

LESSON**01****3rd
January****TOPIC:****DIVINE RECOVERY****TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 30:1-8****OUTLINE**

- A:** Divine encouragement
- B:** Inquire from the Lord
- C:** Listen and obey what god has to say

INTRODUCTION: Welcome to a new year. Last year may have ended on different notes for different people; it was certainly a turbulent year all over the world. Nevertheless, God is assuring us that He will restore to us all we may have lost in the pandemic year; just as He helped David to recover all that he lost when the Amalekites raided their homes and carted away all their possessions, including their wives and children. You can also recover all by following the principles below.

A: DIVINE ENCOURAGEMENT

I Sam. 30:6; Ex. 14:13; Isa. 41:13; Isa. 41:10

We all need encouragement at one point or the other in our lives here on earth. The greatest encouragement one can receive is the one we get from the Almighty God. David was distressed; for the soldiers that followed him to assist the Philistines in their war against Israel,

spoke of stoning him when they discovered that the Amalekites had come to raid their homes in Ziklag, took their wives and children captive and completely burnt down their town.

The God we serve is one who cares and is concerned for all His children. He is always there for them; ensuring that whatever challenges they go through in life, they will end up being victorious and overcomers. For instance, when the Israelites were faced with the red sea, God sent a word of encouragement to them, assuring them that the Egyptians they were seeing, who made them afraid, they will see them no more forever (Ex. 14:13). God has assured all that trust in Him that He will help, strengthen and uphold them with His right hand of righteousness (Isa. 41:10).

QUESTION: Why do some Christians find it difficult to encourage themselves in the Lord?

B: INQUIRE FROM THE LORD

I Sam. 30:8; Ps. 5:8; 27:11; 143:10; Isa. 55:6-7

After David encouraged himself in the Lord, he inquired from the Lord; to know what to do about the situation. This habit of seeking God's leading and waiting for His directions characterized David's life all through his years, before and during his reign as king of Israel (Ps. 5:8; 27:11). The believer is surrounded by many enemies and often faced with different challenges in this present world.

One major way of overcoming them is through prayers. No one has capacity to predict or determine how his/her year would likely be except the Lord reveals it. This was why Prophet Jeremiah while praying to God acknowledged that we humans are not in control of our own lives; even a strong man who is at his best, cannot direct his own ways (Jer. 10:23). We must therefore learn to seek and call upon the Lord and to inquire of His ways. We must at the same time learn to forsake every sin, weight, our wicked and unrighteous thoughts in order to hear His instructions and directions all through the year.

QUESTION: Why do some Christians not receive a response from the Lord when they inquire from Him?

C: LISTEN AND OBEY WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY

1 Sam. 30:8-10, 18; 2 Chron. 20:15; Jos. 1:8

After David inquired from the Lord on what to do in his conflict moments, God spoke and gave him a definite directive to pursue, overtake and that he will surely recover all. David acted on God's word immediately without any delay; not contemplating or rationalizing how possible it would be. He recovered all! God requires prompt obedience. When King Jehoshaphat also inquired from the Lord, at a time when three kings ganged up against him and his people, the Lord spoke and gave them specific instructions concerning the strategy for the battle. They obeyed the instructions and all their enemies were defeated (1 Chron. 20:15).

Every believer must resolve to listen and hearken to the word of God in this New Year (Pr. 7:24). Prayer is communication with God; don't just talk (inquire), also pause to listen. Prompt obedience is the price of achieving good success and prosperity in life. Make John 2:5 your motto this year: "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

QUESTION: Why do some Christians find it difficult to hear God and reluctant to obey His word?

CONCLUSION: The God we serve is the same yesterday, today and forever. Whatever He did for the people in time past, He is able to do it today. Whatever you have lost to the enemy in time past, God will make it possible for you to recover all this New Year, as you follow the laid down principles in the word of God.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Samuel 30:8b. "Pursue for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all."

