

# Bringing back the Brides of Christ



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## Bible Study

By Pastor Cyndi Higgins

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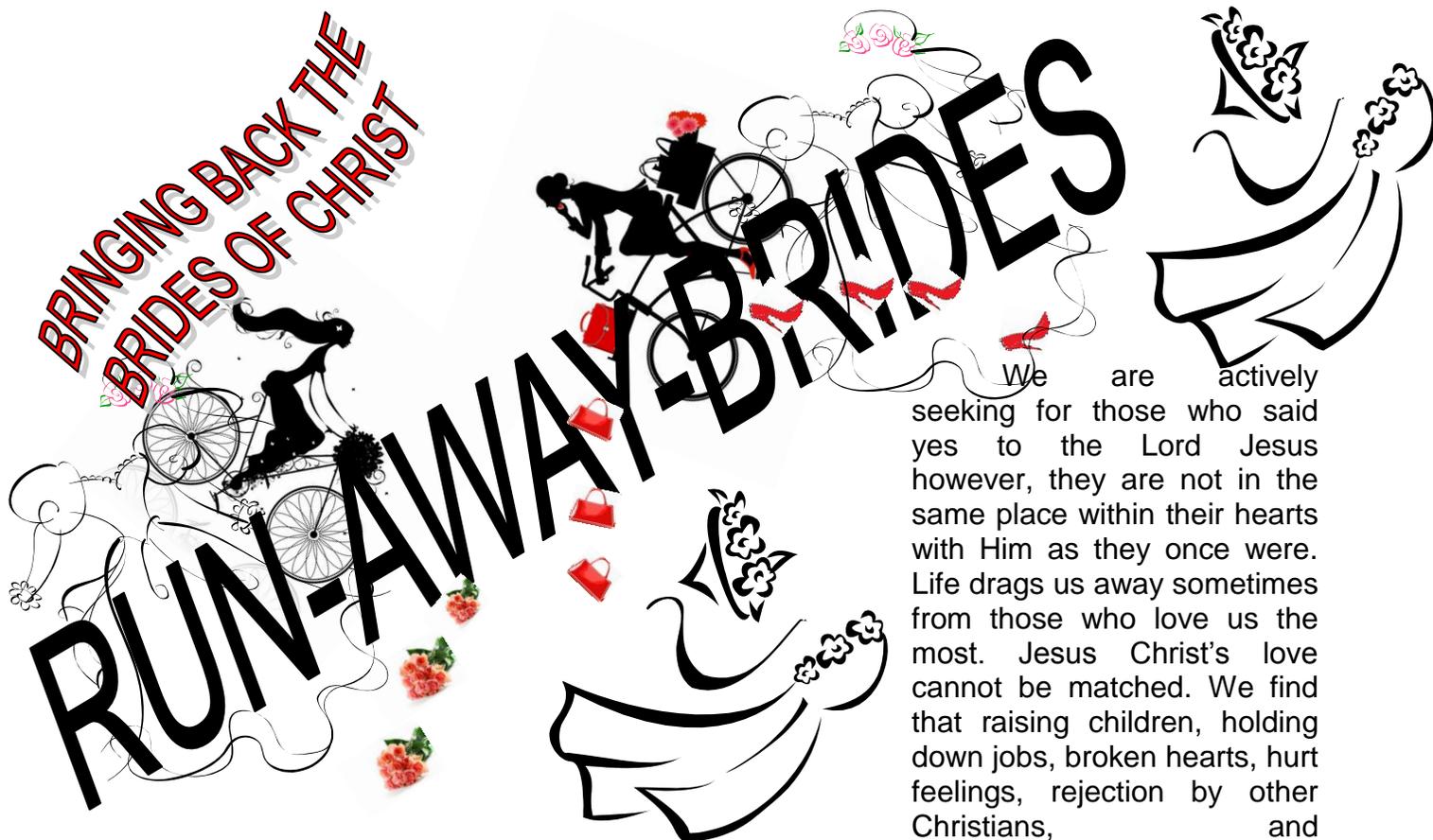
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Run-Away-Brides RAB.....	Page 3
Introduction to RAB Bible Study .....	Page 5
About the Author, Pastor Cyndi Higgins. ....	Page 7
Lesson One “Kingdom Workers” .....	Page 8
Lesson Two “Faith Assignment” .....	Page 12
Lesson Three “Facing Opposition” ....	Page 16
Lesson Four “Holy Spirit Stirring” .....	Page 20
Lesson Five “The Lord Provides” .....	Page 27
Lesson Six “Ordained by God” .....	Page 32
<b>Supplementary Lesson</b> “Walking Upright” .....	Page 40
<b>L. E. A. R. N. SECTION</b>	
Lesson Seven “Look & Awaken” .....	Page 43
<b>Personal Inventory Guide</b> .....	Page 58
Lesson Eight “Evaluate RABS” .....	Page 64
Lesson Nine “Assess Leadership” .....	Page 74
Lesson Ten “Repent & Return” .....	Page 83
Lesson Eleven “Nullify in Prayer” .....	Page 93
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	
Lesson Twelve “Take Hold of Eternal Life” .....	Page 105
Song Book .....	Page 111



We are actively seeking for those who said yes to the Lord Jesus however, they are not in the same place within their hearts with Him as they once were. Life drags us away sometimes from those who love us the most. Jesus Christ's love cannot be matched. We find that raising children, holding down jobs, broken hearts, hurt feelings, rejection by other Christians, and misunderstanding the Word of God has driven many from the arms of Jesus and the pews of the Church.

Run Away Brides is the mission's ministry of Barefoot Gardens Fellowship Ministries and it concentrates on bringing those who said, "Yes," to Jesus for salvation back to Him. For whatever reason many who said, "Yes," to His proposal left Him standing at the Wedding Altar. Unlike any other jilted bridegroom, Jesus Christ is waiting for them to be ushered back to Him. He is long-suffering and wanting to bring them back unto Himself and prepare them for the Wedding Banquet that all Christians/The Church/The Bride of Christ will experience. Perhaps you are one of these beloveds of the Lord's that has run away from His embrace. Do you desire to return to Him? We can help. As ushers and attendants in a natural wedding, we are ushers for the Supernatural Wedding.

If you or your Church would like to learn about establishing a RAB Missions Ministry within your ministry, please contact us. If you are personally interested in learning more about RAB and evangelizing the RABs around you, contact us. Our designed classes and on-going worker's classes teach ushers and attendants of Christ's brides exactly how RAB Mission's Ministry operates. Many Churches are experiencing new growth by including a RAB ministry in their Mission's Ministry Campaign.

Email us today at [info@run-away-brides-ministries.com](mailto:info@run-away-brides-ministries.com) for information packets or an appointment for additional information. You may visit one of the web sites at [www.bare-foot-gardens.com](http://www.bare-foot-gardens.com) or [www.run-away-brides-ministries.com](http://www.run-away-brides-ministries.com).

# Introduction

I welcome you to Run Away Brides' Bible studies. Truly, I am grateful and very glad that you are joining me on this exciting faith assignment of bringing back the Brides of Christ. My heart is leaping with joy for you because possibly you were once yourself a run-away-bride of Jesus Christ. Now, you are an usher and attendant of the Bride of Christ. I say thank you for bringing run-away-brides of Christ back to Him. Our bridegroom, Jesus Christ, lovingly waits for all of the Church, His bride, to return to His loving embrace. I cannot say it enough, thank you, thank you, thank you.

I designed this Bible study to help assist us in spiritually and physically establishing a community of reconciled former run away brides of Christ. The Word of God provides every necessary detail to accomplish raising and building earthly relationships with Kingdom characteristics. As we seek together eternal results, let us begin each lesson with earnest prayer whereas we seek the Holy Spirit to enable us to learn more than we believed possible.

I have chosen the books of Ezra and Nehemiah for our main course. Ezra defines and outlines spiritual reestablishment of raising the spiritually displaced souls of reconciled Brides of Christ. Allow me to explain. God deliberately allowed the overtaking of the Israelites and their forced exile because of their blatant unrepentant sinful nature. Although, He gave them many opportunities to return to Him, repent, and live a life of obedience, their hearts grew harder toward the Lord and their sins overtook them. In time, the enemy released them to go back to their own nation and homes. However, the length of the exile left most of them empty of their Jewish heritage and the understanding of the Mosaic Law.

A run away bride is not an exile such as the Israelites are in the book of Ezra. However, there is a similarity. Oftentimes, a returning run away bride is void of their inherent rights through the blood of Jesus Christ. Additionally, they have lost some Biblical knowledge and their intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, the Righteous Father, and the Holy Spirit. Spiritual integration combined with the physical assimilation in the natural furthers and strengthens the bonding of unity in the Kingdom family. When we understand the Kingdom of God already reigns through us in this dark world, we conquer and overcome invisible forces separating the established family of God.

Whereas Ezra assists us in spiritual matters, Nehemiah offers the understandable and applicable framework necessary in building communities of gathered reconciled Brides of Christ through developing their usher and attendant Christ-like characteristics. Immediately upon meeting Nehemiah, we discover he is genuinely concerned for others, their well-being and their living conditions. Precisely what Christ Jesus taught us through His actions and words. As soon as Nehemiah finds out how dreadful the returned exiles living conditions are and the unspeakable state of the city of Jerusalem, he springs into action with prayer and fasting. Jesus taught the same response. The Word says moved by compassion, He taught the crowds and all that were sick were immediately healed. By example, Jesus taught us about prayer and fasting. Additionally in His teachings, He explained the necessity of prayer and fasting in certain settings for deliverances from demonic forces. He also taught how to fast, how not to fast, and proper behavior while fasting (Matthew 6:16-18).

We will begin our study with Nehemiah and Ezra. However, you will soon discover the need to use many books of the Bible in developing a supportive insight in mastering, with the Lord's grace, the raising and building of Kingdom souls and Kingdom communities here on earth.

Micah 4:1-2

*"In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, 'Come, let us go to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."*

Matthew 6:9-13

*"After this manner therefore pray ye; Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts; as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, A-men."*

Love and Blessings;  
Pastor Cyndi Higgins  
(Cyndi Harper-Deiters)

## **"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**

©Public Domain

**My theme song:**

By: S. Sundar Singh

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.
4. My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus.  
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus.  
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus.  
No turning back, no turning back.



## **Pastor Cyndi Higgins**

Cyndi is the Founder and International Director of Run Away Brides International Mission's Ministries,<sup>TM</sup> which currently includes eight nations. She is both a National and International public speaker. Cyndi is the wife of John Michael Higgins. John is a solid man of God and a full time crop farmer in Michigan. Together they have 8 adult children and 23 grandchildren. Cyndi owns the business, Exams Express, Inc. a title searching company for real estate matters in Michigan.

Only by the grace of God, did Cyndi Harper survive complications at birth and a violent upbringing. Many would argue that it is out of character that a survivor of both childhood and domestic abuse would love, live, and teach peace as much as she does. Perhaps one needs only to remember the words of Joseph in Genesis 50:20, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Although not legally changing her name, many know her as Pastor Cyndi Higgins.

**Before the January 2014 release of her latest book, "Run Away Brides—the Bible Study,"** she had through her eight children's books, under the name Cyndi Harper-Deiters, taught young children non-violent problem solving methods. Cyndi's successful writing and speaking career began immediately after graduating from the Institute of Children's Literature in 1993. Cyndi skillfully used Jonathan Michael the Resident Rooster, the books' main character, to teach children non-violence and the art of peacemaking. Additionally, she wrote for young adults the Historical Fiction trilogy, "River Turtle."

Cyndi studied as a volunteer Mediator with The Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan, and attended Jordan College. Already using her business degree, she changed her educational interest to literature, child-development, and computer applications. She uses the knowledge gained by her variety of studies to communicate better through her books, recorded prayers, songwriting, lesson-plans, pastoral counseling, and public speaking. In 2007, Cyndi retired from full time employment at her company, Exams Express Inc., and shortly thereafter, began her ministerial studies.

***Pastor Cyndi was ordained under Dr. Morris Cerullo of Morris Cerullo World Evangelism and Bishop (Dr.) Anthony Yeboah of Free International Missions in January 2012.*** She is the Sr. Pastor of Barefoot Gardens Fellowship Ministries in Ada, Michigan (Grand Rapids). The local focus began in 2008 on binding up the broken-hearted through the 35-week course, "Rejoice Freedom;" she wrote and taught most of the curriculum and lessons plans for this very successful recovery program. Today she is structuring and writing all the curriculum and lesson plans for the International Mission's Ministry, 'Run-Away-Brides (RAB)<sup>TM</sup> and writing the autobiographical book of a reconciled bride to initiate the cause and inspire run-away-brides to return to Jesus. With her God-given writing talent, she creatively weaves the beautiful purpose of life. She skillfully uses her God-given gifts and her experiences in introducing God's beloved masterpiece the human-heart, soul, and spirit. The Lord has used His love, compassion, and understanding through her communication skills and He has brought hundreds of runaway brides of Christ back to His embracing arms.



# Kingdom Workers Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

*The Lord Chooses & Equips Kingdom Workers*

## Kingdom Workers Designed by God!

*Exodus 31:2&3*

*“See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills.”*



**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES MINISTRIES™**

**The Kingdom Workers and Interceders Chosen**

**Lesson #1**

## Characteristics of Kingdom Laboring and Intercessory: From Nehemiah Chapter One with New Testament directive verses.

- 1) Concerned about others more than about oneself--Philippians 2:3-4
- 2) Sensitive to the Holy Spirit-- <sup>1</sup>footnote-- 1 Cor 6:17 & Eph 4:30, 2 Peter 1:21
- 3) Compassion causes deep emotional reactions-- Matthew 14:14 & Galatians 6:2
- 4) Fasts and Prays-- Luke 2:36-37 and Mark 9:29
- 5) Knows the Word-- 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17, Acts 17:11, John 1:1 & Luke 4:4
- 6) Tells the Truth-- Titus 2:7-8, 1 John 1:6 and 8
- 7) Reverent Servant of God-- Philippians 2:12-13, Luke 12:35-38
- 8) Honorable Work Ethics—Colossians 3:23-24, 2 Thessalonians 3:10

### Background Check:

(2 Chronicles 36:11-21) Human behavior had become despicable even defiling the temple of God. Finally, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against His people and there was no remedy.

(Ezra 1:1-7) The Lord moved many hearts to fulfill the words the Lord had spoken through Jeremiah.

(Exodus 35:20-29) All those willing and their hearts moved them, men and women alike, brought the necessary items to build the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. Verse 29 states: “All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do.”

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<sup>1</sup> Because the Holy Spirit is a person, as we become more acquainted with Him, we will begin to receive a stability (a root of strength), giving us an internal and external calmness and peace. We do this by speaking to Him daily, allowing Him to speak back to us, and by paying attention to His inward promptings. Job 22:21a (KJ) says, “Acquaint now thyself with Him and be at peace.”

(Ezra 2:64-70) They gave *freewill offerings* toward the rebuilding of the house of God on its site. **According to their ability they gave**---1100 pounds of gold, 3 tons of silver and 100 priestly garments.

Ezra 3:1 (The people assembled as one man) Philippians 2:1-2 Paul said, “...*Be like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*”

(Ezra 3:2 and 3:6) They built *the altar of God* and began offering *burnt offerings* to the Lord before laying the foundation. They did not have to see it to believe that with God all things were possible. They praised and worshipped Him in advance of seeing with their own eyes in the natural that He would complete the good work He had begun in and through them. We must **praise and worship Him even though we cannot see, smell, touch, taste, or hear the manifestation of our labor and prayers.** Hebrews 11:1-2 “*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.*”

(Leviticus 1:1-17) *A burnt offering*, an offering made by fire, **an aroma pleasing to the Lord.** “...*He hears prayers of the righteous may they be before Him like incense...*” **Psalm 141:2; Proverbs 15:29; Revelation 5:8 and Revelation 8:3-4**

**Burnt Offerings:** They were offered every morning and evening for all of Israel. This offering was doubled on the Sabbath and extra ones given on feast days. In addition, anyone could offer special burnt offerings to express devotion to the Lord. The burnt offering was the most common and comprehensive offering in the OT. It's Hebrew name means 'going up' perhaps symbolizing worship and prayer as its aroma ascended to the Lord {Lev 1:13(d) and Lev 1:17(d)}. The burning of the entire animal (accordingly) also speaks of the dedication on the part of the worshippers. **We pray morning and night and this is pleasing aroma unto God the Father. We have to be devoted---we all need more prayer and devotion in our lives.**

#### **Altar of God:**

**It represented, immediate access to God (Lev 6:13). Do not let the fire of our intercessory prayers die.**

All who touched the altar were considered holy (Exodus 29:37). It was sanctified and anointed before it was used (Exodus 29:36-44; 30:26-28; 40:10; and Numbers Chapter 7).

A perpetual fire was kept on the altar so that any time anyone sinned, he could have immediate access to God (Lev 6:13). When the intercessory prayer stops going before the Lord, we find the results in the Bible (See Ezekiel 22:30-31)

#### **Go about your altar**

Psalm 26:7 “I wash my hands in innocence and go about your altar, O Lord, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.”

Go about your altar meant vocally celebrating God's saving act beside His altar. It was a public act of devotion in which one also invited all the assembled worshipers to praise. **Public Testimonies---Regularly we must be giving our testimonies of what God has done and is doing in our lives.** It is our responsibility to bear witness to the abundant goodness of God.

**A Vow to Praise:**

Psalm 7:17 “I will give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.” A vow to praise shows they truly believed that whatever they ask of God in prayer, He answered. Therefore, they praise Him as they prayed. Such praise was often offered with a thank offering **and included celebrating God’s saving acts in the presence of those assembled at the temple.** Again, this demonstrates a display of public affirmation of God’s workings in their lives.

**Nehemiah Chapter 1 teaches us the following: (New International Version)**

**1.) Concerned about others more than about oneself**

He asked about \_\_\_\_\_ who had \_\_\_\_\_. 1:2

**2.) Sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s Stirring**

When Nehemiah heard of the trouble and disgrace of those who had survived the exile, he \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for some days. 1:4

**3.) Compassion for others causes deep emotional reactions**

He wept for some days and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. 1:4

**4.) Fasts and Prays**

He fasted and he prayed before \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. 1:4  
He had to identify what God he prayed to because he lived in Persia a land of many gods.

