

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN NATURE

2nd EDITION

APOSTLE GEORGE AKALONU

ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST & PACIFIC EDITION

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An organic team is at work used by the Holy Spirit to make these revelations available to the Body of Yeshua, Jesus.

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USE OF HEBRAIC NAMES OF THE MOST HIGH

Yahweh, Elohim, Yeshua. During our walk with the Lord, we discovered by leading of Holy Spirit how fundamentally flawed was the intrusion of Rome into the gospel from 4th Century AD. Replacement Theology led Rome to take away all Hebraic/Jewish connections as root of what is now called the Christian Faith. What He has led us to do is to call our Father by the Name He revealed Himself to Israel which is Yahweh. In the same way, rather than call our Creator by the generic title God, we find it more appropriate to call Him by the Hebraic Name He revealed to humanity through Moses which is Elohim. The Name, Elohim properly conveys His Unity in Plurality as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! We also call our King the Name His Father gave Him, Yeshua as well as the Anglicized translation, Jesus derived from the Greek translation, Ioseus.

We do this as led by Holy Spirit, not as part of the so called sacred Names movement. Neither do we subscribe to the legalistic methods of Judaizers intent on dragging saints into the dead works and rituals of Judaism. We do not condemn or malign those who have not yet caught this depth of revelation. Please feel free to call the Most High by what He reveals to you and what you are comfortable with.

THE NAMES OF GOD

- Yahshua (Jesus)
- Yahweh (Lord, Jehovah)
- Elohim (God)
- El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty)
- El Elyon (The Most High God)
- Adonai (Lord, Master)
- Jehovah Nissi (The Lord My Banner)
- Jehovah-Raah (The Lord My Shepherd)
- Jehovah Rapha (The Lord That Heals)
- Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There)
- Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)
- Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)
- El Olam (The Everlasting God)
- Qanna (Jealous)
- Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)
- Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)
- Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts)

Within the pages of this book, you will find that we call our Heavenly Father by His name Yahweh and our Savior, Yahshua His name, versus referring to Him as a generic god. In no way are we suggesting that you are wrong if you have not yet grasped this revelation.

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PREFACE FOR THE KINGDOM CULTURE SERIES

We have tarried before the Lord for some time to receive a rhema concerning how to introduce the books in the series you are about to read. He directed us to share a little bit of how He ordered our steps over a 21-year period between 1996-2017. In 1996, the Lord called us out of denominationalism to serve His Body and Kingdom. As we resigned from a Pastoral calling and began to serve Him and the Body in a community in Africa (Owerri, Imo State of Nigeria), we held on to one critical vision He released beginning August 1996. At that time, we joined other saints to lament the sad state of Africa on almost all fronts of life. It was surreal to hear the Lord comfort us by saying He had appointed His Church in Africa as instrument of a quick work: Rescuing His Kingdom program in the earth realm from corruption in preparation for the return of King Yeshua, Jesus. In August 2006, He directed us to relocate to London which as centre of the world would make our Acts 1:8 assignment more impactful on a global scale. Looking back, because we did not see it then, it is significant that it was 100 years after Azusa Street Revival that the Lord in 2006 birthed Global School of Ministry as a catalyst of Reformation, Restoration, and Revival. Again, we did not see clearly then how extensively it was to be used to rediscover Truths which were missed out by Martin Luther in the Protestant Reformation of 1517. Interestingly, the Lord used various means to make it clear what He was about to do was not raise a man or woman, like Martin Luther was raised prominently and publicly. But rather activate a company of saints worldwide with understanding of Him and the Church. A company of saints who embrace His Kingdom pattern and take their place as His sons who would do all His will.

In this regard, the Lord made it clear the election of His Church in Africa was not for the purpose of building an 'African Cultural Church'. The wider and more

strategic scope was to use it to use His remnant 'out of the seed of Ham' to impact and connect His seed out of Shem and Japheth to constitute the fourth race which is the Elect Remnant or 'one new man' spoken of by Apostle Paul. In other words, the focus of the Lord was simply to use the Global School of Ministry project to activate His elect remnant to walk in unity of the Faith. And, be empowered to represent Him and the Kingdom right where they are in various corners of the world where He preserved them from the claws of Babylon. It was then Holy Spirit provided illumination of this anchor scripture: Romans 11:5 (KJV)

5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

There is a simple, yet grand key to understand the fundamental difference between the Martin Luther Protestant Reformation and the Kingdom Culture project. The Reformation of Martin Luther was designed to 'Protest' some of the dogma and practices of the Roman Catholic Church when he received revelation of their unbiblical origins. The Kingdom Culture project, on the other hand, is designed to take the Church back to what it was before the Roman Empire embraced the larger wing of the Church which was tired of persecution and martyrdom in the 4th Century.

In other words, through the Kingdom Culture project, the Omega or End Time Church will be a logical conclusion of what had started in the Alpha or First Century Church.

Unlike other reformation projects before it, Kingdom Culture, through the Global School of Ministry and annual Master Class series of the Global Advanced Mentorship Program have two simple keys: Get the Church back into the 'School' Paradigm where Study of the Word is central to both congregational and general ministry. Second, to challenge all saints to receive the Four-dimensional work of Holy Spirit: He Is the Seal of redemption; He uses the Word to Transform Life of Believers from inside out, He Unites saints to live as one indivisible Body

of Yeshua notwithstanding their locations or sects; He releases Power through which saints are able to demonstrate the awesome powers of the Risen Yeshua, Jesus!

These are accomplished when leaders and saints sincerely and diligently embrace the ministry of Holy Spirit and the Word through the T>T>E>A>R process. It is one where leaders are used by Holy Spirit to: Teach saints the whole counsel of Holy Scriptures Train saints to discover and take their places as effective members of the Body of Yeshua Equip saints with what it takes to walk in victory through mentorship and support Activate the Gifts and callings of Holy Spirit which may lie dormant in them Release the saints into productive ministry. This may be by public ordination or Commissioning during ministry events.

500 years after the Protestant Reformation of 1517, the Lord Yeshua, Jesus is activating throughout the earth realm this framework. The framework through which Holy Spirit will undertake training of Reformers who will receive proper understanding of the Pauline Epistles and Master Plan of the true Kingdom Church contained therein, and build individual lives, ministries and congregations accordingly. This Kingdom Culture project involves release of 40 books on dedicated websites where all saints worldwide who desire to discover, pursue and fulfil their callings as the Royal Priesthood after the order of Melchizedek can find the teaching resources to train in the comfort of their own homes. On the other hand, these 40 books will put in the hands of the great company of elect ministers across the world who know the flock is not theirs but Yeshua's. These books are tools with which to systematically transform the operating systems of the ministries committed to their trust from 'Theatres' to 'Schools'. These books collectively make up the curriculum with which to launch

their own Global School of Ministry project. The curriculum will ensure every two or three years, fresh sets of fit for-purpose ministers of the gospel who will serve the Lord with all their hearts are produced.

All 40 books on the websites constitute what it takes to root out the leaven of Babylon derived from our various experiences with Christian Religion. They therefore constitute what we need to embrace and walk in true Kingdom Culture. It is through ministry of the Word that the Church will be prepared and made ready for return of her Groom: Ephesians 5:25-27 (KJV) 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Please intentionally study this and the other resources in the series prayerfully under unction of Holy Spirit with your Bible to confirm all the points made. As you train, necessity is upon you to make your vessel available for Holy Spirit to use to transmit these empowering truths to other saints who yearn for empowerment!

Psalms 68:11 (KJV) 11 The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.

2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV) 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. May Elohim, our heavenly Father make you the instrument of His Grace He designed you to be!

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CHAPTER 1: PREAMBLE AND SYNOPSIS

PREAMBLE

The majority of Christians are conscious of the need to live righteous, holy lives because the Holy Scriptures make it clear that it is the will of Elohim.

*¹⁴ As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance; ¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. **1 Peter 1:14-16***

Unfortunately, this desire to be holy is often compromised when the spirit of religion is allowed to drive the Christian life. This is manifested in 3 ways:

A tendency to compile a list of targets to achieve and use human efforts to achieve the same.

¹⁶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days; ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.¹⁸ Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind. 19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.²⁰ Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,²¹ (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?²³ Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh. Colossians 2:16-23

A tendency to project an image of 'goodness' when the believer is not yet spiritually whole. This fosters a tendency towards hypocrisy, the core failure of Pharisees.

*²⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.²⁶ Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.²⁷ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness.²⁸ Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. **Matthew 23:25-28***

A tendency to use activity and service as substitute for spiritual growth and maturity.

Many believers like to run around, sweating as they 'work for God'. They seek positions, titles and strive with others they want to outshine through the quantum of work they do in the Church. Unfortunately, they miss the point that Elohim wants us to walk with Him so that His Holy Spirit can use our surrendered and yielded vessels to do whatever spiritual work He wants. Those who miss this order to be before they do are often in danger of building ministries which are combustible, contrary to the Master plan.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God, which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Overall Purpose:

The overall purpose of this course is to enable saints to walk in victory as the redeemed of the Lord are ordained to be.

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.** 2 Corinthians 7:1*

Rather than a religious text, the Lord will be releasing to us actionable spiritual revelation that is hidden, in plain sight, in the Holy Scriptures which will enable us to:

1. Understand who we are as human beings.
2. Understand how human architecture is designed.
3. Understand how the various aspects of our humanity play specific roles in our quest for spiritual growth.
4. Understand the spiritual resources Elohim has provided for our perfection in holiness.
5. These revelations which enable us to know our human nature better will ultimately equip us with the understanding to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and all instruments for perfection of our walk with the Lord.
6. We will therefore make the main thing the main thing: to walk with the Lord should precede our desire to work for Him.
7. We are fairly certain that no one who conscientiously studies and understands the revelations in this course will remain the same as truth will set us free from the bondage of ignorance.

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. **John 8:32***

Introduction: The unique creature Called Man, made in the image and likeness of Elohim.

This course will deal with a critical issue of the ages: the way Elohim, God Who created heaven and earth with His spoken word, designed man as a tri-dimensional being. He then proceeded to create a natural body made from raw earth, an eternal spirit from Himself, and a soul, which is the realm of self-consciousness.

*²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. **Genesis 1:26-27***

Within three passages in the Holy Scriptures, lie the secret code for understanding the unique nature of humans as tri-dimensional beings, superior to all other creations of The Most High.

*⁷And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **Genesis 2:7***

Genesis 2:7 gives us the first clue of the composite nature of the human being. On the day of creation, the Great I AM stooped down and scooped up some earth, moulded it into a human shape, as conceived in His infinite mind. That shape of raw earth was to be the body of Adam. It was lifeless, though good looking. Then something strange happened. Elohim God breathed a portion of His awesome Spirit into the hitherto lifeless body. That was the spirit man that would dwell deep in the inner recesses of Adam. As the spirit man quickened by the Spirit of God from where it originated, came into contact with the hitherto lifeless body, consciousness was activated and man became a living being or living, active soul. This analysis is supported by two scriptures in the New Covenant.

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:23***

*¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12***

In all three passages, we see the basis of an important but neglected truth whose understanding will help saints to live victoriously in this present life.

Synopsis

During the course of this study, we shall explore these themes that are really interwoven:

1. The Spirit of man: its source, nature, and workings. What happens to it at point of Death.
2. The soul of man: How it came into being, its' essential nature and character and what happens when man dies.
3. The body of man: Where is it from, how does it function and what happens when man dies?
4. How the Soul and the Body combine to be what the bible calls the flesh or carnal nature. How does this nature fight spirituality?

5. How to achieve true spirituality by bringing the soul and body under the headship of the spirit man which should in turn be ruled by the Holy Spirit of Elohim.

6. Other relevant issues which enhance our understanding of the human nature so that we can walk in true righteousness, perfecting holiness in the fear of Elohim.

This is a course of study we need to give heed to what King Yeshua, Jesus said:

*¹ At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?² And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,³ And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 18:1-4***

Let us incline our hearts to prayerfully receive a series of revelations in the holy Scripture which the Holy Spirit can use to perfect our lives in righteousness and holiness. This course is a companion of the one on Personal Spiritual Growth and Maturity.

It goes forth with a prayer that the Lord will till our hearts, plant the seed, water and manure it to produce abundant fruit.

*³ And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;⁴ And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up;⁵ Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth;⁶ And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.⁷ And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them;⁸ But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.⁹ Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. **Matthew 13:3-9***

Some of the things we shared in this chapter will be expanded for deeper understanding in other parts of the course.

Assignment

1. Please share 3 things you received from this chapter.

CHAPTER 2: ELOHIM GOD'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS

There is something we must not be too religious to miss. It is the fact that Elohim God created man in “*His own image, after His likeness*” (**Genesis 1:26**). This raises a fundamental question: What was this likeness? Let us obtain the answers from Scripture. We are all familiar with the reality that Elohim has a triune personhood: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What is not often discussed is that the Holy Scriptures present Him as One with a tri-dimensional nature. Within the ambit of light from the Holy Scriptures, let us discuss this profound topic with much reverence.

Part A. Elohim Is Spirit Being

Elohim God is Spirit. We know this from various declarations of the scriptures.

“God is Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” **John 4:24**

Let us examine other scriptures which describe Elohim as Spirit Being. They include these:

On Creation morning

¹ *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*² *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

Genesis 1:1-2

When the earth realm was filled with wickedness

*And the Lord said, “**My spirit** shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.”* ***Genesis 6:3***

Utterance of Prophet Isaiah

*“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will pour **my spirit** upon thy seed, and **my** blessing upon thine offspring;”* ***Isaiah 44:3***

*“As for Me, this is **my** covenant with them,” saith the Lord; “**My spirit** that is upon thee, and **my** words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever.”* ***Isaiah 59:21***

In the New Covenant, we see Holy Spirit intimately involved in the Incarnation, and Empowerment of Yeshua so that He could fulfill His assignment as the Messiah:

*Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." **Luke 1:34-35***

*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him;¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." **Matthew 3:16-17***

*"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." **Acts 10:38***

Part B. Elohim has a Soul

The soul is the realm of self-expression featuring these compartments; the mind, (thoughts, imagination, memory); the will and emotion. Religion does not teach us that Elohim God also has a soul. It regards this topic as 'off limit', depriving saints an understanding of this quality of Elohim's Being which should enable us to live right and thus please Him!

*"Behold **my** servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom **my** soul delighteth; I have put **my spirit** upon him; he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles." **Isaiah 42:1***

Let us take note of these truths about the Soul of Elohim:

1. The soul of Elohim God is absolutely holy: pure and incorruptible.
2. It is in His soul that God displays all the emotions which are recorded in the bible; "grieved and His heart was full of pain" (**Genesis 6:5-6**); "His anger was aroused" (**Numbers 11:1**); "well pleased"; "concerned", "vexed in His sore displeasure" (**Psalms 2:5**). In **Genesis 8:21** God "smelled the pleasing aroma" of Noah's sacrifice and pronounced the ordinance of Seed time and Harvest time.

3. When **James 4:5** says the Spirit of God in us is jealous over us and does not want us to love things contrary to Him, we are simply reminded that Elohim God has a soul with feelings!

4. It is in the mind of God (His soul) that the Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world. **Revelation 13:8**.