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - 04th January: Genesis 10-11
Tuesday - 05th January: Genesis 12-15
Wednesday - 06th January: Genesis 16-19
Thursday - 07th January: Genesis 20-22
Friday - 08th January: Genesis 23-26
Saturday - 09th January: Genesis 27-29
Sunday - 10th January: Genesis 30-32

LESSON

02

TOPIC:

THE POWER OF WORDS

**10th
January**

TEXT: MATTHEW 12:31-37

OUTLINE

- A:** Words are powerful
- B:** Words can create
- C:** Words can destroy

INTRODUCTION: The mouth is the organ that houses the tongue; it is also the agency and gateway through which we express our thoughts, feelings and emotions. We may have had bad experiences last year but God has promised to help us recover all we may have lost. We therefore need to mind what we speak because our words not only influence our lives but also our world. Words are powerful; they either create or destroy. Our confessions must align with God’s promises this year.

A: WORDS ARE POWERFUL

Matt. 12:36-37; Jas. 1:19; Jas. 3:2; Rev. 12:11

Every believer is a carrier of God’s presence. As Spirit filled beings, our words are powerful just as God’s word is the carrier of God’s power. Jesus speaking in John 3:63 said that “*The words that I speak to you are Spirit and they are life*”. In Genesis 1, the Spirit of God was

moving over the face of the waters before God spoke. The Worlds were framed by the word of God (Ps. 33:6). Therefore our words are powerful tools or instruments that have the potential of defining our destinies. In Genesis 49, Jacob’s prophetic last words to his sons became the fate of the twelve tribes of Israel. This is why parents are advised to speak wholesome words into the lives of their children.

The psalmist, because he had an understanding of the importance and power of words, prayed God to help him guard his mouth and words whenever he is talking (Ps. 141:3). This is not a year one should speak unguardedly. The tongue is described, in James 3, as a little member but have great potentials; positively and negatively. Interestingly, verse 2 tells us that if anyone does not offend in speech (never says the wrong things) he/she is a fully developed person, able to control his/her entire nature.

QUESTION: Can our words block our progress?

B: WORDS CAN CREATE

Gen. 1:1-5; 2 Kg. 4:17-26; Rom. 10:6-10

The Worlds were framed by the word of God (Ps. 33:6). The Bible tells us that as He is, so are we in this world. This means that with your words, you can speak health to your body, speak hope to your situation and create open doors in your business all in faith. The testimony of the Shunamite woman is illustrative of the creative ability of spoken words. Her confession was, it’s well

with me, it is well with my husband and it is well with my son (2 Kg. 4:25-26). Let each one of us speak words that minister's grace and life to those that hear us.

God has put creative ability in our tongue at salvation; to create things with what we say. In Romans 10:10, we are told that with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Prophet Ezekiel spoke in faith to dead, dry bones and a mighty army was raised (Ez. 37:4, 10). We must learn to say like the Psalmist, "*My tongue shall speak of thy word*" (Ps. 119:172) so that they will be acceptable by the Lord (Ps. 19:14).

QUESTION: Discuss how spoken words could create opportunities.

C: WORDS CAN DESTROY

Num. 14:28-33; Pr. 4:20-23; Pr. 18:21

God in His word has made us to understand that what you say can preserve life or destroy it (Pr. 4:20-21). When Moses sent twelve spies to Canaan, only two out of the ten came with good report. God did to all those who brought the bad report and those who believed them and confessed that they were grasshoppers, what they confessed they were; they wandered in the wilderness for forty years (Num. 14:28-30). They ruined their opportunities, inheritances and destinies by their words.

Jesus taught that on the Day of Judgment all men will give an account for every idle word they speak. Your word will be used to judge you, to declare you either

innocent or guilty (Matt. 12:36-37). The wrong use of words isn't just a slip of the tongue but rather of the heart. Your integrity can be marred and open door closed by your own words. Jesus again taught in Matthew 5:22 that your mouth can send you to hell if you call someone a fool. One must be very careful with the use of the tongue and the choice of words!

QUESTION: Can your words destroy your home?

CONCLUSION: Words are like seeds sown into the lives of people that may take time to grow and manifest. Words are powerful; they are either creative or destructive; building or pulling down. Our spoken words can be used to assess the condition of our hearts. The more we give attention to God's words and incline our hearts to retain and act on them, the more we find our tongues speaking wholesome words. Make sure you only speak faith and Spirit filled words at all times.

