

**WHERE ARE THE
FIRSTFRUITS?**



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WHERE ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS?

The above subject matter itself can be entered into from many angles, all of which are warranted. We will try to open up the subject from a given perspective while at the same time drawing attention to two or three other perspective. This we will do so that we can locate a point in the message which the father is saying we should give total attention to.

In Luke chapter 12:35-40, we come across something so central to the understanding of the subject matter of the firstfruit via-a-viz what God is doing on earth today.

***Let your loins be girded about, and
your lights burning; And ye
yourselves like unto men that wait
for their lord, when he will return***

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from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Luke 12:35-40

The thought given to us here are so full but we want to keep straight to the body of the message. Our reading brings us in contact with two contrasting pictures. The Lord is coming and keeps coming for a mission he has, just like as the thief comes for the mission he has. It is interesting to see that in the

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middle of what we are reading as our attention is drawn to the work of the thief. Just as the rock that followed the children of Israel in the wilderness was Christ, so too was there a serpent that followed them also. When we talk about the first fruit, we recognize that these two realities should be before us all the time.

And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:38

We have at least three watches indicated here. We have the first watch from the stand point of the Lord Jesus Christ and the people who are reading these and having a good understanding so as to profit from the work of the master. They were not there when the first wedding took place but would be there for the second and the third watch

And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Luke 12:36

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What is the wedding? On the return from the wedding what is Lord coming to do? Who was involved in the wedding he was returning from and of whom does that wedding concerned? We must seek to understand verse 36 in order to understand verse 38.

The wedding was the outcome of what will be grouped under the first watch. The persons wedding were a group of people redeemed from the earth a firstfruit unto God, the bride of Christ. What this means is that there have been a bride that have come into full union with the heavenly bridegroom. They have come to full union with the bridegroom, the heavenly bridegroom which is Christ. These have come to the point where the harvest had become ripe; there was a harvest of firstfruit. By way of speaking at that time others were not ready. When it comes to the matter of the firstfruit and coming to the fullness of our inheritance, we have to understand that every man will be in his own order. There shall be batches even within the same order.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they

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that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Corinthians 15:21-23

In verse 3 of the above passage, we see Paul mentioning the order of those being raised from the dead; such as were raised because they died in Adam. But Jesus himself did not die in Adam. So when Apostle Paul says Christ the firstfruits, he was talking about the first resurrection class; the reason being that the first resurrection class are harvested in batches. In our reading we are told a typical plan, the plan that God has and those who look to him to be harvested, to become a firstfruit of his creation, to be the bride that comes to full union with the heavenly bridegroom.

Therefore Luke 12:35 says, “*let your loins be girded*, (that is an attitude) *and your lights burning* (because there cannot be growth without light)”. The Lord saves us by what he serves us; this is what happens at the beginning of our salvation experience.

We are begotten by the word of life; that incorruptible seed which is the word of God, that we might become the firstfruit of his creature. The light of God's word was needed to give birth to us, that is why the scripture says, *that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*. That same light will continue to shine upon us until we stand restored to the perfect image and likeness of God. Our responses to God is guided

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by the amount of light available to us from his presence.

All our transformation comes from him. We cannot add to our stature but when he gives us his light and we receive it, then our change will come from him. So light is a critical issue. What light God gives to us, we must look at it and respond to it; and through the light we receive changes. So, the above passage says, let your loins be girded and your lamp burning, depicting the kind of attitude to take on.

From our Luke 12:35-37 passage, we see that there are several harvests in the first resurrection, but the early church was the first harvest. There was a great harvest then. We have people like Paul, John, Peter and many others who testified to the fact that they made it to that realm of life, thus fulfilling Christ's promise of people sitting with him on his throne. Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 says, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*".

The sharp sickle was put into that early harvest and Paul was harvested and Peter also testifies of his own experience. There was a first harvest and there was a harvest at the end of the early church age. There was a harvest then, he who will establish his

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kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, all over the earth at the close of the church age, has had at each dispensation persons that have come to full growth and have been harvested.

There are the firstfruit of every age and what we see hear is the pattern of thing the Lord Jesus does towards his people.

He sees the readiness with which they are getting transform by the light he supplies them for the ultimate change. He knows that they need a special dispensation of his visitation to them, so he makes them sit down with him at his table, and he comes to serve them, he gives them what will make them grow up to the fullness of life. The rate at which we are growing in Christ, if without special intervention from God, if we have two thousand years available to us and we are kept alive, we cannot come to the full stature of Christ. Light is critical, for one thousand five hundred years, all of the Old Testament church were servants. Galatians 4:1 says, "*Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all (Even though positionally, he is an heir); but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father*".

There was nothing like the house of sons in the Old Testament because the light available to them could not make them sons. Potentially the heir is a son but does not differ from the servant, he is kept

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under tutors and governors until the time appointed. All the tutors and governors of the Old Testament age could not make them sons, for the light they had then was not able to make them sons, so they could not.

All our changes are determined from heaven. They are light dependent and all our transformation comes because we simply received what the Lord has made known of himself to us and of his saving purpose.

Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

Galatians 4:1-3

That is how it is for the change not in nature but a change in disposition of the child so that he would not play and acts like a servant. The servant does not abide in the house forever but the son abides forever. The spirit of sonship which is what is cultivated in the son in other that he may be able to be joint administrator of the kingdom of heaven. He is placed under tutors and governors until the time appointed

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of the father. That is how it is in a circular setting and by transference of figure to the kingdom of heaven.

All the prophets, priests and other labourers in the Old Testament for the 1,500 years could not produce sons, because they had limited light. For our change to come, heaven must intervene, for our change the rain must fall. You can labour under the early rain and come to full grown sons, because in the early rain tokens are given of the fullness. But you cannot by looking at the Ten Commandments and relating to all these Levitical sacrifices come to sonship. There is a limiting dimension there because the light is cut short, they were mere shadow.

***Even so we, when we were children,
were in bondage under the elements
of the world:***

Galatians 4:3

We see that in all of the Old Testament age they were children, they were in bondage under the primary teachings that were of circular origin. The word “***element***” in verse 3 means: a guiding principle that locks up the mind. The mind cannot see beyond the five senses. We do not learn of God by education, we learn of God by the voice of the Spirit. We perceive, we discern, and we hear by his

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voice. Every other way of knowing available to the natural man leads to bondage.

So the bondage of darkness is more binding than the bondage of demons because, when light comes no power can hold you down. When the light of God's liberating power break into the believer, there is a feeling of liberty. Ever so when we were children, we were in bondage under the element of the world that tells you; touch not, taste not, for all these things were mere shadow and can not grow an individual and Pauls says, that old era was the era of children.

We see the difference when Christ came just one day with the Lord brought forth a fruit mightier than 1,500 years in which the Old Testament stood as an institution under God.

