvation, just like the Gentiles.

Peter Anointed Message

Act 2:14 *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.*

[22] *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—”*

[23] *“Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;”*

[24] *“whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*

[30] *“Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the*

flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

[36] *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

Conviction of Devout Jews

Act 2:37 *Now **when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”***

The devout Jews who lost their status as the people of God were now considered as ‘the world’. They were convicted (cut to the heart) by the Holy Spirit.

John 16:8 *“And when He (Holy Spirit) has come, **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:***

Salvation of Devout Jews

Acts 2:38-39 *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For **the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.**”*

This promise of God concerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit was not exclusive to the saved Jews, but to every believer.

We thank God that He has given every born again believer, the Helper. The Holy Spirit makes the burden of carrying our cross (His yoke), lighter and easier. He convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgment.

John 16:9 *“of sin, because they do not believe in Me;”*

Our lack of love for Him breeds unbelief that leads us to sin. Thank God that before we commit any sin, He will convict us first. If we have already sinned, He will convict us to repent by confessing our sin.

Thank God that we do not have to be burdened with the problem of sin, and similarly with righteousness and also judgement.

LS63 You Cannot Bear Them Now

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:12 *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now."*

The Lord gave this last sermon just before His arrest. The Holy Spirit was given specifically to the Jews only when they were still the people of God. During the three years of discipleship under the Lord Himself, the disciples were still unable to understand the things of God because they were not given the Holy Spirit, and they were mostly unlearned fishermen.

Mark 10:32b-34 *Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."*

Many times our Lord Jesus told His disciples clearly that He would be betrayed (by Judas), scourged and killed on the third day, He would resurrect but they refused to accept it. They could not accept His death since they wanted Him to be glorified as the King of Israel so that they would rule with Him. The disciples gave up everything for the wrong motive of gaining earthly rewards in riches, positions and power.

Mark 10:36-37,41 *And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."... And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.*

Mark 16:9-13 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.

After the resurrection of our Lord, the disciples did not believe the testimonies of Mary and two other disciples. They were so disappointed and sad, for their dreams of ruling with King Jesus on earth were over.

How then can we expect those worldly disciples (without the Holy Spirit) to accept teachings such as:

1. Consider others better than yourself,
2. Love your enemies,
3. Bless those who curse you,
4. Give to the needy without any repayment,
5. Love one another as Jesus had loved (died for) us.

1John 3:14-16 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

LS64 Guide You Into All Truth

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

He is the Spirit of truth because when He has come into any Christian He will guide him into all truth.

John 14:15-17a,27 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth,... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

The Spirit of truth is also known as the Helper and He is the Holy Spirit. When we love our Lord Jesus by keeping His commandments, He will pray for us and the Father will send us the Holy Spirit, whom our Lord Jesus will baptize us with, so that the Holy Spirit becomes our Helper or Spirit of truth. We will then be filled with truth, wisdom, knowledge of God, understanding of His words and will, etc. We will also be filled with the fruit of the Spirit, as we are being transformed into His image.

Acts 1:4-5 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Mat 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Only our Lord Jesus Christ can baptize us with the Holy Spirit when He is convinced that we have kept His commandments of loving one another as He had loved us (by dying for us). We are not qualified nor have that authority, so please do not pray for any brethren to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

However, as Christians, we have the power to lay hands upon the new converts to receive the Holy Spirit as the seal of their salvation at their conversion or at water baptism. As pastors and church leaders we also have the power to lay hands on our sheep and pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit (speaking in tongues, faith, word of wisdom, etc.) to empower them in their spiritual growth, encouragement and ministry. However, without the baptism of the Holy Spirit and truth, all these charismatic brethren will still be ensnared by the deceitfulness of power and riches, and the lusts of this world.

Brethren, unless we begin to love by showing mercy and compassion to our brethren especially those in charitable homes for the aged, orphans, children, destitute, neglected, strangers, etc. there is no possibility of us getting baptized in the Holy Spirit. Give until it hurts much (living sacrifice) *for what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?* (Mat 10:26)

LS65 He Will Take What Is Mine

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:14 *"He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."*

The Helper in us will glorify our Lord Jesus, for He will take from our Lord Jesus all His words, teachings, parables, etc. and guide us into all truth. The Helper cannot teach anything outside the words of Jesus.