**5.) Knows the Word**

He quotes Deuteronomy 7:21 The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God. He also quotes Deuteronomy 7:9 “The Lord your God is the faithful God keeping his \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to a thousand generations of those \_\_\_\_\_ him and keep his \_\_\_\_\_.” Nehemiah 1:5 and Deuteronomy 7:21 and 7:9

**6.) Tells the Truth**

He said to God, “I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_, including \_\_\_\_\_ and my father’s \_\_\_\_\_, have committed \_\_\_\_\_ you. We have \_\_\_\_\_ very \_\_\_\_\_ toward you. We \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ you gave your servant \_\_\_\_\_. 1:6&7

**7.) Reverent Servant of God**

He revered God in confession, his own as well as the Nation of Israel. He revered God when he reminded God who God was and that he was a servant praying like other servants of God who \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ God’s name. 1:11

He revered God when he humbled himself admitting he needed God’s help. What did he ask God to for? Give your servant \_\_\_\_\_ today by \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_ In the presence of this man (the king). For he was \_\_\_\_\_ to the king. 1:11

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**Faith Assignment**  
**Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™**  
**We Accept the Faith Assignment**



*“Then I heard the voice of the Lord  
Saying, ‘Whom shall I send?  
And who will go for us?’ And I said,  
‘Here am I Send me.’” Isaiah 6:8*

**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES MINISTRIES™**  
**Accepting the Faith Assignment**  
**Lesson #2**

**The Lord selects, fills, and assigns Kingdom Workers:**

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1.) The Lord chooses the Kingdom Workers  | Exodus 31:2    |
| <hr/>   |                |
| 2.) The Lord fills the workers with the Holy Spirit                               | Exodus 31:3(a) |
| <hr/>   |                |
| 3.) The Lord fills the workers with necessary talent                              | Exodus 31:3(b) |
| <hr/>   |                |
| 4.) The Lord assigns minor-major ‘faith assignments’                              | Exodus 31:4-5  |
| <hr/>   |                |
| * Faith assignments include subordinate but supportive assignments to accomplish* |                |
| 5.) The Lord appoints right-hand-men and or women                                 | Exodus 31:6(a) |
| <hr/>   |                |
| 6.) The Lord assembles people, talents, and gifts                                 | Exodus 31:6(b) |
| <hr/>   |                |
| 7.) The Lord provides everything required *                                       | Exodus 31:6(c) |
| <hr/>   |                |

**\*When they left Egypt they took articles of silver and gold, and clothing Exodus 12:35-36. The Lord promised it in Genesis 15:14, Exodus 3:20-22, and 11:2-3**

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### **The Lord gives instructions and systematic directions**

Moses asked what am I to do?

Exodus 17:4

#### **The Lord answered:**

- 1.) Walk ahead of the people—walk in faith and lead Exodus 17:5(a)
- 2.) Take #5 above with you (those filled with faith) Exodus 17:5(b)
- 3.) Own your office of authority ordained by God Exodus 17:5(c)
- 4.) Demonstrated authority carries you (5-fold offices) Exodus 17:5(d)
- 5.) Go! Exodus 17:5(e)

### **The Trinity empowers you and the faith assignment for victory**

- 1.) The Father & His goal stands before you —Matt 6:33 Exodus 17:6(a)

- 
- 2.) Strike the rock! Jesus is the rock! 1Cor 10:4 Exodus 17:6(b)

- 
- 3.) Water came forth- The Holy Spirit is the water John 7:37-39 Exodus 17:6(c)
- 

### **Attending to the ministers and the faith assignment**

Exodus 17:11-13 Moses grew tired---God gave Moses the faith assignment, but he became tired. He needed help holding up the staff (the staff means many things: the office, the call, or the faith assignment). Aaron and Hur came and held up Moses' arms. They held up his arms that held the staff, his office and faith assignment, to assist him in completing the faith assignment. They were humble. They did not try to take his staff, his office and faith assignment by doing it by themselves. They understood they were the helpers---the right-hand-men and women. In Exodus 31:6, helpers partnered in completing the task (faith assignment). God called and appointed Moses. God anointed and ordained Moses for this particular faith assignment for His Kingdom purpose.

Discuss other people in the Bible whereas God did the same, such as Gideon or Joshua.

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Discuss a time during your faith walk when you have been an assistant (attendant) and times when you have been assisted (attended).

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# FACING OPPOSITION

## Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

### *The Kingdom Workers Opposed* *(Ezra Chapter 4)*

*“Then the local residents tried to discourage and frighten them by sending agents to tell lies about them to King Cyrus.”*  
Ezra 4:4



### RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™

#### The Kingdom Workers Opposed

#### Lesson #3

Ezra 3:10 *“When the builders laid the foundation of the temple (their faith assignment) of the LORD, the priests in their vestments (a ceremonial robe worn by members of the clergy during a religious ceremony) and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David King of Israel. With praise and thanksgiving, they sang to the Lord, ‘He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.’” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.”*

**The Holy Spirit** preserves us: Ephesians 6:17(b)-18(a) *“...Take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions...”*

#### **Types of opposition used against the Kingdom Workers**

1) **Trickery:** Ezra 4:1-2 *“Oh, we have a similar interest. Let us help you with your ‘faith assignment’.”* They answered *“No,”* in verse 3.  
How would this be accomplished today? \_\_\_\_\_

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2) **Discouragement:** Ezra 4:4(a) The people around them, not part of them, tried to discourage them from doing their ‘faith assignment.’  
How would this be accomplished today? \_\_\_\_\_

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3) **Fear:** Ezra 4:4(b) The people around them, not part of them, tried to make them fearful regarding going forward with their ‘faith assignment.’  
How would this be accomplished today?\_\_\_\_\_

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4) **Intellectual Combat:** Ezra 4:5(a) They hired intellectuals to intimidate the workers with their educational degrees to stop them from completing their ‘faith assignment.’  
How would this be accomplished today?\_\_\_\_\_

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5) **Frustration:** Ezra 4:5(b) Used book learned strategies against hard working people filled with the desire to labor in love to finish the ‘faith assignment.’  
How would this be accomplished today?\_\_\_\_\_

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6) **False Accusations:** Ezra 4:6-8, 11-12 They accused them of rebuilding the city (rebellious and wicked city of Jerusalem) when they were rebuilding the “Temple.” They involved governmental officials to interrupt the achievement of the ‘faith assignment.’  
How would this be accomplished today?\_\_\_\_\_







## HOLY SPIRIT STIRRING

# Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

*"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*  
Luke 11:13



## RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™

### Holy Spirit Stirring

### Lesson 4

The rebuilding of the temple began in 536 B.C. It was halted in 530 B.C. and began again in 520 B.C. under Haggai and Zechariah, prophets of God. However, they could have renewed the rebuilding in 522 B.C. when King Darius came into power. One wonders why they waited, do not wonder long as God tells us why in Haggai 1:2-9.

The Jews were more to blame for their inactivity than the opponents.

In Haggai 1:2-9 we find the Lord Almighty saying <sup>2</sup> *"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'These people say, The time has not yet come for the LORD's house to be built.' <sup>3</sup> Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: <sup>4</sup> 'Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?' <sup>5</sup> Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.'* <sup>7</sup> *This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>8</sup> Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,' says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> 'You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?' declares the LORD Almighty. 'Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.'"*

### God's plan includes His people fulfilling their 'faith assignments.'

**Zechariah 1:16** NIV *"Therefore, this is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,' declares the LORD Almighty."*

**Ezra 5:1** KJV *"Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them."*

## ***Holy Spirit is with them and stirring them:***

Ezra 5:2 KJV “**Then rose up** Zerubbabel (the governor of Jerusalem) the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak (the high priest), **and began to build the house of God** which is at Jerusalem: **and with them were the prophets of God helping them.**”

Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: Haggai 1:12-14 “I am with you,” declares the LORD. <sup>14</sup> **So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua** (also called Jeshua) son of Jehozadak (also called Jozadak), the high priest, **and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people.** They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God.”

Zechariah 4:6-9 “So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to **Zerubbabel**: ‘Not by might nor by power, **but by my Spirit,**’ says the LORD Almighty. <sup>7</sup> “What are you, O mighty mountain? Before **Zerubbabel** you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of ‘God bless it! God bless it!’ ” <sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>9</sup> “The hands of **Zerubbabel** have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.”

Zechariah 6:11-13 “Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of **the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak.** <sup>12</sup> Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> **It is he who will build the temple of the LORD,** and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.’”

Zechariah 8:9 “This is what the LORD Almighty says: “You who now hear these words spoken by the prophets who were there when the foundation was laid for the house of the LORD Almighty, let your hands be strong so that the temple may be built.” 8:13 “As you have been an object of cursing among the nations, O Judah and Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.”

Ezra 5:3-5 “At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall? <sup>4</sup>Then said we unto them after this manner, What are the names of the men that make this building? <sup>5</sup>**But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease,** till the matter came to Darius: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter.”

In Ezra 5:8(c), we learn the work on the temple is going very well, it is moving along swiftly. ***When God is behind a ‘faith assignment’ and the people are inspired by the Holy Spirit, you can expect the same accomplishment.*** “The work is being carried out with diligence and is making rapid progress under their direction.”

“Under whose directions?” they asked. Their opponents requested their names so they could write down them down to report them, but they answered in Ezra 5:11, **“We are the**

**servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple** that was built many years ago, one that a great king of Israel built and finished. <sup>12</sup> But because our fathers angered the God of heaven, he handed them over to Nebuchadnezzar the Chaldean, king of Babylon, who destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon.”

Haggai 2:4-5 “But now be strong, **O Zerubbabel,**’ declares the LORD. ‘Be strong, **O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest.** Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work. **For I am with you,**’ declares the **LORD Almighty.** <sup>5</sup> ‘This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. **And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.**”

### ***The Spirit of Man:***

Zechariah 12:3 “This is the word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, **and who forms the spirit of man within him,** declares:”

### ***The Holy Spirit: Romans 8:1-27***

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature **but according to the Spirit.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in **accordance with the Spirit** have their minds set on **what the Spirit desires.** <sup>6</sup>The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind **controlled by the Spirit** is life and peace; <sup>7</sup>the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but **by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ,** he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, **yet your spirit** is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead** is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through his Spirit, who lives in you.**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; **but if by the Spirit** you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>14</sup>because those who are led by **the Spirit of God** are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>**For you did not receive a spirit** that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup>**The Spirit himself** testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

## **Future Glory**

<sup>18</sup>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup>Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits **of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

<sup>26</sup>In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness**. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes** for us with groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches our hearts **knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes** for the saints in accordance with God's will."

## **A REMINDER FOR ALL OF US FROM ZECHARIAH 7:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: <sup>9</sup> "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. <sup>10</sup> Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.' <sup>11</sup> "But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. <sup>12</sup> They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty **had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets**. So the LORD Almighty was very angry. <sup>13</sup> " 'When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,' says the LORD Almighty. <sup>14</sup> 'I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, where they were strangers. The land was left so desolate behind them that no one could come or go. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate.' "

## **JESUS' TEACHING ON ASKING OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Luke 11:9-13 NIV "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**"

This teaching is a private teaching that Jesus gave to His disciples. Luke 11:1: "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

**Word of Caution:** Do not confuse this setting and this teaching with Matthew 7:7-11 which is part of the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:1 tells us that teaching took place on a mountainside and the audience was a crowd of people and His disciples.

**Specifically request the Holy Spirit baptism from the Father.**

Dake's Anointed Reference Bible <sup>2</sup> makes it clear to understand the reason Jesus taught this type of prayer for the receiving of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. *“Here the Holy Spirit is promised to all children of God who ask (verse 13). This refers to the Spirit baptism and full Enduement of power for service is clear. John 7:37-39, Matt. 3:11, Luke 24:49, John 14:16, Acts 2:33, 38-39, 5:32, Matt 3:11, Gal. 3:13-14. All children of God are given the Spirit in a measure at the new birth (John 3:3, 5, Rom. 8-9, 14-16, Gal. 4:6) so what is this extra asking of the Holy Spirit after men become the children of God, if it is not what the disciples received at Pentecost after they had been children of God for several years (Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-16)? What was it that others received after their son-ship (Acts 9:17, 8:1-22, 10:44-48, 11:14-18, 15:7-11, 10:1-7; etc.)?”*

Let's take a closer look at these verses using the NIV

- 1.) **Luke 11:13** “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give \_\_\_\_\_ gifts to your \_\_\_\_\_, how much more will your \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ give the \_\_\_\_\_ to those \_\_\_\_\_ ask \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 2.) **John 7:37-39** Jesus called the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ water that would flow from within those who believed in Him. The Scriptures interpret themselves in John 37:39. “By this he meant the \_\_\_\_\_, whom those who believed in him were \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”
- 3.) **Matthew 3:11** John the Baptist said, “I \_\_\_\_\_ you with \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. But after me comes \_\_\_\_\_ who is more \_\_\_\_\_ than I, whose \_\_\_\_\_ I am not worthy to carry. He will \_\_\_\_\_ you with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 4.) **John 14:16** Jesus promised, “And I will ask the \_\_\_\_\_, and he will give \_\_\_\_\_ another \_\_\_\_\_ to help you and be with you \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 5.) **Luke 24:49** Resurrected Jesus said to the gathered disciples, “\_\_\_\_\_ going to send \_\_\_\_\_ what my \_\_\_\_\_ has promised; but stay in the city until you have been \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ from on \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 6.) **Acts 2:33** “Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised \_\_\_\_\_ and has poured out what you now see and hear.” Peter was speaking of the men not being drunk, but the fulfilling of that which prophet Joel had spoken of. Read Acts 2:1-41

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<sup>2</sup> Dake's Anointed Reference Bible Copyright 1963 by Finis Jennings Dake. Dake Bible Sales, Inc. PO Box 173 Lawrenceville, Georgia 30245 By permission brief quotations may be used for review purposes.

- 7.) **Acts 2:38-39** “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you \_\_\_\_\_ receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ children and for \_\_\_\_\_ who are \_\_\_\_\_ off-----for \_\_\_\_\_ whom the \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ will call.”
- 8.) **Acts 5:32** “We are \_\_\_\_\_ of these things, and so is \_\_\_\_\_, whom \_\_\_\_\_ has given to \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ him.”
- 9.) **Galatians 3:13-14** “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written; ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.’ He \_\_\_\_\_ us in order that the \_\_\_\_\_ given to \_\_\_\_\_ might come to the \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ Jesus, so that by \_\_\_\_\_ we might \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 10.) **Acts 19:6** “When Paul placed his \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ came on \_\_\_\_\_, and they \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

It is obvious that the Apostles were aware that not all Christians were baptized in the Holy Spirit. **In Acts 6:3, they give an instruction,** “*Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them, and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.*”

**Acts 8:14-17** “*When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. <sup>15</sup> When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*”

Peter at Cornelius’s house: This is found in **Acts 10:1 through 11:18** shows us how the Lord used Peter in the baptism of the Holy Spirit for Cornelius and the entire large gathering of people. **Acts 10:44-48** “*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ‘surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.’ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.*”

Peter then traveled to Jerusalem and told about what had happened in the house of Cornelius. **Acts 11:15-17** “<sup>15</sup> “*As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup> So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”*”

**“When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, ‘So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.’ Acts 11:18-----Hallelujah!**



**The Lord provides the Workers, Their Talents,  
And Their Spiritual Gifts**

**Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™**

*“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—to make artistic designs for works in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.”*

*Exodus 31:3-5*



**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™**

**The Lord Provides...**

**Lesson #5**

*“Saying comes before receiving, and decreeing before establishing. In both saying and decreeing, you have to use words. You should be confessing who you are in God and not speaking according to the negatives you see with your physical eyes. Negative manifestations come to distract you from your purpose (faith assignment). They come to see what you will say. Whatever you say about them, that’s it. Situations are waiting on you to name them and shape them. You can reshape the sword into a plow shear. You can replace ashes with beauty. It’s all done with your words.” Quoted from “Shaping Your World with Your Words” by Bishop Henry Eustace Browne-New Life Ministries--*

**“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today  
and forever.” Hebrews 13:8**

Let us get back to Ezra: In lesson four, we left off in Chapter 5 where those opposing God’s people had sent a letter to King Darius—hoping to stop the building of the temple.

Ezra 5:11 They were unhappy with the reply of those working on the temple “We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth—and we are rebuilding the temple.”

**1-Asked---**Who are you? What are your names? Who gave you permission to build this temple?

**2-Answered---**We are servants of God

**3-Kept on building**

The workers did not stop working on the temple even though a letter of intent to stop them had been sent to King Darius. These Kingdom workers believed the promises as written in *Psalm 57:2-3*

*“I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills {his purpose} for me. He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me; God sends his love and his faithfulness.”*

*Psalm 138:8 “The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.”*

**God will not let the enemy thwart His divine purpose for your life, which includes those 'faith assignments' He gives you. {Job 42:2}**

*Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

*Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

**1-He provides the Kingdom Workers**

**2- He provides the talents**

**3- He provides the spiritual gifts**

**Who will God send to help with the Run Away Brides Faith Assignment?**

Those He has promised that have the **"Right Attitude."** Those believers that are like-minded as Joshua and Caleb. Jesus appointed those coming. They possess the **"Right Attitude."** They left behind the **fearful, the grumblers, the consumers, the pessimists, and the faithless** as spoken of in:

*Numbers 13:26-14:4 "They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan." **Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."** But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." **And they spread among the Israelites a bad report** about the land they had explored. **They said,** "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). **We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.**" That night all the people of the community **raised their voices and wept** aloud. All the Israelites **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" **And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."***

*Numbers 14: 5-10: "Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes **and said** to the entire Israelite assembly, **"The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."** But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. **Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites.***

**God Provides: See Exodus 31: 3-6** *“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you.”*

**1-He provides the Kingdom Workers 2- He provides the talents 3- He provides the spiritual gifts**

*“We can depend upon the promises of God. Through Jesus, He says, “Yes and Amen.” God makes us stand firm in Christ. He anointed us. He set His seal of ownership on us and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come.” 2 Corinthians 1:20-22*

Ezra 5:7-17: They send the report to King Darius in hopes the project is stopped. King Darius searched the archives stored in the treasury. They found the scroll. Ezra 6:1-5--- ‘Yes indeed,’ King Cyrus did give a decree for the temple of God to be rebuilt in the first year of his reign in Babylon. Not only was it to be rebuilt, but also funded by the royal treasury. Furthermore, King Cyrus had commanded that all things taken by King Nebuchadnezzar from the Lord’s temple be returned and deposited in the house of God.