He said to them; expect a man be born again he cannot see, he cannot participate in the kingdom of God. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of time was come God sending his Son terminated that era of stagnant growth. In which man in fellowship with God cannot go beyond the estate of a servant. Dominion over sin

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could not be experienced at that age because light is required for sanctification. We do not struggle to live above sin; there are two things that are required, if satisfied means that one has come of age and could be harvested. These two things are; victory over sin and victory over a dying life. Victory over sin is the basics, it is the common element. Victory over death is added as something that can be experienced by us in these closing days of the church age.

So God sending his son made of a woman made under the law such a one, such a teacher, is fairer than ten thousand. When he opens his mouth, all the contribution of the prophets, teachers, priests and high priests of the Old Testament comes far short to what he is communicating.

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Galatians 4:5

The adoption is something to be received. Our change comes as a divine gift to us because the testimony of Jesus Christ is proclaimed. As we believe it and receive it, there is a change. Within one week of Christ preaching people were able to stand in spiritual stature high than the highest under the Old Testament.

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And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Galatians 4:6-7

Ye are sons now and not will be sons. God starts us in an estate of sons and grows us in those typical areas of growth that enable him to say yes, you are a kind of firstfruit of all my creations. God has sent forth the spirit of his son into our hearts crying Abba Father. 1 John 3:2 says, “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God ...*”, we do not grow into a son but we begin as sons; divine sons of God. As we open up to God, he grows us up through the instrumentality of light to become that which he wants us to be. We are no longer children non servant, now are we heirs.

He that serveth sin is a servant of sin, and a servant does abide in the house forever but the son does. Because the sons begin their journey by the reality of the forgiveness of sin, righteousness is a gift; they that stand in it experiences liberty.

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ (a joint

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heir with Christ and a joint heir with your wife of the Grace of God).

Galatians 4:7

It is possible for someone to stand in a great pedestal and choose to long and have appetite for lesser things.

Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

Galatians 4:8

When you knew not God, you did serve sin as a servant. You rendered due diligence to the measure of light that was available that make you act like a servant always gravitating towards the earth.

Now *after you know God or rather you are known of God how turn again to those childish things*, and would rather revert to the roles and rituals of the Levitical priesthood. Today we see many servants of God wear the green, red, purple and white garments, with big hat and the whole thing is gravitating towards the Old Testament way of worship, because the light of the new is not very clear.

May we never demote ourselves, may we see ourselves the way God sees us, may we accept the placement God has given to us, may we enjoy the

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riches that are available to us, that we turn not again to those little light, and submit ourselves to those beggarly elements. If you submit to a lower order you will only demote yourself.

But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Galatians 4:9

How turn you again to the weak and beggarly element, *teachings that glorifies the five senses* and undermine the ministry of the Holy Spirit; when you do so you return to bondage. So light is critical, all through the one thousand five hundred years of that Old Testament church, they could not attain to sonship. Persons such as Noah, Isaiah, with all the lofty spirituality that they had attained with respect to the light they had, only made it as servants. For the scripture says "*the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than them*". With respect to the light we have, we have access to the greater tutor and governor the Holy Spirit that bring the light of the Father to us and grows us up.

After about a hundred years or more, many who had received the spirit of adaption grew to that estate

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of life in which the Lord was so pleased and he put in the sharp sickle and harvested them. They did watch and gave themselves thoroughly to the discipline that was required of hearing him. When we hear him we come alive, and as we continue to hear him we come alive the more.

The hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the son of man and they that hear shall live.

John 5:25

We are transformed by the voice of his word and by the power of the Holy Spirit. So here, there was a harvest of firstfruits in that first church; the church age of that dispensation of the early church, that has been concluded. In Luke 12:35-37, we hear the Lord saying, I will keep doing this until the final batch of those firstfruit have come in who together with other through the age have attained to the first resurrection.

As the Lord returns from one wedding, he aims to another time of growing a new batch of overcomers to fullness. The first thing the Lord does is to draw their attention to their loins; it should be girded indicating a ready state of mind. Their light burning, looking again and again at the truth revealed to them as truth

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burns in a greater brilliance when we revisit it continuous. Light burns brighter as you have recourse to it. They that wait for their Lord must have a waiting attitude. There is going to be an overshadowing at some points to complete the picture.

They who appear before him appear with him in glory. We must keep appearing before him as he makes us sit down and serves us. There is a level of intimacy and depth of fellowship that happens between the one who is conscious of the facts that all his change comes from Christ.

The believer must create time to be alone with the Lord. This aloneness is something to be carried as an attitude of life. There should always be a consciousness of his presence, thinking about him and acting according to the light of the word burning in your spirit.

So we see that there is a second watch, a third watch and then the Lord closes the age. May we know the time of our visitation and may you know the time of your visitation. To those who have a proper attitude towards Christ, to them he carries out a further work in their lives. As we look again at verse 36 of Luke 12, we shall come to see why Christ is what he is to this class of people, which he is not to another class of people who are also born again.

When we are ready for all the stages of growth in Christ, Christ will bring us into them as we show

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ourselves ready. But while the Lord is revealing himself to us in his fullness as the scripture has said, “... *and unto them that Look for him shall he appear a second time without sin unto salvation*”, he is presenting himself as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world to the sinner at the point of salvation. In the closing part of verse 37 of Luke 12, the Lord gives special attention in this dispensation of the unveiling of himself to those who are ready. The Lord grows them to fullness of life, he gives them the latter rain, and more rain of light.

Remember James 5:7-8 “*Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receives the early and later rain. Be ye also patient, establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh*”. The husband man waited for the precious fruit of the earth, he wait for them, so when they come to harvest he gives the latter rain. The rains of the things of his kingdom and of his glory are to be ministered. Others may be present but cannot relate to these things of God. Luke 12:37-38 refers.

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,

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and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:16-17

There is that dimension of your readiness and availability to Christ to do a further work in you until the Lord complete you in his image and likeness, which thing is not available to others.

And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding (he shall return from one wedding to prepare for another wedding); that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Luke 12:36

It is not at the end of the age that we all will be married to the Lord; but at every age of the time set and of the growth evidence in those who are receiving life from him. He releases himself to them to carry out a further work that brings them to that minimum estate in which they are counted to have overcome. They are counted to have attained to full sonship and full union to the heavenly bridegroom.

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There is a further work the Lord will carry out in us. He will give you a name which no person knows but you, he will enter into intimate discussion and relationship with you because you keep giving him room in your life.

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Luke 12:37

Blessed are those servants, indicating that not all the servants are blessed but some specific servants whom the Lord when he returns from the wedding haven harvested, haven put in the sharp sickle and harvested a group of people comes again for a further work. The Lord is in the midst of the seven candlesticks carrying out a work. The first things he says when he sent a message to a particular church is that I know thy works. We may be millions upon the earth but God knows the state of affair of every believer and he relates to the believer in that way that the believer chooses to relate with him. If faithful, the Lord will relate with him as faithful and will open him up more and more to the things of his glory.