Act 4:11-13 *"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

This was fulfilled in the Book of Acts. Born again Christians today are similar to the Jews in the OT. By faith, their sacrificial lamb was our Lord Jesus. In the OT, the Holy Spirit was given to the priesthood, prophets, kings and leaders, along with the spiritual gifts to empower them in their ministries and to serve the Almighty God. (Read also LS63 - When the Helper comes)

Jer 31:33-34 *"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for **they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**"*

It was prophesied that the future people of God will no longer be Jews (who could not keep the law and prophets), but born again Christians baptized in the Holy Spirit or Spirit of truth so that God can:-

1. Put the laws in their mind

John 14:26b *“bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

2. Write the laws in their hearts

John 14:15-16 *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever”*

3. No more taught by man

John 14:26a *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things,”*

4. All will know God

John 16:13 *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;”*

Heb 1:1-2 *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.*

Brethren, all those who are led by the Spirit of God must conform to the words of Jesus. Avoid teachings or doctrines which are outside the words of Jesus and the Epistles of the Apostles. Wrong doctrines or heresies, which include positive confession, prosperity gospel, hyper grace, demonic manifestations or false prophesies, keeping the OT law and Jewish feasts.

Eph 1:13 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*

LS66 Because I Go To The Father

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:16 *"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father."*

Our Lord ascended to the Father after His resurrection so that He would be glorified, in accordance with Scripture. Only after Jesus was glorified will the Holy Spirit, who comes as the Helper or Spirit of truth as given by the Father.

John 7:38-39 *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."*

Rom 8:34 *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

Our Lord Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father and He is interceding for us.

The Holy Bible is the word of God and in it, we find His covenant with us. Whenever we see the word 'if', we will also see 'His promise'. Although God is all sovereign, He is also just and righteous. He must always be faithful to His words and promises because He cannot sin, lie nor deceive.

John 14:15-16 *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."*

So if anyone keeps His commandments, our Lord will pray to the Father to give the Helper to abide in him forever, so that the Helper will help this brethren to be transformed into His image and he will never lose His salvation.

Rom 8:27-30 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Having searched our hearts (foreknew) and is satisfied that we have kept His commandments because we love Him, then we will be called, for He has predestined that all those who love Him to be called. All those called will also be justified and glorified for the Helper or Spirit of truth will help them to be transformed into His image.

The word of God is perfect and only the wicked, unlearned and those without truth, will distort and corrupt it. God has given us the right to decide on our future. IF we believe and keep His words, then we have eternal life. But IF we reject Him and the truth, then damnation awaits us as promised.

2Pet 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

Where are those who teach that the Almighty God is all Sovereign and does not need to keep His covenant? Unfaithful to His words and promises! This is blasphemy.

Brethren, hold fast onto sound doctrines based on the truth in the word of God and beware of doctrines of man which are normally heresies. *These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'* (Mat 15:8-9)

LS67 Do Not Know What He Said

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:17-18 Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying."

Why couldn't the disciples of Jesus accept that Jesus must be killed, be resurrected from the dead and He will see them again as prophesied?

Isa 53:5-7 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

The Jews only wanted their Messiah to be the King of Israel and refused to accept that He would instead, be the sacrificial Lamb of God. Although our Lord reminded His disciples again and again, that He had come as the sacrificial Lamb of God as testified by their prophet John the Baptist, they still refused to accept the reality.

They confessed Him as Christ

John 6:68-69 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Although they confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, they were still not saved, for they had not received the Holy Spirit as the seal of salvation. No wonder they were not able to

understand that the Messiah must be killed and then be resurrected from the dead.

John 20:8-9 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

Luke 24:6-8 "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" And they remembered His words.

The disciples were always told and reminded that Jesus must be crucified and then be resurrected, so that they would believe Him as the sacrificial Lamb of God.

Luke 24:45-47 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Only after they had understood the gospel and believed that Jesus was their sacrificial Lamb, who bore their iniquities on the cross and was resurrected from the dead, for the remission of their sins, that they were saved. Immediately, our Lord Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit as the seal of salvation.

John 20:21-21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Brethren, we must preach the gospel as taught and commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ in Luke 24:45-47 in its wholeness. There is no remission of sins without the sacrificial Lamb, nor salvation with a diluted gospel.

LS68 They Desired To Ask Him

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'?"

The moment our Lord Jesus realised that there were problems or differences with His disciples, He would bring them out into the open immediately, in order to remove any dissatisfaction.