5. It was in the mind of God (His soul) that He conceived the earth and then spoke it into being **Genesis 1:1-25**.

6. It was also in the soul that Elohim God desired to make man after His image and likeness and empower him with the capacity and mandate to exercise dominion over the earth (**Genesis 1:26-30**).

7. In His soul, God saw that all He created was good and He was very pleased (**Genesis 1:31**).

Still on this subject, we need to debunk the myth that Yeshua, Jesus tolerated everything and everyone. His famed meekness was not weakness at all! While He had compassion on sinners and the vulnerable, He was firm regarding sin: it was always “go and sin no more”. In dealing with the religious hypocrites, we see a different Yeshua, Jesus; one who lambasted them with harsh words said in righteous indignation at their hardness of heart.

In **Matthew 23:1-39**, He pronounced “woe” on them severally. In addition, He used various harsh words full of powerful emotion and imagery to describe them such as: “hypocrites”, “fools and blind”. This was manifestation of the pure soul of Elohim in righteous indignation at their hardened hearts!

Part C. Elohim wears a Body when it pleases Him

Another truth hidden by religion is that though a Spirit, with a Soul, Elohim God wears a Body when it pleases Him!

1. In **Genesis 3:8-19**, we are shown a picture of Elohim walking in the Garden of Eden and speaking in an audible voice with Adam, Eve and to Satan.
2. In **Genesis 11:1-9**, Elohim God manifested physically in the earth realm to inspect what builders of what became the Tower of Babel were doing.
3. In **Genesis 14:18-20**, Yeshua appeared to and communed with Abraham in the form of Melchizedek as attested by **Hebrews 7:1-19**.

4. In **Genesis 18:1-33**, we see another Theophany or bodily manifestation of God when it was time to judge the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. A careful study of the text suggests that the three Beings Abraham communed with were not mere angels.

5. Let us remember that Isaiah saw the bodily manifestation of Elohim God in **Isaiah 6:1-13**.

6. The greatest and most profound Theophany however was the incarnation of Elohim God as Emmanuel! **Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35**. In Yeshua Jesus, Elohim used a Body specifically prepared for that purpose to do the work of redemption.

Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me; Hebrews 10:5.

In that Body, Elohim God walked this earth as a man for 33 and half years. The vastness of Elohim's love for humanity was manifested in this supreme sacrifice of laying aside His glory in order to be like us so that the legal price would be paid to redeem us from the hand of Satan.

During His Incarnate state, Yeshua grew in wisdom and physical stature and in favour with the Father and humans (***Luke 2:52***); He was angry with those who made the Temple a place of merchandise (***John 2:13-17***). He was once so hungry that He cursed a fig tree which had no fruit for its creator (***Mark 11:12-14, 20, 21***).

1. In the physical body, Yeshua Jesus experienced pain, travailed in prayer, as His soul was vexed sore at the prospect of the crucifixion at Calvary cross until the Father assured Him that it was necessary. ***Matthew 26:36-46***. At the Cross, Jesus was so drained of fluid that He was thirsty (***John 19:28***). In that physical body, God demonstrated what death is: not the end of life but a transition to the hereafter! ***Matthew 28:50***.

2. The Book of Revelation presents concepts of Elohim seated on the Throne in Body like postures.

Understanding what it means to be created in the Image of Elohim
God

Still on this mind-boggling subject of the image and likeness of Elohim God, let us consider these truths which religion has obscured for over 2,000 years, though they are plainly and simply stated in the Holy Bible! Religion tries to help God and, in the process, makes Him out as a surreal entity with a big frown and club, waiting to badger us for any malfeasance. The outcome is the range of negative relationships people have with Him through religion and religiosity: strangers, unwilling slaves, orphans and those who manifest the arrested babyhood syndrome.

The gospels teach an Elohim God who became like us – took flesh and blood in the greatest expression of love so that He can condemn the power of sin over flesh and break the hitherto legal hold of Satan over humanity! ***John 3:16*** makes more meaning when you combine it with these scriptures: ***Hebrews 2:10-18; Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 10:5-14; Philippians 2:5-8.***

Comforting truths about Emmanuel

Saints, it is comforting and gratifying to note these profound truths concerning Emmanuel, the God Who was made flesh to dwell among us:

1. When Yeshua, Jesus was planted by Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary as ***Luke 1:35*** attests, He was designed by the Father to be, “the brightness of His glory and the EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON” using the words of ***Hebrews 1:3***! This is serious! The Body which ***Hebrews 10:5*** says was prepared for Yeshua, Jesus to function in was to reflect something very profound: a Theophany of physical appearance of Elohim God! It is no wonder Yeshua, Jesus told His incredulous disciple, Phillip, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” as ***John 14:7-9*** records.

2. Throughout His 33 and half years in the Body, Yeshua did not sin because He was wrapped up in aligning His will with that of The Father and doing just that as His delightful duty. ***John 4:34; John 5:30; John 6:38.***

3. Yeshua, Jesus resurrected not as a mere spirit like angels but in His glorified Body! He was physically seen and actively interacted with His disciples after the resurrection (***Matthew 28:1-28, John 20:1-23***). The risen Yeshua, Jesus even conducted an intensive forty-day special School of Ministry to prepare them for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and global assignment (***Acts 1:1-8***). For good effect, the risen Yeshua, Jesus even shared hot meals with his disciples (***John 21:1-14***); Earlier in ***John 20:24-29*** He asked the doubting Thomas to touch His hands and sides to “feel the nail prints” – what a holy thought!

4. It is important however to establish a hidden truth concerning what happened on the resurrection morning. When Jesus first rose from the dead, He did not allow the excited Mary or anyone else for that matter to touch Him. The question is why? Yeshua, Jesus needed to first ascend to the Father to show Him and the courts of heaven the triumphant Body and the sinless blood in which sin was condemned in the flesh for redemption of man! ***Hebrews 9:11-15, 23-28***.

He needed to announce to the courts of heaven that the deal was done and the way for mankind to recover the Kingdom lost by Adam was now open! Please see ***John 20:11-17***. It was on this trip to the Third Heaven that Yeshua, Jesus took captivity as He routed all the principalities that rule in the first and second Heavens and made an Open Show of them. Seeing the Blood-stained hands, they fled and quaked in fear! ***Ephesians 4:8-10***.

This first happened at the Cross and after when He took away the key to death and hell with which Satan held humanity in fearful bondage! ***Colossians 2:14-15***.

5. In that glorified Body, Yeshua, Jesus ascended on high before a crowd of people and will return again when all eyes will see Him! ***Acts 1:9-11, Revelations 1:7, Revelation 19:11-21***

6. He is seated at the right hand of Majesty in that very resurrected body which Thomas touched (what a wonder!), making intercession for us who are in the body of flesh and blood which is earthly! ***Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 4:14-16***. For this reason, we are asked to come boldly to The Father in His Name to receive help in time of need or when facing temptation.

Difference with human bodies:

The only difference between our physical bodies and the one Elohim God uses for His purposes including that which Yeshua, Jesus bore while on earth are as follows:

i. The Body God uses is celestial - not of this earth while the ones we bear are earthly and earth bound. **1 Corinthians 15:40, 45-46.**

ii. The body we bear is sin laden because of Adam's original sin which is passed on to all humanity while that of Elohim God is pure and holy and cannot be corrupted. Those who believe and press in can experience life that is free of sin. **1 John 3:1-10**

iii. The Body we bear is perishable while that which Elohim God uses is eternal and imperishable. That is why The Father did not suffer the body of Yeshua to suffer corruption and He arose from the dead after only three days in the grave.

iv. The Body Elohim God uses is supernatural, capable of manifesting everywhere, every time while the one we bear is natural, static, and limited to a place at a time. It is a mystery, yet so real!

v. While on the earth however, Jesus chose, as part of emptying Himself to stay in a place at a time until the resurrection. The reason was to experience fully the challenges and pressures that come on humans so that He can be a total Redeemer, fit to be our High Priest in the now until the day He comes to take us away. ***Philippians 2:5-9; Hebrews 2:9-18.***

In these last days, necessity is laid on us to peel away every vestige of religion which covers truth. We must go to the bible with open hearts like children and ask Holy Spirit to reveal our heavenly Father to us! Simple childlikeness is the only way we can receive truth and respond to it in order to see the Kingdom, enter in and experience it!

¹ At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"² And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,³ And said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 18:1-4**

John 3:1-21 records the dialogue between Yeshua, Jesus and the religious expert Nicodemus who was thick to truth because of the veil of religion which covered understanding of the things of the Kingdom! The New Birth experience which is through the regeneration of our spirit-man by the Holy Spirit offers us the capacity to be delivered from the image of the Fallen Adam and bear the image of the heavenly or Second Adam. **1 Corinthians 15:45-49.**

As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, let us be open to understand that will liberate us from error and empower us to grow an intimate relationship with Him.

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

It is a trite comment to say you cannot possibly enjoy an intimate relationship with a stranger. The truth Elohim God is pouring out here will cause us to know Him on a deeper level and appreciate His awesome love for us which passes all understanding. We will understand why redemption offers us the opportunity to live the life of Elohim, the God of heaven here in the earth realm, without struggle because it is a new nature we receive by Faith as a gift of Grace! **Ephesians 2:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-19.**

A religious spirit prefers to keep us away from receiving what The Word says of Elohim God. Religion thrives in darkness, ignorance, and gives space for manipulation by Pharisees and Sadducees who claim superior knowledge and access to God. **Deuteronomy 29:29** establishes a principle we should hold dear in these last days: *The secret things belong to Elohim God while the revealed things (what He permitted to be written) belongs to us and our children!* Understanding what the bible says of Elohim God and not the interpretations made by men of great theological degrees and high intellect, will enable the redeemed to understand Him, love Him with all our hearts, live the way He has ordained and prepare for the eternity He wired into our heart! Ultimately, the revelation of Elohim will enable us to be followers (or imitators) of Him accepting nothing short of the excellency of the Zoe or God kind of life He has given us in Yeshua, Jesus.

*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; **Ephesians 5:1***

*¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.²¹ What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 6:17-23***

When we know Who our heavenly Father Is, His Image and Likeness, we will be open to be like Him in all ways: His Holy nature, attributes and attitudes. Whatever we focus on is what we become as Paul says.

*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the **glory** of the Lord, are changed into the same image **from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 **Corinthians 3:18***

Assignment

1. Share what you received about the Image and Likeness of God which prove that Elohim is a Spirit, has a Soul and uses a Body whenever it pleases Him.

2. Cite 2 scriptures which deal with the Spirit of Elohim; His Soul and His use of a Physical Body.

Understanding the Human Nature - 2nd Edition

CHAPTER 3: THE UNIQUE CREATURE CALLED MAN, CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (Part 1)

Let us begin today with a reflection on a message received some years ago which is still relevant today with slight edits for clarity.

For the whole of this year and beyond, unto the coming of the Lord, there is a Grand Key: a Crucified self and surrendered will! Whoever will pay the price of emulating Yeshua, Jesus, allowing the old man to be crucified with Him and surrender the will to Elohim God completely, without any reservation, is positioned for the best of Divinity and manifestation of His Kingdom! It is impossible to seek first the Kingdom with the old man alive with its self-will!

He who dies to self: self-will; selfishness; self-centeredness and pursuit of self-interest - will live out the Kingdom life in full because he/she would be an empty vessel fully occupied by Yeshua, Jesus, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, expressing the fullness of His glory, presence, and power!

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit.” John 12:24

Let it be said again: The grand key to outstanding success is a crucified self and surrendered will! It was so for Yeshua, Jesus and so shall it be for His saints! To such people Elohim God can commit all His goodness and power!

The Critical Question

How can one identify and crucify the self-nature and surrender the will to Elohim God? How can this be achieved in a practical, biblical context? To answer this question properly, we need to allow Holy Spirit to teach us more about the human nature and how each element of our being can advertently or inadvertently affect true spirituality. Let us therefore understand the human nature in greater detail through the truth that is the Holy Word.

Spirit, Soul and Body

In Chapter 1, we learned from the Bible that man is a three-dimensional being comprising spirit, soul, and body.

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **Genesis 2:7***

Even though some theologians attribute the following text to Yeshua, Jesus, it can also be safely applied to the wonder called human beings!

*But one in a certain place testified, saying, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?"⁷ Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands."
Hebrews 2:6-7*

As observed in a previous chapter, two more scriptures in the New Testament affirm the tri-dimensional nature of man:

*"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." **1 Thessalonians 5:23***

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of **soul** and **spirit**, and of the **joints and marrow**, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” **Hebrews 4:12-13***

These questions were posed in the synopsis: What is the spirit, soul, and body of the human being? Where are their sources of being? What are their basic natures and how do they work in ordinary life? How do those inherent natures conduce to or work against true spirituality? What happens to them at point of death?

What we have received so far is designed to set the pace for what we shall be sharing in detail regarding this unique creation of Elohim God called man. We shall be seeing the fact that man is not just another creature. Man is not just a mass of muscles, body tissue, bones, flesh, and blood. Man is truly a higher being, created specifically by Elohim God after His own image and likeness!

We will see that this unique feature of man occasioned him to be made a tri-dimensional being. The spirit of man, which came from above has the capacity to connect with Elohim God in heaven, for regeneration by Holy Spirit, receive Holy Spirit as seal of redemption, and be filled with Holy Spirit in baptismal measure. Because it is from heaven, the spirit-man has the innate tendency to be sensitive to spiritual realities and therefore walk in the light of eternity.

At the same time, mankind has the innate capacity to relate effectively with his environment - through the body and soul - which respond to what he sees, feels, hears, perceives, or touches.

Let us consider the mystery of the ages that of all the planets in the vast creation of God, only one piece of real estate – the Earth – has the complete mix of physical, chemical, and biological elements which can sustain human life! It was on this basis that Elohim God gave man the dominion mandate to be His representative on planet earth with the following specific assignments as detailed in ***Genesis 1:28-29***

- i. Receive His blessings!
- ii. Be fruitful and multiply – procreate and fill the earth with humankind.

iii. Subdue the earth – take charge and bring things herein under subjection.

iv. Exercise dominion over every living thing on the land, in the sea and under the waters as Ambassador of His Kingdom, acting on His behalf to make sure that all of creation fulfils their purpose.

v. To eat all the things considered edible among fruits, animals, birds.

vi. In addition, **Genesis 2:15** says man was given the responsibility of dressing and keeping the earth. To all these assignments agree **Psalms 115:16**. God gave man this earth as an inheritance!

“The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.” Psalms 115:16

Ironically, saints have not invested substantial time in study and prayer to understand and walk in the realities of **Genesis 1:26-29**. Those who aspire to fail in one basic issue: trying to enjoy the blessed state without aligning themselves with the Creator to be who He created them to be! Let us therefore gain a deeper insight into our beings.

To do this successfully, we need to dwell more on some of the issues broached in Chapter 1, in order to expand our understanding of the three components of mankind. In this chapter, we will address the body and spirit-man so that in another chapter, we will focus extensive attention on the soul.

1. The Body:

This is the part of the human nature which is made from earthly and therefore perishable materials.

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **Genesis 2:7***

It comprises all the bones, tissue, muscles, cells, water, and entirety of physical properties which sustain the ability to live on planet earth. The body of a person is activated when on approval of the Creator, the sperm of a male and the egg of a female combine to conceive a human being. That is one of the reasons Elohim God considers abortion as murder because a life and destiny is actually snuffed out when this happens. It is also why adultery and fornication are gross sins in the sight of Elohim and decent people.