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It is pertinent to note that bad food caused the fall; good food will bring about the fullness of life. Remember Isaiah 25:6-8 says *“And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it”*. Upon this mountain a feast of fat things is given to us to eat and as we eat, our eyes are opened and there is deliverance from sin. As we eat there is deliverance from earthly mindedness as we continue to grow to maturity.

It is as we eat we shall begin to have those marks in our lives that are indicative of growing to full maturity when the sharp sickle is put into the harvest and we are harvested as one who has overcome. So the Lord makes the servants to sit down to meat and comes forth and serves them. He reveals to us that there is a second watch which implies that there have been a first watch and there will be a third watch.

We should be conscious of these very times because they are not ordinary times. After you have thought of things that pertain to the fellowship of

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brethren and labouring in the field, to minister to those who are of the Lord but have not come to the level of work which you have been introduced, ministry to the unbeliever knowing that all of that pertain to one aspect of the requirement, but to give serious attention to one to God fellowship and cultivating the presence of the Lord all through the day relating to him so that he will give himself to serve you with more meat and light that your transformed might be evident. He is declared to be the son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness.

In the three and half years of the ministry of Jesus life under full inspection showed he was morally perfect. By the resurrection of the dead, two things are made available to the believer: victory over the sin question and victory over a dying body. God will give us these two victories in the name of Jesus.

Let us understand that the work of harvest for the firstfruit is subsequent to a work of harvest carried out, when the work of harvest have been carried out, then we can talk about those harvested in the firstfruit. But there is timing for the work of harvest.

Let us read some scriptures that will help us to understand the general principles and the particular application of those general principles to us individually.

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He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Matthew 13:37-39

The harvest is at the end of the world. The word “*world*” translated in the Greek is interpreted as age. The harvest is at the end of the age for those who overcome at the beginning, at the early church age will wait to the end of the church age to be harvested. Even though the two thousand years of the church history is known to us, and we are expecting the return of Christ. God has interposed the period of time for each believer in which he is under testing and examination.

The six doctrine of Christ are listed in Hebrews 6:1-2, “*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal*

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judgment". The last one of these six doctrines is something we should take to heart seriously. There are the doctrine of faith toward God and repentance from dead works, baptism and the laying on of hands and of resurrection of the dead and of eternal judgment. The eternal judgment implies judgment age lasting.

Every believer has a time in which he is given opportunity to be grown to that full stature in which he is harvested and become part of the firstfruit company. He is accounted to have overcome and he is admitted into the first resurrection class. The word "*eternal*" is better translated as "*of judgment age lasting*". This is implied also in John 5 passage we read.

Everyone is presently before the judgment sit of Christ. We are not coming before the judgment throne of God. For many, the judgment sit of Christ is understood this way. Let us assume May to be in the year 2033, if that is the end of the age for example, a question may be ask what did you do on the 27th of May 2017, you came late to the conference. No! No! No! That is religion and theology.

What we are going to amount to in the age to come is being determined on a daily basis, on an hourly basis, on a minute to minute basis so we do not have time. Even a bad student knows how to be serious in the midst of an exam to prepare himself. Although he

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may have been playing but when exam comes, he becomes serious.

When we are conscious that what we will amount to in the kingdom to come, is being determine on a daily basis we cannot afford to excuse ourselves and give ourselves to momentary things that are superfluous. The more we yield to him, the greater the opportunity he opens to us.

If we do not yield and submit to the things he gives to us, to lift us, to advance us on out of mercy and kindness towards us, he will keep us from more light. This is what Jesus did when he spoke to the multitude in parables. He did that to keep them so that they may hear and not understand, because if they see a greater light, they may come into greater condemnation. But if you keep yielding yourself, the Lord will keep advancing you in the school of God.

When it comes to the matters of the firstfruit, physical age is of no account. If an Israelite was living from the beginning of the Old Testament to the end he would be one thousand five hundred years old, if nothing happen to him at the point, and someone listens to Christ and got born again, he immediately attain to a status higher than him. So physical age does not count in the spiritual things, what count is the extent to which Christ is crystallizing his nature in you because you allow him.

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The bible says in John 5:27 “*and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man*”. He has right to execute judgment because he is the son of man he went through the same testing Hebrew 2:10 “*For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfection through suffering*”.

So there is a testing that goes with being given greater opportunity. It is so in conventional school life, you do not move to another class except you pass the qualifying exam. In a school setting the term is fixed as to the number of courses and the school year is fixed as to the number of months.

In the kingdom you determine the pace you want to go when there is light. You may stroll, run, you may mount up with wings like eagles. The pace at which you run is dependent on the extent to which you expose yourself to the light that keep coming.

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the son.

John 5:22

The Father has crowned the Lord Jesus Christ as the judge. It is not something he will enter into at the

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end of the church age but that Christ is judge now. What does he do as a judge? As a judge he admit us to favour if we are making good use of the light he has given to us. When more favours are given to us, he exposes us to more challenges. He make known to us things to overcome by the grace which he has richly supplied and will prove true to our change as he admits us into greater favour.

It is like a Montessori school you enter in at the beginning of the school year in elementary one at the end of the school year, you are in elementary four; there is nothing holding you. To the extent you are ready your teacher releases instructions to you.

In the matter of the firstfruit we know that there is the early rain and the latter rain. With the light of the early rain the responses of the faithful brought about promotion from one stage of growth to another, but the pace cannot be as full as when the early rain is conjoint with the latter rain. He has given you the former rain moderately but because Christ is the one who saves us there are many who have not even had the light of Pentecost, but who by the reason of their close imitate fellowship with Christ where harvested as firstfruit who made it to the first resurrection class.

Another way of putting this is that the Passover has its own yield in the firstfruit. Pentecost has its own yield in the firstfruit. The feast of Tabernacle has its own yield in the firstfruit. In other words, people

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like Paul and Peter were exposed to the early rain, but the Spirit of grace opened them to the latter rain even though they always had these two measures of light and grew to the fullness. Let us understand that according to the light that was available at a particular church dispensation so God has harvested and brought forth firstfruit in every dispensation. God has never left himself without a witness of the kind of things he is doing.

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself (He is a life giving spirit. As we interact with him, he gives us life); And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

John 5:26-28

The Father gave the Lord Jesus authority to execute judgment why? Because he knows about all of human experiences, he was tempted in all point like we are without sin. He is a compassionate high priest. He who test us and admit us to favour, the same walked upon the face of the earth as a human

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person. He is touched with all the feelings of our infirmity, because he went through the same experience yet without sin. So he is able to succour them that have these challenges.

May we make good speed in this time and break free from anything that is contrary. He is saviour, he save his people from their sin. When he cleanses you the thing is gone. Christ is a sanctifier, he is our sanctification. Victory over sin is one of the four marks we see in the firstfruit company.

There is a time element in the which, an individual race and work with God is considered and then the Lord would rather put in the sharp sickle because the time of harvest has come or leaves a person until he is ready and have submitted to him.

Looking at the picture of the harvest as given to us in Revelation 14:14-16, we see the Lord sits upon a white cloud, a symbol of those who are submitting to him. He sits as Lord over them and trains them to full submission to him.