Mat 20:24-25 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant."

The Lord silenced His disciples when the two brothers who wanted to be great, sitting next to Him, in that, they must first be a servants to all. The people were amazed at His knowledge and wisdom to solve all their problems and disputes.

Mark 16:13-14 And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either. Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

However, He was unable to make His disciples understand the need of His crucifixion and resurrection for their salvation because of their Unbelief caused by the hardness of their heart for power, riches, positions, etc. All of them were like Thomas, and they believed the gospel only after they had seen the resurrected Lord in front of them. Then, they received the Holy Spirit of salvation, and after that, all of them went to Galilee as instructed by our Lord.

John 21:13-15 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

After our Lord was convinced by the love of Peter who had denied Him 3 times, all His disciples were told to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. At Pentecost, (Act 2) all His disciples who were filled with the Holy Spirit, received the gifts of tongue, thus drawing the attention of all the other Jews.

Devout Jews received the gifts of interpretations of tongue, leading many to believe our Lord Jesus on hearing the gospel. All those disciples who loved Him were baptized by our Lord Jesus with the Holy Spirit. The Helper or Spirit of truth transformed them into the image of Jesus, filling them with His power, knowledge, wisdom, etc. and they glorified God in all their ways.

Brethren, we all need our Lord Jesus to baptize us with the Holy Spirit, so that we can glorify the Lord by walking in the Spirit to overcome the deceitfulness of this world and the wiles of Satan. All we need to do is to keep His commandments by sincerely loving one another as He had loved us.

LS69 You Will Weep And Lament

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 6:20 *"Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy."*

The first part of this prophecy was fulfilled within hours, after He was arrested, scourged and sent to carry His own cross to his crucifixion. The second part was fulfilled after His resurrection from the dead.

Luke 23:27-28 *And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."*

As Jesus carried His cross in pain, He told those mourning and lamenting womenfolk not to weep for Him, but for the wraths of God coming down upon Jerusalem. He rejoiced in His sufferings, which He volunteered out of His love for mankind, for by His stripes we are healed.

Mark 16:9-11 *Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.*

His disciples mourned and wept because their hopes of power, riches, prosperity, etc. were over because their King of Israel was killed. Even though they were told that their King had resurrected, they could not believe it, for they witnessed the death of their King, who must not die.

Mark 14:27-28 *Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the*

Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”

It was in Galilee that our risen Lord told them to cast their net on the right side and their net was filled with fish just as it was before His death. Then they ate and fellowshiped with the Lord and only then they believed Him.

John 21:5-7a Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.” And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

Luke 24:46-47 Now as He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Only after the resurrection of Jesus in Galilee, they were able to understand the Scriptures and once again gave their lives to follow Jesus and preach the everlasting gospel, this time not for His earthly kingdom but for the eternal kingdom of Christ.

Luke 24:51-53 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Finally, having understood His love and the eternal gospel, they were filled with joy seeing Jesus ascending to the Father in heaven. They eagerly awaited the baptism of the Holy Spirit of Jesus in Jerusalem, so that they could minister just like our Lord Jesus, who performed all types of signs and wonders, according to the Father’s will, taught the truth, and having great wisdom.

LS70 Woman In Labour Has Sorrow

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:21 "A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world."

Our Lord Jesus compared the difficulties of the salvation (born again experience) of the Jews and also His disciples with the pains and sufferings of an expectant mother in labour. The preconceived coming of the Messiah, as the King of Israel, instead of the sacrificial Lamb of God, by all the Jews, from the priesthood to the unlearned labourers, was the biggest obstacle to their salvation.

It took John the Baptist his entire life to get them to repent of their sinful ways, and our Lord Jesus, His three years of teachings, discipling, signs and wonders, His crucifixion and finally His resurrection to convince only 120 disciples out of the thousands upon thousands to be saved, received the Holy Spirit and obeyed Him to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:46-47 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

For the salvation of the non-believers, we must preach the whole gospel as taught by our Lord and anything less than that may deprive them of salvation.

Gal 1:3-8 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace

of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

The prosperity gospel, positive confession, hyper grace, etc. are perverted gospels of material blessings, riches, powers, etc. by making our Lord Jesus Christ as King of Israel (just as the misconception of the Messiah to the Jews) instead of the sacrificial Lamb of God, for the remission of their sins and salvation.