MEMORY VERSE: James 3:10 "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - 11th January: Genesis 33-36
Tuesday - 12th January: Genesis 37-39
Wednesday - 13th January: Genesis 40-42
Thursday - 14th January: Genesis 43-46
Friday - 15th January: Genesis 47-50
Saturday - 16th January: Exodus 1-4
Sunday - 17th January: Exodus 5-7

LESSON

03

**17th
January**

TOPIC:

**WALKING IN FULL REDEMPTION
PART 1**

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-14

OUTLINE

- A:** Definitions
- B:** Need for redemption
- C:** The reality of redemption

INTRODUCTION: We are living at such a time in the history of the church, when we have a lot of people who profess to be Christians but very few who actually practice the Christian faith on daily basis. Churches all over the nations of the world are packed full (every Sunday) with a lot of worshippers that claim to have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb but meet the same people in their homes and places of work, their actions and attitude will shock you. Today's lesson focuses on what redemption is and all it entails.

A: DEFINITIONS

1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Cor. 7:23; Gal. 3:13

The definitions of the key words in the topic we are considering are as follows:

(i) WALKING IN - According to the Advanced English Dictionary the word walking in means to be or act in association with; live or behave in a specified manner. Simply put, the word walking in means to get into something without any effort.

(ii) FULL - The word full means complete and including all of something.

(iii) REDEMPTION - The word redemption is an all inclusive word which means to free someone from the power of evil by paying back. To redeem according to the Advanced English Dictionary means: save from sin, buy back; restore the harmony or worth of.

QUESTION: Is it possible for an individual to walk in full redemption?

B: NEED FOR REDEMPTION

Gen. 1:1-25; Gen. 1:26; Gen. 3:1-8; Rom.3:23

There were some events that occurred immediately after creation that lead to the need to redeem man and restore him back to God. Before God created man in His own image and likeness, He created a comfortable home for our first parents, Adam and Eve, a place designed primarily for fellowship. He gave man dominion over all that he created and instructions on what to do. Adam disobeyed God and hence, lost his God nature and received a new nature, the nature of sin. Consequently, man became a sinner by nature and by practice.

Everyone born of a woman inherited this nature of sin (Rom. 3:23). Sin became a barrier between God and man. This is what Satan did to become the god of this world. All the efforts made by man to deal with the problem of sin and get reconciled back to God, ended in futility. This is what gave rise to the various religions we have in the world today. Religion is man's effort to get back to God but Christianity is God reaching down to man in his helpless state.

QUESTION: Why could man not redeem himself?

C: THE REALITY OF REDEMPTION

Jn. 3:16; Jn. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:8-9

The redemption that Jesus brought to all mankind is real. It was God's love for man, which He created in His image and likeness that made Him to send His only begotten son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, to pay the supreme sacrifice for the salvation of all mankind; free and full (Jn. 3:16). Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb; a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Since the life of every living thing is in the blood, it means that Jesus paid for the redemption of all mankind with his own life (Lev. 17:14).

The redemption man received was fully paid for, not with perishable things like silver and gold but by the precious blood of Jesus. It is now the responsibility of man to accept this redemption by his free will. As many as would receive Him, He will give the power to become the children of the most High God (Jn. 1:12).

QUESTION: Since the redemption of all mankind has been fully paid for, why is it that all have not been redeemed?

CONCLUSION: The redemption of mankind as a whole was planned and fully paid for by the Almighty God. When mankind sinned through Adam, it became necessary for man to be redeemed. The redemption of mankind is indeed a reality today through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Those who take the steps of faith, to receive Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour, are those that enjoy redemption.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 1:18-19 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - 18th January: Exodus 8-10
Tuesday - 19th January: Exodus 11-13
Wednesday - 20th January: Exodus 14-17
Thursday - 21st January: Exodus 18-20
Friday - 22nd January: Exodus 21-24
Saturday - 23rd January: Exodus 25-27
Sunday - 24th January: Exodus 28-31

LESSON

04

TOPIC:**WALKING IN FULL REDEMPTION
PART 2**24th
January**TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-14****OUTLINE**

- A:** What redemption entails
- B:** How to walk in full redemption
- C:** Biblical examples

INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson we discussed were able to lay a foundation for our lesson today. We saw the need and the reality of redemption. In today's lesson, we shall consider what redemption entails, how to walk in full redemption and the practically of a conscious walk in our purchased redemption work of Christ using some biblical examples as illustration.