After reading the archives, King Darius, wrote Tattenai and the others and told them, *“You and your fellow officials stay away from there and do not interfere with the work on the temple of God.” Ezra 6:6-7*

**When King Darius discovered these faithful men of God were truthful and working their ‘faith assignment,’ he did more than just allow it.**

**1-MONEY-** He told those opposing, they were to pay the expenses of the men in full from the royal treasury---their regions' revenue—Ezra 6:8

**2-PROVISIONS-** He wrote whatever the priests needed in livestock, grain, salt, wine, and oil for offerings to the God of heaven, those opposing were to give it to them without fail---Ezra 6:9-10

**3-PROTECTION ORDER & LAWFUL PUNISHMENT-** He ordered a protection order with serious consequences if any person changed the decree---Ezra 6:11

**4-GODLY PUNISHMENT-** He consecrated the decree in the name of God and gave a limitless statue not only over the people, but any king or group that ever dare change the decree or destroy the temple in Jerusalem---Ezra 6:12

**What happened with the Jewish people and the ‘faith assignment’?**

**1-It was carried out with diligence 6:13**

**2-They built and prospered 6:14**

**3-They completed the ‘faith assignment’ 6:15**

**Ezra 5:5 Protection provided by God. “The eye of God was watching over them.”**

### **Who helped the elders? GOD did!**

Ezra 5:8-9 *“The people are building it with large stones and placing the timbers in the walls. The work is being carried on with diligence and is making rapid progress under their (Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Zechariah, and Haggi’s) direction. The elders were asked, “Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and restore this structure?”*

#### **1-He provides the Kingdom Workers**

#### **2- He provides the talents**

#### **3- He provides the spiritual gifts**

### **Summary:**

*They completed the temple on March 12, 516 B.C. Ezra 6:15*

They celebrated with joy---the Lord filled them with joy because He had changed the attitude of the king of Assyria {Ezra 6:22 (b-c)}, so much so, that he assisted them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel. Ezra 6:16-18.

*They celebrated Passover on April 21, 516 B.C. Ezra 6:19-22*

They stuck to their ‘faith assignment.’ They believed God for the Kingdom workers, the talents, the spiritual gifts, the funding, the permits, the permission, and the protection. Because they trusted God, exercised their faith in action, and believed in the ‘faith assignment,’ God gave them much more than they had prayed and believed Him for.

As Paul prayed and as Paul believed---Ephesians 3:14-21

*“For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”*

***“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”***

***Paul said, “I kneel before the Father and I pray.”*** We must remember to continuously be before the Father in Jesus Holy Name praying for all things. ***Ephesians 6:18*** *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

**Acts 20: 35-36** *“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to*

give than to receive.' When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed."

The Holy Spirit gives the Spiritual Gifts according to His discretion as written in 1 Corinthians 12:4-14, Offices are appointed with talents and gifts 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 and through Christ Jesus gifts were given Ephesians 4:4-14

1. The five-fold Ministry consists of? Eph. 4:11  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_
2. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:12 KJV)
3. Until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, to a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Eph. 4:13 KJV)
4. List the nine spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians 12:8-10  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_
5. We also find helps and administrations listed in 1 Corinthians 12:28
6. Romans 12:3-8 (NIV) Paul talks more about gifts and how they should be exercised in accordance with your faith. Beginning with verse 6, List them.  
  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAY to the LORD OF THE HARVEST Matthew 9:35-38**

*"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

**Suggested Song for Conference Attendees to Sing** "His Eye is on the Sparrow" By: Civilla D. Martin and music by: Charles H. Gabriel

**Thank you for completing Lesson #5**  
**Run Away Brides Ministries™**  
**The Lord Provides the Workers, Their Talents,**  
**And Their Spiritual Gifts**



## ORDAINED BY THE PRESENCE OF GOD

### Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

*“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit,  
Said to them...”*

*Acts 4:8*



### RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™

Ordained by the presence of God

#### Lesson #6

God raises up men and women at the right time in the right situation and fills them with His Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers individuals to perform faith assignments that are needed for the end time harvest of souls.

Exodus 31:1 “I have chosen (appointed/ordained) Bezalel which means “In the shadow or protection of God.”

Exodus 31:6 “I have appointed (ordained/chosen) Oholiab which means “The Divine Father is my tent/tabernacle.”

Every faith assignment brings in a harvest either directly or indirectly. God assures us that perhaps the tasks He has assigned us seem to have no connection to supply. Not only do they connect to His supply but a great harvest is guaranteed when we do it His way.

#### Acts 19:1-7 “The filling!”

1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. What does it mean to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?



The filling happens at salvation, like water being poured into a glass (person) from a pitcher (Holy Spirit). Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the glass of water (person) being immersed into the water pitcher (Holy Spirit) and no longer separate of each other.

This is the privilege of every Christian. It is true that every born-again man receives the Spirit in a measure (Romans 8:9, 14 -16), but this is not the kind of filling one may yet receive if he will accept the truth and seek God for the fullness of the Spirit. Read and discuss: Mt. 3:11; Luke 11:13; 24:49; John 1:31-34; 7:37-39; 14:12; Acts 1:4-8; 2:38-39; 5:32; and 1 Cor. 14:15-16.

### **Hebrews 4:12-16 “Our Great Supplier”**

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### **Hebrews 5:7-10 “Our Eternal Salvation!”**

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### **Hebrews 5:4-6 “Our High Priest Forever!”**

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1 John 2:27 *"And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you, but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him" (NASB).*

#### **Measure of Faith with Measure of Spirit fullness:**

Ephesians 3:16-19 *"I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and height and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge---that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."*

In John 3:5, Jesus said, *"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."*

The Lord shows us that like Nicodemus, if we try too hard with our mind to apply logic and fact along with our learned intelligence; it will fail us in understanding the matters of the supernatural. Supernatural understanding requires the invisible faith the Bible speaks of and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Those who do not believe in Jesus Christ do not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; therefore our belief to them seems like foolishness.

**Comment:**

1. The phrase, “*Born of water,*” speaks of the natural birth, which Jesus says in the next verse, and pertains to a baby being born.
2. The phrase being “*Born of the Spirit*” speaks of a spiritual birth, which is brought about by God alone; and neither does it speak of water baptism.
3. Verse 6: (a) “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh.*” This has to do with the natural birth. Flesh has no relationship with the spiritual birth and they cannot be joined.
4. Verse 6 (b), “*and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* This has to do with that which is solely of God.

Oftentimes, I am asked why a person trembles, shakes, or seems somewhat out of control of their body when the presence of the Lord is upon them. I know from personal experience that it indeed happens as it has happened to me several times, but I am sharing three times in particular where it almost seemed violent. The first time it happened to me I was in Indianapolis USA. My friend witnessed it and she can testify how extreme the tremors became over my body.

The second time it happened, I sat on the floor in my home and while in deep prayer over severe matters, the Lord came along side of me and suddenly I felt tremors in my feet and then they worked their way up to every square inch of my body. I was shaking so violently and out of control, I asked the Lord if I was dying. I thought a stroke had hit me. He said, “No. It is me.”

The third time it happened, it began in my finger. This time, though, I asked questions like, “Is that you, Lord?” As soon as I asked, more of my fingers began to tremor. My husband, John, had been suffering from extreme neck pain for several days---almost a week. I prayed very hard that morning for my husband’s healing. I cried as I pleaded with Jesus to heal John. Suddenly the one finger began to tremor, and then I asked questions. As I asked each question, my hands began to tremble. Then I asked the Lord, “Lord, do you want me to lay my hands on John’s neck for you to heal him?” He said, “Yes.” I went to John in the basement where he was doing computer work and told him what the Lord had done and said. He agreed and I did as the Lord instructed.

There are times where I feel the violent holiness of the Lord’s presence, especially when I am preaching in the midst of a long fast. Also, during draining prayerful sessions, I get VERY hot and some slight tremors come over me. Sometimes as I am preaching, the Holy Spirit takes over and I begin to sweat. In an unnatural way I perspire and sweat drips from my forehead onto the floor. In those times if I were to stay still in one spot, the carpet would have noticeable wet spots. Inside of me, I feel an echoing feeling as if sound is bouncing off my body’s internal cavity. Although this is a weak explanation, it is the best I can do.

What about you, have you ever physically experienced the presence of the Lord whereas your body responded in an unnatural way?\_\_\_\_\_ Explain what it was like:\_\_\_\_\_

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The first time I received this question of why the human body responds to the presence of the Lord like this, I immediately went to the Lord. I asked Him where I could find answers regarding this bodily phenomenon that testifies to the reason this happens to your children. God is faithful. He tells us to weigh all things against His Word. When I came to Him seeking an answer and His advice, He faithfully began to unveil the mystery. Now, I confess, there is much more to discover in His Word regarding this, but let's begin here.

He took me many places throughout the Bible, He told me to look up tremble, trembled, trembles, trembling, drunk, drunken, intoxicated, filled, fire, wind, and much more. I am sharing some with you and now you can do your own personal research to learn more as well.

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**The physical effects of a human when in the Presence of the Lord:**

Jeremiah 23:9 KJV “*Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets (false prophets Jeremiah was against); all my **bones shake**; I am **like a drunken man**, and like a man whom **wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of His holiness.**”*

When the presence of the LORD is in your midst, you shake internally and/or externally. The feeling of drunkenness, for those of you who have been wise and never been drunk, I commend you. It is ‘an out-of-control’ feeling. Some of you experience the intoxication of the Holy Spirit when you fervently pray or when you are with like-minded spirit-filled believers and His presence is all around you. Oftentimes during incredible praise and worship, the presence of the Lord is strong. If you have been overcome by too much wine sometime in your RAB or before-Christ lifetime, you may recall that truly warm sensation that wine causes in your bloodstream. I believe that is what Jeremiah was saying, the warmth (hot) that comes over you when the Lord is upon and inside of you in His Holiness.

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Also, let us explore the rest of what Jeremiah said, “because of the words of His holiness.” When the Lord comes to a person gifted with the spiritual gift of ‘tongues’ and/or ‘interpretation of tongues’ He SPEAKS to them to give a word for the edification of the Church. His holiness inside them speaking is so potent that the human body cannot hold up to His holiness. Therefore, tremors and shaking begin. His spoken word is POWERFUL! Imagine the power of His word. He spoke the creation into existence. He says my Word does not return to me void! Just having Him speak a Holy Word into you to deliver is

overpowering. A human body is fragile-. We are only dust. How can we stand up to His Holy—Mightiness? NOTES:\_\_\_\_\_

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A believer prepared by the Lord to receive and deliver His words is a surrendered vessel. NOTES:\_\_\_\_\_

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Acts 7:32 KJV (Stephen’s speech just before they killed him) “Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.” NOTES:\_\_\_\_\_

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**Physical effects of God’s Presence**

- 1-Deep Sleep (Gen. 2:21; 15:12)
- 2- *“My doom is sealed, for I am a fouled-mouth sinner...and I have looked upon the King.”* (Is. 6:5)
- 3-I fell on my face (Ezek. 1:28; 3:23; 43:4; 44:4)
- 4-I was afraid (Dan. 8:17)
- 5-A great quaking fell upon them, so they fled to hide (Dan. 10:7)
- 6-There remained no strength in me; for my comeliness was turned into corruption..then was I in a deep sleep on my face...set me upon my knees and palms of my hands (Dan. 10:8-10)
- 7-They fell upon their faces and were sore afraid (Mat. 17:6)
- 8-For fear of him, the keepers (body members or parts) did shake and became like dead men (Mt. 28:4)
- 9-Moses trembled and durst not behold (Acts 7:32)
- 10-He fell upon the earth trembling and astonished (Acts 9:4-9) Saul before he was Paul
- 11-He fell into a trance (Acts 10:10) Peter
- 12-Came trembling and fell down (Acts 16:29) the jailer—there during prayer Acts 16:25-29
- 13-I exceedingly fear and quake (Heb. 12:21) Moses
- 14-I fell at His feet as dead (Rev. 1:17; 19:10; 22:8)
- 15-Fear came upon me and I trembled which made my bones shake (Job 4:14)

Have you experienced any of the above?\_\_\_\_\_ Explain:\_\_\_\_\_

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Now you need to read the entire chapter around these verses and then you will understand the completeness of these examples. I want you to remember that God is NEVER changing and what happened to these people in the presence of God was not just for them and for just that time period. It is for NOW as well. Man is still fragile and made of dust as was in the beginning and God is still God ALL POWERFUL who is the beginning and the end.

**Reeling, moving back and forth purposelessly (person has no control over their body's movement) while under the influence of God's Presence:**

1 Samuel 14:15-16 And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the Earth quaked: so it was a great trembling. (Faith's great passion is always that God should manifest Himself; a supernatural terror seized the Philistines, for it was manifest that God and not Jonathan was the Author of these manifestations). "And the watchman of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down one another. (The words 'melted away' do not exactly give the meaning; the Philistines were not dispersing, but rather they were "reeling," moving to and for purposelessly, and in confusion; they also carry the idea of 'terror'.)

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Colossians 1:24 and 29, "Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the Church. (29) To this end I labor, ***struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.***"

Have you ever felt like you were just going to explode from the inside out because you had so much of the Spirit in you and you knew what you were to do, but you had to wait for the platform to be set? \_\_\_\_\_ What was it like? \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Corinthians 5:13, "***If we are out of mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.***"

Sometimes it is hard to greet people, sit with the family and friends, and try to have earthly conversations for me. I would rather be in the presence of the Lord studying His Word or praying, meditating, worshiping and praising---but we must not be so "Kingdom minded that we are no earthly good." Paul was saying we seem out of our minds to you because we are walking with our minds in the Kingdom of God, which is for God. When we seem

normal to you because we are walking with our minds in earthly matters, we are doing it for you.

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*Isaiah 64:1 with Expositor's Commentary*

*"Oh that You would rend the Heavens' that You would come down, that the mountains might flow down Your presence."* (In this Chapter, Israel's prayer continues and concludes. As she asks the Lord to look upon them once more with favor, Israel now asks for a manifestation of the Divine Presence, such as they have experienced in the times of old, and such as shall suffice to strike terror into the hearts of their enemies. Their prayer will be answered.)"

In Acts 2 some people accused the disciples of being drunk. If they were just speaking in languages that some in the large crowd who heard them understood then they would not have questioned if they were drunk. I wonder What was physically going on that made some of the people in the crowd believe they were drunk at such an early hour of the morning.

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**Purpose of Speaking in tongues and unlearned foreign languages at Pentecost:**

Read Acts 2:11 carefully "It states that speaking in tongues actually is, a recitation of the 'wonderful works of God.' In that case, many languages were being spoken from the disciples that they had not been taught to speak. The Holy Spirit did it all. Now, when we suddenly are speaking in tongues, it is still done by the Holy Spirit. It is heartwarming to know we are reciting the wonderful works of God----which includes Him using human beings to give messages to others according to His perfect will and His promises.

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# WALKING UPRIGHT



## Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™ CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

*“And now, dear children, continue in him,  
so that when he appears we may be confident and  
unashamed before him at his coming.”*

*1 John 2:28*



**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™**

**Walking Upright**

**Supplementary Lesson**

**Bring Dictionaries to Class---Hint Bible Dictionary very helpful with today's lesson**

### **Some of what is forbidden for all believers of Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 5:5&6 we find six forbidden behaviors for all believers

**1-Fornication:** In the Bible, this means adultery of married or single people. It also includes incest, idolatry and adultery in honor of idol gods. Spiritual fornication, spiritual or natural harlotry, lover of all [over tolerant believing that everybody can be and do whatever they want this is known as pluralism—politically correct]. Considering your whoredom a small matter and not sinful is fornication. Forgetting the days of your nakedness and how God rescued you is considered fornication. Sodomy and male prostitution and adultery are unlawful relationships between men and women single or married. Fornication includes all adultery as well as ‘unchaste’ of a single person.

**2-Uncleanness:** Whatever is the opposite of purity is uncleanness that includes sodomy, homosexuality, lesbianism, pederasty, bestiality, and all other forms of sexual perversion.

**3-Covetousness:** It will damn the soul-see 1 Cor 5:11, 2 Peter 2:3 and 14. Covetousness breeds: a) Greed and murder, Proverbs 1:19. b) Poverty and rebellion Proverbs 11:24. c) Oppression and violence Proverbs 22:16. d) Denial of God Proverbs 30:8-9. e) Injustice Isaiah 1:23 and Micah 7:3. f) Backsliding Micah 3:11. g) Deception Mat 3:22 h) Defilement Micah 7: 21-23. i) Temptations & Lusts 1 Timothy 6:9-11

**4-Filthiness:** Ugliness {cruelty or spitefulness}, baseness {wickedness}, vileness {corruptness}, shame {shameful behavior} infamy {disgraceful reputation}

**5-Foolish Talking:** Speaking foolishly, idle talk, gossip, stupid talk, slander, swearing. **6-Jesting or Joking:** Indecent talk, jesters, body language, sugarcoated corruptive talk, course jokes and course gesturing, obscene and offensive conversation, sexual talk.





# LOOK & AWAKEN

## Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

**"Faith without deeds is dead!"**

**James 2:26(b)**

*"Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace."*

***They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So they began this good work.'***

*Nehemiah 2:17 & 18(b)*



**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™**

**LOOK & AWAKEN**

**Lesson #7**

**L.OOK & AWAKEN**

**E.VALUATE RABS**

**A.SSESS LEADERSHIP**

**R.EPENT & RETURN**

**N.ULLIFY IN PRAYER**

Our study regarding "Run Away Brides from this lesson forward, takes on the nature of "Revival." We discovered with Run Away Brides first Bible Study by reading Nehemiah Chapter one that he found out **they were in great distress and disgraced**. They told him that the city walls were torn down and burned. When Nehemiah heard this, he wept. He also mourned, fasted, and prayed. His heart was broken for his Jewish nation. In his prayer, we saw him praising and worshipping God. Then Nehemiah confessed his sins and the sins of the Jewish Nation (Israelites) as well. Nehemiah then began to remind God of His promises regarding the gathering of the Nation and returning them to the place He had chosen as His dwelling (Temple in Jerusalem). He closed the prayer asking God to give him success by granting favor to him in front of King Artaxerxes.