The body needs a certain quantum of nutrients and a regular dose of water to stay healthy. Of all nutrients needed by the human body, the most critical is water. This is because most of the body mass of humans is essentially made up of water. The human body also needs to be regularly exercised to stay healthy. Even something as elementary as walking a specific distance each day can positively impact the health of the body.

No matter how robust, healthy, and well-kept the body is, the day Elohim God allows the spirit and soul to be withdrawn, it ceases to exist. Decay sets in. The body is at best a vessel to carry the higher purpose of the Creator which is in the spirit man and soul. The body can therefore be considered the earthly house in which the spirit man and soul of humans live.

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” 2 Corinthians 5:1

“Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;¹⁴ Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.¹⁵ Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.” **2 Peter 1:13-15**

This extraordinary architecture of the human body is a wonder to behold! No wonder David exclaimed:

“For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.¹⁷ How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!¹⁸ If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.” **Psalms 139:13-18**

2. The Spirit

The spirit of man, as we saw in **Genesis 2:7** comes from the Lord. It is a heavenly-sourced component.

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **Genesis 2:7***

2.1. The spirit of a human is eternal. It comes from Elohim and does not die. Rather, it will live for ever either in the presence of the Maker or it will suffer perpetually with Satan. This is why the heart or spirit-man of humans is wired with an innate consciousness of eternity.

2.2. The spirit man is also called the “heart” of man (not the physical object which pumps blood). It is also called the “belly” or deepest recess of man. It is from here that Jesus says the Holy Spirit will flow from those who believe in Him **John 7:37-39**. The spirit and soul share some common features because both constitute the eternal part of man. Most of what we will say below apply equally to the soul realm. However, the soul differs greatly from the spirit in some other areas of life which we will consider in detail later in this resource.

2.3. It is in the spirit man that Holy Spirit convicts humans of sin, floods the light of revelation of Who Yeshua, Jesus is and what He did for us at the Cross of Calvary.

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. **Ephesians 2:1-3***

In other words, it is in the spirit-man that regeneration occurs at the moment of conversion, hence the translation from the Kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Elohim God. **John 3:1-9**, Colossians **1:12-14**.

2.4. It is here that we are made alive in Christ Jesus and are seated in heavenly places with Him far above all principalities and power **Ephesians 2:1-10, 13**. What the spirit man on the inside is determines how a person lives and his/her responses to issues of life including temptations and trials. **Ephesians 4:17-32**.

2.5. It is also within the spirit-man that the Holy Spirit resides and empowers the saint.

2.6. It is in this realm of being that the gifts and callings of Holy Spirit are deposited and reside – regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status, race or ethnicity or denominational affiliation of the soul and body!

“²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:26-29.

Holy Spirit of Elohim, The God of Heaven therefore does not consider the walls of men before He calls or fills a vessel with His gifts and offices! He can take a hard-core anti-tongues Baptist and fill him/her with Holy Spirit. The same Elohim can take a single lady who was once a toast of the party circuit and make her an outstanding Evangelist with clear evidence of His hand upon her, in spite of objections of the religious leaders. This was the case of Mary Magdalene and the woman at the Well of Samaria.

2.7. It is in the spirit man that the spirit of Faith dwells. When the spirit “sees”, believes, and possesses anything from God (as opposed to emotional yearning of anything of the soul), it is as good as a done deal! That was the case of Abraham, and all the faith worthies mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11. ***See verses 1-3, 6, 8-19; Romans 4:17-22.***

2.8. If the spirits of all saints are nourished in sound doctrine, we will come to the true unity of the Faith and grow up into Yeshua in all things! ***Ephesians 4:1-6.*** Any unity that is not based on having a common understanding of what the Word says is suspect, and may relapse into ecumenism which is pseudo-unity based on compromise and spiritual adultery! The Unity Yeshua, Jesus prayed for is attainable if we all go back to the plain word of the Holy Scriptures rather than the opinions and fancies of men called dogma. ***John 17.***

2.9. Trauma and challenges can come to any human being at any time. However, those who overcome such challenges and survive to tell the story are those whose spirits are strong and whose souls yearn to live and overcome! You can be distressed in your soul yet strong in the spirit man. You can be compassed with the waves of crises yet are able to function if your spirit is rightly connected to The Heavenly Father. Jesus says that in Him the saint will have Peace and asked us to persevere even in the face of trouble!

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

Food and strength for the spirit

1. The main food of the spirit-man is the Word. The spirit man should be nurtured through regular intake of the Word on a daily and regular basis. This nurtures Faith inside the spirit man which will come in handy at the time of need or in the day of adversity.

“So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”
Romans 10:17

2. The spirit man is also nurtured at the place of praying in the Spirit. In prayer, the spirit man actually communes with the Holy Spirit within which helps it to frame the actual prayer according to the perfect will of God, making it a creative partnership rather than back-breaking labour.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” **Romans 8:26, 27**

“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful”. 1 Corinthians 14:14

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost” **Jude 1:20**

3. The spirit man is also nourished by encouragement. Words of exhortation seasoned with salt have great positive impact on the spirit man because such release grace to the hearers.

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” **Colossians 4:6**

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

Ephesians 4:15-16

4. The spirit man responds to challenges because such stretch it to rise up in the dimension of faith, prayer, and spiritual warfare. This is more so when a saint matures in the realm of the spirit-man to trust Elohim completely and enter into His rest by Faith.

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 8:28-32***

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.³ For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.⁴ For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.⁵ And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.⁶ Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:⁷ Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.⁸ For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.⁹ There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.¹¹ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” **Hebrews 4:1-11**

True meaning of ‘death’

A man or woman is considered dead the day the spirit is withdrawn from the body. This shows that the real owner of a physical-decay and death-bound body is the eternal spirit that lives deep within it! In the same vein, a diseased spirit which is corrupted by either Satan, motions of the soul or cravings of the body will succumb to such pressures and live out a life of sin and evil concupiscence.

We shall continue with the Soul in the next chapter.

Assignment

- 1. Please describe the human body and explain its features. What are some of the things the body needs to be healthy?*
- 2. Please explain what the spirit man is, where it comes from and at some features. Itemise some of the food of the spirit and what makes it operate at optimum capacity.*
- 3. What new thing have you learn so far?*

CHAPTER 4: THE SOUL (PART A)

In the previous chapter, we discussed two of the three dimensions of the human nature, namely the body and spirit-man. In this lesson, we will focus on gaining a deeper understanding of the soul. As the scriptures reveal, the soul of Adam was activated when the breath of the Spirit of Elohim God encountered the lifeless body moulded from the earth.

*“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” **Genesis 2:7***

The implications of this are as follows:

1. The soul is the buffer between the human body (that is physical flesh and blood) with the eternal spirit. Its intrusion into any of these two realms will affect how they function. We will explain this issue later.
2. The soul is the realm of self-expression in the human nature. In other words, the individuality which makes a human being unique among all of creation is found in this very dimension of life.

3. The soul is the faculty of the human where, to use a synonym, the “you in you” can be found. In essence, concerning our life on earth, the realm where we exercise greatest exertions – whether it is to please God, please other people or please self – is made here.

4. In effect, it is in the soul that people basically “love” or hate or are apathetic to people or situations.

5. It is also in this realm that what drives people is generated, fueled, and sustained. Whether it is the drive to “succeed”, be known, set, pursue, or achieve goals, this is the realm where the action is! In other words, motives and intentions are generated in the human soul. This is one of the reasons that the Lord is not merely interested in what we do but also searches the intents of our heart to discern why we say or do what we say or do. ***Hebrews 4:13***.

6. The soul is the realm of curiosity - in a never-ending quest to know the unknown. The soul is exceedingly powerful!

7. For the above reason, every spiritual (and or religious) exertion of man – the tendency to seek to know, please and worship the One True Elohim, God or other gods is given effect from this realm.

8. Let us say however that true spirituality consists of willingly giving up the extraordinary powers of the soul so that the spirit man leads the life of the redeemed under the direct influence and leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is when we get to this point that true spiritual worship which is acceptable to the Father takes place. **Matthew 16:24-26; Galatians 5:16-21**

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him.²⁴ God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24

When Elohim God created Adam, he was blessed with an exceedingly powerful soul. His mind was so expansive that Adam was able to name all the animals created by God.

“And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them; and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.” Genesis 2:19-20.

The reason for this feat is that Adam was perfectly aligned with Elohim God in his spirit, soul, and body. Consequently, he was able to know and do things according to the mind of the Creator. When we lay hold of the truths revealed in this Course, the Grace to walk in the mind of our King will be restored.

How the fall of Adam & Eve happened?

The fall of Adam and Eve came about when Satan activated their flesh (soul and body) to take pre-eminence over their spirit man by being driven by lust to possess what was forbidden. The enemy also suggested to Eve that she would be better off if independent of Elohim. As soon as the soul of Eve was quickened or activated to “break ranks” with the spirit man, it made the bad decision to desire what Elohim God forbade. That ungodly desire became so overwhelming that His Word was ignored by the lustful soul and relegated to second place.

*“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die;⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” **Genesis 3:1-6.***

Note that it was only after Satan had successfully compromised them and caused them to yield to his temptation that their eyes “were opened” to see the consequences of their bad choice. Shame, recrimination, and separation from Elohim God followed.

“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.⁸ And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.⁹ And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.¹¹ And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.¹³ And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.” **Genesis 3:7-13**

The book of James gives us an understanding of how Satan causes the soul (mind and body) to respond to temptations.

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man;¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.¹⁶ Do not err, my beloved brethren.” **James 1:13-16**

That formula of seducing the human soul out of its place under subjection to the spirit-man is the key principle which Satan uses against saints of all ages. The adversary of our souls tried that same process on Yeshua, Jesus in the wilderness.

*“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.” **Matthew 4:1-11.***

Until this day, nearly every temptation is based on that simple old trick of enticing the soul to step out of line and play a leading rather than be subordinate to the spirit man. Saints are warned of the dangers of allowing the soul to lead us astray.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:15-17.

Part B: The Components of the Soul

This complex dimension of man has three distinct but interlocking and mutually supporting faculties.

Component #.1: The Mind

This is the faculty responsible for thinking. It processes every information or signal from the environment. The mind is a very powerful tool of self-preservation. It therefore tends to frame every activity within the context of self. This is the root issue in selfishness and self-centeredness.

The Mind has 3 sub-faculties:

1.1. The Brain where all information is processed and the center of analysis. Ideas are generated within the brain. Fiery darts of Satan in the form of evil thoughts are directed at this part of the mind with the intention that the victim will 'own' them through meditation/contemplation. Mature saints are those who wear the whole armour of Elohim always ***Ephesians 6:10-18***. With the helmet of Salvation already doing primary protection of the realm of the mind, they use especially the shield of Faith to quench such fiery darts so that they do not penetrate or settle down. The shield of Faith is able in nanoseconds to determine that any thought or idea that pops up in the mind that is contrary to the framework of ***Philippians 4:8*** is NOT of Elohim/God and therefore unworthy of consideration.

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. The inclination of the natural heart is simply corrupt and unacceptable to Elohim God Who is Love, Who is selfless and who wants His children to be as He is. This mindset is at the heart of the sin question because it processes and interprets every issue in the light of self-interest. Mindsets are also called strongholds because they are simply the thought processes which have formed and congealed into a particular way of looking at things based on past experiences or selfish preferences rather than what the word of Elohim God says.

Strong holds must be dealt with. They need to be

- recognized
- rejected
- repented of
- pulled down and demolished by faith, using the authority of the name and power of the blood of Jesus.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh;⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;⁶ And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.” **2 Corinthians 10:3-6.**

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.
Revelation 12:11

The problem many saints face is that after pulling down strongholds, they wittingly or unwittingly start another vicious cycle of being receptive to all the things which cause them to form in the first place!

The key therefore is to:

- i. Accept what the Word says of us as new creatures in Yeshua and reject thoughts which are contrary to who we are as born of the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 4:8**
- ii. Consecrate our entire beings to Elohim.

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

iii. We need to feed our mind with the Word to the degree that it is utterly renewed to have the mind of Yeshua, Jesus

*And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." **Romans 12:2***

*"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;" **Ephesians 4:23***

*"¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." **Colossians 3:16***

*"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." **2 Timothy 3:15-17.***

When the word is given space to renew the mind, saints are able to think like Yeshua in terms of love and humility!

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God;⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name;¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Philippians 2:5-11***

*“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” **Philippians 4:8***

iv. Live a contented lifestyle where you are not anxious for anything and under no pressure to prove anything to anyone. Rather, we are to live within the ambit of the grace and gifts which are freely provided by Yeshua, Jesus. This will enable you to enjoy perfect peace in the heart as our mind is stayed on Him.

*“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:6-7***

*“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.⁶ So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” **Hebrews 13:5-6***

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.” **Isaiah 26:3***

v. A life of praying without ceasing, walking by faith and not by sight. That way, we avoid hasty decisions, always waiting on the Lord for direction. In this way, saints consciously deny their mind the capacity to lead you in life decisions. We are thus able to give the spirit man space to hear from the Holy Spirit and give way for Him to be the driving faculty of our Kingdom life.

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

“(For we walk by faith, not by sight;)” 2 Corinthians 5:17

*“Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth **shall not make haste.**” Isaiah 28:16*

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.¹⁰ And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;” **Romans 8:5-16**

Assignment.

1. What is the human soul and how did it emanate?

2. *In bullet point form, list 4 out of the 8 qualities of the soul.*
3. *Summarise what you personally learnt about the human mind in this chapter.*

CHAPTER 5. THE SOUL (PART B)

In the previous chapter, we began an in-depth examination of the soul. We went on to discuss the first component which is the Mind. In this chapter, we will examine other subcomponents of the mind and thereafter consider other components of the soul.

1.2. The Imagination

This is the sub-faculty of the mind through which the soul ‘sees’ far beyond tangible realities. This makes it the natural basis of inventions. It is here that man’s intrinsic capacity for research, exploration, experimentation and reaching out to the unknown is warehoused. In the natural, all the inventions of man – the aircraft that flies over 300 people, 40,000 feet above sea level; submarines which operate 30,000 feet below sea level; the internet, Facebook, missiles, the nuclear bomb, space explorations and indeed all human inventions are all products of the imagination chamber of the soul exerted to find solution to human needs.

In the arena of religion, the imagination can cause an individual to be so deceived into pursuing an ambition or idea which he or she fancies. Seeming success can be deceptive because on the last day, all that was achieved as well as the individual who pursued them outside a relationship with Elohim may be wholly rejected by Him.

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
Matthew 7:21-23

Where the minister has a relationship but laboured outside the divine plan, the works may burn up while the individual squeezes into eternity.

“¹⁰ According to the grace of God, which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

1.3. The Memory

This is the chamber of the Mind where all life experiences and information heard or learned are stored. Whether they were true encounters, suppositions, or outright falsehoods, they get stored in the conscious and subconscious memory. When triggered or provoked, information in the memory is pulled out and can bring joy, sorrow, or pain. Eternity conscious saints know the danger of memories which are filled with negativity. This should activate an earnest desire in prayer to have the cleansing power of the Blood to blot out all painful and negative memories. The greatest instrument for keeping the memory positive is to forgive from the heart any one or thing that brought pain. When forgiveness is real, the memory does not store pain; rather, the blood dissolves them into nothingness!