A: WHAT REDEMPTION ENTAILS

Rom. 6:17-18; 2 Cor. 8:9; Isa. 5:4-5; Jn. 1:12

The redemption that was purchased by God Almighty for all mankind is full and free. First, it offered us freedom from sin and the consequences thereof. Every true freedom has a corresponding responsibility attached to it. This was with the intent that we become set free as slaves of sin, so we could become slaves of righteousness (Rom. 6:17-18).

Secondly, it sets us free from poverty. Jesus became poor that those who believe in Him, through His poverty, might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9). This provision of redemption does not negate hard work; the slack hand will always be poor but the diligent hand will be made rich (Pr. 10:4).

Redemption also offered mankind freedom from sickness, disease and infirmity. Isaiah 53:4-5 made it clear that Christ's death will deal with our grief, sorrows and restore peace and joy to every troubled soul. Fourthly, our redemption in Christ is what paved way for us to become children of God (Jn. 1:12). In Romans 8:14-23 we are made to realize the fact that God, by the redemption purchase in Christ, has place man on a higher level than he was before the fall.

QUESTION: What are the gains of your redemption?

B: HOW TO WALK IN FULL REDEMPTION

Hos. 4:6; Jn. 8:32; 2 Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:27; Jude 3

Basically, to walk in redemption one needs to:

(a) Know your rights and privileges in Christ Jesus. The knowledge of who we are in Christ is a key factor that enables us to walk in full redemption (Hos. 4:6). Jesus told His disciples that the truth you know and act upon that will set you free from sin and all its evils (Jn. 8:32). To reject knowledge of God's provision for redemption only leads to destruction (Hos. 4:6).

(b) Walk by Faith and not by sight or any of the human senses (2 Cor. 5:7). Paul, in his walk with God, maximize the redemptive work of grace because he discovered the secret of walking by faith (Gal. 2:20).

(c) Take your stand in Christ; don't give up the fight of faith i.e. "Give no place to the devil" (Eph. 4:27). The enemy cannot go beyond the limit you permit him. This is why Jude admonished believers to contend earnestly for the faith, which we have received through redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

QUESTION: Why are some believers finding it difficult to walk in the full redemption that is available in Christ?

C: BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

Ex. 12:41-51; Num. 21:8-9; Jn. 3:14-15

The bible is full of examples of God's redemptive plan for His people. In Exodus 12:41-51, we are told how God redeemed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt after they celebrated the Passover. In Numbers 21:8-9, the Bible records how the children of Israel were delivered from death caused by snake bites when they murmured against Moses. God asked Moses to make a brazen serpent of brass and put it on a pole. When anyone was bitten by the fiery serpent and they looked on the brazen serpent on the pole, they were redeemed from death and destruction that was in their camp.

Also, Jesus our perfect example promised that as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so will He be lifted up, so that whosoever believe in Him will not

perish but will have eternal life (Jn. 3:14-15). This was accomplished when Jesus was crucified on the Cross of Calvary.

QUESTION: Why is Christ redemption not evident in the lives of many people who claim to be believers?

CONCLUSION: God's desire for all mankind is that we are not only redeemed from sin and all its consequences, but that we walk in this full redemption all the days of our lives. All we need to do is to believe it and appropriate it. This every believer must do by consciously walking in and acting (standing on) the truth of God's word through faith.

MEMORY VERSE: Galatians 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - 25th January: Exodus 32-34
Tuesday - 26th January: Exodus 35-37
Wednesday - 27th January: Exodus 38-40
Thursday - 28th January: Leviticus 1-4
Friday - 29th January: Leviticus 5-7
Saturday - 30th January: Leviticus 8-10
Sunday - 31st January: Leviticus 11-13

LESSON

05

**31st
January**

TOPIC:

WALKING IN THE TRUTH - 1

TEXT: JOHN 8:31-36

OUTLINE

- A:** Truth is Preciousness
- B:** Attitude of the wicked to truth
- C:** God's expectation of us believers

INTRODUCTION: We are living in a world where truth has become a very scarce commodity. Those who choose to speak the truth are the ones that most hated in present day society. Jesus in His earthly ministry was asked by Pilate, what is truth? He did not know that Jesus Christ is the truth. The truth is very precious hence we are admonished in the word of God to buy the truth and not to sell it. The attitude of the wicked toward the truth is to fight against it, instead of accepting the truth.