Reading Nehemiah Chapter 2 together we learn **Faith Assignments require action. Bringing the run away brides of Jesus Christ to Him demands action.** *"But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in the mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act---they will be blessed in their doing."* James 1:22-25.

Jesus commanded that all of us that call ourselves Christians be doers of the Word. *"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word **and believes him who sent me** has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life."* John 5:24. He said many hear His Word, but they do not put it into practice. If we believe in Father God who sent Jesus Christ, we will be obedient in the commandments of The Lord.

## **CHRISTIAN OR LOCAL CHURCH, OR LOCAL MINISTRY MAKE THE DECISION**

**1-“Yes, Lord.”** Accept the ‘Faith Assignment’ *Do not confuse making the decision with problem solving. Make the decision to say yes, and then begin with the problem solving.*

Nehemiah 2:5 “Then I prayed to the God of heaven, *I answered the king,*” *If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah (Jerusalem) where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.*”

**Question: Are you accepting the RAB ‘faith assignment?’**

Yes  If you reached Lesson 7, and accepted with the Lord’s direction to partner with us, and we thank you very much. May Jesus bless each one of you with the Fullness of His Joy!

**2-“Yes, Lord,”** resulted in letters for protection and material. *“And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests.”* Nehemiah 2:8(b)

**3- “Yes, Lord,”** resulted in the King sending unrequested army officers and cavalry members with Nehemiah.

When the Lord gives you or me or a group a ‘faith assignment,’ if we just say, “Yes, Lord,” and then go into action, God will OVERWHELM us. He provides more than we requested He gives us what or who we did not even realize we needed to work the ‘faith assignment’ with us. Nehemiah needed protection, what was it the threat? Nehemiah 2:10 *“...They were very disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.”*

**4-“Yes, Lord.”** Like-spirited Kingdom workers JOIN by saying, “Yes, Lord.”

God has already prepared the hearts of those He will send to ACT in FAITH!

2:12(b) *“I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem.”* Nehemiah went out by night (in secret from most) and examined the conditions. Then he suggested to the others 2:17-18 *“Come let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace. I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.”*

Yes to a ‘faith assignment’ requires faith. Faith requires action because without faith we cannot please God. Therefore, faith produces action, and action produces fruit. Jesus said we are fruit-producers of one kind or the other. Bad fruit comes from a bad tree and good fruit comes from a good tree. Nehemiah presents an opportunity for revival. It appears we are not discussing just the torn down and destroyed wall of Jerusalem. Look closer at Nehemiah’s words, 2:17 *“Then I said to them, “Do you see the trouble we are in? Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned with fire. Come let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”*

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|---|----------|
| 1. Do you see the trouble we are in?    | Look     |
| 2. Jerusalem lies in ruins              | Evaluate |
| 3. Its gates have been burned with fire | Assess   |
| 4. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem | Repent   |
| 5. So we are no longer in disgrace      | Nullify  |
| <b>L. E. A. R. N.</b>                   |          |

**LOOK** and awaken Church of Jesus Christ! We are in spiritual trouble.

**EVALUATE** the condition of the Run-Away-Brides' lives.

**ASSESS** leadership's responsibility and turn toward God.

**REPENT** and return, Church of Jesus Christ

**NULLIFY** with repentance, prayer, and confession.

*"To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it. This is what the LORD says; 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.' I appointed watchmen over you and said, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But you said, 'We will not listen.' Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean."*

*Jeremiah 6:10, 16-17, Matthew 23:27-28*

**LOOK:** Church of Jesus Christ overcome apathy and awaken! We are in spiritual trouble. The bride of Jesus Christ (the Church) lies in ruins while the enemy devours the servant-leaders (gates) reputations with the fires of hell. We must rebuild and revive and disciple the brides through the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ. The walls of Jerusalem represent Godly protection. Jerusalem represents Zion. Zion represents the Christian Nation. The Christian Nation represents the Church of Jesus Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ represents the Bride of Christ. Each bride makes up the collective Body of Jesus Christ, "The Church, His Bride."

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**EVALUATE:** The condition of the Run-Away-Brides' lives account for many collapsed and destroyed lives. The bride of Christ status and spiritual health both ruined. Jesus warned each one of us that we cannot just listen to His words and then not live them.

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**ASSESS:** Leaders let us truthfully assess ourselves and turn toward God and confess our sins and repent so that Satan cannot say it of us to Father God that we pastors ran and cared nothing about the Lord's sheep. *"The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it."* John 10:12.

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**REPENT:** The disgrace the body of Christ bears, developed when we chased brides away unintentionally and when we failed to bring them back to the Church of Jesus Christ. We must repent! John the Baptist said it and let me repeat it to all Christian shepherds, **"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham."** Luke 3:8 **Therefore, we shall no longer be in disgrace---Thank you, Lord for receiving our confessions and cleansing us with the Blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**NULLIFY:** If you confess you are a run-away-bride of Jesus Christ and you desire that the Lord Jesus receive you back into His embracing Bridegroom arms, He will. If you confess that you are sitting in the Church, but you are only hearing the Word of God and not walking the Word of God, He is faithful to forgive you. If you confess you are a hearer but not a doer, He is merciful and He will forgive you. If you confess that you have slothfully attended to the sheep that the Lord put into your care and they are scattered, He is just to forgive you. *“Therefore confess your sins one to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person (right with God) is powerful and effective.”* James 5:16

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***They replied, “Let us start rebuilding. So they began this good work.”***  
**“Faith without deeds is dead!” James**  
**2:26 (b)**

**“Faith is made complete by what YOU do!”**

### **FACING FAITH FACTS**

James 2:14-26 NIV

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if a man *claims to have faith but has no deeds?* Can such faith save him? <sup>15</sup>Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, *faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.* <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and *I will show you my faith by what I do.* <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. *Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

<sup>20</sup>*You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?* <sup>21</sup>Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

<sup>22</sup>*You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.* <sup>23</sup>And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called *God’s friend.* <sup>24</sup>You see that *a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.*

<sup>25</sup>In the same way, was not *even Rahab* the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

<sup>26</sup>*As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”*

Look with me at Luke 3:9 where John the Baptist addressed the lack of deeds as uselessness. *“The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

Jesus spoke of good fruit and bad fruit and where it comes from in Luke 6:43-45 *“No good tree bears bad (corrupt) fruit, nor does a bad (corrupt) tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”*

The Fig is the first plant God mentions in the Bible (Genesis 3:7); it represented peace and prosperity (1 Kings 4:25). The grapevine is the first plant recorded as cultivated in Biblical history (Genesis 9:20). Symbolically it represents fruitfulness and the Biblical grape harvest was a time of joyous festivity (Zech. 3:10).

Matthew 16:27 *“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, **and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.**”*

Luke 16:10 *“**Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much,** and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”*

Luke 19:17 *“Well **done, my good servant!** his master replied.’ **Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.**”*

Jesus asks a very important question of all of us. *“Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”* Luke 6:46-49

***“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.  
For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those  
whose hearts are fully committed to him.” 1 Chronicles 16:11 & 2 Chronicles  
16:9(a)***

The Spirit of Idleness intentionally causes talkativeness and wastes time purposefully to promote failure for Christians in responding to situations calling for action. {Proverbs 19:15, and 31:27, Matt 12:36, 1 Thess. 5:14, 1 Tim. 5:13}.

**Read these verses and report your findings in your own words:**

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**Group Inventory:**

Every group experiences dysfunction or lack of efficiency in an area or two. Perfection belongs only to the Lord, therefore do your best to see your assembly through the perfect eyes of Jesus Christ and identify the commendations He gives and the corrections He commands your group to remedy. Additionally, review what He promises for those Churches that obey Him and the consequences if not obeyed. Check the boxes that apply to your Body of Christ. This exercise is intended to be accomplished with a lively discussion, however, do not become argumentative.

LOOK and awaken

EVALUATE your heart’s condition

ASSESS your responsibility and turn toward God.

REPENT and return

NULLIFY with repentance, prayer and confession.

**COMMENDATIONS FOR HIS NAME SAKE:**

**Mark the Boxes that Describe your Local Body of Christ:**

**Grade your local body of Christ 1-5 (5 being fantastic 1-needs improving)**

**Mark** **Grade**

- Do Good Deeds.....
- Do not tolerate sin among your members.....
- Do Not Grow Weary.....
- Hate Compromise inside the Body of Christ.....
- Carefully examine the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not.....
- You find out how these false apostles lie.....
- Work Hard.....
- Endure Hardships.....
- Endure Afflictions.....
- Endure Poverty.....
- Survive Slander.....
- You Live Rich W/O Much.....
- Face & Suffer Persecution.....
- Remain Faithful even if Imprisonment or death is possible For Jesus’ Name Sake.....
- You Bear Your Difficult Location.....
- Remain True to Christ’s Name.....
- Have Strong Love.....
- Have Strong Faith.....
- Do Not Renounce Your Christian Faith during Agonizing Situations.....
- Loving Service .....
- Do More Service than at First.....
- Have more Perseverance than at First.....
- Have A Few Righteous People who do not defile themselves with the world’s filth.....
- Even With Few People You Honor His Word & His Name.....
- Retain Your Godly Strength Small Flock.....
- Though a Small Church You Endure Patiently.....
- Fearless in Jesus’ Name.....
- Persevere for Jesus’ Name Sake.....

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**REBUKING BY JESUS CHRIST FOR HIS NAME SAKE:**

**Shade or Mark the Boxes that Describe your Local Body of Christ:**

Jesus says, "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent."  
Revelation 3:19

**JESUS SAID, "I have a few things against thee."**

- Forsaken the love we had at first (Zeal for Jesus)
- We have fallen out of our first-love-state with Jesus Christ
- Do not do the things we did at first that brought life to our area
- Allow some members to sin including idolizing and sexual immorality (Balaam)
- Allow believers to marry unbelievers (teaching of Balaam to King Balak Num 31:15-16)
- Accommodating a mixture of non-Christian ungodly religious practices inside the Body
- Allow Nicolaitian behavior, "Followers of men." See Footnote <sup>3</sup>
- Tolerate false prophets and teachers, and their misleading of others to sin inside The Body
- Have a FALSE reputation as a live and active Church but we are a dead Body of Christ
- Have UNFINISHED deeds (jobs) in the sight of God
- LUKEWARM neither hot nor cold for Jesus' Name Sake
- PROUD and believe RICH in all of our Church ways & traditions

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Together write a confession based on the Holy Spirit's conviction you are sensing. Now go pray it together and allow the Lord Jesus Christ to cleanse you and forgive you. NOW MOVE FORWARD!**

<sup>3</sup> Nicolaitian, when translated from Greek to Hebrew, becomes Balaamites; followers of the man who induced the Israelites to fall by lust (See Revelation 2:14 and Numbers 31:15-16) from footnotes of Living Bible Paraphrased, Copyright Tyndale House Publishers 1972.



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**Go through the list above, again, and assign the #5 next to the one(s) that need immediate attention. Now, together prioritize the above corrections as the Holy Spirit leads you:**

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**CONSEQUENCES IF THE CHURCH DOES NOT OBEY HIS COMMANDS:**

**This is a tough list to look at, I know.** However, if you have been on earth long enough and around the Christian ministry for a while, you have witnessed with me some of these consequences. It is possible you have even been involved in one or some of them. I watched entire ministries go under but with the mercy and the grace of the Lord, I testify some of them He rebuilt. Study these together and discuss them. Remembering also each one of us as a Christian is accountable individually and all of these lists we have gone through from Revelation 2 and 3 apply to us individually as well as corporately. We discuss that aspect in Lesson 8, “Evaluate the run-away-brides (RABs).”

- ☒ Jesus Christ will remove the local Church from its place among the Churches
- ☒ Jesus Christ will come to the local Church and make WAR with the sword of His mouth against the members participating in sinful behavior including sexual immorality and idolatry.
- ☒ Jesus Christ will come like a thief unexpectedly and punish you
- ☒ Jesus Christ will search all hearts & minds and repay each believer according to their deeds
- ☒ Jezebel’s children (those who follow her ways) that do not repent, will be struck dead
- ☒ Those inside the Church who teach toleration or induct worldly lifestyles will suffer intensely
- ☒ Jesus Christ will spit that local Church out of His mouth

**Notes:**

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- ❑ The opened door to the Kingdom no one can shut and what Jesus shuts no one can open
- ❑ He will make the liars pretending to be otherwise fall down at victorious' feet
- ❑ At the feet of the victorious' these liars will acknowledge that Jesus did love these believers
- ❑ Those who endure patiently Jesus will keep out of the hour of trial coming on the entire world to test the inhabitants of the earth
- ❑ The victorious will become a pillar in the temple of God and never, again, leave it.
- ❑ On the victorious, Jesus will write the name of His God and the name of His God's city, and His Name
- ❑ The victorious will sit with Jesus Christ on His throne just as He was victorious and sat down with His Father on His Father's throne.

**Have an open discussion imagining what these promises look or feel like. Write your thoughts as you joyfully talk about them. Rejoice in the Lord that He loves us enough to correct us back into His loving embrace. Worship Him Always regardless of the circumstances you are going through----He is Worthy of ALL Praise! His love endures FOREVER! HALLELUJAH!**

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If God has spoken a promise(s) over you and it has not manifested remind Him of it as Nehemiah did.

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## PERSONAL SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

When we do our spiritual personal inventory, we can use Scripture to assist us in showing us four important areas to consider.

### We Are Good Fruit-Producers

- 1.) Commendable---What I am succeeding in “Commendable Proof”
- 2.) Correctable-----What I need help succeeding in “Correctable Proof”
- 3.) Measurable Change-----Can I see ‘Good Fruits’ from my salvation date forward?
- 4.) Holy Spirit Advice and Warnings

Galatians Chapters 5 and 6 (New Living Translation---Paraphrased 1972)

## Galatians 5-6

Living Bible (TLB)

5 So Christ has made us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get all tied up again in the chains of slavery to Jewish laws and ceremonies. <sup>2</sup> Listen to me, for this is serious: *if you are counting on circumcision and keeping the Jewish laws to make you right with God, then Christ cannot save you.* <sup>3</sup> I'll say it again. Anyone trying to find favor with God by being circumcised must always obey every other Jewish law or perish. <sup>4</sup> Christ is useless to you if you are counting on clearing your debt to God by keeping those laws; you are lost from God's grace.

<sup>5</sup> But we by the help of the Holy Spirit are counting on Christ's death to clear away our sins and make us right with God. <sup>6</sup> And we to whom Christ has given eternal life don't need to worry about whether we have been circumcised or not or whether we are obeying the Jewish ceremonies or not; for all we need is faith working through love.

<sup>7</sup> You were getting along so well. Who has interfered with you to hold you back from following the truth? <sup>8</sup> It certainly isn't God who has done it, for he is the one who has called you to freedom in Christ. <sup>9</sup> But it takes only one wrong person among you to infect all the others.

<sup>10</sup> I am trusting the Lord to bring you back to believing as I do about these things. God will deal with that person, whoever he is, who has been troubling and confusing you.

<sup>11</sup> Some people even say that I myself am preaching that circumcision and Jewish laws are necessary to the plan of salvation. Well, if I preached that, I would be persecuted no more—for that message doesn't offend anyone. The fact that I am still being persecuted proves that I am still preaching salvation through faith in the cross of Christ alone.

<sup>12</sup> I only wish these teachers who want you to cut yourselves by being circumcised would cut themselves off from you and leave you alone!

<sup>13</sup> For, dear brothers, you have been given freedom: not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other. <sup>14</sup> For the whole Law can be summed up in this one command:

“Love others as you love yourself.”<sup>15</sup> But if instead of showing love among yourselves you are always critical and catty, watch out! Beware of ruining each other.

<sup>16</sup> I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit’s instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won’t always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. <sup>17</sup> For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us, and our wishes are never free from their pressures. <sup>18</sup> When you are guided by the Holy Spirit, you need no longer force yourself to obey Jewish laws.

<sup>19</sup> But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group—and there will be wrong doctrine, <sup>21</sup> envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws.

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there.

<sup>25</sup> If we are living now by the Holy Spirit’s power, let us follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. <sup>26</sup> Then we won’t need to look for honors and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings.

6 Dear brothers, if a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong. <sup>2</sup> Share each other’s troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord’s command. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks he is too great to stoop to this, he is fooling himself. He is really a nobody.

<sup>4</sup> Let everyone be sure that he is doing his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work well done and won’t need to compare himself with someone else. <sup>5</sup> Each of us must bear some faults and burdens of his own. For none of us is perfect!

<sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the Word of God should help their teachers by paying them.

<sup>7</sup> Don’t be misled; remember that you can’t ignore God and get away with it: a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows! <sup>8</sup> If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death; but if he plants the good things of the Spirit, he will reap the everlasting life that the Holy Spirit gives him. <sup>9</sup> And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will

reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up. <sup>10</sup> That's why whenever we can we should always be kind to everyone, and especially to our Christian brothers.

<sup>11</sup> I will write these closing words in my own handwriting. See how large I have to make the letters! <sup>12</sup> Those teachers of yours who are trying to convince you to be circumcised are doing it for just one reason: so that they can be popular and avoid the persecution they would get if they admitted that the cross of Christ alone can save. <sup>13</sup> And even those teachers who submit to circumcision don't try to keep the other Jewish laws; but they want you to be circumcised in order that they can boast that you are their disciples.

<sup>14</sup> As for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in all the attractive things of the world was killed long ago, and the world's interest in me is also long dead. <sup>15</sup> It doesn't make any difference now whether we have been circumcised or not; what counts is whether we really have been changed into new and different people.

<sup>16</sup> May God's mercy and peace be upon all of you who live by this principle and upon those everywhere who are really God's own.