Component #. 2. The Will

This is the faculty of the soul where decisions are made. It is the seat of preference or choice. This is the place where all the things received and processed by the mind is turned into a decision. In making man after His own image and likeness, Elohim God gave every human being a will. Ultimately, this is the very basis of the bill of rights for all men to be born and live free! The will of man is not supposed to be violated by fellow humans otherwise control will ensure which is an advanced form of witchcraft.

In making independent decisions on issues of life and spirituality, there is a clear outcome called “consequence”. In effect Elohim God has given us a will which when exercised should take away every basis for excuse and justify the basis of divine consequence when wrongly exercised.

Even Elohim God respects the will of humans. Though redemption of man was purchased at the great price of the precious blood of Yeshua, Jesus, our heavenly Father never requires His saints to impose salvation on anyone, whether they reject Him or not. Yeshua, Jesus even graphically charged saints to respect the opinion of whole families and cities concerning the gospel.

“¹² And when ye come into an house, salute it.¹³ And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.¹⁴ And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.” **Matthew 10:12 – 15**

Those who reject us are to be left to face the consequences of their choice. We thus learn that the gospel is to be proclaimed to all as a witness. There is nowhere in scripture that Elohim God forces humans to accept His offer of salvation!

One more thing about the will. God can forgive a sin and yet allow a human to live with the consequence of the sin. This was the case of Moses and why he was unable to enter the Promised Land after the matter of striking, rather than speaking to the rock which brought forth water. This was also why David's sin with Bathsheba was forgiven but his household was polluted with the sin of immorality. This first manifested in incest between one of his sons and one of his wives and peaked in the absolute immoral life of Solomon's relationship with 1,000 women!

The ultimate solution to reverse consequences arising from sin is to persistently plead for mercy and hold on to Elohim God until the petition is answered. Just like the Mercy Seat was above the Ark, His Mercy rejoices against Judgement.

“¹² So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.¹³ For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.” James 2:12-13

Component #.3. The Emotion

This is the third faculty of the human soul. Here is the chamber in man where he responds to everything which happens in his spirit, soul, or body. This involuntary reaction to what lies on the outside or what is picked up in the radar of the spirit man or soul can determine how mature, stable, or complete any one is.

Emotional stability, maturity or intelligence is a key requirement for leadership both in the Kingdom as well as in Society. It enables one to live above the unsteady motions of feelings which are fleeting. Those who are emotionally mature can suspend or ignore their feelings and rather be objective in assessing people and situations with the mind of Yeshua, according to leading of Holy Spirit.

Emotions can manifest as:

- i. Knee jerk reactions or reflex actions arising from what is stored in the mind. The emotion can be wholesome or wounded.
- ii. Wholesome emotions are those that carry no baggage from the past. The past is properly dealt with and forgotten. In this way, the past is disabled or obliterated with no current power to negatively affect decisions and reaction.

iii. On the other hand, wounded or damaged emotions are those which arise from these distortions: reactions from one of the basest aspects of the human persona: the Ego. This is the tendency to self-exaltation and high mindedness. Any time it is “stepped on”, the human ego reacts with pain and self-preservation. Damaged emotions also arise when hurts, offences and pain are nursed beyond the norm and internalized. This makes it imperative that we obey the charge in ***Ephesians 4:26-27*** to forgive before sunset!

iv. Attitudes emanate from the emotional bank in the individual's psyche. Attitudes reveal the depth of flesh at work in an individual and will show up in unconscious ways. One may be a “good Christian” yet with a bad attitude. It simply means that while the outward exertions may be good and acceptable to men, the inward part is not sound. Right attitudes come when the mind is healed as indicated above.

Since Adam's fall, everyone who comes into the world comes with this fallen mindset.

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Psalm 51:5.

Education, culture and environment may grant a veneer of niceness and pleasantness, but no one should be fooled! What education, upbringing and environment do with the mind is to “refine” it to be conscious of the need to appear polished and sophisticated before others in order to earn their respect and honour. As we all know, this is a mere ruse which even takes people further away from God as they try to intellectualize Him.

The pseudo kingdom gospel and its variants – the emergent church movements share the same strain of a virus with the New Age movement – the tendency to intellectualize God and make Him logical. Consequently, they advocate strenuous efforts towards secular humanism and “doing good” in the name of advancing the Kingdom and taking mountains of society. The result is always the same:

- rejection of the infallibility of the Bible.
- minimization of or rejection of the divinity of Yeshua, Jesus
- negation of His Second Coming

(2 Peter 2:1-22; 2 Peter 3:1-18; 1 John 2:18-28; 1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 1:7-11; Jude verses 1-19).

Component #.4. The Motive

Behind every action on the outwards, there is often a motive emanating from inside the soul. Though unseen by fellow humans (except some who are gifted with discernment), motives will corrupt actions. Good deeds that are done with evil motives are inherently corrupt and unacceptable to Elohim. A few instances. If one does a work of charity towards the poor (a good deed) but the motive is to garner attention and praise of humans or to raise money for oneself and not those poor, that action is reprehensible to Elohim.

*¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. **Hebrews 4:12-13***

*And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord **searcheth all hearts**, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. **1 Chronicles 28:9***

⁹ *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*¹⁰ *I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. **Jeremiah 17:9-10***

*And he that **searcheth** the **hearts** knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. **Romans 8:27***

*And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which **searcheth** the reins and **hearts**; and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. **Revelation 2:23***

Existential realities

Though born again, the common experience of believers worldwide is the reality of struggles with varying degrees of impurity in thought, word or deed.

Careful consideration of the New Covenant reveals that the call for holiness and purity were written to the saved. The examples of inappropriate behaviour were directed at saints in the various cities as introduction to the epistles of Paul to the Romans, Corinthians, Colossians and Thessalonians reveal.

Many have tried to intellectualize some writings of Paul or claim they described him in the unbelieving, religious state. There is no doubt that part of what Paul described is the normal experience many saints do through at certain stages of their pilgrimage.

*¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin.¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man;²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. **Romans 7:14-25***

No true saint should excuse behaviour or attitude which does not represent King Yeshua, Jesus. We are called to abide in Him or cling to Him so that the Holy Spirit can transmit His life in and through us.

John 15:1-8

The need for sanctification

As a saint matures, he/she is able to honestly recognise, reject and confront negative motions of the soul, crying out in brokenness to the Lord for deliverance. The Lord has made provision for an additional work of grace which is as definite as Salvation. This is what is called sanctification or internal cleansing that roots out vestiges of Adamic nature called the Old man.

²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1

Holy Spirit Who began the work of redemption by convicting the sinner of sin does not leave the redeemed to walk this walk alone. He is available to complete the work of holiness as we cooperate with Him.

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ; **Philippians 1:6***

*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. **Philippians 2:12-13***

Holy Spirit also uses the ministry of the word to deliver this sanctifying experience which encompasses all aspects of the saint's human nature; spirit, soul and body.

¹² *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. **Hebrews 4:12-13***

When this happens, the saint no longer walks in the flesh with its ugly works but rather enters into rest while Holy Spirit uses the vessel to do the work of life!

“¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.¹⁵ But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,²³ Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." **Galatians 5:13-26**

When we bear the fruit of the Spirit, we truly begin to represent Yeshua as witnesses in the earth realm. We need to open our hearts to understand this Course and embrace the revelations which will set us free.

*¹⁴ As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance;¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. **1 Peter 1:14-16***

Assignment

- 1. Please summarise what you learnt of the imagination.*
- 2. Please summarise what you learnt of the human will.*
- 3. Please summarise what you learnt of the emotion.*
- 4. Please summarise what you learnt of the motives / intention.*

5. What is sanctification? Why is it needed in the Body of Yeshua, Jesus?

CHAPTER 6: CARNALITY OR FLESHLY LIFE VS SPIRITUAL LIFE

Part A. What is the Flesh?

From a biblical point of view, the flesh is the state of being where the soul and physical body are in cahoots (alignment or combine). When these two faculties are aligned and the soul is in authority over the body, the spirit man is suppressed and functions well below par. Another biblical name for this state is “carnality”.

Carnality therefore means a state in which a believer is ruled, moved, and inspired to believe and act based on what the Five Carnal senses suggest rather than what the Holy Spirit says. In effect, this is a life lived by what is SEEN, HEARD, TOUCHED/ FELT, TASTED or SMELT! In a Christian, who is genuinely regenerated, carnality is the clearest sign of backsliding into a state of low life!

The reason is simple: with the new birth experience, saints are designed to live by faith as they ‘see’ by the inner man, hear from the Holy Spirit and act only when prompted by Him.

“¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17

“¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.¹¹ But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident; for, The just shall live by faith.” Galatians 3:10-11

“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:38

Carnality is therefore the number one enemy of the spiritual walk as Apostle Paul eloquently discloses:

“⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:5-8

Carnality or soul-led worship will lead anywhere but to the God of the Scriptures! This is because it is contrary to what Elohim has decreed by an immutable law that true worship needs to be in spirit and truth.

*²¹ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.²² Ye worship ye know not what; we know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews.²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him. **John 4:21-23.***

The flesh tends to religion and religiosity and cannot obtain victory over sin as **Romans 7:1-25** expounds. Because flesh and blood cannot possess the kingdom, those who live this way are unable to make much progress in their journey of faith. A careful reading of **Romans chapters 6 and 8** offer us a glimpse into the quality of life that Elohim God wants us to live – the Spirit-led life!

Soul-driven worship

The entire pseudo-kingdom gospel and its sibling, the Mountain climbing movement deceive their followers to pursue raw ambitions under the guise that they are engaged in 'vision' or 'purpose'. Unfortunately, what they lead the unwary into can actually be classified as soul worship!

The pseudo-kingdom gospel is based on these planks:

- Minimise the Person and central importance of the Biblical Yeshua, Jesus as Centre, and Circumference of the Kingdom.
- Exalt the position of man as the true centre of the universe. The core issues that are strenuously packaged as revelation by almost all strands of the pseudo-kingdom gospel is that the Kingdom of God is actually all about "you" the individual possessing all things you desire, to 'be fulfilled' on planet earth. With powerful imagery and beautiful prose, their purveyors play on something that is deep in the soul of every human being; take charge and control of your own life and destiny!

To cap their pernicious doctrines, the pseudo-kingdom gospel basically asks you to forget about the return of Yeshua Jesus and even brands such talk as "religion." This greatest of false religions specifically foisted on saints by Satan is actually an alternative gospel with an alternative Jesus who is not really The Divine Saviour, Redeemer, and Lord but merely our "senior brother."

· Because the pseudo-kingdom gospel denies the claims of the scripture and minimises the real and full identity of Yeshua, Jesus as very God and very man, its assignment is basically to deceive as many as possible to think they are pressing into the kingdom whereas they are pressing into the bosom of Satan! It is the religion of man. Because its adherents have rejected the real Jesus, they will miss the sound of the trumpet, which they also minimise. In effect, adherents of the pseudo-kingdom gospel are actually preparing some who may have been saints before to receive the mark of the Beast.

Part B. The spirit-led life, is led by Holy Spirit

True spiritual life is one in which the redeemed human spirit actively leads the soul and body and in turn is led by Holy Spirit in all things. The new birth experience is a spiritual encounter of the spirit of humans with the Holy Spirit of Elohim which makes it to come alive.

“³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” John 3:3-9

“¹ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” Ephesians 2:1-3

The human spirit is awakened from the place of death in Sin, and receives by Faith, the Salvation Elohim offered freely as an act of Grace.

*“⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, **(by grace ye are saved;)**⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus ⁸ **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:4-10***

In summary, we are born again by Faith that is exercised on Who Yeshua, Jesus Is and what He accomplished for us at the Cross of Calvary. Saints are designed to live by faith as they ‘see’ by the inner man, hear from the Holy Spirit and act only when prompted by Him.

*“¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” **Romans 1:16-17***

“¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.¹¹ But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident; for, The just shall live by faith.” Galatians 3:10-11

“Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:38

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.² For by it the elders obtained a good report...⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:1-2,6

The Kingdom is evidential

As we continue on this intensely practical course, let us receive what the Lord is bringing forth as the pathway to the Kingdom life which we receive on the inside, and which should be manifest to all who are in contact with us.

*“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:²¹ Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” **Luke 17:21***

When we live by Faith, it adds flavour to wherever we are in a self-evident manner, just as Salt is a self-evident catalyst which adds value to food. You do not need to tell anyone to come and see Light. This is because light is self-evident especially in an environment of darkness.

*“¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” **Matthew 5:13-16.***

Nothing is amusing to Satan as the loquacious profession of people to have the Kingdom when their lives, teachings and ministry pattern and focus offer contrary evidence! Sad is the sight of Christians who carry great baggage of wounded souls and bodies craving for fulfilment of personal, fleshly ambitions that are contrary to the divine purpose, who cannot rest until they have exacted vengeance against real or perceived enemies. Their profession of faith is rather empty and cannot make them to function as witnesses of Yeshua, Jesus.

The Kingdom of Elohim God is self-evident in the lives of people who are fully subject to Him based on His Constitution and not the doctrines of men. An innumerable company of saints triumphant, as recorded in the Hebrews 11, reveal the way the Lord wants His Kingdom citizens to live.

Apart from Yeshua, Jesus Himself, there is no man who ever lived on planet earth to who was committed a greater revelation of the Kingdom life on earth than the former murderer of Tarsus, Paul. Paul himself exemplified the principles of the Kingdom and documented his journey of faith in great detail. In the closing chapter of this age, Satan has raised worldly men of great intellectual capacity who have turned the gospel of the Kingdom into lasciviousness. These men have gone against the truth of scripture with vehemence, teaching as Kingdom truths, doctrines of devils and of men.

“⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Matthew 15:8-9

Between the revelations God granted Paul in the epistles to the Romans, Galatians, Ephesians; Philippians and Colossians, a number of self-evident truths come forth regarding how to walk in the Spirit so that the spirit-man takes its rightful place as leader of the other two dimensions of man (the soul and the body). The spirit man, in turn, is designed to be led by Holy Spirit. To understand and live by this principle is to live the spiritual life.

“⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.¹⁰ And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;” Romans 8:9-16

When the pattern so clearly set forth in the Word is understood and applied, we will be able to worship Elohim God in Spirit and in Truth as Yeshua, Jesus Himself declared.

*“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him.²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. **John 4:23-24***

Scriptural Principles for Living the spiritual life!

Satan will do anything to obfuscate the truth that the New Birth experience occurs in the spirit-man. The truth is that though born again, the saint still has the responsibility to cooperate with and yield to Holy Spirit Whose mandate is to work out the fullness of Yeshua in the realm of the soul (mind, will and emotion) and physical body! This is the import of the Word

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ; **Philippians 1:6***

*"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." **Philippians 2:13***

Ultimately, it is He Who sanctifies us wholly by rooting out all vestiges of the Adamic nature which manifest in the soul and body, using the power of the Word and the Blood of Yeshua to accomplish the cleansing.