2Thess 2:11-12 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Covetous pastors, televangelists, false prophets and teachers, etc. love money and the things of this world, and have rejected the truth, so they are easily deceived by lies. They proclaim these perverted or diluted gospels for their personal material benefits and financial gains. These will hinder their followers and congregations in their salvation, or from being born again. No wonder the Lord cursed these workers of iniquities, who are really the agents of the Devil, obstructing God's salvation for all mankind.

Brethren, let us be the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will only preach the everlasting gospel as taught by Him, and no other gospel so that His name is glorified.

LS71 No One Will Take Your Joy Away

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:22 *"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."*

This was the last sermon of our Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples. He knew that none of them were to be saved, for not believing that He was the sacrificial Lamb, for the propitiation of their sins. They would be sorrowful as soon as they saw their Lord Jesus their King of Israel arrested. God, being arrested, is beyond comprehension!

John 6:68-69 *But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Though the disciples believed and confessed Him as the Messiah, the Son of the living God (even the demon possessed made the confession), they were neither saved nor born again, and were without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit can only be given to born again Christians, who have repented of their sins, believed and accepted Jesus' death as the propitiation of their sin, His victory over death in Hades, His glorious resurrection from the dead to the glory of the Father in heaven.

Luke 4:41 *And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.*

Note that even the unsaved ones and many with demons and unclean spirits also professed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1:23-24 *Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"*

Luke 24:51-53 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Our Lord told them that soon they would be sorrowful because of their ignorance of the Scriptures. The death of our Lord is inevitably out of His great love for us. It was only after the Lord's revelation and fellowship with them in Galilee, that they began to understand the gospel and rejoiced in their redemption.

Having been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, they joyfully bear witness to the everlasting gospel. These were the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conversely, we can't say this with the disciples of those preaching the diluted or perverted gospel. These are not saved even though they were told that they are the children of God. Without the Holy Spirit dwelling in them, they will not be able to understand the truth in the word of God. Until they repent of their sins and worldliness, they will not be able to understand the salvation through the blood of the Lamb of God, and they will be lost forever.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom 8:12-14)

LS72 Ask, the Father Will Give You

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:22-23 *"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and **your joy no one will take from you**. And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."*

When was that day of inseparable joy?

Luke 24:46-47 *"Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

They understood that God was made flesh and became the sacrificial Lamb for the propitiation of their sins. At His death He descended into Hades and destroyed death, thereby setting everyone free from the fear of death. He rose from the dead and was glorified by the Father in heaven. Whoever believes in the gospel will be saved and will be given the Holy Spirit. The disciples rejoiced, knowing that they were saved by the blood of Jesus during His crucifixion. They would always be grateful that Jesus, their Teacher, the Almighty God Himself came to earth, was made flesh and died for them.

Luke 24:48-50 *"And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them."*

They understood that a true believer who loves the Lord are those who are obedient to His words, Christ will pray to the Father, who will give the Holy Spirit of truth to His Son, so that our Lord Jesus can baptize our brethren with the Holy Spirit to enable him to be His Helper.

When our Lord Jesus told His disciples that they were worthy to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and to await this great Promise in Jerusalem, they were filled with great joy for God Himself had acknowledged their love. What joy it was for these unlearned fishermen, that they had fulfilled the greatest commandment of loving the Lord their God with all their hearts, minds, strengths, and souls, which even the priesthood had great difficulties in fulfilling.

Luke 24:51-52 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

They were glad to have pleased the Messiah, who loved them and died for them. With such great joy they could not stop praising and worshipping Him, for they were comforted and satisfied and coveted nothing.

At that moment, if they have wanted anything, they would have prayed for faithfulness, obedience, transformation into His image and an undivided love, so that they could joyfully lay down their lives for their brethren.

Later in the Book of Acts, the Apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit. They were filled with boldness, love, power, wisdom, compassion, knowledge, and worked with signs and wonders.

Brethren, what would you pray for if you were in a similar situation? - Filled with such great joy, in knowing that He had suffered and died for your salvation and that He had confirmed your love by baptizing you with the Holy Spirit.

Would you ask for prosperity, worldly rewards and successes, powers, and more blessings from Him, or, would you pray that you will please Him by faithfully serving Him in truth?