<sup>17</sup> From now on please don't argue with me about these things, for I carry on my body the scars of the whippings and wounds from Jesus' enemies that mark me as his slave.

<sup>18</sup> Dear brothers, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Sincerely, Paul

**1.) Commendable Proof: (From Galatians 5:13-14)**

- a. Have I used my freedom in Christ to love and serve others? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Have I loved others like I love myself? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What do I love about me? \_\_\_\_\_

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What I love about myself, I should project to others.

- d. What do I dislike about me? \_\_\_\_\_

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What I dislike about myself, I should not project onto others.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**2.) Correctable Proof Galatians 5:15 and 19-21**

- a. Am I critical of others? \_\_\_\_\_



- h. How do I love? \_\_\_\_\_
- i. Do I have joy? \_\_\_\_\_ how? \_\_\_\_\_
- j. When do I have joy? \_\_\_\_\_
- k. Do I have peace? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_
- l. When do I feel peace? \_\_\_\_\_
- m. Where do I feel peace? \_\_\_\_\_
- n. Do I have patience? \_\_\_\_\_ With whom? \_\_\_\_\_
- o. When do I have patience? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_
- p. How do I show patience? \_\_\_\_\_
- q. In what circumstances do I have patience? \_\_\_\_\_
- r. Am I kind ALL the time? \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
- s. When am I kind? \_\_\_\_\_
- t. To whom am I kind? \_\_\_\_\_
- u. Why am I kind? \_\_\_\_\_
- v. How am I kind? \_\_\_\_\_
- w. Where am I kind? \_\_\_\_\_
- x. Do I possess goodness? \_\_\_\_\_
- y. How do I possess goodness? \_\_\_\_\_
- z. Do I possess faithfulness? \_\_\_\_\_
- aa. How do I possess faithfulness? \_\_\_\_\_
- bb. To whom am I faithful? \_\_\_\_\_
- cc. Do I possess gentleness? \_\_\_\_\_
- dd. When do I possess gentleness? \_\_\_\_\_
- ee. How do I possess gentleness? \_\_\_\_\_
- ff. With who do I possess gentleness? \_\_\_\_\_
- gg. Do I practice self-control? \_\_\_\_\_
- hh. How do I practice self-control? \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. When do I practice self-control? \_\_\_\_\_
- jj. Where do I practice self-control? \_\_\_\_\_
- kk. With whom do I practice self-control? \_\_\_\_\_
- ll. With what do I practice self-control? \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What advise or warnings does Apostle Paul give that I am not putting into practice yet, but I need to begin to immediately? Galatians 5:16-18 and 25-26**

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**ADVICE: Galatians 5:16**

- a. Obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions
- b. He tells you where to go
- c. He tells you what to do

Because this prevents you from doing those things your evil-nature wants you to do.

**WARNING: Galatians 5:17**

We must listen to the Holy Spirit because we naturally love to do evil things which are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do.



# EVALUATE RABS

## Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

*“They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. Peace, peace; they say, when there is no peace.” Jeremiah 6:14*

*“This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. Haggai 1:7*



**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™**

**EVALUATE RABS**

**Lesson #8**

**L.OOK & AWAKEN**

**E.VALUATE RABS**

**A.SSESS LEADERSHIP**

**R.EPENT & RETURN**

**N.ULLIFY IN PRAYER**

### ***Biblical Definition of a Run Away Bride (RAB):***

*As He sat on the Mount of Olives shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus said to the disciples, “Many believers will turn away from the faith and will fall back into sin betraying and hating each other. Many false prophets will appear, deceive many people, and lead them astray. Sin will be rampant everywhere and there will be an increase of wickedness. The love of most will grow cold and like the five foolish virgins from the parable of the ten virgins when I return it will be too late for them to join in the marriage feast. So stay awake and be prepared, for you do not know the date or moment of my return.”<sup>4</sup>*

*Matthew 24:10-12, 25:12-13 TLB*

A RAB is a believer who leaves the covering of the Bridegroom Jesus Christ by living the world’s way of life. In speaking with many run away brides, I have discovered most of them still want to go to the Lord’s wedding banquet and believe even in their current RAB status they will. However, the Bible says any believer unwilling to be alert and prepared for the coming of the Bridegroom will run out of oil in their lamps (love for Christ Jesus). Jesus said if a person loves Him, they would obey Him. If they do not love Him, they will not obey Him. Therefore, after a very long time of waiting, He will come as promised and their lackadaisical attitudes and lifestyles will be evident even to them. The Lord shall say to the non-reconciled RAB the same as He did in the parable of the ten virgins, *“All the girls jumped up and trimmed their lamps. Then the five who hadn’t any oil begged the others to share with them, for their lamps were going out. But the others replied, ‘We haven’t enough. Go instead to the shops and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were gone, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. Later, when the other five returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Sir, open the door for us’! But He called back, “Go away! It is too late.” Matthew 25:7-12*

<sup>4</sup> The Living Bible Paraphrased Copyright 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers ninth printing 1972.

***Biblical Definition of CHURCH:***

*Jesus said, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ‘...All the churches will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve.”*

*Matthew 16:18, 18:15, and Revelation 2:23 (b) NRSV*

“Paul writes that the church is ‘built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. Whatever may have been the role of the apostles and prophets, Jesus, the chief cornerstone, is the one on whom the church is founded. Because Christ is the all-powerful one, the gates of Hades will not prevail against the church. All authority belongs to the ascended Christ, who reigns in glory over the church.” Commentary from Matthew 16:18 in the NRSV Harper Bible Study, Expanded and Updated copyright by Zondervan, 1991.

**IDENTIFYING THE BRIDE OF CHRIST AS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**Revelation 22:17, 21:9-10, 21:2-5, 21:27, 22:6, 22:1-2, 22:12-14, 22:20 NIV**

*“The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”*

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”*

*“He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of nations.”*

*“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexual immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”*

*“He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”*

It can be confusing for some readers when it sounds like they read in Revelation 21:9 the New Jerusalem is the bride, the Lamb’s wife. However, the bride of Christ is not a city made of great jasper walls and twelve gates of pearl and foundations garnished of precious stones and the city of pure gold, *it is the residents therein*. Those residents are the blessed ones *“who washed their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. This is a profound mystery---but I am talking about Christ and the Church.”*

Revelation 22:14 and Ephesians 5:25-27 and 5:32

The wife or bride of Christ is the Church. *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”<sup>5</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, ‘Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God.”* Revelation 19:7-9.

Let us consider how we know, Jesus’ bride is not the “New City of Jerusalem, but rather the Residents of the New City of Jerusalem.

**Examples:** In America, we call Las Vegas, sin city. Is it the streets, the buildings, the sewage and water systems, the infrastructure itself that sins? No, it is the residents and the visitors who practice sin. The Lord told Abraham that He had come down Himself to investigate the complaints of His people about the wretchedness of Sodom and Gomorrah. *“Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.” “The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Then Abraham approached him and said, “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing---to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?” The Lord said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”* **Genesis 18:20-26 NIV**

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<sup>5</sup> A city cannot make itself ready for anything because it is an object. Therefore, the residents of the city make it ready. Such as with the Olympics a city chosen to host the Olympics makes itself ready, however it is not the lifeless object (the city) but the residents of many social levels preparing for the event according to their ability and understanding.

Was it the city of walls, buildings, and streets of Sodom sinning? No, it was the residents of Sodom. The two angels that went into Sodom (Genesis 19) told Lot to get every family member of his in the city that belonged to him and take them out of the city of Sodom, ***“Because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the Lord against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.” Genesis 19:13.***

Jesus warned each one of us in His love letter, the Bible, that we cannot just listen to His words and then not live them. If a believer does this, they are A Run Away Bride of Christ Jesus!

Imagine with me these Biblical messages via text, e-mail, or written notes passing between the Lord Jesus, the Church’s Bridegroom and the Church, His bride. This communication between Jesus and the Church is for each believer personally and the universal church collectively.

***Dear Bride:***

*“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him {Jesus Christ} who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold to it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.”*

***Dear Bridegroom:***

*“I slept, but my heart was awake.*

***Dear Bride:***

*“Stay awake, keep alert and pray. Otherwise, temptation will over power you. For the spirit is willing but how weak the body is. You can avoid trouble by always being ready for my unannounced return. So stay awake and be prepared, for you do not know the date or moment of my return.”*

***“Listen! My beloved [Bridegroom] is knocking.”***

***Dear Bride:***

*Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night.”*

***Dear Bridegroom:***

*I had put off my garment; how could I put it on again? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them again?<sup>6</sup>*

*Revelation 3:1-3 NIV Song of Solomon 5:2-3 NRSV and  
Matthew 26:41, Matthew 24:44, Matthew 25:13{TLB Paraphrased}  
{ } added for clarification purposes.*

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<sup>6</sup> “I am comfortable, Jesus, the way I am. I don’t want to make an effort to open the door for you, again.”

## THE RUN-AWAY-BRIDE OUTSIDE THE HOUSE:

**This run-away-bride is really saying, “I am comfortable, Jesus, the way I am. I don’t want to make an effort to open the door for you, again!”**

*“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. Galatians 6:1, 1 John 5:16(a), 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, James 5:15-16, 1 Timothy 4:2*

### **What we see as excuses are the run away brides’ truths---their truth:**

We, ushers, receive ‘seemingly excuses’ from run-away-brides even those sitting inside our Churches. However, our ears need to discern what they say. Listen carefully to the heart of the RAB and do not respond with flesh. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak into your spirit His wisdom. The Bride in Song of Solomon said, “I had put off my garment; how could I put it on again? I washed my feet and I do not want to dirty them getting out of bed. **This is her truth. When you have two people in a disagreement, there is his truth, her truth, and the truth---always three sides to every story, remember that in any counseling session.**

1. I put off the lifestyle of a Bride of Jesus Christ and I am comfortably asleep (dead) in my worldly lifestyle. Although my heart is longingly awake looking for real life, how could I go back to an awakened Christian?
  - a. Investigate by asking questions what type of wedding garment had this RAB worn in the past. Oftentimes ushers discover the RAB came out of a setting operating under the Spirit of Religion where rejection and judgment destroy self-esteem.
  - b. Ask the RAB what is one thing they miss about being a Bride of Christ.
  - c. Their answer declares their heart’s yearning.
  - d. Ask them their biggest concern of going back into the Church.
  - e. This identifies the religious experience that made them run.
  - f. They rejected either holiness or ungodliness.
  - g. Ask their permission to pray for them. Now, pray!

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## RUN-AWAY-BRIDES INSIDE THE HOUSE

2. The other type of RAB is the one sitting inside the Church. They participate sparingly in the love relationship with Jesus Christ. These brides washed their own feet with self-discipline instead of accepting His grace. They are careful where they go including not going too far in love with the Lord. Notice she said she had washed her feet. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. If Jesus does the washing, those He cleanses walk in liberty and in the fullness of the joy of Christ. A self-cleansing never lasts because regimentation and maintenance by human efforts eventually fail. They lack the love-union Christ Jesus desires. Surrendering to self-government is a safe-controlled love-lacking relationship governed as Master and slave instead of Bridegroom and bride.

*“If in fact Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them. As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of the world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. Romans 4:2-8 and Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Timothy 4:10*

- a. Ask them if they believe they are going to heaven if they died today.
- b. Most likely their answer will be yes, but with a question mark on the end.
- c. Now, ask them why they believe they are going to heaven.
- d. Normally, they begin with Jesus died for them and then they include their works.
- e. This identifies their works-mentality is their ladder to heaven.
- f. Disarm them by asking if they believe Moses, David, and Solomon are in heaven.
- g. They will answer yes. Remind them all three of these men failed self-governing.
- h. Tell them The Lord’s grace counted their faith and love for Him as righteousness.
- i. Tell them Jesus has enough grace to cover them, too. They only need surrender To Him. *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” 1Pet 5:7*
- j. Ask their permission to pray for them. Now pray!

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Evaluating the Conditions of the Run Away Brides' lives

The Run-Away-Brides are living collapsed and destroyed lives physically, mentally, emotionally, and most of all spiritually. Some of them are sitting inside the Church every Sunday perhaps next to you; perhaps it is you, or even the Church leader(s). God used Prophet Haggai to encourage the Jews to go back to rebuilding the Temple that had sat idle for close to ten years. The Temple and the attitudes of the people and the Lord God Almighty's response are not any different than the state of a run-away-bride-of-Christ, who is the temple of God.

The bride of Christ status and spiritual health are both ruined when a person runs from Jesus. This break-up, so to speak, frequently happens undetected at first by the bride and those around them, until the run-away-bride symptoms can no longer be hidden and/or self-medicated.

We can compare the ruined Temple through Haggai with the condition of a run away bride. Additionally, we can compare the remnant people and their leaders with the run away bride based on their attitudes, behaviors, lifestyles, and questionable decisions. Additionally, we can compare the LORD's response in His relationship with them. The following outline describes the comparison we are using for this lesson.

- 1.) The temple represents a run-away-bride separated from believers, outside the House.
- 2.) The leaders and the people represent collective run-away-brides, inside the House.
- 3.) The Lord, of course, represents Himself.

## -----Seeing it the Lord's Way-----

**The Lord says the believer is His Temple and their foundation is Jesus Christ.** *“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies. If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1 Cor. 3:16-17, 1 Cor 6:19-20, 2 Cor. 6:16, 1 Cor. 3:11

**Haggai 1:2 The Lord States a fact:**

*“Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying; ‘This people says, ‘The time has not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built.*

1.) Can you think of any decision you made regarding honoring the Lord that you delayed for your own comfort? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Haggai 1:3-4 The Lord asks a question:**

*“Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ‘Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?’”*

2.) Does it seem to you that their personal matters took priority over the Lord’s matters? \_\_\_\_\_ Can you remember a time when you may have done the same to the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Haggai 1:5-7 The Lord tells them to consider the outcome of their decision:**

*“Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts; ‘Consider your ways? You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.’ Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Consider your ways!’”*

3.) What do you suppose the Lord is trying to point out to them? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Haggai 1:8 The Lord commands them to act on His behalf**

*“Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the LORD.*

4.) Has the Lord ever given you a direct order like that? \_\_\_\_\_ What did He ask you to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Did you do it immediately? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5.) The Lord made a command and gave His reason. What was His reason? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Is that okay with you that the Lord wants to take pleasure in something and also be glorified? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Haggai 1:9-11 The Lord withheld prosperity because they left His Temple unattended**

*“You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?” Says the LORD of hosts. “Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore, the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”*

6.) In verses, 5-7 the Lord told them twice to \_\_\_\_\_ their ways. He said think deeply about this. He pointed out the obvious to them in verses 9, 10, and 11. In your own words explain why the Lord withheld the abundant goodness from them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7.) Have you ever experienced something similar with the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8.) What did you learn from it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Haggai 1:12 Then the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God**

*“Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadek, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the LORD.*

9.) What do you believe it means, ‘the people feared the presence of the Lord?’ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Haggai 1:13 The LORD makes the people a promise**

*“Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, spoke the LORD’s message to the people, saying ‘I am with you, says the LORD.’”*

10.) I am \_\_\_\_\_ you, says \_\_\_\_\_. Would that comfort you? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Haggai 1:14 The LORD helps them through their spirits**

*“So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people, and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God.”*

11.) Why do believe the Lord had to stir up people’s spirits? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12.) Has the Lord stirred up your spirit before? \_\_\_\_\_ What was it like? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did He stir up your spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Lord looks at the situation and says how interesting that the people decided for themselves that the time had not come to repair His house. It is true they had stopped building because they were ordered to by King Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:21-24). However, many years had passed since he had ordered them to halt the rebuilding and the king’s death.

Nothing was preventing them from building except themselves. However, only the foundation of the Lord’s house had been completed before the building site had fallen silent for several years while the people were living life in their nice homes and working, and eating, and drinking. They were so busy living life they had not noticed that their lives were less than full in every aspect. Similarly, The Lord is saying the same to us today in the twenty-first-century Church. **ARISE and build up His temple on its laid foundation. The Lord says the believer is His Temple and their foundation is Jesus Christ.**

The Lord made it very clear that things had not been going so well with the people who had decided to neglect His house. However, they struggled so hard to make ends meet; they had not taken time to consider the point of reference for the ‘struggle.’ Seemed everybody in the community of believers suffered in one way or the other, nevertheless they could not see their decision to neglect the Lord caused their lifestyle of difficulties. *“You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?” Says the LORD of hosts. “Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore, the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands. You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.”*

**1. It is time for judgment to begin with God’s household. If it begins with us, what will you do with the Lord’s mandate to gather in the Run Away Brides? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**2. How did their decision to leave the temple in ruins affect the leaders and the people lives?**

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The Lord asks the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church the same question He asked in Haggai “Is it time for you to be living in up while my run away brides lay in ruins?” He sets His own house in order first. Therefore, He starts inside the Church, His household. This will be discussed in Lesson 9 “ASSESS LEADERSHIP.”

Thank you for completing  
Lesson #8  
EVALUATE RABS  
Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

# ASSESS LEADERSHIP

## Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

*"From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain;  
prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.*

*Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct?*

*No, they have no shame at all;  
they do not even know how to blush.*

*So they will fall among the fallen;  
they will be brought down when I punish them.*

*Says the LORD."*

*Jeremiah 6:13, 15*



**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES MINISTRIES™**

**ASSESS LEADERSHIP**

**Lesson #9**

**L.OOK & AWAKEN**

**E.VALUATE RABS**

**A.SSESS LEADERSHIP**

**R.EPENT & RETURN**

**N.ULLIFY IN PRAYER**

***Biblical Definition of a Servant/Leader Run Away Bride (SLRAB):***

***"Jesus asked, "Are you a wise and faithful servant of the Lord? Have I given you the task of managing my household to feed my children day to day? Blessings upon you if I return and find you faithfully doing your work. I will put such faithful ones in charge of everything I own! But if you are evil and say to yourself, 'My Lord won't be coming for awhile; and begin oppressing your fellow servants, partying and getting drunk, your Lord will arrive unannounced and unexpected, and severely whip you and send you off to the judgment of hypocrites; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 7 Matthew 24:45-50 TLB***

Jesus speaks to leadership today just as He did before He left the earth. He had harsh words for those operating under the spirit of religion and then as in Peter's case to those who practice self-righteousness. I warn you, servant/leaders it is not a 'feel-good' message that Jesus spoke that day at the temple in Jerusalem. I used to believe it was not possible for me to receive such a correction from the Lord. Be careful if you think you are above failure and reproach. When the harsh reality sets in that your righteousness is self-engineered and faulty at that, the Words of Christ cut like a double-edge sword.