²² *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*²³ *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ²⁴ *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.* **1 Thessalonians 5:22-24**

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*¹³ *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.* **Hebrews 4:12-13**

Sanctification enables our spirit-man to live above the motions of the flesh. Those who are sanctified are able to live by Faith, escaping the snares of the five carnal senses. It enables a Christian to walk by Faith, not by sight which is the remit of the five carnal senses.

We trust Elohim that His Holy Spirit will enables us to abandon the ways of the flesh and surrender our vessels to Him for guidance and empowerment in righteousness. Then we can rest in Him and give Him the right of way to use our vessels to manifest the divine purpose.

Assignment:

1. *What did you learn about Flesh and Carnality?*
2. *In what way do they fight the dominance of the spirit-man and Holy Spirit.*
3. *What else did you learn?*

CHAPTER 7: GROWING IN GRACE

Understanding the human nature will motivate us to embrace the inside out transformation of life which produces fruit that others can see when they encounter us. In this way we produce proof that the Kingdom of God is not in mere profession of words but in demonstration of the power of a truly reformed life from inside out!

“For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.” 1 Corinthians 4:20

Apostle Peter exhorts all saints to avoid the tendency to think they have arrived but rather grow in grace. His conclusion is that those who lack these virtues, though they may shout from the rooftop that they are in the Kingdom, are short-sighted and even blind with lives that are no better than when they were in the unbelieving state.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18

“⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall;¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:5-11

Unfortunately, Satan wants saints to believe a twisted version that as long as they are born again, nothing more is required of them other than to “hang in there with Jesus” or claim that they are Kingdom citizens by slogans, even with excess baggage of a life sorely in need of an extra touch of the Cross.

The favourite scripture that is used to advance this view is ***Romans 8:1(a)***

“There is now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus...”

Dangerous doctrine ensues whenever men twist scriptures out of context, picking and choosing what they want! Part b of ***Romans 8:1*** that is often unquoted holds the key to the meaning of what Elohim is saying “who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit”. In effect, ***Romans 8:1*** sets forth a profound truth: Those who are in Yeshua, Jesus will receive no condemnation if their spirit-man, led by the Holy Spirit, takes pre-eminence over the flesh. The evidence of this will be the fact that they are no longer ruled by the flesh or carnal nature (their souls and physical bodies).

Romans 8:2-17 goes on to expound some of the most glorious truths in the New Covenant related to spiritual growth of saints.

Verses 2 and 3 say: The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death which ruled man under the Old Covenant. In other words, what man could not attain by self-effort or by the system of rituals and religious observances of old in trying to please Elohim God was accomplished for us when Yeshua, Jesus died on our behalf at the Cross and signed our Bill of Freedom with His own blood! **Romans 8:4-9** tell us some profound truths: the liberty in Yeshua is reserved for saints who press on to have their carnal nature (soul + body) subjected to the authority and power of the Cross!

*“⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.⁵For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.⁶For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” **Romans 8:4-9***

Holy Spirit then goes ahead to make some equally strong demands on saints who yearn to walk in sonship and are ready for the day when Yeshua, Jesus will appear to release the glorious bodies of His faithful. They must deny their flesh (soul + body) the pre-eminence they desire. The reason is that the spirit of man is where the Holy Spirit resides right from the day of the new birth. See how it is stated in **Romans 8:12-17**

*“¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” **Romans 8:12-17.***

Additional guidance for Spiritual dominance over the flesh

In addition, the Holy Spirit uses Paul again to set forth in clear language the dangers of the soul-led life. The downward descent of life to the state where the person who was presumably born again is no longer able to possess the Kingdom at its fullness is set out with precision. Saint, please pay attention here:

*¹⁶This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.¹⁷For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. **Galatians 5:16-21***

As we abide in Yeshua (**John 15:1-8**) and cooperate with Holy Spirit, He infuses our spirit-man with strength which manifests as 'fruit', not 'works'.

*²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. **Galatians 5:22-24***

In the epic epistle to the Ephesians, Holy Spirit again uses Paul to bring forth some uncomfortable truths. It is opposite to state that Ephesians is possibly one of the scriptures that Satan twists to present the doctrine of the New Plastic Cross. Satan does it by making so called Kingdom preachers to dwell on twisted interpretations of Chapters 1, 2 and possibly 3 which deal with what Yeshua did for us to the exclusion of chapters 4, 5, 6 which focus on responsibilities of saints to walk in the Light of His glory. Those who prefer to believe the ensuring half of truth and toy with their eternal states cannot blame Elohim God when they come face to face with their deserved future!

Nowhere in the New Covenant are saints permitted to live by their soul (mind, will, emotion) or the motions of their physical bodies. Nowhere does Elohim God permit any saint to suggest that the New Covenant has no rules! Rules of the New Covenant are righteous principles of godliness which those who are indeed redeemed recognise as needful and embrace same by Faith, relying on the grace released by indwelling Holy Spirit to live them out.

In this regard, it is needful to use the framework of fixed components of the Kingdom to see how these things work out in everyday living. Every Kingdom has four fixed constants or pillars amongst many others:

1. A King Who is a Supreme Ruler. Yeshua, Jesus, the God-Man is The King of the Kingdom. The Kingdoms of this world have a limited span. As yet, they are permitted to stay under the suzerainty of Satan who keeps them through deceit and lies. A day is coming, however, when the Kingdoms of this world will become His Kingdom as **Revelation 11:15** reveals. In that day, Yeshua, Jesus will return in glory, vanquish the armies of this world and their kings. He will set up The Kingdom and rule with as many saints who were faithful in what was committed to them on this side of eternity. **Luke 19:11-28**

*⁶ And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.⁷ Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.⁸ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning, and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. **Revelation 1:6-8***

*⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth. **Revelation 5:9,10***

*⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. **Revelation 20:4-6***

Those who will be part of this glorious future phase of the Kingdom are those who willingly submit to the Sovereign rule of Yeshua as King and Lord in every dimension of life, not just Saviour.

2. A Constitution or rule book which states the rights, privileges, and obligations of citizens. The Bible is our constitution which no man has the right to tamper with it.

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

True saints do not struggle with the Word. Rather, they embrace the word as Truth which is to be lived out by Grace of Elohim.

3. Dominion is the sphere of the realm of the Kingdom. The dominion incorporates all those who are subject to the Sovereign rule of Yeshua in the present dimension of the Kingdom. Why is it so? The whole world system lies in the hand of the wicked one, rejects the authority of Elohim God and will progressively grow away from Him until Yeshua, Jesus returns to put down their rebellion, put Satan where he belongs then rule and reign on earth.

“And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.” 1 John 5:19

At Calvary Yeshua, Jesus judged Satan, paid the price for the original sin of Adam so that all those who receive what He did for them will be liberated and set free to the glorious liberty of sons. It is not all who claim to be saved who are part of the dominion of God, but rather those who submit to His reign and rule in every department of life. Let us note that whereas the Domain is the territory over which a King rules, His dominion represents people who are subject to the King. While the whole earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, *(Psalm 24:1)*, only the truly redeemed are subject to His authority. They are not fair-weather Christians but are committed to their walk with the Lord even where suffering for the faith is required. This tendency qualifies them to be joint heirs with Yeshua, Jesus!

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;*¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*¹⁹ *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. **Romans 8:16-19***

4. Ambassadors of the King who represent him at the court of other Kings. In this present life, we are called out of the world to be Ambassadors to it representing Yeshua, Jesus as His witnesses.

*⁹ I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine...¹⁴ I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **John 17:9,14-16***

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

To be able to live out the ambassadorial life, saints need to press further into the Lord, laying hold of the grace poured out at Calvary to become truly spiritual beings who do not judge or act according to what their carnal senses suggest but in reality, die to their old man and carnal natures. This way, they simply become mere vessels to contain, carry and manifest the life of the risen Messiah!

Here is a treatise on how saints should deal with their soul-driven life so that their spirit man can spring forth to manifest the life of Yeshua.

¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles Walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰But ye have not so learned Christ; ²¹If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus; ²²That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. ²⁵Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour; for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath; ²⁷Neither give place to the devil. ²⁸Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. ²⁹Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; ³²And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" **Ephesians 4:17-32**

We do not cherry pick which instruction to obey and which to disregard or disobey. If the Holy Spirit is given space to do the work of sanctification with the Word, we will be delivered from the motions of the flesh which produce the negative works.

Paul proceeds to tell us another inconvenient truth: saints have a responsibility to work out our salvation with fear and trembling and places some degree of responsibility to maintain what has been graciously received:

¹²Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.¹³For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without murmurings and disputings; ¹⁵That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
Philippians 2:12-15

In the book of **Colossians chapter 3:1-17**, Paul the Apostle was inspired to challenge those who claim to be saints to press into the actual possession of the Kingdom by what they reject and what they bring on board. The challenge is simple: if we are indeed risen with the Messiah, the focus of life should be Him alone! When there is such intense focus on Him, it reflects on our attitudes to the things of this world which consume ordinary humans and the choices we make.

The saint is required to choose the pure over the impure; right over wrong and to do everything to the glory of Elohim God. These instructions are easy to obey for those who truly are Kingdom citizens. These are saints who have renounced their right to self-ownership and handed over all of their beings – spirit, soul, and body – to Yeshua Jesus to be Lord and Supreme Ruler.

¹If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. ⁵Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry; ⁶For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience; ⁷In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. ⁸But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

¹⁰And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him; ¹¹Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹²Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. ¹⁴And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him **Colossians 3:1-17**

Assignment

1. Share 3 main takeaways for you from this chapter.

Understanding Human Nature - 2nd Edition

CHAPTER 8: THE KEY TO THE KINGDOM LIFE

(a) Sanctification of the Soul

We will need to dig deeper into the two realms of human nature that combine to function as the flesh or carnal nature: the soul and the body, and specific issues concerning their sanctification. It has been variously declared that the human being is made up of three distinct but congruent components—the spirit, soul, and body—based on ***Genesis 2:7***. The soul in turn has three compartments, namely: the Mind; the Will and the Emotion.

The mind is made up of:

1. The intellect (physically known as the brain) which processes information from outside and inside the body,
2. The memory which stores information and
3. The imagination which is the creative base of the soul with capacity to “see” things that are not yet visible and plan their creation just as God does. Every invention of man is a function of the interplay of his intellect, memory, and imagination!

The mind is a very powerful tool of self-preservation. It therefore tends to frame every activity within the context of self. This is the root issue in selfishness and self-centeredness'. When the mind is applied to spiritual issues, the result can be devastating in that religiosity and dead works become evident. It also fuels a hypocritical life.

When the mind engages with the emotion, a dangerous cocktail of secular humanism results! These scriptures show that we cannot find Elohim God through exertions of the natural mind.

*⁷ Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?⁸ It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?⁹ The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea. **Job 11:7-9***

*¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.¹⁵ But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:14-16***

The mind has a natural tendency to think in carnal terms while God demands death of the old man before we can serve Him acceptably. Unfortunately, Satan has successfully caused humans to attempt to serve God out of their minds and emotions rather than in their spirit-man. **(John 4:23-24)**. Our heavenly Father demands obedience, not the exertions of our soul! This spiritual blindness leads many to try to circumvent the Holy Scriptures and invent pseudo-Kingdom messages which appeal to human reason. **2 Corinthians 4:1-6**.

The unsanctified emotion can be unstable, gravitating towards highs and lows of love, dislike based on feelings that respond to external stimuli. It tends to pursue happiness, which is soulish response to things we experience or receive rather than Joy which is a fruit of the Spirit and therefore more desirable state.

The Motives that have not experienced inward cleansing will corrupt most of the words and actions of believers. Elohim searches the hearts and will not accept good deeds done with corrupt motives.

The will which has not experienced the deeper work of sanctification tends to self-preservation and self-projection. This is unacceptable to He Who has eyes that are pure and cannot behold iniquity. It is the will which is surrendered to embrace and pursue the will of the Father in all situations that displays sonship.

The Grand Key to spiritual success: Sanctification of the Soul!

Religion tends to pursue holiness with the wrong tools: a list of do's and don'ts which people are expected to keep in order to be outwardly pious, even if their inner man: spirit, soul are unhealthy. We are told to avoid this pathway: **Mark 2:6-8, 16-23.**

The natural mind cannot truly serve the Lord!

*⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. **Romans 8:5-8***

*But **the** natural man **receiveth not the** things of **the** Spirit of God; for **they** are foolishness unto him; neither can he know **them**, because **they** are spiritually discerned. **1 Corinthians 2:14***

In the Kingdom, the way to achieve inner purity involves sanctification of the spirit, soul, and body with spiritual means as the saints respond to our heavenly Father's call.

¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1: 15-16

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1

A core revelation of this course is the reality that Elohim is willing and ever ready to sanctify us wholly!

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Indicators that a saint needs sanctification of the Soul

In everyday life, there are some manifestations of the carnal nature which the Lord wants to deal with and root out of every saint:

Inherent capacity for internal sins like jealousy, envy, and other negative emotions such as bitterness, anger, wrath, anxiety, worry, and unbelief.

Easy tendency to take offense over things that do not work the way one intended.

Disappointment with people who do not meet your expectations or when things are outside your control.

An easy tendency to be hurt in the emotions because of unhealed damages and wounds in the emotional realm that are ever fresh to the extent that the least stimuli trigger them.

The pride of life, desire to be seen, desire to be commended for doing what is normal duty.

Manifestation of a super-soul. This is a highly developed intellect or charisma which seeks pre-eminence.

These and many more are simply manifestations of diseases in the soul which negate ability of Christians to be holy and live out Kingdom principles. This corrupts their ability to truly see Elohim in prayer and, worse still, they may miss the rapture and the eternal state of bliss with Elohim after 'serving' Him, here on earth. ***Hebrews 12:14-17, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27***

Outcome of sanctification in the soul:

1. The sanctified soul is one which has been dethroned from leadership of the being. As the spirit man takes ascendancy as prime mover of life, the saint acts according to the dictates and leading of Holy Spirit.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” Romans 8:14

2. The saint is thus able to live by faith and not by sight as he/she used to do.

“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” 2 Corinthians 5:7.

3. The sanctified life is one where the supreme love of God takes root.

4. The sanctified soul can love without limits, void of corruption. For instance, it is able to relate with and love people of the opposite gender without sin or hidden agendas.

5. It can do good out of a pure heart without seeking recognition and reciprocation!

6. The sanctified soul will recognize the limits of your anointing and spiritual gifting and receive what others release so that the Body of Yeshua can be built up by what every joint supplies (***Ephesians 4:11-16***). It therefore does not compete but rather complements others.

7. The sanctified soul does not rebel against authority because there is a right alignment within the being!

8. The sanctified soul knows that only Yeshua redeemed and owns them. Neither religious/spiritual leaders nor governments can claim ownership or demand allegiance which negatively impacts their relationship with our heavenly Father.

9. Sanctification enables a saint to walk in righteousness of the Kingdom which ***Matthew 6:33*** says that we should seek, even as we yearn for and wait for the return of Yeshua Jesus to rule and reign. In other words, the Lord calls His own to live in the present for the future! Live in the light of the eternal phase of the Kingdom giving no one and anything any cause to make you miss the world to come!