LS73 That Your Joy May Be Full

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:24 *"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."*

While the disciples were with our Lord Jesus, they were always filled with excitement, and never had a dull moment. They saw miracles after miracles, and everyone was flocking to meet Him, and even the religious leaders marveled at His great knowledge and wisdom. They were having such a wonderful time serving Him, that heaven was on earth. They were filled with so much joy that they needed nothing.

Wind and Waves calmed

Mat 8:26 *But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.*

Dead raised

Mat 9:24 *He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.*

Feeding of five thousand

Mat 14:20-21 *So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

Peter walking on the water

Mat 14:28 *And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

Healing of sicknesses

Mat 15:30-31 *Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and*

they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

Money from the mouth of fish

Mat 17:27 "Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

Jesus the Son of David

Mat 21:9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! 'Hosanna in the highest!'" And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

Great Wisdom of Jesus

Mat 22:20 And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Mat 22:33 And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

Mat 22:46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

If we had such great joy being in His presence and witnessed all those miracles just like His disciples, what else do we need to ask of Him?

Brethren, we too can always be in His presence when Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit (the Helper or Spirit of truth).

John 14:15-16 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever".

LS74 I Will Speak In Parables

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:25 *"These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father."*

Our Lord taught and guided His disciples at every opportunity. Regrettably, they could not understand His parables due to the absence of the Holy Spirit, who was given only to the Israelites then.

Luke 8:9 *Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?"*

Mat 21:45 *Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.*

The Jews, specifically the religious leaders understood many of His parables for they were the people of God and had the Holy Spirit (until the death of our Lord Jesus). God wanted them to understand so that they would repent and be saved. One of such examples is the follower, Nicodemus. Foolishly, the Jews lose the entitlement when they put our Lord to death.

Mat 13:34-35 *All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."*

Hidden in the parables are the secrets and mysteries of the Kingdom of God. All those without the Holy Spirit will not be able to understand them, for God kept the secrets from them.

Secret of the priceless Pearl

Mat 13:45-46 *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of*

great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. "When the merchant finds this priceless pearl, he will sell all he had and buy it."

In this case the priceless pearl is the entrance to the kingdom of heaven or New Jerusalem.

Rev 21:21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city (New Jerusalem) was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Mat 7:6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces."

If a non-believer (swine) was able to interpret these verses, then he would certainly give away everything he owned, in order to be saved, thereby entering the kingdom of heaven (pearl).

In reality, the concept of salvation illustrated above is preposterous to non-believers. The truth would be quickly be dismissed as demonic teachings. In a nutshell, those who are not born again are without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As a result, they will not be able to understand the parables of Jesus and His words which have hidden spiritual meanings and teachings, concerning the kingdom of God.

But the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language

Our Lord was crucified a few hours after these final instructions. After His resurrection, He gave His disciples the Holy Spirit as a seal of redemption.

After our Lord was glorified, the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of spiritual gifts.

On a different note, His disciples were baptized with the Spirit of truth, who would teach them all things.

John 16:13a "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;"

Brethren, unless we are baptized with the Holy Spirit by our Lord Jesus Christ, not by man, with the Spirit of Truth, our understanding of the word of God, the parables of Jesus will be limited.

LS75 Will not Pray to the Father

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:25-26 *"These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;"*

The Father listened to the prayers of His disciples in the name of Jesus. Whereas, the prayers of believers have to be sanctioned by our Jesus.

Act 1:5 *"for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

The Lord had to baptize His disciples with the Holy Spirit so that the Spirit of truth can help them to gain deeper understanding of His teachings.

Church leaders baptize new believers through water immersion. In a like manner, when our Lord Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit, He will immerse our spirits in the Holy Spirit. Subsequently, the Holy Spirit of Truth who is the Helper will teach us all things and guide us into all truths.

John 14:26 *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*

John 16:26 *In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;"*

'In that day' refers to the moment when His disciples received enlightenment on His teachings and understood His will. Moving forward, our Lord no longer prayed for them because something very special had occurred! The Heavenly Father Himself adored and yearned to hear the voices of their prayers in the Name of Jesus.

Rom 8:34-35 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

On the subject of immature Christians, our Lord has to examine our prayer request. If what we asked for are beneficial to us and are good for our walk with Christ, then He will intercede to the Father on our behalf. Quite the opposite, He will not accommodate our petitions for selfish earthly rewards and blessings which will lead us to destruction because of His great love for us.