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the

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***cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap:
for the time is come for thee to reap;
for the harvest of the earth is ripe.
And he that sat on the cloud thrust in
his sickle on the earth; and the earth
was reaped.***

Revelation 14:14-16

The Lord sits over those he governs, he sits as Lord over them; he constrains them to full submission to him. The light of God shall make them such a people.

***Three times in a year shall all thy
males appear before the LORD thy
God in the place which he shall
choose; in the feast of unleavened
bread, and in the feast of weeks, and
in the feast of tabernacles: and they
shall not appear before the LORD
empty:***

Deuteronomy 16:16

All the three feasts, which feast was carried out by produce that have been harvested on the account of the rains God gave and of the seed God supplied. All three are given us in summary details. The Passover is discussed from verse 1-8 read and understood in

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the light of Leviticus 23:9-10 we see that the Passover produces a harvest of firstfruit. In fact the Passover is called the feast of firstfruit. The produce that comes from it is waved before the Lord, only a small portion of light but exercising once self to the full yieldedness to Christ until the very nature of Christ in it moral excellence is catalysed in the individual. This qualifies him for a place by him on the throne.

Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn. And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there. And thou

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shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

Deuteronomy 16:9-12

Deuteronomy 16:9-12 discusses the feast of weeks, the feast of Pentecost. What is brought before the Lord is two loaves of bread that is the nature of the firstfruit.

Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates. Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice. Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place

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which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty: Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

Deuteronomy 16:13-17

Deuteronomy 16:13-17 discusses the third feast of ingathering; the fruit of the land are brought unto the Lord. Thou shall observe the feast of tabernacle for seven days. The feast of tabernacle is at the end of the year. There is timing to this feast; it is at the end of the end year. So it says in every year at the end of the religious year you have the feast of tabernacle.

There is a time element to the Lord exposing us to the things of redemption and watching us grow at the time determined the Lord put in the sharp sickle. Leviticus 23 says, from the time you put a sharp sickle to the corn when the harvest of the Passover is concluded you count seven weeks, than the fifth day shall be the feast of Pentecost. The harvest is use to determine how much of God's purpose is being done.

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Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates.

Deuteronomy 16:13-14

That is the challenge that connect us to the question, what does God look for in the firstfruit? What are the marks of these things in those who have gone ahead of others in the work of the kingdom? With who is the feast to be celebrated with?

And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger,

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***and the fatherless, and the widow,
that are among you, in the place
which the LORD thy God hath chosen
to place his name there.***

Deuteronomy 16:10-11

There is a charge given to all of the Lord's people as they keep growing unto the Lord, as they attain to the firstfruit, they have a ministry of deliverance to those that are kept and given to them as their charges. In the matter of the marks of the firstfruit, this is required that a great grace should be upon these ones to know how to fight and battle for their seed, for their children, for all that are in their charges to delivered them.

There is no firstfruit mark attaining to the fullness of a firstfruit that does not include deliverance, a lifting up, a breaking of the power of that ancient serpent, that thief to destroy his hold over those that are in our family. It is a family celebration. The feast of firstfruit should be celebrated with all those put under your charge; it could your immediate family or some other people out there.

All who made it to the firstfruit must be a fighting seed of Christ who are able to process the gate of their enemies and lose their charges from the affliction of the thief. If the good man had known in what hour

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the thief will break in he would have watched and not have suffered his goods or household to be plundered.

The more the light of God sowed in our lives, the greater the grace to fight and ensure that as we celebrate the Lord, our children will be there with us, not a hoof shall be left behind. It is the nature of our development that we who would deliver creation from the effect of the fall to give a deposit, an earnest of that glorious grace manifesting in our present physical setting, to loose the bond of wickedness of the adversary over the people that are given us as our charge.

Our charges will begin from the immediate setting of our spouse, our sons, our daughters, our relatives. We must hold on to God because the darkness that has covered the earth is even made grosser because it has encroached into the covenant people of God. In order to undermine the purpose of God, but we shall fight him and win the battle and all our children would come in.

What Are The Marks Of The Firstfruit?

- Heavenly consciousness: They seed shall be as the stars of heaven, come up hither and I will show you things to come. The sealing of the minds and heavenly consciousness is required.

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- Ability to work in victory over sin and to walk in sanctification.
- Thy seed shall possess the gates of their enemies. That is the challenge. Moral decay is rampant in this last hour. Wickedness is multiplied. Society is not kind to our children; we need to hold unto God to be able to rescue them from influences round about them. Our God is developing in us a fighting quality. Qualities of life that fight and target the adversary and breaks his power and lose our children. It is a close contact fight, it is not a convention warfare, where you stand and look at the enemy and shoot with an aim. It is hand to hand, leg to leg. It is a wrestling with the adversary to gain the mastery over him.

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. The light that develops in us will give the consciousness that we have been given responsibility by God to deliver our charges and to turn them in. They must rejoice with us in the celebration and in the feast. God has said so, the grace in Christ and the life of the son of God in us make us able to fight the good fight of faith and make sure our children, our charges will celebrate the feast with us.

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Four Marks of the Firstfruit

1. Heavenly consciousness, that mind of Christ by which we measure all things
2. Ability to work above the water of evil and sin of this present age.
3. The seed shall possess the gates of their enemies
4. In thy seed shall all families the earth will be blessed. As you secure your own, then the frontiers will continue to widen. Including the fatherless, widow and the strangers as we see it set out in Deuteronomy 16.

Every firstfruit member must have the capacity to move in the power of God and with a sharp sickle to harvest sinners to salvation and harness believers to greater walk with God. In thy seed shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Let us look at Psalm 18 read and understood in the light of Psalm 144. It is a Psalm of David and it can be established that David here is a type of Christ and because he is a type of Christ, he is a type of them who are in Christ who keep yielding themselves to the Lord and are taking on those characteristics marks that God desires in those who attain to the first fruit status. So his confession here are things we should be able to relate to. We should be able to relate to the

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fact that, in Christ we have the ability to win the battle against the adversity of the family.

It is God that girdeth me with strength (This is a life to receive, all who are of the firstfruit company must know this and experience this. God is their strength), and maketh my way perfect. He maketh my feet like hinds' feet (Habakkuk 3:19 he maketh me to stand upon my high places swift not only engraced and powerful but swift to recognize issues about our family), and setteth me upon my high places. He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed.

Psalm 18:32-37

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It is God that girdeth me with strength - This is a life to receive, all who are of the firstfruit company must know this and experience this. That God is their strength. He maketh my feet like hinds' feet - Habakkuk 3:19 says, he maketh me to stand upon my high places. A condition of swiftness; not only to be engraced and empowered but swift to recognize issues about our family. In this we need a growing up to make in matters like this. Our feet must be swift and it is swift when the light is clear, when we know about our children, when we know about those that are given to our charge.