We are at a critical crossroad in this hour of the Lord. All of us witness continually the signs Jesus told us to watch for that would mark the beginning of the Last Days before He returns. Never have I believed it is this close than I do now with all these recent mass murders, climate changes, unfathomable natural disasters, nations warring against nations and themselves. Surely, the accelerated groans of the creation itself penetrate God's Throne

<sup>7</sup> The Living Bible Paraphrased Copyright 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers ninth printing 1972.

respectively pleading to see the sons of God redeemed. The LORD Almighty warned us through the writings of Prophet Isaiah of this pending time when the floodgates of the heavens are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake. He said, *“The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, the earth is violently shaken. The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls---never to rise again. In that day, the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days. The moon will be dismayed and the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before its elders---with great glory!”* Isaiah 24:18(c)-23 NIV

Jesus promised us that heaven and earth would pass away but NOT HIS WORD! [Matthew 24:35] Let’s listen to His Word and instead of being offended, let the Holy Spirit gently rebuke us and correct us so that in those areas where we have taken a step off the path of righteousness, we can be brought back into alignment with the Lord. I studied under Dr. Morris Cerullo and he says if you cannot say ‘Amen’ then you should to say, **‘Ouch!’**

*“When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, he doesn’t just sit down and eat, but first prepares his master’s meal and serves him his supper before he eats his own. And he is not even thanked, for he is merely doing what he is supposed to do. Just so, if you merely obey me, you should not consider yourselves worthy of praise. For you have simply done your duty. And so, Dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy---the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? **OUCH!** Luke 17:7-10 and Romans 12:1*

*“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to have you, to sift you like wheat, but I have pleaded in prayer for you that your faith should not completely fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen and build up the faith of your brothers.” Simon said, “Lord, I am ready to go to jail with you, and even to die with you.” But Jesus said, “Peter, let me tell you something. Between now and tomorrow morning when the rooster crows, you will deny me three times, declaring that you don’t even know me.” **OUCH!** Luke 22:31-34*

*“But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted. Woe to you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders. Hypocrites! For you won’t let others enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and won’t go in yourselves. And you pretend to be holy, with all your long, public prayers in the streets, while you are evicting widows from their homes. Hypocrites! Yes, woe upon you hypocrites. For you go to all lengths to make one convert, and then turn him into twice the son of hell you are yourselves. Blind guides! Woe upon you! Yes, woe upon you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders---hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things---justice and mercy and faith. Yes, you should tithe, but you shouldn’t leave the more important things undone. Blind guides! You strain out a gnat and swallow a camel. Woe to you, Pharisees, you religious leaders---hypocrites! You are so careful to polish the outside of the cup, but the inside is foul with extortion and greed. Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup, and then the whole cup will be clean.” **OUCH!** Matthew 23:12-16(b) and 23:23-26<sup>8</sup>*

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<sup>8</sup> The Living Bible Paraphrased Copyright 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers ninth printing 1972.

The Lord asks the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church, that's us, the same question He asked in Haggai "Is it time for you to be living it up while my run away brides lay in ruins?" **He sets His own house in order first. Therefore, He starts inside the Church, His household.** *"For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? "If I am delayed," Paul wrote to Timothy, "You will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. 1 Peter 4:17-18, 1 Timothy 3:15*

## **The Lord sets the record straight!**

### **Haggai 1:2 The Lord States a fact:**

*"Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying; 'This people says, 'The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.*

1.) In one sentence, what fact do you think the Lord would state about your Body of Christ?

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### **Haggai 1:3-4 The Lord asks a question:**

*"Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 'Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?"*

2.) In one sentence, what question do you think the Lord would ask your Body of Christ?

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### **Haggai 1:5-7 The Lord tells them to consider the outcome of their decision:**

*"Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts; 'Consider your ways? You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.' Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Consider your ways!"*

3.) Evaluate what your local Body of Christ has sown into such as money, time, and effort that failed to bring in the expected harvest.

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### **Haggai 1:8 The Lord commands them to act on His behalf**

*"Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the LORD.*

4.) Based on your answer to #1 above, what do you believe the Lord would command your local Body of Christ to do? Before you answer, pray and ask the Lord to reveal His desire. Do not act too righteous and decide to skip this to shelf it for days, weeks, or months of prayer. Seek His face, now. In His faithfulness, He will reveal His heart.

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5.) Is it okay with you the Lord will be glorified and pleased if you do what He is commanding? \_\_\_\_\_ why? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Haggai 1:9-11 The Lord withheld prosperity because they left His Temple unattended**

*“You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?” Says the LORD of hosts. “Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore, the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”*

6.) In verses, 5-7 the Lord told them twice to \_\_\_\_\_ their ways. He said think deeply about this. He pointed out the obvious to them in verses 9, 10, and 11. In your own words, explain how you think the Lord has withheld abundant goodness from your local Body of Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Haggai 1:12 Then the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God**

*“Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the LORD.*

7.) What do you believe it means, ‘the people feared the presence of the Lord?’

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\_\_\_\_\_ Do you and/or the leaders of the Body of Christ you are with fear the presence of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_, how is this shown? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Haggai 1:13 The LORD makes the people a promise**

*“Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, spoke the LORD’s message to the people, saying ‘I am with you, says the LORD.’”*

8.) Do you believe the Lord is with your local Body of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
How has He shown He is with or without your local Body of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Haggai 1:14 The LORD helps them through their spirits**

*“So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people, and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God.”*

9.) Do you believe the Lord needs to stir up people's spirits in your Local Body of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

You can pray for the stirring up of your spirits and the filling of the Holy Spirit. We will study that together in Lesson 10 **REPENT & RETURN**, based on Esther 1:7-8---**JOIN US!**

**Timeframe: Haggai 1:1 and Haggai 1:15** *"In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadek, the high priest, saying,..." Haggai 1:15* *"...they came and worked on the house of the LORD on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius."*

It only took 23 days (twenty-three days) for the work to begin because The Lord acted as the General Contractor---The Chief Cornerstone of the Church is the LORD. Psalm 127:1 makes it clear about whom the Builder of The House (the temple) is. *"Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."*

**The LORD** commanded the people to build the Temple {Faith Assignment}. Haggai 1:8

**The LORD** gave instructions to the people. Haggai 1:8

**The LORD** told them why---It was for HIS pleasure and HIS glorification. Haggai 1:8

The above are always MODEL STANDARDS in a Godly Faith Assignment. It is NEVER about you or for you. It will always result in HIM being GLORIFIED---Jesus taught us this repeatedly while He was on earth. His faith assignment was NOT about Him, It was about the Father's glorification. If the Father is glorified, the results are always a win-win-solution. Blessings, favor, grace, and mercy are some of the benefits the LORD rains over the faith assignment and all those diligently performing their part of the commanded tasks. Please understand when God is GLORIFIED, He cannot help Himself but spill out of Him that which is His very nature!

1. Look carefully at the mission, the ministry, the faith assignment or whatever else you may call it that you believe came from God. Be very honest with yourself did He command it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did He give you instructions on what and how to do it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did He tell you it was for His glorification? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Can you at least see it is for His glorification? \_\_\_\_\_
5. These are soul- searching questions, but even King David learned to ask God before he made what we might consider obvious decisions or moves. Write what is on your heart right now. \_\_\_\_\_

Once David and his men returned and found enemies had taken their children, their wives, and all the people. David did not rush right out with his mighty warriors to get them back, no he asked God first, "should I go to battle?" We look at that and say, 'Hello, of course!' However, when you walk as one with the Lord God Almighty as David did, you ask Him before you act. *"David inquired of the LORD, 'Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I*

*overtake them?’ The LORD answered David by saying, “Pursue them,” he answered. “You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.” 1 Samuel 30:8*

David had learned through unnecessary defeats that asking His Lord first made the difference between life and death. Oftentimes the LORD gave David directions on how to go into battle or carry out the battle. Every victory resulted in God’s glorification (*1 Samuel 30:23*). The Israelites had a reputation among all the other nations early on even before David. They often said, “Their God wins all their battles for them.” Many enemy nations did not even attempt to harass the Israelites, as they did not want to fight Their Almighty God of Heaven and Earth. It would be fantastic to have that type of a reputation. Anything is possible with God!

***Nevertheless, He promised us if we do things unto The Lord, He is glorified.*** The good news is when we prematurely go ahead of the Lord or go into an assignment without His counsel; He is faithful in granting us forgiveness and hope.

*“For whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Therefore, do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

*We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: ‘The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.’ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

*May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

1 Corinthians 10:31, Romans 14:16-19 and 15:1-7 and 15:13 NIV

Go back to the beginning with the letter that Jesus wrote to the angels of the seven Churches that we studied in Lesson #7. He did not just slam them with all they were doing wrong. He gave commendations to them for what was being done right. The Lord never focuses on the negativities for too long and when He mentions them, He immediately gives a remedy on how to translate them into a positive. Did you notice there are twenty-eight (28) commendations, twenty-one (21) promises, sixteen (16) corrections, and seven (7) consequences listed for the Churches?

The Lord’s blessings as explained in the Old Testament far outweigh the curses, too. He says curses will only follow into three or four generations of those who hate Him. However, His mandate under His law of perfect love written in Exodus 20:6 reads as follows, “*I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commandments.*” I am not about to sugar coat the need to get ourselves in order, confess, and repent of those areas that we know need cleansing by our Lord. However, I will yell it from the rooftops that Our Lord possesses what He calls unfailing love, long-suffering

patience, everlasting-forgiveness, abundant goodness and good and perfect gifts for His children. Jesus Christ died for whosoever calls upon His name and believes in their heart that He is the Lord and confesses it with their mouths. Yes, that is step one; we call it salvation or conversion. However, as the servant/leaders, our call goes beyond leading them to Jesus. He told us to make disciples of them. The Father enables the heart, the Holy Spirit quickens the heart, and the Son redeems the heart of the believer.

Let me explain. Jesus says if My Father had not enabled you, you would not have called upon Me. He said that is the first measure of faith given by the Father to the child. Secondly, Jesus says by His grace through the faith the Father gave, you received salvation. He says He chose you and you did not choose Him. This is because He knows the end from the beginning, we are living in reverse order of the Lord---anyway He knew who would say yes to the salvation call. In the RAB studies, we identify this as the proposal. As a person says yes to salvation, they are actually saying yes to the proposal. Therefore, in most cultures we call that engagement, the period before the actual marriage ceremony. In Jewish customs, that is the betrothal period. The bride says yes and then according to custom there is a waiting period of at least twelve months before the Wedding Supper/Wedding Feast/Wedding Banquet it is interchangeably called all three and more as well in the Bible.

During the twelve-month period, the Bridegroom leaves and goes back to his hometown and prepares a home for the Bride. However, he does not decide when he will return and get his bride, His father does. In historical Jewish culture, the Father of the bridegroom decided when to send his son for his bride for the Wedding Supper. Additionally, during this betrothal time, the bride made herself ready with purification steps and prepared not only her but also the garments and various items for the wedding feast itself.

During this waiting period the bride did not see the bridegroom and all the messages carried between them the best man of the bridegroom handled. John the Baptist called himself the friend of the bridegroom when referring to Jesus Christ. He said how his joy was complete now that he had heard the voice of the bridegroom when speaking about Jesus to his disciples that day alongside the Jordan River. We are waiting for our bridegroom, Jesus Christ, to return. He told us that not He, nor man, nor angels knew when He would return for us. He said only the Father knows and He was going back to where He came from to prepare a place for us. He told us that in His Father's house there are many mansions, He was going there to prepare a place for us, and He would not have said it if it were not true that He was coming back for us.

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**The Holy Spirit is now the acting best man of Jesus Christ. He carries messages between us and the Lord as the Bible says, we know not what we ought to pray, so the Holy Spirit with wordless groans intercedes for us. With clarity between our Best man and our Bridegroom, our needs reach the throne room. The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ is ever interceding for us. He is our betrothed Bridegroom and our Most High Eternal Priest.**

*“The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.” Romans 8:26-28, 8:34*

*“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.” Hebrews 5:7-10*

*“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are---yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16*

*“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, by encouraging one another---and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:19-25*

*“For, in just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay. And, but my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back. The righteous person will live by his faithfulness. Now, faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.” Hebrews 10:37, 38(a), Habakkuk 2:4(b)*

***“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time, it speaks of the end, and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay!”***

*Habakkuk 2:1(b)-3*

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# REPENT & RETURN

## Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

*“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

*Hebrews 6:10*



**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™**

**REPENT & RETURN**

**Lesson #10**

**L.OOK & AWAKEN  
E.VALUATE RABS  
A.SSESS LEADERSHIP  
R.EPENT & RETURN  
N.ULLIFY IN PRAYER**

We are in a time of need. We must go to the basics of what it means to be a shepherd for the Lord. The high priest spoken of in Hebrews 5 knew he was a sinner himself. He offered sacrifices for his own sins as well as for the sins of the people. He was able to deal gently with those who were ignorant and were going astray since he himself was subject to weaknesses.

Our focus needs adjusting. Too many Christian servant/leaders are trying to be just LEADERS! Many are busy trying to make a name for themselves. People are idolizing their religious leaders and no longer worshipping the Lord God. Every Church established by Jesus Christ belongs to Jesus Christ. He died for The Church. It is His Bride and she belongs to no other than Christ!

We are required to teach solid food, *“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*

Hebrews 5:13-14 NIV

Babies in the natural do not drink milk for their lifetime. In the natural, we wean infants between the ages of one and two years old. Before we wean them, a process of solid food introduction begins. Slowly, they become able to chew and swallow meat as their abilities grow according to the digestive system. If another child is born during the weaning process, we do not reverse the progress of the older child to accommodate the new child.

It is my observation that some Bodies of Christ adopted a maximum aptitude pulpit philosophy whereas to promote church population growth the pulpit must continuously feed milk. Hebrews 5:13-14 warned the shepherds to move to solid food to prevent the listeners from not maturing. Imagine a five-year-old child not eating solid foods even though he is physically able to do such. Malnutrition averts skeletal and muscular systems from maturing. Hebrews 5:13-14 breaks down like this:

1. Those living on spiritual milk are:
  - a. not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness
  - b. still an infant
  
2. Solid food is for the mature
  - a. who train themselves to distinguish good from evil Acts 13:8-12
  - b. by constant use of the Holy Scriptures Acts 17:10-12, Acts 18:27-28

The devil is always looking for prey. Who do you suppose is the easiest target for him?

☐#1 above who lives on \_\_\_\_\_

☐#2 above who lives on \_\_\_\_\_

That is correct the enemy sees the infant living on spiritual milk as the easiest target. A little lie suggested to a spiritual infant a few times over, seasoned with some guilt and shame from the past, and spiced with a tempting taste of a sleeping addiction and they are devoured. However, the prime target is #2 above, because their maturity causes the demons fear. These individuals can cause damage to the kingdom of darkness with the knowledgeable use of the Scriptures and trained ability to distinguish good from evil.

Some Christians divert spiritual knowledge as if it is a plague because they think the evil spirits will leave them alone if they are not a potential wrecking ball to their world of dark deeds. That is a lie from the pits of hell that only an immature believer could believe. Demons use under-developed believers frequently to assist them in toppling seasoned matured believers (John Mark, our Biblical example). No person regardless of the level of their development is immune to the antics of the enemy.

## John Mark, our Biblical Example:

1.) **We witness that Paul and Barnabas as partners sharply dispute and debate this false teaching that Gentile Christians must be circumcised like the Jews to be saved through Jesus Christ.** *“Certain people (teachers of ‘The Way’ without Jerusalem authorities’ permission) came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers; ‘Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses you cannot be saved. **This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them.** So Paul and Barnabas were appointed along with some other believers, to go to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.”* (Acts 15:1-2)

2.) **We witness that Paul and Barnabas as partners sharply disagree and part company over John Mark, the weaker believer who had been their assistant but then ran out on them when the mission field became too rough for him.** Biblical example is John Mark who was Barnabas’ relative. Acts 12:25-13:1-5; 15:36-40 *“When Barnabas and Saul (Paul) had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch were Barnabas and Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul (Paul). While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set*

*apart for me Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the work to which I have called them. Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and set them off. So, being sent by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper. Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing. Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it was wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia (Acts 13:13) and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.'*

**Two very strong believers, Paul and Barnabas working side-by-side as missionaries going into the mission field and successfully spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ separate because of the actions of a weaker (infant) believer. Now, the devil knew whom to use to his advantage. GREAT ENDING to this story is that The Lord ended up with four missionaries instead of two and in time John Mark became very strong in the knowledge, eventually joined Paul, and remained faithful to the Lord and Paul.** Although the Lord worked it out for the good (Romans 8:28 and Genesis 50:20), there were some hard feelings for a while in both of these cases. John Mark's relationship to Barnabas made him more sympathetic to his abandoning them when the mission field became too hard for an immature believer and Paul's temperament clouded his heart of understanding.

1 Corinthians 13:9-12 TLB *"Now we know so little, even with our special gifts, and the preaching of those most gifted is still so poor. But when we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to end, and they will disappear. It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things. In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now."*

Precious people of God, we MUST get back to the assignment of making disciples of the converts. Look at what Paul is saying in the above Scripture.

- 1.) Even with the SPECIAL GIFTS from God
  - a. We still know so little
  - b. Even our BEST preaching by those MOST GIFTED is still poor.
- 2.) When we are made perfect and complete, THESE AMAZING SPECIAL GIFTS, will be proven to have been inadequate compared to who God really is!
- 3.) When I was a child, Paul says.
  - a. I spoke like a child
  - b. I thought like a child
  - c. I reasoned like a child

- 4.) When I became a man, Paul says.
  - a. My thoughts grew beyond childhood
  - b. I put away childish things
  
- 5.) Right now, Paul says, we can only see and understand a little about God
  - a. Therefore, what I know is like seeing God's reflection in a poor and dirty mirror
  - b. Therefore, all that I know is hazy and blurred
  
- 6.) SOMEDAY, I will see Him in His completeness face-to-face
  - a. THEN I will see everything clearly
  - b. THEN I will see as clearly as God does into my heart now.