Mat 7:9-11 “Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

Brethren, our Father in heaven is waiting to bestow good gifts on us: the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The caveat in receiving that is our complete obedience to His words. With the baptism, we will be transformed into the image of His Son Jesus Christ, so that we may become the bride of the Lamb, if only we ask in Jesus' name.

*John 14:15-16; 16:13 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever... However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come.**”*

LS76 Father Himself Loves You

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:26-27 *"In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God."*

With the indwelling of the Helper, we will comprehend the ways of God. By earning Christ's trust, all our prayers in His name will be directed to God uncensored. This is the direct line to the Father.

In the book of Acts, we find that His disciples with this direct line to the Father could perform miracles and healing. They ministered while bearing the fruit of the Spirit, bringing glory to God.

John 14:21 *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

Act 4:29-31 *"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and **grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.**"*
And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

These were the types of prayers that are pleasing to our Father in heaven, the prayers that He will be delighted to answer. When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they preached the gospel boldly. Healing, miracles, signs and wonders followed them in Jesus' name. Many Jews, followed by Gentiles, believed and were baptized into the body of Christ.

Act 4:31-35 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

The disciples were not only filled with the powers and gifts of the Holy Spirit, but they were also filled with the fruit of the Spirit. They loved one another and sacrificed all they had in order to share, feed and care for one another.

1John 3:17-18 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Do you think that those covetous, rich and multimillionaire pastors, prophets and televangelists have direct lines to the Father in heaven? Beware of these wolves, for they will destroy you with their heresies and distorted doctrines.

Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Brethren, our Lord is waiting to give us the Spirit of Truth if we love Him and keep His commandments.

John 14:15-17a "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth..."

LS77 | Leave The World And Go To The Father

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:28 *"I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."*

In His final instruction, Jesus reminded them that He was sent from God, and that He must leave this earth and return to the Father. The statement evidently correlated with God's redemption plan for mankind that Jesus must die before He could return to the Father in heaven.

The death of Jesus sounded ludicrous to the disciples! They negated the divined truth out of self-centred motives to be in the service of the King of Israel. His death would put an end to their dreams of riches, powers and recognition.

Mat 16:21 *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

John 14:26 *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*

Since the Helper could bring to their remembrance all things that our Lord Jesus had said to them, then the gist in Act 2:22-36 must have been taught to them by our Lord.

Act 2:22-36 *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it... For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will*

rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day... Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Act 2:37-38, 41 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”... Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

The disciples effectively convicted 3,000 Jews. Please use this to evangelise those following the OT, namely, the Jews, Muslims and misled Christians.

LS78 Do You Now Believe?

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:31 *Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe?"*

Our Lord had taught them in the last three years that He was the Messiah, sent from God as the sacrificial Lamb, for the remission of their sins as prophesied by Isaiah. He must suffer much pain for the Father had laid on Him all the iniquities of man. Did the disciples believe Jesus?

Isa 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Had they believed that our Lord Jesus came as the Lamb of God, then:

1. At His arrest - All the disciples obeying God's will would have surrendered Him with joy and then bow down to worship Him for His great love for man.

2. At His scourging - They should have been in great remorse seeing that each excruciating painful stripes inflicted on Him was in healing them. He took upon Himself the greatest pains of their sorrows, worries and sicknesses. Each one should rejoice, witnessing the great sacrificial love of God for him, unfolding the similar painful sacrificial love of our parents in bringing us up. In return, they should love Jesus with all his heart.

3. At His judgment - When they witnessed how the Priesthood and the Jews were forcing Pontius Pilate to send our Lord Jesus to His death, they should rejoice to see the fulfilment of His prophecies to the latest.

Mark 10:33 *“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles;”*

4. At His crucifixion - Every drop of blood that dripped down from His body, was filled with agonizing pain. Blood from His head inflicted by the crown of thorns, or by the scrounging of His body or by the nails through His hands and feet, were all for the cleansing of our sins. Even in His great pain, He seemed to be pleased with Himself that He had saved us from the eternal punishing pains of Hell. Please see the movie ‘Passion of Christ’ again and again, until you can feel and appreciate His severe pain and sacrificial love for you in the core of your heart.

5. Before His resurrection - His disciples should be continually rejoicing, fearlessly praising and worshipping God, preaching His sacrificial love as the Lamb of God and the prophecy of His resurrection in Jerusalem while waiting for His resurrection on the third day. Instead, they were disappointed, dejected, lost, and in fear of imprisonment and martyrdom.