Paul says the leadership must know the state of their flock, because the call to inherit the crown does not go on forever. Every shepherd must know that it is his responsibility to watch. It is easier to nip a particular charge in the bud stage than to wait until it is fully grown and begin to run helter skater. May the God of our salvation endure us with prophetic abilities so that our eyes will be opened and we will be swift to spot that which the thief has sought to enter by one corridor or the other to touch on our inheritance.

A fighting seed: we are lambs but in the battle we are lions. One of the marks of the firstfruit is that, we live well, because we stand well. In Psalm 80: the scripture says, "*turn us O Lord and we shall be turned. Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right*

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hand so we shall be saved". That is if you strengthen the man of your right hand they too will come, and through ministry bring us help from all the harassment of the adversary. Our children love the things of the world, and we are ignorant of the things they do, some are into drugs, cult and other vices. No matter how far they have gone, this firstfruit can battle to bring them back. We hold onto God, and receive strength of him, he will make our feet like hinds' feet, and our eyes will be opened.

When light comes respecting any of our children, it is indicating God has started the process of deliverance. We will lay hold on what God has revealed, and we shall be swift to break the bow of wickedness over our children or housemaid or whoever is in our charge; for we shall celebrate the feast with all that the Lord has put in our charge, and they shall rejoice with us.

In a close battle sometimes there are casualties, but in the battle you will always win because you are set on high. We will attack the adversary; we will not say this evil one is skilful he is been there for thousands of years. He who is our God and our strength has set us upon our high place where the dragon and the vulture cannot access. From a winning position we will stand and claim our heritage for ourselves.

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In the rejoicing in the victory, our children will be there with us preserved alive. They will encounter God and reach higher for the highest in God. They will be safe under our charge, safe from the pollution of time.

He teaches my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arm. Light will empower us to be a warrior seed able to rescue whoever the enemy steals. Steel implies the throat of a serpent. It has opened itself to swallow but it will not. The sword of the Spirit will slay the dragon in the sea. Everything that has to do with life and godliness are available to us through the gospel of the Lord Jesus. There is no power outside of Christ, in him is hidden all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom. There is no wisdom outside of Christ. Everything that will challenge the heart to total submission is in God. Who we see will arrest us and you being a willing servant, you will submit willingly to him.

These children tend to show that they are wiser in the world by the excesses that they allow themselves into. Sometimes, the eyes the parents are closed to these things, but the scripture says, if the good man of the house had known? Why did he not know? If the loins are girded and lights burning and they wait as one waiting for the Lord there will be light as to the condition of their children.

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The fiery threat of the serpent might open up and want to swallow our children, but we have the victory. The bow of steel is broken as you see it in psalm 144. Sometimes, our children associate with friends who come speaking good language and we think our children are in good company but they will not be deceived because; the Lord is the one who has made our feet like hinds' feet.

We have the spirit of prophesy assisting us to see in all of the prophetic writings. The fuller application of these scriptures belongs to the church age. When we talk about the spirit realm and our access to the spirit of prophecy we are talking about this church age for we are a people of prophecy. David knew his feet were hinds' feet, he knew.

When you read Genesis 22:16-18, we are shown the marks that must be seen and they belong to a reasonable proportion before the sharp sickle is put in and there is a harvest of firstfruit. Thy seed (Christ) shall possess the gates of his enemies, upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. We must fight, we must win.

The school system is not helping our children. They are providing all kinds of law and they are injurious to our children. And neighbours are not better and so our God and we shall move in the midst of this situation and save our children. The feast

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cannot be celebrated solely, your children must come with you and your charges must come with you to the celebration. That is the meaning of the two loaves of bread offered in the feast of Pentecost.

Are There Imperfections?

Yes but hold on to God and all the things that need to be taken out will be taken out. God does not reason respecting a single individual, if he has a single individual in mind, he will relate with his posterity. I cannot hide this thing from Abraham seeing that he will teach his children to fear me and to obey my commandment. Kindness is shown to the father because the posterity will be inherited by God. God does not look at us and does not work towards individual merely, for the God of all the earth shall he be called (Isaiah 54:5).

Let every man know that he will not make it to glory only as an individual. Your immediate responsibility will be to affect your spouse, as joint heirs of the grace of life.

***Blessed be the LORD my strength,
which teacheth my hands to war, and
my fingers to fight: My goodness,
and my fortress; my high tower, and
my deliverer; my shield, and he in
whom I trust; who subdueth my***

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people under me. LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away. Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them. Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children; Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood. I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee. It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword. Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters

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may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets: That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.

Psalm 144:1-15

This is the presence of a people that have come to maturity, and are able to fight and win in the battle. There shall be no complaining in our street.

The firstfruit is not a property of the kingdom of God but a property of the kingdom of heaven. Therefore associated with the kingdom of heaven are changing patterns. The character of the kingdom of heaven is when proclaimed is based on invitation. The kingdom of heaven is made voluntary. It is condition upon the acceptance of one who hears the call to the kingdom. One term that can be used to fix it is the word “*whosoever*”, *for God so love the word that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever*

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believe in him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

There is “*whosoever*” associated with the kingdom of heaven but in the kingdom of God all things are fixed. Every word from the Lord, every desire is a command and must be committed to as such. So when in the kingdom of heaven conditions are spelt out, invitations are given and the heart releases itself to these things and takes these conditions, it is expected that there will be growth.

Whatever is placed in the “*whosoever*” dimension is received as a fixed instruction governing that persons work with God. He makes a quick jump, he grows so fast. For example take Matthew 16:24 “*if any man will come after me*”. This is an “*if*” dimension there, it presupposes that you can say no and there is no fight about it. *If any man will come after me let him take up his cross and follow me*. The message is addressed to the heart, so it goes on to say; “*whosoever will save his life will lose it but whosoever shall hate his life for my sake shall find it*”. So love is the character of the kingdom of heaven.

The Lord commits himself to whosoever says here I am, I give myself wholly to you that you might use me. So he moves on to say “*gather together my saints unto me*” who are to be gathered? They that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice, sacrifice here imply choice. So the nature of the kingdom of heaven

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is that it is voluntary and participation in it is strictly as a person's desires. If the person is desirous, if there be submission, after the things that the Lord reveals of himself, not only will the person be saved, the person will be given an elevation that will fit him into rulership functions in the kingdom of heaven. And it is for this reason the recruitment into the firstfruit, is being adjudged faithful to Christ.

To be called, recognized by the Lord as a firstfruit, that would mean that there is a deep intimate relationship with the Lord. Because of the voluntary nature of the call, an individual will have to take it upon himself to seek the Lord. He must make it a deliberate effort because the hold of the kingdom of heaven is strong or as weak as you allow it. It gets to a point, when it so strong that it will not let you go. At this beginning you have all your liberty, whoever says he can stay one full week without reading the bible no problem, when you are not reading another person is reading who heard the same voice of whosoever and is committing himself or herself to God. But it comes a point in time when the heart has been so yielded to the Lord of the church; Jesus Christ that the individual is not allowed to go anymore from that point, everything is fixed for the individual.