Paul is speaking about the present, the past, and the future and it all revolves around immaturity and maturity based on levels of understanding and knowledge. He is making a case that even those very special gifts that Christ gave the Church pale in comparison with the glory of God and who He really is.

It is very true the Lord has gifted some people in the different five offices incredibly so. However, Paul is trying to make it understood that we are not who we used to be and we are not who we shall be, we are the person in between and because we are human we are limited to ever attaining FULL DISCOVERY! Therefore, we need not compete with one another in the ministry. According to the Church structure Jesus gave us, we need to work together better.

Ephesians 4:11-13 *“So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*

Jesus, the head of the Church, established these five offices for the body of Christ. He fills them with gifted people. According to Jesus Christ, these five offices come with job descriptions.

1. Equip his people for works of service
2. Build up the body of Christ
3. Help them reach unity in the faith
4. Teach them about the Son of God
5. Help, teach, build up, equip the body of Christ to become mature
6. Attaining (ultimate goal) to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ

**The five-fold ministry is for the local body of Christ**, not for people with a ‘Christ-given-gift’ to run off and start up their own ministry. Every Christian is under the authority of Godly appointed authorities to exercise the gift inside a local body of Christ.

**1.) Apostles** move around in and out of Churches they planted or oversee (Acts 15:36). They have areas of responsibility. In America, we call them ‘Bishops.’ They do not lord over the Churches in their jurisdiction but they guide the local Churches with Godly counsel. Jesus told us we were not to lord over each other. Matthew 20:25-28, Mark 10:42-25, and Luke 22:25-27



**Apostle Biblical Example:**

***“Everything must be done so that the Church is built up.”***

*“But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human beings. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those **who were apostle before I was**, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas (Peter) and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles---only James, the Lord’s brother. I assure you before God what I am writing you is no lie.” Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. For **God who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, (God) was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles.** James (brother of Jesus), Cephas (Peter), and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised (Jews). All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.”*

Galatians 1:15-20, Galatians 2:1-2; 2:8-10 NIV

**Additionally**, Paul reports to Jerusalem. **1.)** As an evangelist/teacher around 39 A.D. (Gal. 1:15) **2.)** They took money from Antioch to them in 44 A.D. **3.)** He reported to them about the situation in Antioch in 50 A.D. **4.)** As apostle around 53 A.D.

**2.) The prophets are classed next to apostles (1 Corinthians 12:28-29 and Ephesians 4:11)** Prophets are not separate of the Church but connected and a member of a local Body of Christ. They are there to lift up and edify the Church. ***“Everything must be done so that the Church is built up.”*** Paul wrote the Church of Corinth and advised them, *“Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of the prophets are subject to the control of the prophets, for God is not a God of disorder but of peace---as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people. If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord’s command. But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored. Therefore my brothers and sisters be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”* 1 Corinthians 14:26(c) and 14:29-33 and 14:37-40

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### Prophet Biblical Example:

***“Everything must be done so that the Church is built up.”***

**Agabus** held the office of prophet in the local Church of Jerusalem. We first meet Agabus in Acts 11:27-29 and what he foretold happened. He comes to Paul in Acts 21:10-14 and what he forth told happened. Prophets are inspired teachers that are sometimes able to foretell future events but not necessarily. There are also prophets merely used for the building up of the Church. They have a prophetic gift. The Lord gives them pieces of information for an individual believer or a body of Christ. Oftentimes, it is a word of knowledge followed with a word of instruction. Prophetically foretelling and using the prophetic gift comes in parts as Paul wrote {1 Cor. 13:9}. Prophets it is dangerous to expound on a word given since it is received in parts trying to explain it usually requires flesh and reasoning, never a good mix with spiritual matters such as ‘a word’ from God.

*“Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the Church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. During this time **some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.** One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a sever famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius).” Acts 11:25-28*

**Note this:** After some Gentile believers from Cyprus and Cyrene went to Antioch and began telling the good news about Jesus Christ to the Greeks and because the Lord’s hand was with them great numbers of people believed and turned to the Lord.” Acts 11:19-25

Acts 11:22 *“News of this reached the church of Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch...”* It was fitting that prophets from the church of Jerusalem be sent to Barnabas in Antioch to check on him, the church’s progress and to give edification. During a church meeting, where others were present (v29) the Lord gave Agabus a prophetic word of a future event. We call it forth telling or foretelling.

**Agabus comes to Paul in Caesarea:** *“Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied (they had the gift of prophecy, were teachers, and preachers). After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea (Jerusalem). Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, “The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’ ...Paul answered after much objection from others, “The Lord’s will be done.” Acts 21:8-11 and 14 (b).* This prophecy came in 58 A.D. and fulfilled later in 58 A.D. (Acts 21:33—Paul went to Jerusalem and while in the temple---shouting began----and Paul ended up arrested and bound with two chains).

Agabus was a New Testament prophet. Each time we see him, he has come from his local Church in Jerusalem. The event in Antioch took place around 43 A.D. and Caesarea’s took place in around 58 A.D. Therefore, 15 years later Agabus is still serving his local Church in Jerusalem. New Testament Prophets did not wander around aimlessly looking for prophet gigs. **They remained a part of their local Church and their job description by Jesus has not changed.** I have received Holy Spirit unctions that I will be used to give a word, then a request comes in from a Church or group. I then fast, and pray, and go. The Lord gives His word through me. I go home and back to teaching.

**3.) The Evangelists** are not separate of the Church but connected and a member of a local Body of Christ. Christ gives them to the Church with the gift of evangelism to go and bring in the lost and build up the Kingdom's population.

**Evangelist Biblical Example:**

***“Everything must be done so that the Church is built up.”***

Stephen and Philip both held the office of evangelist in the Church of Jerusalem. In 35 A.D., a situation arose in the Church in Jerusalem recorded in Acts chapter 6. The Greek widows were not getting their fair share of the distributed food, therefore they complained. The apostles listened then said, “We cannot wait on tables, we must...”

- 1.) Minister the Word of God {Preaching and Teaching in ever widening circles}
- 2.) Continue Praying Ceaselessly

Therefore, select seven men among you with these qualifications

- 1.) A man of good standing {good reputation inside the local Church}
- 2.) A man full of wisdom {Fearing the Lord is the beginning of wisdom}
- 3.) A man full of the Holy Spirit {not everybody is baptized in the Holy Spirit}

***The Greek word for ‘wait on’ is the verb of the noun Deacon***

**Stephen**, the man so full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and a member of the Church of Jerusalem is commissioned as one of the Seven. Therefore, he distributes food to the widows as a deacon and then he continues to evangelize in Jerusalem to the unbelievers and bringing them to the saving knowledge of Jesus and into his local Church. *“This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them...Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose...they argued with him, but they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke...They stirred up the people brought in false witnesses took him before the council of elders and teachers of the law and the high priest in Jerusalem....and stoned him to death. (Chapters 6-8 of Acts---read it)*

**Philip** named also in this Seven. He stayed at the local Church in Jerusalem, too, until Stephen was murdered, Acts 8:1, *“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city...When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria...Later the Holy Spirit told Philip to go to a deserted road and he did. There he met an Ethiopian eunuch and he was reading but not understanding Isaiah, so he invited Philip to teach him and he accepted Jesus Christ and Philip baptized him and the Spirit transported Philip immediately from the water to Azotus. He evangelized in all the towns until he reached Caesarea, where he settled down and 20 years later we see him with Paul...”we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.” Acts 8:1-40, 21:7-14* **Evangelists are for the ‘adding to’ of the Local Body of Christ and they stay with their local Church. An Exceptional few go out as Missionaries, however, they continue to report to their local Church. Paul & Barnabas did to Antioch for years.**

### *The Pastors and the Teachers*

***“Everything must be done so that the Church is built up.”***

The Pastors are the ones who shepherd Jesus' flock (the congregation). They foster the spiritual welfare of the saints that make up the congregation and oftentimes they are the main local Church teacher. It is rare, I believe, to find pastors who left their local Churches to follow some illustrious idea that they are a 'Pastor to the Nations.' A true pastor sent as a gift from the Lord Jesus understands and accepts the job description with great personal sacrifice and a lot of frustration. When a Church is without a Pastor, it is more likely than not, they burned out from trying to be the pastor, the teacher, the evangelist, the prophet, and sometimes the apostle. I include apostle because in any Church regardless of the size, there are different departments or ministries and diligently the pastor responsibly oversees them as well. Jesus told Peter three times to care for the people. *“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again, Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” John 21:15-17*

#### ***Shepherds:***

- 1.) Feed His lambs-----it starts with pure spiritual milk***
- 2.) Take care of His sheep----Care for them***
- 3.) Feed His sheep-----it graduates to spiritual solid food***

***The Teachers:*** They are inside the Body of Christ and they must continue teaching from the Word of God. Teachers are the integral part of the Church that without them, the organism dies. Make disciples out of the converted ones who accepted Jesus Christ and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything Jesus---God in the flesh---has commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20 and so beautifully Jesus made this promise, ***“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of this age.”*** He taught us in John 14 that if we love Him, we will obey Him. However, disobedience is a sign that we do not love Him. We are to love Him with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with our entire mind, with all of our willpower. He is supposed to be our number one in everything. He promised us if we seek His righteousness and His Kingdom first, He would give us all that we need and He would add to it!

#### ***Teachers:***

- 1.) Feed His lambs-----it starts with pure spiritual milk***
- 2.) Take care of His sheep----Care for them***
- 3.) Feed His sheep-----it graduates to spiritual solid food***

However, the enemy robbed the precious Churches of Jesus Christ and the organism that once vitally lived and influenced the world retreated and accepted and compromised and tolerated until this beauty reached what Jesus said, *“Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up. I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.” Revelation 3:2-3*

## **GREAT REVIVAL RUNS OFF THE LIPS OF MANY**

**“To revive spirits & souls implies premature death through neglect or wrongful actions.”**

Servant Leaders need to admit they need reviving first before they can successfully lead a revival campaign. The Holy Spirit requires evidence that revival is the true motive behind the cry of “REVIVAL.” With too many empty pews and seats in the Churches’ sanctuaries today with bone-dry offering plates, revival may be a Christian code word for, ‘the Church needs money.’ The Lord knows the difference. The Spirit searches the heart of every man and woman.

We must return and repent. Too many un-employed self-proclaiming members of the five-fold-ministry seeking job opportunities where they do not exist is slowly deteriorating them and slowly killing the Church of Jesus Christ. Abandoned church buildings, foreclosures, and bankruptcy if downsizing the facilities did not work negatively overpower the landscape of our freedom in Jesus Christ.

When the run away apostles, the run away prophets, the run away evangelists, the burned-out pastors, and understaffed teachers return to Jesus Christ and to the local Church and repent, revival begins! Until that time while we are not like Jesus Christ considering it not robbery that He was equal with God, but yet subordinate to Him during His faith assignment here on earth to His very death, the revival of great magnitude that Christians dream of, will remain simple that, a dream!

**Jesus did not consider it robbery that He was equal with God.**

## **LET LOVE LIFT YOU ‘RISE UP’**

*“If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.”*

*1 Corinthians 13:7 TLB*

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***Thank you for completing  
Lesson #10  
REPENT & RETURN  
Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™***

# NULLIFY IN PRAYER

## Run-Away-Brides-Ministries

*Jesus said, "My Father is always at His work to this very day,  
And I too am working. By myself I can do nothing;  
I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just,  
for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me.  
For I have come down from Heaven, not to do my  
own will, But the will of Him who sent me."*

*John 5:17, 5:30, & John 6:38*

**"Who, being in the form of God,  
thought it not robbery to be equal with God."**

Philippians 2:5



**RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™**

**NULLIFY IN PRAYER**

**Lesson #11**

**L.OOK & AWAKEN  
E.VALUATE RABS  
A.SSESS LEADERSHIP  
R.EPENT & RETURN  
N.ULLIFY IN PRAYER**

1. Paul said in his letter to Timothy  
“For the Gospel I have suffered trouble as if I were an evildoer, even to the point of being chained up—**BUT the WORD OF GOD is NOT chained!**” 2 Timothy 2:9
2. Paul also wrote to his spiritual son, Timothy, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the **WORD OF TRUTH**” 2 Tim 2:15
3. Peter advised those in the Church, “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying **“THE TRUTH”** so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through **THE LIVING AND ENDURING WORD OF GOD.**” 1 Pet 1:22-23.KJV reads, “Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently; being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by **THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH LIVETH AND ABIDETH FOR EVER.**” 1 Pet 1:22-23
4. “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but **THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER. P.S. this is the WORD that was preached to you.**” 1 Peter 1:24-25
5. **THEREFORE**, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may **GROW UP** in your salvation, now that you have tasted the **LORD IS GOOD.**” 1 Peter 2:1-3

6. **STUMBLING!** You stumble by being disobedient to **THE WORD**, to which you also were appointed. Therefore, to you who believe **JESUS THE WORD IS PRECIOUS---HE'LL HOLD YOU UP---BECAUSE HE HAS BECOME YOUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE OF YOUR FAITH.** However, to you who are disobedient **JESUS CHRIST THE WORD** is for you a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. Pastor Cyndi's paraphrase of 1 Peter 2:7-8
7. **WALK OR FALL---IT'S UP TO YOU INDIVIDUALLY—THE WORD CAN LIFT YOU FROM THE PIT.**
8. **JOHN 1:1-14** makes it very clear that Jesus Christ is the Word. In fact, He is **GOD THE WORD.** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God---children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* ---NIV---
9. **Do you BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ is God the Word who came to earth in the flesh to reconcile mankind back unto the Father?\_\_\_\_\_. If God the Word could humble Himself to leave His throne in Heaven and come to earth for you, can you leave your personal throne for Him?\_\_\_\_\_. Jesus Christ did not have to repent, because He was sinless. Do you need to repent?\_\_\_\_\_.
- This is your opportunity to ask the Lord to forgive you and help you overcome those areas that are controlling you and preventing you from being the person that He designed you to be before the foundations of the world.** Ephesians 1:3-8(a) NRSV *“Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, and forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.”* AMEN
10. **SAY IT AND BELIEVE IT: “I am a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ and I have been baptized into union with Christ and encircled by Him.” Galatians 3:26-27.**

**NOW PRAISE HIM and WORSHIP HIM!!!**

**Now, that you understand you have been baptized into union with Christ, you must begin to use The Mind of Christ.**

**Dearest Beloveds:**

*“Is there any such thing as Christians cheering each other up? Do you love me enough to want to help me? Does it mean anything to you that we are brothers in the Lord, sharing the same Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic at all? Then make me truly happy by loving each other and agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, working together with one heart and mind and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don’t just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing. Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal’s death on a cross. Yet it was because of this that God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name which is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:1-11 and 4:20 TLB Paraphrased*

**Now unto God our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Sincerely,**

**Paul**

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**Philippians 2:5-11**

**In your relationships with one another,  
Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:**

1. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God
2. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men
3. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and
4. Became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross

5. Moreover, because He did this!
  - a. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and
  - b. Given him a name which is above every name
  - c. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth
  - d. Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**POINT #1:**

The robbery mindset was possible because of being equal with God. **He, too, is GOD.**

**POINT #2:**

Although Jesus Christ was and is equal to God the Father, He considered it not robbery! He understood that in equality there are leaders, there are followers, **and in different seasons, the matter of positioning changes for God’s purpose.**

**POINT #3:** Even though He knew who He was, **He knew His identity did not matter as “God The Word” during the Assigned Task.** He had to surrender and be the servant and be the Son and be ‘the lesser than’ to get the JOB DONE! The job of redemption of mankind had to be done by God Himself becoming flesh and walking among His created beings. He had to suffer such as they did. He had to feel just like they do. His emotions had to be tampered with, his body had to feel pain, tiredness, hunger, thirst, fleshly desires. His mind had to develop like a human’s mind through the process of growing up.  
**BUT DURING ALL OF THIS, HE CONSIDERED IT NOT ROBBERY!**

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**BARUCH BORN TO BE ROYALTY**

**BUT**

**DEDICATED TO THE LORD AND JEREMIAH, AS HIS ASSISTANT, ATTENDANT,  
 AND SECRETARY (SCRIBE) JEREMIAH WAS HIS FRIEND,  
 HIS SPIRITUAL FATHER AND HIS SPIRITUAL LEADER**

Jeremiah had an assistant, Baruch, Jeremiah 36, “So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll. Then Jeremiah told Baruch, ‘I am restricted; I am not allowed to go to the LORD’s Temple. So you go to the house of the LORD *on a day of fasting* and read to the people from the scroll the words of the LORD that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns.” 36:4-6 “Baruch son of



***“That is why the Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me all your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, mourning. Let your remorse tear at your hearts and not your garments.”***

*“Now is the time---Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful. He is not easily angered; he is full of kindness, and anxious not to punish you. Who knows? Perhaps even yet he will decide to let you alone and give you a blessing instead of his terrible curse. Perhaps he will give you so much that you can offer your grain and wine to the Lord as before! Sound the trumpet in Zion! Call a fast and gather all the people together for a solemn meeting. Bring everyone---the elders, the children, and even the babies. Call the bridegroom from his quarters and the bride from her privacy. The priests, the ministers of God, will stand between the people and the altar, weeping; and they will pray, “Spare your people, O our God; don’t let the heathen rule them, for they belong to you. Don’t let them be disgraced by the taunts of the heathens who say, ‘Where is this God of theirs” How weak and helpless he must be!’ --- Amen---*

***“Then the Lord will pity his people and be indignant for the honor of his land! He will reply, “See, I am sending you much corn and wine and oil, to fully satisfy your need. No longer will I make you a laughing stock among nations.” ----HALLELUJAH—PRAISE GOD!***

### **Sinner's**

### **Prayer**

*"Dear Heavenly Father, You have called me to Yourself in the name of Your dear Son Jesus (Yeshua). I realize that Jesus is the only Way, the Truth, and the Life; and is the only Mediator between You and man.*

*I acknowledge to You that I am a sinner. I believe that Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross, died for my sins, and rose again on the third day. I am truly sorry for the deeds, which I have committed against You, and therefore, I am willing to repent (turn away from my sins). Have mercy on me, a sinner. Cleanse me, and forgive me of my sins as I forgive anyone who has ever sinned against me.*

*I truly desire to serve You, Lord Jesus. Starting from now, I pray that You would help me to hear Your still small voice. Lord, I desire to be led by Your Holy Spirit so I can faithfully follow You and obey all of Your commandments. I ask You for the strength to love You more than anything else so I won't fall back into my old ways. I also ask You to bring genuine believers into my life who will encourage me to live for You*

and help me stay accountable.