In the like manner, Christians today who do not understand His words, will, ways, sacrificial love, and attributes are living with uncertainties and fears. We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus and with the Helper in us, we will glorify Him in all our ways.

Brethren, in this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. (1Pet 1:6-9)

LS79 You Will Be Scattered

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:32 *"Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me."*

Our Lord admonished them because they only chose to believe what would benefit them, and not the truth. Just like Christians today, they dissect His words and choose the meat and throw away the bones.

The disciples only accepted the Messiah as the King of Israel, not the Lamb to be slain! Despite giving up all to follow Jesus, they fled and returned home after their Saviour was arrested, and subsequently crucified.

Similarly, Christians who accepted the Lord with the motive that they, as children of God, are always entitled to be blessed, rich, successful, powerful and healthy will face similar anguish and sorrows when any disaster, sickness, accident, difficult and poverty befalls them. Their kind of diluted and distorted belief had caused many to lose their faith.

Mark 16:10-11 *She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.*

When Mary Magdalene told the disciples that she had seen the risen Lord, they should be rejoicing in the Lord, for He had overcome death on their behalf, but instead, she met unbelief and mourning.

John 20:19-20 *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.*

Eventually our Lord Jesus Himself appeared to His disciples when they were so insecure and fearful. Only after greeting them and showing them His pierced hands and side, would they believed Him and were filled with joy. Our Lord told them to go back to Jerusalem, to await the coming of the power from on high or the baptism of the Holy Spirit. If our Lord Jesus had such great patience with His stiff necked disciples, He will also have patience with us, who are not worthy to be loved by Him. Every time He sees us rejecting His words (just like our earthly father) He too will be sad, for we are rejecting His love, help, guidance, to our benefits, blessings and rewards.

Brethren, if the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Act 2, can transform His stiff-necked disciples from fearful, insecure and sorrowful, into knowledgeable, merciful, wise, powerful and miracle workers. Then, we must desire it at all cost. We only need to love Him by keeping His commandments and our Lord Jesus will then baptize us with the Holy Spirit. The Helper or Spirit of truth will then transform us to be like His transformed disciples.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. (1John 3:1-6)

LS80 I Have Overcome The World

'Last Sermon of Jesus'

John 16:33 *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

This was the last sentence our Lord spoke to His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion. How comforting and encouraging it is for every one of us today who has problems in overcoming the world and the things therein? Because Jesus has overcome the world, He will help godly Christians by giving the Spirit of Christ to dwell in them, so that they too can overcome the world.

Rom 8:9-11 *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, **He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.***

Rev 12:11 *And **they overcame him** (Antichrist) by the blood of the Lamb and **by the word of their testimony**, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

The Spirit of Christ displayed the victorious life of Jesus while He was on earth, so that all those with the Spirit of Christ will be able to overcome the world and the deception of Satan.

1. The Blood of the Lamb - our Lord Jesus offered Himself to be the sacrificial Lamb of God, as the propitiation of our sins.

Note - At our salvation when we have believed Jesus the Messiah has cleansed us of all our sins, our Lord gave us **the Holy Spirit as the seal of Redemption.**

2. Word of testimonies - Jesus walked on earth by obeying the Father's instructions and commands. It revealed His faithfulness to His words and promises.

Note - When we obey His words and commandments, He will give (baptize) us with the Spirit of truth to guide us into all truths so that we are free from all bondages. (Baptism of the Holy Spirit of truth)

3. Love not their Lives - Jesus rejoiced in being able to lay down His life for the salvation of all mankind.

Note - With the Spirit of Christ in us, we will be able to accept perils, sufferings, persecutions, torture, hunger, imprisonment and even laying down our lives for our brethren just as Jesus had laid down His life for us. (Baptism with fire)

The Peace of Jesus

John 14:26-27 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

After the Helper has taught us all things and has brought to our remembrance all things that our Lord had told us, then we will have complete understanding of His words. So when we meet any persecution, disaster, problem and illness, and with the foreknowledge or understanding that this chastisement is out of His love in refining us, we will gladly accept them. Having this faith in God that He is in complete control of the situation, our Lord Jesus will give us His peace which is beyond all understanding.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Brethren, our Lord has poured out all His love to us, and when we respond to this love by obeying His words and commandments, more grace will be given to perfect our love.