A: TRUTH IS PRECIOUSNESS

Jn. 17:17; Ps. 119:72; 127; 162; Pr. 23:23

According to the Advanced English Dictionary, the word truth means a fact that has been verified. It is the true facts about something rather than the things that have been invented or guessed. It is different from fact

because truth is based on what God says while a fact is based on what our senses say. In John 14:6 Jesus declared emphatically, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me." Truth has power to cleanse one's filthiness of spirit, soul and body. It resurrects even when attempt is made to bury it; hence, the preciousness of truth.

In other words, truth is very precious; no wonder it is very scarce in our world today. Those who knows the value of truth says it is worth more than thousands of silver and gold (Ps. 119:72). This is reiterated in Psalm 119:127, where the Psalmist declared that he loves the truth above gold and so, rejoices in it as one that finds great spoil (Ps. 119:162). This is why King Solomon asks us to buy the truth and sell it not (Pr. 23:23). The truth to buy is such as is line with the written word of God or the spoken word. The word of God is truth.

QUESTION: Why is that people do not value or place premium on truth in our society today?

B: ATTITUDE OF THE WICKED TO TRUTH

Isa. 59:14-15; Jer. 9:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:8

The attitude of the wicked towards the truth has always been that of rejection; they hate the truth, do not speak the truth and always oppose the truth. Truth has been trampled upon in our society today and because God is displeased about it, hence the 'shakings' all over the world. It has even become difficult to trust anybody; even amongst those who profess to be Christians. Just

as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do people all over the world resist the truth (2 Tim. 3:8).

Moses preached and proclaimed the righteousness of God and ask the people of Israel to always walk in holiness of life but Korah, Dathan and Abiram resisted him and rejected and rebuff him; their claim was Moses was preaching condemnation (Num. 16:1-12). There are many today, when they hear the truth of God's word, rather than repent, they tend to justify their actions. This is nothing but a rejection of truth and before God; it is the attitude of godless people.

QUESTION: What is responsible for the attitude of the wicked towards the truth?

C: GOD'S EXPECTATION OF US AS BELIEVERS

Jn. 8:31-32; 2 Cor. 13:8; Ps. 86:11

God Almighty has a very high expectation from believers regarding the truth. Jesus speaking to those who believed in Him that you knowing the truth of His word will make you free and it is by abiding in His word (Truth) that you become His disciple (Jn. 8:31-32). It is the truth that one knows one walks in and sets one free, and not the falsehood. Falsehood puts one in bondage.

For example, when you tell a lie, you will require another lie in order to cover the first. By so doing, you put yourself in more bondage. No one can do anything against the truth, but for the truth (2 Cor. 13:8). There is need to therefore pray to God: "Teach me your ways, oh Lord that I will walk in thy truth: ..." (Ps. 86:11 say).

Below are some specific things that we need to do with the truth in order to walk in it:

- a) Hear or read the truth- Jn. 18:18
- b) Receive the truth- 1 Thess. 2:13
- c) Believe the truth- Heb. 4:2-3
- d) Practice the truth- Jas. 1:22-25

QUESTION: Why do some believers in Christ, find it very difficult to accept and choose to walk in the truth?

CONCLUSION: Jesus Christ is the embodiment of truth. Indeed, He is truth personified. The church, which is the body of Christ here on earth, is the ground and pillar of truth. If Jesus Christ the head of the church is full of grace and truth, we the members of His body, cannot be destitute of truth. All we need to do is to stay connected to Him on daily basis, devote our time learning His word and living by His word.

MEMORY VERSE: John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday - 01st February: Leviticus 14-16
- Tuesday - 02nd February: Leviticus 17-19
- Wednesday - 03rd February: Leviticus 20-23
- Thursday - 04th February: Leviticus 24-27
- Friday - 05th February: Numbers 1-3
- Saturday - 06th February: Numbers 4-6
- Sunday - 07th February: Numbers 7-10