To him that overcometh is not something at the end, overcometh is not a situation at the tail end but a

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disposition maintained over time to him that overcomes. Overcometh means to overcome and keep overcoming. In Revelation 2:26 *“to him that overcometh and keeps my work to the end”* so an overcoming disposition is not something that is at the end, but something which is maintain overtime; *“to him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God”*. If a human person is a pillar then it must be a house of persons (Revelation 3:12). And he will go no more out, indicating fixity, he cannot choose for himself.

Remember Jesus told Peter when you were young you did whatever you can and when the light of this kingdom will take hold of you as you mature in me, another will lead you where you do not want to go. That greater another is the Lord Jesus Christ, he put his hand upon you and you must do his will.

That brings us to a thought much related to it. When we talk about the first fruit let us understand that the firstfruit is not an estate we get into at the tail end of our walk with God. There is a place in Christ, in which because of what has transpired in the life of the individual, he is accounted as haven overcome ultimately. He is accounted as having a place on the throne, he is fixed for the throne, but he is running the race. He will complete the race for the Lord will make him complete the race. He will finish his course for the Lord will make him complete the course.

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Although he is not grown to full maturity to the full stature of Christ; he is a firstfruit so in the realm of the firstfruit there is a linear growth.

A believer enters a particular estate and God says: for you a crown is reserved, you will sit with me on my throne. There is a devotion to Christ followed by a submission to him, which prepares you to experience such growth in him. At some point God can say to you; ye that have followed me in this journey to life, when I set up my kingdom and sit upon my throne, I will appoint you a throne and you will reign with me.

The firstfruit is like an elastic band, it gets to a point of growth in your life and you are accounted fixed for the fullness. What this would mean is that, certain character traits, certain moral and spiritual graces must be found in the one who has attained to a firstfruit status.

While a person might have attained to a firstfruit status, such a one can still be in flesh and blood and still lives in a country where it is possible to have a terrorist attack, while present in the physical world of many uncertainty, yet he is been fixed for the Kingdom of heaven. He is still growing, he is still having challenges but the commitment of God to such a one is that he will go no more out. There will not be that sinusoidal experience of rise and fall but a steady

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growth each day amounting to so much growth in the Lord.

For that believer, it will be said that a day is like seven days and seven weeks like seven months in his/her experience. For one day with the Lord is as a thousand years; it is so important that we understand that. Philippians 3:14 says, it is the mark that obtains the price, strictly speaking when we release ourselves understanding the whosoever dimension of the kingdom of heaven, when we release ourselves to him and so experience the favour, the mercy of God, the grace and the saving power of Christ working upon us, in two or three years maximum you can make the mark that gives you the price. You can make the make that fixes you for glory.

Nobody should say I came to the kingdom late. It is a long journey to the throne but at whatever point you are saved there is time enough to make it to glory. The Lord will do a quick work and he will cut it short in righteousness; which will mean that at any point in time you suddenly realize that you have been living your life in a manner that shows that you rule over yourself, you suddenly realized it has not been the Lord ruling over you, because your level of yieldedness is questionable, you can decide today and say Lord I choose hence forth to live for you. And if your heart be true he will do certain things towards

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you in relation to the cry of your heart to make it easy for you to fulfil your vows.

He will make grace to abound toward you because you have yielded to him. You cannot say I have been a Christian for 15 years and nothing to write home about it. How I wish I have come to the kingdom much earlier, we must not reason of the years we have wasted. But at any point you are hearing this word you can take a quality decision and the Lord will meet you where you are. He will take hold of you and give you grace to run the race to the end.

The Lord will do a quick work and cut it short in righteousness. Nobody should say I came late to the kingdom. At what point you come in the call to the throne is still available.

When you read the scripture in area that patterns to the kingdom of heaven and the nature of the invitation you can hear such statement as this; *“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful”* (Revelation 17:14). It should be understood that no one has control over the call. The call goes out to all.

Who Are The Chosen?

The persons chosen are not persons known of God before the foundation of the world merely that is

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understood because he is an all knowing God. When you choose the terms of the kingdom of heaven, when ye say I choose you to the Lord over your own life, you become a chosen person. Neither Joseph nor Juliet is chosen, names and family background do not fix you as a chosen one. The chosen one is the one who chooses the terms of the covenant.

There is an upward call of God in Christ Jesus. That upward calling that invites you to come up to the realm of the heavens, makes you a king under the King of kings and a lord under the Lord of lords. When you accept the terms of the kingdom, having chosen the Lord you are called chosen.

Invitation to the Kingdom unto forgiveness of sin is free for everybody but making it to the throne is at a price. You can be adjudge as having won the race and haven given the price and still be on earth for five, ten, fifteen, twenty years. There is nothing like associating glory with death, death is an enemy. There is no glory associated with death. What a man will amount to is not determined at the point of a man's death. No! God expects that the same way we yielded our hearts to the gospel when it was preached, will be the same motivating factor in our lives leading us to yield more and more to God.

Luck 12:35-40 shows that the firstfruit is a property of the kingdom of heaven. So our speed is determined by our response and yieldedness. The

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grace of God will make us willing to take quality decisions. There is something you must do just as it is involuntary for you to breathe in the air, so it must be on daily devotions.

There are things about the kingdom that you should be continually involved with, it is a continuum no discrete. Continue to live in him and for him on daily basis because it is in the dimension of whosoever will.

In the kingdom of God is not whosoever will, it is a command. You must do the will of God. There are no spheres where you choose other than the Kingdom of heaven. The world of mankind must be taught the worship of God. From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same the Lord's name will be praise and worshiped. There are no radicals in the kingdom of God; there are no protesters. Those who thought that Satan was leading the heavenly choir and that he was not leading it faithfully are just projecting pure human stay.

Blessed are those servants (which means, they are not blessed whom the Lord will not find so doing. It is the faithful that has the blessing invoked upon them), whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird

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himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Luke 12:35

The instruction given in the passage above is to the intent that the desirous will be found watching. If watching was an event that automatically takes place always among the covenant community of God's people, there would not have need for it to be taught. Even a foolish student when exam is close he reads.

The instructions are given to assist us to place our priority right and to seek God for cooperating graces; graces that will enable us to do the will of God. Blessed are those servants who the Lord will find watching.

Though in their disposition they are faithful to him, nevertheless there are issues about their lives that need to be fixed. There is growth that brings character and spiritual resemblance to Christ which has not yet been entered into, though faithful to watch and has been pronounced blessed. There is no pole-vaulting in the kingdom. The needed graces must be worked into you. So he comes and makes them to sit down and he will serve them and of course we know that the bible is prophetic. This truth is set in prophetic language. If there will be a perfecting of this people who are watching so that another wedding

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happens of them they are taken in as having been qualified when he comes again to look for those ones who perhaps are now ready, then the Lord must be present to serve them. There is a further work to those who are faithful to fit them for the honours of the kingdom of heaven.