10. Those who press into this state are able to represent Yeshua, Jesus before men in this present time because they are His Ambassadors to an alien world, and the royal priesthood. ***1 Peter 2:9-12***

11. He rules and reigns their spirit, soul, and body. They have no other agenda than to be yielded vessels through which the King of kings demonstrates His Person, Character and Power to a dying and lost world.

12. They dare not charge any fee for anyone to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit they received freely, nor can they afford the dainties and fancies of this present world which will assuredly come to an end one day! **1 John 2:15-17**

This is the Kingdom life which does not consist of food and drink but manifests in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit! **Romans 14:17-19**. Saints, in all thy getting, get this qualitative Kingdom life! Do not be deceived by vain words of those who make the Kingdom of God a one liner and turn it into a doctrine of man, devoid of the power of the transformed soul!

Two critical facts stand out concerning sanctification

1. It is the perfect will of our heavenly Father to sanctify us completely in the realm of the soul so that the natural tendency to gravitate towards or yield to sin is rooted out of the saints.

This is expressed in

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

³ For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication;⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;⁵ Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God;⁶ That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter; because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.⁷ For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.⁸ He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: **Philippians 1:6**

With sanctification, our whole being (spirit, soul, and body) is preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus. At this point, Elohim corrects a distortion in the human persona. He restores our spirit man to lead the whole body. The soul with its proclivity to carnality (walking by sight, sound, touch, smell) is thus subjected to the spirit man which is where Holy Spirit resides and leads those who live and walk by faith.

It is in this way that we can by Grace come to a state of holiness 24/7 without struggle because we are empowered to love righteousness and hate iniquity, just like Yeshua in **Hebrews 1:9**. This is the best place to be since no one knows the hour when Yeshua, Jesus will return. It is the pure in heart who will hear the sound of the Trumpet and “see God” on that day. It is this state of heart which is able to penetrate the spheres of first and second heaven to approach His Throne of Grace in prayer.

*¹⁴ Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:¹⁵ Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; **Hebrews 12:14-15***

¹ Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.³ He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.⁵ He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.” **Psalm 15:1-5**

³ Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?⁴ He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.⁵ He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.⁶ This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. **Psalm 24:3-6.**

2. Elohim does not impose sanctification on us. He requires our willing cooperation. Sanctification thus calls for a DIVINE-HUMAN PARTNERSHIP. **Philippians 2:12-16** outline our part and the consequences of receiving His touch. Our part in the process is yearning for the experience, praying earnestly, in faith and yielding to the inward work of the Holy Spirit!

2.1 We should never relax with our salvation experience or base our Kingdom life on the theories and suppositions of men. The Lord wants us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him to have the self-life (also called old man or better still the soul) crucified with Him.

*²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." **Matthew 16:24-25***

When this sanctification experience happens as Paul describes, we no longer live but the Messiah lives in and through us, manifesting and demonstrating the Kingdom life through our vessels.

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20***

The Two dimensions of sanctification:

Instant/Crises dimension: Sanctification is a gift from our heavenly Father requiring strong desire and faith that are released at the place of persistent prayer until the experience comes through as the Adamic nature or Old Man is rooted out. This is the crises dimension of sanctification.

Progressive dimension: All through our lives, we are to allow the Holy Spirit to utilize every challenge, fire of affliction, and all manner of problems encountered to work out in us greater realms of Grace. It is never ending because we still live in an imperfect world filled with imperfect people, even in the Kingdom. They will knowingly or unknowingly step on our toes. People have lifestyles that are at variance with ours, so there will always be things that seek to irritate and agitate us.

We find this progressive sanctification on a fast track if only we heed one critical counsel found in ***Philippians 2:12-16***: avoid murmuring and disputations when you encounter a challenge or difficulty. Rather believe that our ever-loving heavenly Father allowed it to happen as an instrument of victory! Even if it was a stumbling block Satan placed to block you, believe that it will become the very pedestal on which Elohim God will place you and display His glory!

Joseph the son of Jacob understood this principle and turned out to be an outstanding saint who was never bitter with life, even when the turns seemed bad (***Genesis 45:1-8***) This lifelong dimension was also demonstrated by the outstanding vessel, Paul in ***Philippians 3:1-16***. This is why Holy Spirit used Paul to pen these immortal words of ***Romans 8:28-39*** and ***2 Corinthians 12:7-10***.

We thus never really 'arrive' until we breathe the last breath! We are progressively wiser, more mature, more patient, more understanding of human frailties both in us and in others! This is a truly humbling thought! If there are four words which sums up our role in the entire process, they are these: Yearning/Desire, Prayer; Faith and Yielding to Holy Spirit!

Elohim is pleased when we embrace every challenge that comes our way with equanimity and prayerfully turn them over to Him in full assurance of faith that He will see us through. Our Father wants us to trust that He will not allow any situation beyond our capacity of grace to come upon us.

*¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. **1 Corinthians 10:13.***

In all situations, our focus is no longer what people say or do but rather, our reactions, attitudes and responses. With this mindset, we enter into His Rest!

Assignment

1. Please share 5 things you received from this chapter.

CHAPTER 9: THE KEY TO KINGDOM LIFE

(b) Perfecting Holiness in the Body

Let us start by reflecting on the import of this scripture which was written in the context of the instructions for godly living which precludes immorality in **1 Corinthians chapters 5 and 6:**

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God. **2 Corinthians 7:1***

A. The Physical Body as a marvel of creation

The human body is one of the most complex yet beautifully woven works of art ever created by God! In **Genesis chapter 2:7** we see that whereas God spoke the heavens and earth into being, He uniquely created man out of the dust of the earth! **Psalms 139** captures the beauty of human nature:

*¹³ For thou hast possessed my reins; thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.¹⁷ How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!¹⁸ If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. **Psalms 139:13-18***

Here is how one internet site describes parts of the human body. While we are not experts to independently verify, we believe the statistics are very plausible:

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN NATURE

- The average human brain has about 100 billion nerve cells.
- Nerve impulses to and from the brain travel as fast as 170 miles (274 km) per hour.
- The stomach needs to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks, or it would digest itself.
- It takes the interaction of 72 different muscles to produce human speech.
- The average life of a taste bud is 10 days.
- Human thigh bones are stronger than concrete.
- Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.
- It takes the stomach an hour to break down cow milk.
- The average human head weighs about 8 pounds.
- In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of 5 times around the equator.
- An average human scalp has 100,000 hairs.
- The average human blinks their eyes 6,205,000 times each year.
- The skull is made up of 29 different bones.
- After you die, your body starts to dry out creating the illusion that your hair and nails are still growing after death.
- Hair is made from the same substance as fingernails.
- The average surface of the human intestine is 656 square feet (200 m).
- A healthy adult can draw in about 200 to 300 cubic inches (3.3 to 4.9 litres) of air at a single breath, but at rest only about 5% of this volume is used.
- The surface of the human skin is 6.5 square feet (2m).
- 15 million blood cells are destroyed in the human body every second.
- The human body is comprised of 80% water.
- The average human will shed 40 pounds of skin in a lifetime.
- Every year about 98% of the atoms in your body are replaced.
- The human heart creates enough pressure to squirt blood 30 feet (9 m).

- You were born with 300 bones. When you get to be an adult, you have 206.
- There are 45 miles (72 km) of nerves in the skin of a human being.
- The average human heart will beat 3,000 million times in its lifetime and pump 48 million gallons of blood.
- During a 24-hour period, the average human will breathe 23,040 times.
- Human blood travels 60,000 miles (96,540 km) per day on its journey through the body.

B. Lust and Cravings of the soul: chief issue of the human body

The human body has its own kinds of cravings which may war against true spirituality. Because the physical body lives within a fallen world and corrupt environment, it is normally “pulled” towards that which catches its attention and holds its interest. Because the body is created to be a medium or vessel, it can make no interpretation of external stimuli on its own. It rather relies on the soul to interpret what it sees, hears, touches, feels, and smells.

If the soul is sanctified and subject to the spirit man which in turn is subject to the Holy Spirit, it will transmit warning of danger to the physical body concerning an object of temptation. The exertion of the soul will thus prevent the body from venturing further into the actual state of sin.

If the soul is unsanctified, its interpretation of what the body makes contact with or is exposed to will trigger negative motions which deconstruct the body further and make it progress towards sin. This tendency to crave for what is worldly, sinful, or negatively impact spirituality is called Lust. Lusting after what Elohim specifically prohibits in Constitution of the Kingdom is the root of all sin, just as it was for Eve in the Garden of Eden.

*¹From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?² Ye lust, and have not; ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain; ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.⁴ Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.⁵ Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? **James 4:1-5***

¹ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.³ For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries;"

1 **Peter 4:1-3**

Instead of taking responsibility and crying to The Father for mercy, some people are prone to give excuses when they permit/allow their physical bodies to basically drag them down to sins of various types. Some even blame Elohim God while others are quick to blame Satan. Here is what **James 1:13-15** says to such situations:

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man;¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. **James 1:13-15**

Satan has no power to force a saint to sin against his or her will. He can tempt, seduce through throwing fiery darts of negative suggestions/thoughts designed to make evil appear desirable, just as he demonstrated with Eve in **Genesis 3:1-6**. The truth is that ALL saints have the capacity in Yeshua to resist Satan and refuse his solicitations to sin because of the victory Yeshua procured for us at the Cross.

*“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” **John 10:10***

*⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. **1 Peter 5:8-9***

Body needs to be brought under subjection through spiritual discipline

When the body is left alone, it can go rogue towards sinful proclivities. That is why it needs to be brought under subjection to leadership of Holy Spirit and the sanctified soul. When it is thus aligned, the body ceases to act independently. Spiritual disciplines like constant study of the word, creates knowledge and understanding of the mind of the Father and an inward purification of impulses. By regular, consistent prayers, there is heightened awareness of the presence of Elohim.

Worst sin against the Body: Immorality!

In **1 Corinthians chapter 6** we learn that sins against the body are grievous indeed in the sight of God and can cost perpetrators access to ultimate state of the Kingdom.

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

12 *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.* **13** *Meats [1] for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.* **14** *And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.* **15** *Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.* **16** *What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.* **17** *But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.* **18** *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.* **19** *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* **20** *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.* **1 Corinthians 9-20**

A Fallacy: “it does not matter what we do with the Body”

Those who claim that it does not matter what we do with the Body as long as we have 'a relationship with The Father' are clinging to a fallacy! True Salvation is by Grace through Faith. Those who are saved are required to give their physical bodies the space to become conduits of manifesting the nature, presence and power of Yeshua Who reigns supreme in the heart. This is the basis for these scriptures which prove that true faith produces holy works of the Body:

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble.²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the Friend of God.²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. **James 2:17-26**

¹ Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,² To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.³ For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.⁴ But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;⁶ Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;⁷ That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." **Titus 3:1-8**

Sins of the Body

The Body is a house for the spirit and soul. To that extent, what is done by the human while alive will be accounted for. When a human exercises faith in the Blood sacrifice of Yeshua on Calvary Cross, there is redemption which produces a new creature in the spirit-man according to ***Ephesians 2:1-10*** and ***2 Corinthians 5:17***. The realms of the soul, and body need to be continuously brought into alignment with and under leadership of the spirit-man which is in turn to be led by Holy Spirit. To that extent, if the saint remained in the Lord until death, living in obedience, as it pleases Elohim, the Body will not be a candidate for eternal damnation in the lake of Fire and Brimstone. On the resurrection morning or Day of Rapture, the saints will receive celestial bodies to be ushered to the Judgement Seat of Yeshua to give account.

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.¹¹ Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.¹² For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.¹³ For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.¹⁴ For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead;¹⁵ And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.¹⁶ Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh; yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. **2 Corinthians 5:10-16**

For saints, this will not be a judgement unto condemnation for purposes of eternal damnation. It will rather count for or against us concerning the rewards in the hereafter for faithfulness to Elohim God and His Kingdom in the present. On that day, all the things which were done in the secret, including motives for getting into and running ministry; life on Facebook, other social media and telephone conversations; how we related to Brethren of the opposite gender; how faithfully we executed the Kingdom assignment for which we were redeemed will be brought to play before the Just Judge of the whole earth.

*²² For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was anything kept secret, but that it should come abroad. **Mark 4:22.***

Need to esteem our bodies highly without idolisation

There is a temptation to downplay the significance and importance of the Body because of our focus on heaven. But Elohim did not make a mistake when He created the human body with such an exquisite design that we saw at the beginning of this chapter. Though perishable, with an expiry date called death, the human body is, ultimately, designed to be as a tabernacle of Holy Spirit as **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** says. In addition, it is the tabernacle of both the spirit-man and soul, the eternal part of our beings. In order to truly fulfil divine purpose and stand before Elohim in the hereafter, we need to acknowledge, understand and invest in the wellbeing of the body. Those who ignore this reality can give room for the enemy to afflict the body, leading to diseases which ground the spirit and soul from optimal functioning or worse still, cause premature death.

*For we know that **if our earthly house** of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a **house** not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2 Corinthians 5:1***

*¹³Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;¹⁴ Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. **2 Peter 1:13-14***

That Elohim is interested in the wholeness and wellness of our entire being: spirit, soul and body is not in any doubt.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 2:2

Without idolising it, let us cooperate with Him by taking good care, rather than ignore or be careless with the part called the Body. Things like appropriate, healthy food, sufficient water, exercise to keep the systems going and healthy choices concerning relationships and interactions with people who add value to our overall wellness and wholeness are conscious choices we need to make.

Assignment

- 1. How would you describe the body in the light of the revelations in this chapter?*
- 2. Please summarise the subsection titled “Lust and Cravings of the soul: chief issue of the human body*
- 3. Why should Christians take good care of their bodies?*

CHAPTER 10: GATES OF THE BODY, THEIR BESETTING SINS AND WAY OUT

A besetting sin is one in which a saint is prone to fall into more often than not. It is a sin that has developed a strong root, is like second nature, and occurs without effort. This is because it was not identified and dealt with when the Holy Spirit first revealed it. Consequently, deliverance from them may seem impossible, leading to a life of struggle and defeat. However, we have a sure word of Elohim concerning how to get the body out of 'habitual sins'.

*¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.⁴ Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. **Hebrews 12:1-4***

The first remedy is “Looking unto Yeshua, Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith”. He alone has the power to deliver, and He is ever willing to deliver to the uttermost and keep us safe and holy, if only we will let go of self-effort and commit all our lives to Him, withholding nothing and any part. The second key is in verse 4: to resist unto blood, striving against Sin. There has to be a holistic rejection of the power of Sin, shutting down all gates of seduction through which Satan entices us, and giving no room for the flesh. Elohim is able to deliver to the uttermost those who love righteousness, hate iniquity, and strive against sin, relying on Yeshua for victory!

*²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.²⁶ For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;²⁷ Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's; for this he did once, when he offered up himself.” **Hebrews 7:25-27***

*²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,²⁵ To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and ever. Amen.” **Jude 24-25.***

The Major Gates of the body

Cities and nations have gates through which people, spirits and goods enter. In the same way, the human body has external organs which function as gates or access points. As the spirit and soul is sanctified, the Lord releases the power of His grace which gives saints the capacity to intentionally guard the gates of their beings, shutting off the undesirable and evil while giving access only to what will edify or empower. In this chapter, we shall discuss 8 gates.