*Jesus, I am truly grateful for Your grace, which has led me to repentance and has saved me from my sins. By the indwelling of Your Holy Spirit, I now have the power to overcome all sin which before so easily entangled me. Lord Jesus, please transform my life so that I may bring glory and honor to You alone and not to myself.*

*Right now, I confess Jesus as the Lord of my life. With my heart, I believe that God the Father raised His Son Jesus from the dead. This very moment I acknowledge that Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua) is my Savior and according to His Word, right now I am born again. Thank You, Jesus, for coming into my life and hearing my prayer. I ask all of this in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."*

## **PRAISE**

**2 Cor 1:2-5 NIV** <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. <sup>5</sup> For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

### **Old Testament "David's (Believers') Prayer Psalms 140 "The Message"**

<sup>1-5</sup> "God, get me out of here, away from this evil; protect me from these vicious people.

All they do is think up new ways to be bad; they spend their days plotting war games.

They practice the sharp rhetoric of hate and hurt, speak venomous words that maim and kill.

God, keep me out of the clutch of these wicked ones, protect me from these vicious people; Stuffed with self-importance, they plot ways to trip me up, determined to bring me down. These crooks invent traps to catch me and do their best to incriminate me.

<sup>6-8</sup> I prayed, "God, you're my God! Listen, God! Mercy! God, my Lord, Strong Savior, protect me when the fighting breaks out! Don't let the wicked have their way, God, don't give them an inch!" <sup>9-11</sup> These troublemakers all around me—

let them drown in their own verbal poison. Let God pile hellfire on them;

let him bury them alive in crevasses! These loudmouths— don't let them be taken seriously; These savages— let the Devil hunt them down! <sup>12-13</sup> I know that you, God, are on the side of victims that you care for the rights of the poor. And I know that the righteous personally thank you, that good people are secure in your presence."

## **MINISTRY PRAYER**

By Pastor Cyndi Higgins

Father in Jesus Holy Name, soften me where I have become hardened because of the past hurts in my life. Offer me assurance, Abba Father, that when I fully release myself to be a lover of people that you will protect me from those wishing to do me harm because of Your Name's sake.

Press upon me the urgency to speak into the lost under all circumstances---Your desire for me to be swift in speaking the gospel and redemptive purposes (Romans 10:11, 13). As I rejoice in my salvation, remind me of the price it cost you, Lord Jesus. Help me to bear in mind and heart the call you chose and placed on me. Stop the enemy of God before he uses his disgraceful tactics to shame me for sharing your burden for those who have not yet heard or accepted the same gift you offer to all that will listen, accept, believe, and trust in you.

Lord, I ask you to bring those who are brokenhearted in ways I understand so that I may honor you for the blessings I receive from you. If I teach and show others what I have been through myself, I trust you will love them and call them to you. Jesus, protect me from spiritual pride and remind me I am just a vessel being used to help all those you put in my life in need of a Savior. I have nothing to brag about except my Lord Jesus Christ.

When I fail you, My Lord, although it is not my desire protect me from beating up on myself. Be swift, Holy Spirit, in pricking me to confess and repent to My Lord Jesus Christ. Deafen my ears with your wall of protection so I cannot hear the enemies' lies whispered to me.

When another sins against me knowingly or unknowingly, Lord, if I am aware of it, make me ready to forgive immediately and to discuss the breach with only you, Lord God. For those who may speak badly of me, Lord, even if I am not aware of it, please forgive them, because, Master, they do not understand the harm they may cause me. Close the ears of the enemy when in moments of my own stupid self I make a comment about another, so he is not able to use it against them. Please immediately cancel all curses and circumstances that my unruly tongue may cause another. Be quick to convict me, Holy Spirit, I pray even before the words form on my tongue. Squeeze down on my tongue to cause pain until I no longer have this sinful habit (Ephesians 4:29-32).

Teach me what is pleasing to you in the matter of praising and worshipping You, Lord God. Help me to brag about your great power, knowledge, and your sovereignty. Encourage me in my everyday actions to speak highly of You, my Lord and Savior. Bring opportunities to me daily to raise the banner of your love and protection for all who will call upon your name.

Righteous Lord, lean in on me when I am hard pressed for time or energy and I begin to neglect your and my relationship. Show me your divine wisdom regarding stewardship of my time and energy as well as with money, relationships, talents, and gifts.

Let my gift of love extend to every person I encounter from this day forward. Share with me your knowledge of how to be thoughtful toward any person you would consider my enemy. Blind me in thought and opinion regarding others. Give me dependency upon your discernment regarding those things that are beyond my understanding and teach me to know the difference. Holy Spirit, sharpen my personal discernment regarding matters, situations, and others for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom to which I represent and wish not to bring embarrassment or shame to His Holiness. In Jesus Name I pray---Amen---

Psalm 19:14 *“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”*

Romans 10: 10-13 *“For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “no one who trusts in him will ever be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

Romans 10:14-17 *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:29-32 *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

Ephesians 5:25-27 *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”*

John 15:3 *“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”*

John 17:17 *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”*

## **PRAYER TO BREAK THE SPIRIT OF RELIGION**

"Father God, creator of heaven and earth, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ your Son. I come as a sinner seeking forgiveness and cleansing from all sins committed against you, and others made in your image.

I honor my earthly father, mother, and all of my ancestors of flesh and blood, and of the spirit by adoption and godparents, but I utterly turn away from and renounce all their sins and iniquities.

I forgive all my ancestors for the effects of their sins on me and my children.

I confess and renounce all of my own sins, known or unknown.

I renounce and rebuke Satan and every spiritual power of his affecting me and my family, in the name of Jesus Christ.

True Holy Creator God, in the name of the True Lord Jesus Christ, in accordance with Jude 8-10; Psalm 82:1 and 2 Chronicles 18, I request you to move aside all Celestial Beings, including Principalities, Powers and Rulers, and to forbid them to harass, intimidate or retaliate against me and all participants in this ministry today.

I also ask that you prevent these beings of whatever rank from sending any level of spiritual evil as retaliation against any of those here, or our families, our ministries, or possessions.

I renounce and annul every covenant made with Death by my ancestors or myself, including every agreement made with Sheol, and I renounce the refuge of lies and falsehoods, which have been hidden behind.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I repent and renounce every opening, known or unknown that my ancestors or I have given to every spirit of Religion in my family line.

I repent and renounce every spirit of Religion or religious spirit, and every work of darkness connected with it.

I repent for not fully receiving your love, compassion, mercy, grace and forgiveness; and I renounce any belief that You, Lord, are distant and judgmental. I choose to embrace all aspects of Your character and to know you intimately.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I repent for allowing myself to be led by any other spirit than Your Holy Spirit.

I repent for relying on my own intellect in worship, praise, prayer, reading the Bible – God's Word, and spiritual warfare.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I repent and renounce all legalism, traditions and religious formulas, and participation in dead works, dullness to the things of God, and hardness of heart.

I now choose to invite the Holy Spirit to lubricate my heart with His oil, and make it pliable to accommodate all the things God wants for me.

I repent and renounce every man's opinion of me where this is different from the opinion of my Heavenly Father.

I repent and renounce all compromises, of the truth, of my integrity and of my purity.

I repent and renounce all compromises in my attitude towards sin.

I repent and renounce my lack of transparency for covering sin, not confessing sin, for not receiving correction, for being defensive and quick to justify and rationalize my sin.

I repent and renounce all deception and hypocrisy; all pride, arrogance and self-righteousness.

I repent and renounce all comparison, judgment, criticism, gossip, jealousy, covetousness, and anger.

I repent and renounce all persecution and slander of those moving in the Holy Spirit, especially those leaders God had placed in authority over me.

I repent and renounce every act of rebellion that has reinforced the spirit of religion in my life.

I choose now to have obedience to God and His Word as my attitude.

I choose to no longer partner with the same spirit which killed Jesus, and that continues to attempt to kill the work of the Holy Spirit today.

I come out of agreement with the enemies of the Most High God, and I choose to come into agreement with God my Father, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, I now break every hex, curse, vow, every spell, incantation or ritual, every covenant, blood covenant, every sacrifice and blood sacrifice.

I break every ungodly soul tie and every generational tie in my family bloodline, which does not honor the Holy Spirit and His works.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I now break every other legal right, known or unknown, for the spirit of Religion to stay in my life, or in my family's lives.

I speak now with the Body of Christ to every spirit of Religion, and we say to you we come against you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we rebuke you in His name, and we refuse to allow you to steal our intimate relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

We refuse to allow you to kill the flow of the Holy Spirit in us, and in our congregations.

We refuse to allow you to destroy the anointing of the Holy Spirit through us.

We choose to receive the anointing to break the power of the spirit of Religion in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, dear Father God, I ask humbly for the blood of Jesus Christ, your Son and my Savior, to cleanse me from all these sins I have confessed and renounced, to cleanse my spirit, my soul, my mind, my emotions and every part of my body which has been affected by these sins, in the name of Jesus Christ.

I also ask to receive the perfect love of God, which casts out all fear, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I ask you, Lord, to fill me with your Holy Spirit now according to the promises in your Word.

I take to myself the whole armor of God in accordance with Ephesians Chapter Six, and rejoice in its protection as Jesus surrounds me and fills me with His Holy Spirit.

I enthrone you, Lord Jesus, in my heart, for you are my Lord and my Savior, the source of eternal life. Thank you, Father God, for your mercy, your forgiveness and your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

---Author Unknown---

Now that you have repented and confessed and prayed,  
Praise the Lord and celebrate. Read the words of this Freedom Song.  
Sing it in any manner the Holy Spirit leads you to sing it, shout it, and dance it  
You are Free to dance and Free to Run!

**Isaiah 40:31 “*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint.*”**

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Thank you for completing  
Lesson #11  
NULLIFY IN PRAYER  
Run-Away-Brides-Ministries ™

# Take hold of Eternal Life

“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

1 Timothy 6:12

## Run-Away-Brides-Ministries™

RUN-AWAY-BRIDES-MINISTRIES™

Take Hold of Eternal Life

Lesson #12



**1 Timothy 6:12** “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

**1 Timothy 6:19** “In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

**Hebrews 11:16** “Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

**Colossians 3:4** “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

1. **How do we lay up treasures?** 1 Timothy 5:22; 6:1-19; Philippians 2:1-5, 2:12-16

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2. **What firm foundation?** Luke 14:25-30; 1 Corinthians 3:1-17; John 3:36

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**3. What coming age?** Matthew 7:13-14; 21-27; Luke 20:33-36; 1 Cor. 1:8; 3:13; 15:35-56; Phil.1:6-11; 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:1-3

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1 Timothy 6:18 “That they (we believers) do good, that they (we believers) be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.”

Matthew 6:20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Matthew 19:21 “Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Exercising faith at all times is required of us believers. Faith without action is dead. James 2: 26 We cannot please God without faith. Hebrews 11:6

Our works produce good fruits. Mature faith produces good fruits in addition to the fruit of the Spirit spoken of in Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things, there is no law.

The more we walk in the Spirit of God, the fruit of the Spirit manifests until the fruit of the spirit listed above is equal parts. Eventually we are not to have perhaps more love and joy than we do have patience and self-control. However, as a believer walks intentionally in faith and the supernatural and less planned steps in the natural, their fruit includes spiritual children and spiritual grandchildren.

Isaiah 54:1-5

“Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because **more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,**” says the LORD. <sup>2</sup> **“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.** <sup>3</sup> For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. <sup>4</sup> “Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. **You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.** <sup>5</sup> **For your Maker is your husband— the LORD Almighty is his name—** the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.”

1 Timothy 6:12-19 <sup>12</sup>**Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life** to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, **I charge you** <sup>14</sup>**to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,** <sup>15</sup>which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

<sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, **but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.** <sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>**In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.**”

Hebrews 11:8-16 <sup>8</sup>**By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.** <sup>9</sup>**By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.** <sup>10</sup>**For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

<sup>11</sup>**By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.** <sup>12</sup>And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

<sup>13</sup>**All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.** <sup>14</sup>**People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.** <sup>15</sup>*If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.* <sup>16</sup>**Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.**

**Therefore**, if you are living this earthly life like it is the only life you have to live and you are more concerned about this earthly life than you are your life-here-after, God will be ashamed to call you His. He has prepared a city for those who live like strangers here on earth knowing they are only passing through this life to fulfill the call God puts on their life for the Kingdom of God.

*Colossians 3:1-5* <sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>**Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>**When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

While we look forward to going to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God, we must be about Our Lord's Kingdom business. We live in the natural as humans, but even though we are a part of the natural world, we can still walk in the supernatural world. In fact, we are commanded to set our hearts and our minds on the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Gal 6:9 <sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, **for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

### **What is the proper time?**

If we complete the race, in God's perfect time (proper time) we will receive that which Jesus promised us. We will not arrive in the heavenly city unrewarded.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 <sup>21</sup>Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup>set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, **guaranteeing what is to come.**

John 17:24 **"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory,** the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

Matthew 16:27 "For **the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory** with his angels {*Christ's second coming*}, **and then He will reward each person according to what he has done.**" {} *added by Cyndi*

Jesus said to the Father that He wanted us to be with Him where He is and for us to see His glory. Where is Jesus going to be for us to be with Him in His glory?

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, **'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom** prepared for you since the creation of the world."

Luke 10:20 "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but **rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**"

Phil 3:20 **"But our citizenship is in heaven.** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Hebrews 12:22 **“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.** You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, **23to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,** **24to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,** and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”

Jeremiah 3:17 “At that time they will call **Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD,** and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.”

Revelation 21 1-2 “Then **I saw a new heaven and a new earth,** for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem,** coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21:21-23 “The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. <sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty **and the Lamb are its temple.** <sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, **and the Lamb is its lamp.**”

Revelation 21:3-7 <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.** They will be his people, and **God himself will be with them and be their God.** <sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” <sup>5</sup>He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>He said to me: “It is done. **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.** To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.**”

Revelation 22:12-13 **“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”**

***Until the return of Jesus Christ, what shall we as believers do to prepare ourselves to live eternally?***

- 1.) Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, body, and might. Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37; Mk 12:30; Luke 10:27
- 2.) Sincerely love one another---Pet 4:8-11, 22
- 3.) Seek His kingdom and His righteousness FIRST---Matt 6:33
- 4.) Pray---1 Pet 4:7; Heb 4:14-16
- 5.) Faith building by the Word---Rom 10:17; 1 Pet 1:5; Heb. 4:12; 1 Timothy 6:12
- 6.) Work toward eternal life John 6:26-29
- 7.) Set our hearts on things above---1 Chronicles 28:9; Pr. 16:1-3; Rom. 10:8-9

- 8.) Set our minds on things above---Rom 12:2; 1 Pet 1:13-16
- 9.) Plant Kingdom seeds---Gal 6:7-9; Rom 10:11-15; Philemon 1:6
- 10.) OBEY the Word of God---James 1:21-22; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Pet 1:14

From the Reading today: Psalm 139:13-18

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, <sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body. **All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.** <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.”

Notes:

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“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

Thank you for completing this course of study, Run Away Brides Ministries, <sup>™</sup>  
“Establishing a Local RAB <sup>™</sup>.”

Revelation 22:12-13

*“Behold, I am coming soon!  
My reward is with me, and I will give to  
everyone according to what he has done.  
I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
The First and the Last,  
The Beginning and the End.”*

# SONGBOOK

## Song from Lesson One:

### “Higher Ground”

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Author: Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Composer: Charles H. Gabriel

I'm pressing on the upward way,  
New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I'm onward bound,  
“Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”

#### *Refrain*

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand,  
By faith, on Heaven's table land,  
A higher plane than I have found;  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Though some may dwell where those abound,  
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

#### *Refrain*

I want to live above the world,  
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught the joyful sound,  
The song of saints on higher ground.

#### *Refrain*

I want to scale the utmost height  
And catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found,  
“Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”

#### *Refrain*

## Song from Lesson Two:

### “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

© Public Domain

Author: Edward Mote

Composer: John Stainer

1. My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.
  
2. When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.
  
3. His oath, His covenant, and blood  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When every earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my Hope and Stay.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.
  
4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne!  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.

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**Song from Lesson Three:**

**“It Is Well With My Soul”**

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Author: Horatio Spafford

Composer: Philip Bliss

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.  
Refrain:  
It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.
2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
(Refrain)
3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
(Refrain)
4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my  
soul.  
(Refrain)

**Song for Lesson Four:**

***Standing on the Promises of God***

© Public Domain

*Words by: R. Kelso Carter*

*Music by: R. Kelso Carter*

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus:

Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus

3. Standing on the promises I now can see  
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;  
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus

4. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus

5. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus

**Song for Lesson Five:**

**His Eye Is on the Sparrow**

© Public Domain

*Words by: Civilla D. Martin*

*Music by: Charles Hutchinson Gabriel*

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

*Refrain:*

*I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.*

“Let not your heart be troubled,” His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

*Refrain*

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

*Refrain*

**Song for Lesson Six:**

## I Surrender All

© Public Domain

**Words:** Judson W. Van DeVenter

*Music:* W.S. Weeden

All to Jesus I surrender;  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all,  
I surrender all;  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;  
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,  
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power;  
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender;  
Now I feel the sacred flame.  
Oh, the joy of full salvation!  
Glory, glory, to His Name!

## **“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”**

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**My theme song:**

By: S. Sundar Singh

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.
4. My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus.  
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus.  
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus.  
No turning back, no turning back.

# Bringing back the Brides of Christ

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