There is a time frame in which an individual will be enlightened as to the truth of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus haven then begun his race to eternal life. There is a time frame in which he is measured. The Lord keeps close watch over the individual, watch until the time appointed. Yet the persons will always have opportunities to recover himself so long as he lives. To be being fixed as a member of the kingdom of heaven, happens long before a believer comes to be in the image and likeness of Christ. There is a minimum level of an encounter with Christ producing a level of transformation in you and fixes you for a position on the throne.

The kingdom of God has been from eternity and will continue into eternity; nothing can shake God. If all creation multiply by a million times over; the angels, the kingdoms, people and all their weapons on one side, the blast of his nostril will end all creation in less than a split second. God is not a creation; he is the creator and all other are creations. Heaven lives in him and from generation to

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generation he reigns. There cannot be any opposition in the heaven of God. There is no rebellion in the heaven of God and there can never be rebellion. The biblical illustrations are properties of the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom of heaven suffer all kinds of experiences, suffers violence, today high and tomorrow low. The kingdom of heaven has a definite beginning and a definite end. God said to Jesus thou art my son: he became a son one day, a day within the sphere of time he was instituting the kingdom. In Mark 1:15 he said, "*The kingdom of heaven is at hand repent and believe the gospel*". The kingdom of heaven is a creation of God for a definite purpose and when redemption is completed the bible says then shall it be wounded up.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put

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***all things under him, that God may
be all in all.***

1 Corinthians 15:25-28.

In the kingdom of God everything is fixed; in that realm everyone does the will of God as a matter of choice. Not so the Kingdom of heaven. You decide what to do. For example, a believer might ask God for money to pay his electricity bill and did not get the money, so he decided not read his bible for three months. It is ok, it is whosoever will. You choose what and how you want it.

In the kingdom of God there is no thief. Nothing causes offence in that kingdom. But in this realm, in the time of the preparation of the kingdom of heaven, there will be things that will cause offence. But after some time, all that causes offence and iniquity shall be taken away and the perfected church shall be installed over the earth during the millennium reign on the earth. Unlike the Old Testament priest, the perfected church that will be installed over the earth would have been tested and trusted, and found faithful.

***And did all drink the same spiritual
drink: for they drank of that spiritual
Rock that followed them: and that
Rock was Christ.***

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I Corinthians 10.4

The rock that followed them was the reality of Christ presence that was with them. So the enemy was lurking about them seeking whom he may devour. As it was then so it is now in the kingdom of heaven. Opposition is a property of the kingdom of heaven (Revelation. 12:3).

You cannot overcome in the kingdom of heaven without a fight. You must fight a good warfare. The enemy breaks in when an individual does not do what he is supposed to do after a long time. The break in comes about when the counsel given in Luke 12:35 is not kept. The devil cannot break in when divine instructions are kept because the greater the light the greater the ease. When the thief comes to kill, the first thing he does is to steal light, steal away the word, then the believer becomes so weak and comes to that state of trying to call back from residual knowledge what he had read.

The reality of the enemy around is for now but will not be any more after the final overthrow of this federated enemy called the dragon.

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve

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stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Revelation 12:1-6.

We are sited together with Christ in the heavenly places. The dragon says well I am not sitting there but am standing in the heavenly places. Fear not little flock it is the father's good pleasure to give you

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the kingdom. The light shines in darkness and the darkness cannot stand against it.

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Luck 12:35-37

If the three elements given in the compound instruction by Jesus Christ are found in you, you will have a place in the Kingdom that will be revealed.

These three elements must be lived by daily to make it to the throne:

Let Your Loins Be Girded

What does it mean? It means practice the truth you have received on a daily basis. Just practice the truth concerning which you have light and understanding.

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Truth practice can never leave you. Truth practice can never leave you alone; be a doer of the word.

And Your Lights Burning

What does that means? Light burning means you should revisit the truth you have received on daily basis and this is what it means in practical terms:

Messages that have impacted you listen to them over and over again. The impact it had on you when heard will only increase when you listen to them again. Truth burns brighter as you examine it the more.

Read books written by persons that have prophetic insights to the Kingdom of heaven, read prophetic writings. Under the Old Testament the Lord says save your money save 10 percent (tithe) to spend on spiritual things when spiritual issues come. Spend your tithe on yourself. We need to pay a price to buy the truth, and sell it not. We must revisit truth; hear them, and read them.

Ability to walk in sanctifications is a proof that you are a daily follower with Christ. Christ is our sanctification he cleanses us by his word. The bible says, "*Sanctify them by thy truth thy word is truth*" (John 17:17). It becomes so easy to follow the Lord where the light is clear and the inheritance well spelled out and the condition given and the enabling grace of God promised are understood. Grace is

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multiplied through knowledge. Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God.

As you revisit the word, grace multiplies. Your light must be kept burning. The first thing is to listen to messages that have blessed you again and again. Invest your money on spiritual things and as you do, it will become a well, and as you follow on revisiting the truth received, it becomes a river as you keep revisiting it, it becomes an ocean.

Study the scriptures using the platform set for you by prophetic books and preached word. Read them over and over and it becomes clearer. The Holy Spirit will teach you directly, and also through the ministry of the teaching apostles, teaching prophets, teaching evangelists and teaching shepherds. The wisdom of God puts them there. If you learn well what God has taught people yesterday you will understand what he is teaching you today. That prepares you for a platform of relevance in the service tomorrow.

Start with what you have been taught in that mood until the Holy Spirit takes over. He will teach you more than you have heard. As David said he has made me wiser than my teachers. He was first taught before he became wiser. Truth has several expressions but they all unite in one. You hear of the seven spirit of God; the Spirit of God is not divided into seven parts but shows to us the many division of

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his ministry as he brings Christ to us in the pages of the written word.

Yourself as They That Wait For Their Lord

Passion for more of God; a growing edge, an attitude of expectation, longing which is the characteristics mark you see in the wise virgin. It is counselled by the triumphant lamb that stands upon mount Zion.

You can have ten, twenty, thirty and seventy persons who are already standing in the first fruit yet they will differ in the level of their spiritual growth. When God has adjudged you to have overcome and keep overcoming, he gives you a place on the throne, yet you will still be growing.

Growth is mandatory in the kingdom of heaven because of his fullness we have receive grace for grace. There is an overflowing fullness that cannot be exceeded. Blessed are those servant, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching. Verily I say unto you that he shall gird himself and make them to sit down to meat and come forth and serve them.

We have observed that at some point in our walk with God, the Lord gives us special attention because we have given reasonable proof of the thing he has freely given to us. How shall we come to fullness if there is no intervention to make possible our growth into the full stature of Christ? If we are made to live for two thousand years, the best of us will not come

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near to the full measure of the stature of Christ. The intervention is prophetically described here as the Lord coming to make you sit down and serve you.

Seven things are said of Christ when his conception was announced to Mary.

Then said Mary unto the angel, how shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:34-35

Remember the sun clothed woman in Revelation 12:1; “*And there appeared a great wonder in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars*”. In relation to the harvest of the firstfruit growing to full maturity and the overshadowing which occurs, there is a connection between the overshadowing and our maturity. He will make it possible for us to become like him, it is his project, and he will not abandon his project. He that has begun a good work in me will bring it to perfection in the day of his. In

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relation to the working of God there is a time element involved with the overshadowing.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I Peter 1:1-5

We identify graces available now and graces that will be available at a particular time.

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There is a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time. So there is a history behind those that are overshadowed; they have lived and submitted themselves to the instructions of grace. For the various changes that take place in our lives is all based on instructional experience. He gives the word, we receive it in our hearts by faith and we obey, then we the experience change. Salvation is an instructional experience. The revelation of Jesus was given to grow the church to fullness. Revelation 1:1 says, *“The revelation of Jesus Christ, Which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass, and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John”*.

The particulars of this overshadowing we read in Revelation 14:14 *“And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and one sat upon the cloud, like unto the son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle”*. In relation to the harvest of firstfruit, there is a time set for an individual to run and make progress. There is a time within that time frame in which the Lord gives the overshadowing.

This is not to be understood in a physical way, like you wake up in the morning and say it seem the presence of God is over me and there is an overshadowing. No! Do not give place to emotions. The true measure of overshadowing is seen in your

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speedy growth and the book of the Lord being open to you.

Revelation 14:14 shows that the overshadowing is a reality for the Christ as there will be the manifestation of the sons of God. There will be an overshadowing of the sons of God and their manifestation; there will also be an overshadowing of the sons of the devil who have grown in wickedness and their manifestation.

The firstfruit harvest unto God is an intensive work in which Christ keep close tab on the spiritual development of those who habitually obey him.

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle (suited for agricultural purpose suited for the harvest). And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped

Revelation 14:14-16

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Who is referred to here as one sat upon a white cloud having a golden crown upon his head? The one sitting on the white cloud is the Lord Jesus Christ.

What Are The Clouds?

The clouds represent Christians but not all Christians. These are Christians over whom he is Lord who have submitted to his Lordship, and witness to the world that they own Jesus as Lord over them. These classes of persons are here described as white clouds. Clouds in prophetic symbolism represent the personage or present of God. The pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night may be used to represent the Lord's people. Hebrews 10:12 says, "*...we are encompassed by such great cloud of witness*". The clouds are a surrendered people who work in habitual obedience so that they are qualified for a further work by the Lord to bring them to fullness.

What Is A Sharp Sickle?

A sharp sickle is a system of principle of truth, the prophetic word revealing Christ and his saving mission and his return which are given in the written words, but quicken to the understanding of the persons by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Enabling them to reach higher for the highest in God and they become the means through whom God reach out to the other of his servants.

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Why Is the Sickle Sharp?

Truth sharpened in the form a sickle to bring people unto the firstfruit class and bring people to the saving knowledge of God. Truth preached in the power of the Holy Spirit is a sickle. When the light it beams forth is sharp, clear and forceful with the unction of the Holy Spirit resting upon it, the result it produces in them is an indication that the sickle is sharp.

What Is The Result Of This Harvest?

The result of this harvest is given to us in Revelation 14:1-5.

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

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These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Revelation 14:1-5

If the son of man does this toward his followers can we find a similar thing in the domain of darkness? Does the thief do the same thing? Yes, for it is the character of the kingdom that true love for Christ we are kept preserved and protected. A true lover of God can never be deceived, there will be something in him that will revolt against whatever evil brought his way. There are things that will make you know this is not of God. Besides that, the Holy Spirit being the instrumentality of the revelatory gift makes a man know when something is not of him; but that through this development, he is Lord over some and he sits over us. He sits over us and the result is a gradual transformation.

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and

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talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

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And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Revelation 17:1-9

We find satanic agencies described sometimes as a man, sometime a woman, sometime as a tree, and many times as a serpent. Through these four designations this wicked influences work and works in the church world.

The working of the dragon on the nations brings a beast out of the sea but the activities of this wicked spirits, sitting over persons and dishing out of her stock to persons, are the means through which full

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grown Satanist and adepts are made. For there shall be a manifestation of the sons of the devil and power will meet with power. Michael now stands up with his angles. The dragon and his angles will fight, and there will be no place any more for him neither shall his place be found any more in heaven and the dragon shall be cast down. That ancient serpent called the devil and Satan the deceiver of the world shall be totally wiped out of the heaven. Now is come salvation and power and the kingdom of our God and the power of his Christ (Revelation 12:10).

As Christ sit upon the white cloud, so too the dragon sits upon many waters symbolised as a woman seating upon many waters: the water that the whore sited are people and multitude and nations and tongue.

What Is This Wine, How Did She Get It?

When she serves them this wine, it makes them loyal and mad with total devotion to her. She made the people behave as though they are not sane. Intelligent people that occupy important position in their company lose their mind from drinking from the strange wine she serves.

Where does she get the grape that she processes into wine? The second sickle is the judgement of the harlot system. The wine comes from the grapes and there are two vines. The vine of John 15:1 "*I am the*

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true vine, and my father is the husbandman”, and the vine of the earth. So John 15:1 says, I am the vine and my father is the vine dresser, we are the branches of him and he seeks for us to bring forth much fruit as the grapes grow luxuriantly they are rich with the character of God, the fruit and gift of the Holy Spirit, the humility of the Lamb as it grows of glow. The wine takes on these qualities from the fruit. He mixes it with the principle of truth in the word and serves it to us. The true vine is such that when a man is possessed in characters and subject to the move of God then truth can serve the purpose of God. If channelled through such a one the fruit of character will then provide a solution in which the word of God is dissolved and served to bless the people.

The vine of the earth is shown us in Numbers 6:3-4.

He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.

Numbers 6:3-4

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The symbolism of the vine is the house of Israel. See what the Lord looks for amongst his people, the father will not eat physical grape fruit but he want wine out of it. The firstfruit of the full yield of Passover as enjoy by man requires the produce as it is gotten to be waved to the Lord. When it comes to the second feast there is a processing of two loaves of bread made with leaven indicating no moral perfection but a yieldedness to God so there is a further work.

Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

Isaiah 5:1-2

What the grapes in the vine tree represent and why the Lord required character proves from his people before he commits truth to them calls for diligence. Man is by nature stubborn and can take

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the precious things of the kingdom and turn it for his own use. Definitely we know that truth will be available and the scripture will be open yet they will not take advantage of it. God expects a produce from us. Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit are the produce he looks for. He works them into us. The overshadowing will increase the work like the latter rain that comes to make the fruit bigger and ripen it for the harvest. So shall the overshadowing be for us. He takes of what you have mingled it with what he will give to you and with it gives you incorruptibility and life.

God take care of his servant. No one will serve him that he will not take care of his need.

May God find men and women everywhere who will provide the Lord Jesus Christ with materials to produce wine to bless the nations.