1. **Eyes** - The eyes have lids which can be shut or open at will. When our eyes are open, we can see all kinds of things – the wholesome, and edifying as well as the unwholesome, unedifying and outrightly evil. What makes the difference is the quality of our hearts and minds and the degree of discipline or self-control we exercise over what the eyes 'see'.

The problem lies with 'looking' at people or objects beyond what are reasonable and safe. Gazing intently at such objects causes the soul to lust after them or yearn for them and thus trigger negative passions and desires. This happens when a believer gazes either at a person, film/video, or picture of the opposite gender. Satan, who instigated that gaze, in the first place, then throws fiery darts of suggestions which activate lustful passions in those who are weak or ignorant. The result is lust, which is sin, as Jesus explained in the sermon on the Mount:

*²⁷ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery;²⁸ But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. **Matthew 5:27-28***

The solution of Yeshua may sound radical and impractical. The import however is that saint have the capacity to exercise the level of spiritual discipline which shuts down capacity of Satan to successfully use what is seen to trip them over.

*²⁹ And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." **Matthew 5:29***

The simplest advice to give saints is this: do not allow your physical body to be put in a situation where you have to struggle to come out of it. This includes allowing visitation at unholy hours by brethren from the opposite gender, even if engaged lawfully to marry. The marriage estate is a holy one and should be devoid of premarital sexual activity of any sort.

⁴ Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Hebrews 13:4

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. Hebrews 12:4

Here is the testimony of Job:

“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” Job 31:1

2. Ears – The fact that the ear is permanently open reveals that it is a potentially dangerous gate and also a potentially useful one. Even Jesus warned us to mind what we hear!

And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. Mark 4:24

The plan of Elohim God is that we are swift to hear but slow to speak.

¹⁹ Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;²⁰ For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." James 1:19-21

We are to guard our ears from gossip, backbiting, malicious communication, and unwholesome words. Our ears should not be an open dumpster infested with vermin that are crawling all over the inside. What this means is that what we hear should be processed against the backdrop of this framework to determine if it deserves further attention or be taken off our consciousness.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

The redeemed of the Lord have an awesome capacity to live out these precepts because they are inscribed in our hearts. What the Lord is looking for is our yieldedness and submission to His Lordship over all aspects of our lives including our responses to what we hear. In effect, he or she who would act on what is heard without first hearing from the Lord concerning what to do in response is displaying carnality which is simply to be ruled by what the natural senses suggest.

3. **Nose** – It is through the nose that we perceive and smell odours. What is perceived through the nostrils can trigger off the soul to interpret. As the soul interprets the odour, it can take over the body and respond to fiery darts or suggestions of the wicked one. There are men and women who have been destabilized by the scent of perfumes worn by people of the opposite gender. Knowing this truth, Satan instigates manufacturers to produce perfumes which emit powerful scents that are intended to “trap and kill” their victims! Whether you are male or female, allow the Holy Spirit to work through your conscience to question the motive behind the particular brand of perfume, body spray or cologne/after-shave you use. Is there any seductive disposition behind your preference?

4. **Skin** – The skin is a gate to the body, containing so many nerves which are capable of triggering emotions when used or touched wrongly at the wrong places. It is dangerous for saints to use their fingers to touch people of the same or opposite genders in regions of the body considered sensitive. This is because the nerves can convey messages whose interpretation can lead to sin. Kingdom culture requires that certain parts of the human body should be well covered.

*²² Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary;²³ And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.²⁴ For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. **1 Corinthians 12:22-24.***

For a sister to wear a dress which keeps half of the front or back bare is to walk without proper moral boundaries which can unleash negative instincts in brothers within the congregation. To claim that it does not matter is to display ignorance of the duty of care which requires saints to be charitable towards the weaker.

¹⁹ *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*²⁰ *For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.*²¹ *It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.*²² *Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.* **Romans 14:21-22**

¹ *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*² *Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.*³ *For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.* **Romans 15:1-3**

5. **Mouth /Tongue** - The mouth is a gate the enemy tries to use to get saints into a whole bunch of troubles including but not limited to:

- Lying and exaggeration.

"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour; for we are members one of another." **Ephesians 4:25**

- Boasting; hypocrisy; venting pride; talking down on the less privileged.

*He answered and said unto them, "Well hath Esaias prophesied of you **hypocrites**, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me."* **Mark 7:6**

- Venting anger in the soul; expressing wrath; clamour; swearing; cursing;

"Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." **Romans 12:14**

²⁶ *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath;...* ³¹ *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice";* **Ephesians 4:26, 31**

¹⁹ *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*²⁰ *For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."* **James 1:19-20**

There is extensive exposition of sins of the tongue in the New Testament.

¹ My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.² For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.³ Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.⁴ Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.⁷ For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind;⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.⁹ Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.¹¹ Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?¹² Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.¹³

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.¹⁴

*But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.¹⁶ For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”***James 3:1-16**

- Evil speech that does not glorify God including lewd remarks, sexual advances

²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. **Ephesians 4:29-30**

- Expressing racist, ethnic and gender chauvinism.

- Displaying greed and lack of moderation in eating food and drinking alcohol; smoking harmful substances such as cigarette/cigars.

“Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.”
Philippians 4:5

*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; **Ephesians 5:18***

The mouth/tongue should not be given space to start or respond to unholy communications. To walk in ignorance of potentially harmful weaknesses will lead a saint to start a fire, which when put into the bosom can burn with lust until sin occurs. Most sinful relationships start as casual conversation on social media which when not reigned in can destroy testimony.

*“Can a man take fire in his **bosom**, and his clothes not be burned?”
Proverbs 6:27*

*Set a watch, O Lord, before **my** mouth; keep the door of **my** lips.
Psalms 141:3*

6. **The Fingers** – In the age of the internet and computers, the fingers are extensively used to express all the sins of the tongue including lying, boasting, and seduction. In a contemporary sense, the fingers now represent “feet that run to do evil” **Proverbs 1:16**. We are called to be radical about deliverance from any evil propensity within the natural being.

*³⁰ And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.” **Matthew 5:30***

7. Feet – The feet signify the base of the entire being. Most sins involve a movement from the place of safety to a place of attraction which offers secret liaison for immoral pleasure; financial gratification; or indulgence in alcohol or other substances. Saints have no business to continue to patronise barbing shops or hair salons where the language and environment is toxic to spirituality.

*¹⁵ My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path;¹⁶ For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.¹⁷ Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. **Proverbs 1:15-17***

8. **Reproductive/Sexual Organs** – They are placed in the Body for use within the context of marriage only. There is no grey area of permission outside that context. Though the enemy may attempt variously to activate the soul to lust after what is not given to the individual saint, necessity behooves us to know by the Spirit to submit to the Lord our mortal bodies, obey His Word and keep our vessels pure from adultery (sexual relations involving a married person outside the spouse) and fornication (sexual relations involving single people).

*⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God....¹⁸ Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?²⁰ For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20***

Colossians 3:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 2 Timothy 2:22.

That one is engaged and will wed in Church the very next hour does not give a saint any excuse to get involved in pre-marital sexual activity! The sexual organs have been put in place by God for lawful procreation (***Genesis 1:28***) and legitimate pleasure in the context of godly marriage. (***Genesis 2:24,25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9***)

If you are a minister on mission, it is better to stay in homes of brethren than to prefer hotels.

*⁹ Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,¹⁰ Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.¹¹ And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.¹² And when ye come into an house, salute it.¹³ And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.” **Matthew 10:9-13***

If you have to stay in hotels, exercise due diligence in research to determine if the area is spiritually suitable or not. It is best practice to not allow visitors of the opposite gender to visit you alone even in the daytime!

Living proactively is always the key to living the clean, overcoming life! If Satan could tempt Yeshua, Jesus, no one in the Kingdom is immune. However, the fact that Yeshua, Jesus had victory on the basis of “It is written” tells us that our own victories are assured, if only we will heed wise counsel from the Word and wage effectually! **Matthew 4:1-11**. The key is to avoid presumption that we are too big to be tripped over by Satan.

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:12,13

9. The Mind and Emotion: Based on the extensive revelations we received in previous chapters, the Mind and Emotions are extraordinary gates in that they are within the soul, not on the Body. What we think on and how we feel about things or people will greatly influence what we do. Knowing these truths and giving the Holy Spirit space to do that which the Father ordains – guide, comfort, teach, sanctify and empower us with grace for each occasion in life.

Let this point be made again: If the soul is unsanctified, its interpretation of what the body makes contact with will trigger negative motions which deconstruct the body further and makes it progress towards sin. Instead of taking responsibility and crying to God for mercy, some people are prone to give excuses when they drag their physical bodies down to sins of various types. Some even blame God while others are quick to blame Satan. Here is what **James 1:13-15** says to such situations:

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man; ¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” James 1:13-15

5. Keys to deliverance from strongholds of the Body.

1. Know your own body system and determine what adds or subtracts value. Pray for and receive grace to keep the appetite under subjection to the spirit-man. “Eat to live and not live to eat” is a healthy mindset. Determine for instance, if sugar, egg, milk, cheese or other substances are good for you or not and what quantity is healthy or not. If coffee destabilizes your heart or body, abstain or reduce intake.

2. Mortify members of the Body. Let the Body be crucified to the point it is dead to certain impulses.

*⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry;⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience;⁷ In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; **Colossians 3:5-9***

3. Persistent prayer and fasting coupled with transparency and counselling.

Though impulses of the body can be quite strong, the new creature has a will power that is stronger. The yoke of destructive and addictive substances like alcohol, tobacco and abusive substances such as cocaine can be broken through persistent prayers and fasting. Because such strongholds can remain when hidden, being transparent and accountable will enable a saint in bondage to receive counselling and support from spiritual leaders. This approach can lead to breaking of such yokes.

4. Persist in yearning for sanctification of the Body so that it does not interfere with spirituality. We need, however, to do our part in abstaining from unhealthy choices and actions.

²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24

5. Above all, let us maintain a lively conscience in our spirit-man, which is always subject to the Holy Spirit. In this way we can discern the trajectory of sin from a distance, pray proactively to avoid the same. Those who do not mind their conscience and allow it to fail repeatedly simply get it to a seared state which is dangerous.

¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 1 Timothy 4:1-2.

Assignment

1. What are gates of the Body? Briefly sum up 5 of them.

2. Out of the 5 points for victory, summarise 3 of them.

3. What else did you learn?

CHAPTER 11: TRUE GRACE EMPOWERS US FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TO LIVE ABOVE SIN

This course has outlined in detail that the Lord does not leave us alone after Salvation to grapple with life in the earth realm like religious folks or other humans. Rather, He has made ample provisions for sanctifying us in the spirit, soul and body. This is accomplished through operation of His Holy Spirit, the power of the Word and the Cross (situation, people or things we encounter or suffer). In so doing, His purpose is twofold:

- Escape the corruption that is in the world through the natural tendency to lust for things which gratify the flesh.
- Enable us to live and walk in the divine nature of Elohim.

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue;⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:2-4

Salvation makes it possible for Yeshua to dwell in His fullness in our hearts as we submit to His sovereign rule without struggle. One outcome is the presence of sufficient grace to recognise the unprofitable motions of our beings. Furthermore, that same grace gives us the capacity to put off such certain negative/sinful dispositions and also the capacity to 'put on' the virtues that are needful to walk the walk and not merely talk the talk.

¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.²⁰ But ye have not so learned Christ;²¹ If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus;²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.²⁵ Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour; for we are members one of another.²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath;²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.²⁸ Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice;³²

*And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. **Ephesians 4:17-32***

Just as Faith without works is dead, sanctified souls have the capacity to reign in on their physical organs to line up with the holy propensities of their spirit-man which in turn is led by Holy Spirit! This is the path of true holiness: it leads to wholesome and pure conduct.

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble.²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the Friend of God.²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. **James 2:17-26**

¹ Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,² To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.³ For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.⁴ But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;⁶ Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;⁷ That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. **Titus 3:1-8**

Grace cannot be used as excuse to relapse into sin. Grace rather empowers us to have mastery over our flesh and use our members/organs for only righteous conduct.

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection;⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin.

*¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace.¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” **Romans 6:1-7, 11-18***

What Satan has successfully done is to try to deceive saints with false doctrines which suggest that once you are saved, nothing you do is counted against you! This dangerous doctrine simply turns the grace of God into lasciviousness and is based on twisting of scriptures. Let us examine the truths in some passages of the New Covenant which contain clear instructions for godly living by those who believe.

¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.¹⁵ But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. **Galatians 5:13-21**

¹⁷ *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,*¹⁸ *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;*¹⁹ *Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*²⁰ *But ye have not so learned Christ;*²¹ *If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus;*²² *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*²³ *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*²⁴ *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.* ²⁵ *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour; for we are members one of another.*²⁶ *Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath;*²⁷ *Neither give place to the devil.*²⁸ *Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*²⁹ *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*³⁰ *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*³¹ *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*³²

*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. **Ephesians 4: 17-32***

*¹ Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;² And Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.³ But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;⁴ Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.⁵ For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.⁶ Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.⁷ Be not ye therefore partakers with them.⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light;⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.¹² For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.¹³ But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.¹⁴ Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. **Ephesians 5:1-14***

⁶ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.⁷ For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:⁸ But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. **Hebrews 6:4-8**

²⁸ He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses;²⁹ Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **Hebrews 10:28-31**

¹⁷ *These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.*¹⁸ *For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.*¹⁹ *While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*²⁰ *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*²¹ *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*²² *But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.* **2 Peter 2:17-22**

⁹ But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;¹⁰ Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.¹¹ Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;¹² Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.¹³ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; whether it be to the king, as supreme;¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.¹⁵ For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men;¹⁶ As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.¹⁷ Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.¹⁹ For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.²⁰ For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.²¹

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps;²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth;²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously;²⁴

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed.²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. **1 Peter 2:9-25***

*⁷ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death. **Revelations 21:7-8***

*¹¹ He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still.¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.¹³ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.¹⁴ Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.¹⁵ For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. **Revelation 22:11-15***

Assignment

1. Make the case for 'True Grace empowers us for righteousness and to live above sin' as discussed in the concluding part of this chapter.
2. Which of these scriptures ministered most to you from this chapter, and what will you do with them?

CHAPTER 12: ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF SANCTIFICATION + 15

VITAL KEYS

**Constant Consciousness of the Body as Holy Temple of Elohim God
+ 12 Vital Keys**

Elohim, our heavenly Father and God wants us to be constantly conscious that through the Blood sacrifice of Yeshua, our physical body is, just like the spirit-man and soul, redeemed to be His holy Temple! It is not just a mass of water, tissue, muscles, bones, skin, and nerves, but the very sanctuary in which the God of the whole universe resides by His Spirit!

*¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
²⁰ For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20***

With this constant consciousness, we will discern when the enemy seeks, to cause us to abuse, tamper with, alter or indeed engage in any activity which can destabilize this temple and cause the indwelling Holy Spirit to be grieved, quenched, or caused to leave. Willful sins and those which abuse the body top the list of what can cause the Holy Spirit to leave a Christian. **Hebrews 6:1-8; Hebrews 10:26-31, 38-39**

*³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. **Ephesians 4:30-31***

Quench not the Spirit. 1 Thess. 5:19

Immorality of any sort, including pornography and lusts are among the top contenders of sins of the soul and body which make the human being inhospitable for Holy Spirit.

⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.¹² All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient; all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.¹³ Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats; but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.¹⁴ And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.¹⁵ Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.¹⁶ What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.¹⁷ But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.¹⁸ Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. **1 Corinthians 6:9-18**

The Two Inconvenient Truths

Two other abuses that are particularly ignored when discussing the subject matter, involve the physical body, and are inconvenient truths. They include lack of contentment and acceptance of how Elohim God, the Potter, made you to be. You are uniquely designed by an intelligent God to deliver the purpose He had in creating you!

Psalm 139:13-18

*³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ;⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love;⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. **Ephesians 1:3-6***

· When you engage in deliberate rejection of who He made you to be and with strong obsession, seek an alteration of your colour, shape, hair, or other body parts to conform to a popular sinner who is modelling what appeals to your eyes, idolatry is at work.

Likewise, when through excessive eating and indulgence in food, drinks, and pleasures, you pile up excess body mass or destroy vital organs, is it not evident that one is abusing the body, God's temple?

By way of balance, let us note that it is a healthy thing however to exercise discipline to shed off excessive fat or body mass which arose from abuse of the physical body.

Many saints today are sick and dying before time because of indiscipline in what they eat or drink. The same is true of saints who disregard the word of Elohim God to engage their reproductive organs in sinful sexual activities.

The human body can be sound 24/7 if His simple ordinances concerning healthy living in the word is adhered to. The word proclaims the mind of the Father for our holistic well-being:

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 2:2

As we saw in previous chapters, the physical body can be kept holy and thus fulfil its assignment as temple of Holy Spirit and the inner man (the spirit and soul). Instead of sloganeering, saints must learn how to nourish the body to soundness.

Though he lived in the Old dispensation, Job demonstrated how the spirit and soul can purposefully, through godly discipline and consciousness keep the body away from sin in:

*“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” **Job 31:1***

The 15 Vital Keys

From what has been said so far, saints can keep their vessels pure and in a sanctified state by application of these definite keys:

1. Live on the basis of true conversion of the spirit man and its translation from darkness and conveyance into the Kingdom of God. True holiness starts when we are genuinely converted.

*¹⁹ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. **Acts 3:19***

*¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son;¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. **Colossians 1:12-14***

2. Present the body as a living sacrifice to Elohim God to be holy and acceptable to Him. He owns the entire body by creation, redemption, preservation and providential care so it makes sense to consecrate it to Him alone.

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

3. Submit the mind and other parts of the soul for renewing by consistent feeding on the Word until it becomes flesh or internalised. By study and meditation on the word, Holy Spirit uses it to renew the mind. What used to be 'fun' before, when seen in the light of the Word will be recognized as sin and avoided.

*And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. **Romans 12:2***

*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **Ephesians 4:23***

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. **Joshua 1:8***

*¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.² But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. **Psalms 1:1-3***

4. Deliberately give space for the pure and clean culture and lifestyle of the Kingdom to take root in you. This occurs when the Word is embraced as Constitution of The Kingdom and guide for acceptable conduct. The Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew Chapters 5, 6, and 7** provide guidance on how we can live as Kingdom citizens.

*¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. **2 Timothy 3:15-17***

5. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and walk in His fullness in you! Let Him take over your entire being. Let Him guide you in all decisions. Give Him the right way to make your conscience lively with enhanced capacity to promptly respond to every alert as to the things, people or relationships which can endanger your soul.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Ephesians 5:18

6. Walk in genuine agape love. True love will enable you to escape the snares of fleshly passions.

³⁴ *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*³⁵ *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:34-35*

¹ *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*² *And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*³ *And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*⁴ *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*⁵ *Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*⁶ *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*⁷ *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*⁸ *Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.* **1 Corinthians 13:1-8**

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. **Colossians 3:14**

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. **1 Peter 4:8**

7. Elevate pursuit of the Kingdom of God above all else to the degree that you would rather deny the body any illicit pleasure or die than miss the Kingdom to come.

²⁵ *Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*
²⁶ *Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*²⁷ *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*²⁸ *And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin;*²⁹ *And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*³⁰ *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*
³¹ *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*³² *(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*³³ *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*³⁴ *Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.* **Matthew 6:25-34**

8. Embrace the call to discipleship. This involves a strategic shift from believing on Yeshua for Salvation of the Soul in eternity to enthroning Him as King and Lord Who alone will sit on the throne of the heart and rules in every situation on this side of eternity. This enables you to die to self and trust Him wholly for ALL things which pertain to life and godliness.

*²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? **Matthew 16:24-26***

9. As you seek first the Kingdom of God never allow the needs of your soul (emotional satisfaction for instance) and your body (pleasures, food, drink, shelter) to take your eyes off the grand prize!

*²⁴ Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.²⁶ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air;²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27***

10. Live daily in the light of eternity and consciousness that in a single moment of time, which no one knows, mortality will be swallowed up in immortality with the appearance of Yeshua, Jesus!

*³⁶ But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **Matthew 24:36-39***

11. Abstain from every appearance of sin and flee from situations which can compromise spirituality and encourage sin in the physical body. This includes sexual immorality of every type including lust, masturbation, hetero or homosexual activities; harmful and impure communication involving use of seductive clothes, language, and communication. Saints must avoid using social networking sites like Facebook, YouTube, and others to seek emotional satisfaction from people of the opposite gender, including mentors, and spiritual parents. Elohim God has planted in every saint a conscience which warns clearly whenever a relationship with any human, either of the same or opposite gender is unhealthy and potentially destructive. It is important that saints act as soon as the amber light is up!

¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.²² Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:19-22

Abstain from all appearance of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:22

12. Recognize that the experience of sanctification is by Grace in Yeshua alone, not self-effort. He who poured out His Blood at the Cross for our Salvation, also paid the price for total sanctification and has the capacity to preserve us blameless throughout our pilgrimage. While His Grace makes it possible, the experience will be effective when we release our Faith to believe it is possible, yearn for same, pray passionately and reckon it as a done deal!

¹² Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.¹³ Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. Hebrews 13:12-13

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace.¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? **Romans 6:11-16**

13. Watch and Pray! Let the zeal of the Lord and His Kingdom consume you so much so that you do not give place to the possibility of being tripped over by Satan! Prayer and Watchfulness become imperative.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. **Matthew 26:41**

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. **Mark 14:38**

Watch** ye therefore, **and pray** always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” **Luke 21:36

Praying** always with all **prayer** and supplication in the Spirit, **and watching** thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; **Ephesians 6:18

*Continue in **prayer**, and **watch** in the same with thanksgiving; **Colossians 4:2***

*But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, **and watch** unto **prayer**. **1 Peter 4:7***

14. To watching and prayer we add Spiritual Warfare, always clothed with the whole armour of Elohim and knowing when to call in the ministry of the Blood of Yeshua.

Ephesians 6:10-18, Revelation 12:11-12, 1 Peter 5:8-9

15. Fasting with strong faith should be employed when we encounter stubborn situations, strongholds and mountains that need to be moved.

Matthew 17:14-21

Conclusion of chapter

You can never succeed in ministry on a sustainable basis if you do not understand your flesh (soul and body) and bring both under subjection to your spirit-man which in turn should be under the total leadership and empowerment of the Holy Spirit!

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. **Romans 8:14***

Every great preacher who fell by the wayside or made shipwreck of ministry suffered from the flesh gone burst in one way or the other, in an unguarded moment.

When Satan tempted Eve, it was essentially to realign her soul and body away from the rightful order that Elohim God set. The moment the soul of Eve and her physical body made the value decision over and above her spirit man to believe the lie of Satan, the fall was a foregone conclusion. As it was with Adam and Eve, so shall it be with everyone who rejects or mocks the divine invitation to bring the Old man to be crucified with Christ!

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20***

*I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.” **1 Corinthians 15:31***

As our perfect example, Yeshua Jesus came to reverse that fallen nature. He accomplished it by overcoming Satan when He was tempted with the same set of issues as Eve after the Baptism of John as **Matthew 4: 1-11** faithfully documents. When He surrendered His will to that of the Father even unto death, Yeshua sealed the deal. **John 4:34; John 5:30; John 6:38**. After His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, Yeshua sealed the deal and has given those redeemed by His Blood the power to live Holy unto The Father.

Assignments

- 1. Please summarise the main thrust of this chapter.*
- 2. Please summarise 8 of the 15 Keys in this chapter.*

3. *What new thing or personal challenge did you receive from this chapter?*

CHAPTER 13: HOLINESS, SIN, AND THE NEW CREATION

In discussing our need for sanctification, the Lord is simply showing us that the pathway to true holiness of life is by His Grace, not legalism of religious exertions. It is He Who sanctifies the redeemed to make their whole being - holy in spirit, soul, and body - become vessels of honour, fit for His use.

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.²² Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:19-22

A. Holiness is not a denominational thing, but the essence of our New Life in Yeshua!

Those who project holiness as a denominational thing miss the point entirely. Those who claim that just as fish in water must be covered with same are simply being disingenuous! Holiness is the nature and life of Elohim which He purposes for us to live in and for which sake He gave Yeshua as a Sin offering!

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:15-17

A measure of holiness is the outcome of the righteousness we receive at the new birth experience.

¹⁷Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new...²¹ For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

Rather than be static or regress in spiritual growth, we are encouraged press on into the fullness of the Zoe or God kind of life. When the grace of Holiness is received, it translates tangibly into these specific attributes:

- Openness to obey Elohim and His Word without struggle or crafty cherry picking.
- Deep love of Elohim drives this tendency to obey His Word.
- Love of the brethren and all humans, including those who dislike or hate us.

³And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.⁵ But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in him.⁶ He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.⁷ Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.⁸ Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you; because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.⁹ He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.¹⁰ He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.¹¹ But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes. **1 John 2:3-11**

¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law.⁵ And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.⁶ Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.¹⁰ In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.¹¹ For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.¹² Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

¹³ Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.¹⁴

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.¹⁵ Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.¹⁶

*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.¹⁷ But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.¹⁹ And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.²⁰ For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.²¹ Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. ²² And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.²³ And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.²⁴ And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. **1 John 3:1-24***

B. The Nature and Danger of Religion

Religion is simply the process of trying to find and please God with the soul (Mind, Will and Emotion) and physical body which combine to be called the flesh or carnal nature which is not crucified with Yeshua as the Word demands. This is why religion involves recitation of creeds with the lips, not the heart; repetitive actions, rituals and dead works 'performed' inside specific buildings on special 'holy days', and hours, after which people relapse into their sinful ways. This posture gives no room for a deeper work of the Cross, nor does it give the Holy Spirit space to direct. In the same way, the stiff organizational structure of religion empowers religious leaders at the expense of the spiritual identity and gifting of saints. Unfortunately for religion, the Kingdom is entirely a spiritual one and those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth (not in flesh)!

*²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him.²⁴ God is a Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. **John 4:23-24***

It is in this context that we receive this body of truth - Understanding the Human Nature - which helps us to be rightly aligned with Elohim God 24/7! After the fall, Adam began to pass on his fallen nature to all humanity through the process of procreation. That is why David said:

*“Behold, I **was shapen in iniquity**; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” **Psalm 51:5***

This is why Holy Spirit said through Paul:

*“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”. **Romans 3:23***

When a saint is born again, his/her spirit man undergoes an instantaneous change.

*“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” **2 Corinthians 5:17***

The long march of history reveals that where saints are not properly fed with solid food of the word and challenged to grow, they can backslide or regress into religiosity, lacking in the power to live above sin.

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe.¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. **Hebrews 5:12-14**

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. **2 Peter 1:5-9**

It is our responsibility to dwell in the Word as expounded in this Course and yield to Holy Spirit to identify the Old man, reject its base motions inherited from Adam, mortify or 'kill' the fleshly nature and put on the fullness of the New man which is inherited in Yeshua as full expression of the New Creation. It needs to be re-emphasized that this miracle (for so is it) cannot be achieved by self-effort of religion but by appropriate response of saints to the internal work of the same Holy Spirit who mediated the new birth experience (**John 3:3-9**).

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ; **Philippians 1:6***

¹² *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*¹³ *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. **Philippians 2:12-13.***

C. The Spirit, Soul and Body can have different experiences!

Paul was in excellent spiritual condition with Elohim God. However, to prevent the revelations he received from puffing him up and becoming a snare to his spirituality, Elohim permitted a messenger of Satan, a thorn in the flesh to torment His faithful disciple, Paul in the body. Evidently, this was a very painful experience which tasked the soul of Paul so much that he travailed in prayer, three times asking Elohim God to take it away. Elohim reminded Paul that his real need was not to be delivered from physical pain but to lay hold of the sufficiency of grace to live above the realm of physical pain! Reading properly through the text in **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**, we can see that Paul was whole – enjoying the grace arising from the Kingdom life in His spirit man. (**Luke 17:21**)

¹*It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.*² *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*³ *And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth;)*⁴ *How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*⁵ *Of such an one will I glory; yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.*⁶ *For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth; but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.*⁷ *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*⁸ *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*⁹ *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*¹⁰ *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong.* **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

One of the most unfortunate features of modern Christianity is the tendency to sloganeering, use of buzz words that are thrown around like firecrackers by those who claim to know about the Kingdom to excite their followers. Using lofty sounding words, they activate the base desires of the human nature to accumulate stuff on a personal or ministry level which unleash carnal ambitions. The Word is clear that the Kingdom is not about accumulation of stuff, climbing mountains of society or any of those fancies. Here is what it is all about:

*¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.¹⁸ For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.¹⁹ Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. **Romans 14:17-19***

D. Sanctification, not absolute sinlessness: freedom from oppression of the Old man/body of Sin!

Modern iterations of weak theologies have invented a fairy-tale gospel of the 'New Plastic Cross' which is exact opposite of the gospel of the Old Rugged Cross. In the New Plastic Cross gospel, sin is not preached, and people live in self-indulgence and pursuit of pleasure. The Holy Scriptures teach clearly that Elohim has another plan for His saints.

*⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection;⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin.” **Romans 6:5-7***

*“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;” **Ephesians 4:22***

⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry;⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience;⁷ In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:... ¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.¹⁴ And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. **Colossians 3:5-10, 12-15**

There is a relevant question: does sanctification mean that a saint will be absolutely sinless? The reality, as confirmed in the Holy Scriptures and the witness of saints from the days of Yeshua (think of Peter, Thomas, and the doubting bunch of disciples) through the centuries till today, is that any Christian can stumble at any moment, if careless or distracted or let down the guards which can occasion fall into sin. That is the consequence of presence of the 'Old Man', when it is not crucified or whenever it is given space to be resurrected to thrive.

If a believer stumbles and sins, there is a spiritual remedy: prompt repentance, when convicted by Holy Spirit, falling forwards into the loving arms of the Father who cleanses by Blood of Yeshua, forgives, and decorates such people with the gift of justification. This wipes away the sin with no record whatsoever that it was done in the first place.

*¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;² And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.³ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **1 John 2:1-3***

Assignment

- 1. Briefly summarise 3 key things you learned.*
- 2. Please discuss the nature and danger of religion.*

CHAPTER 14: FIVE UNDERSTATED NEEDS OF THE BODY

One of the most outstanding realities of modern life is the huge price human beings generally and especially Christians pay to ‘succeed’. In the rat race to succeed, basic Kingdom principles are set aside for saints to engage in what is called ‘hustle’. For true Kingdom citizens, however, the way to succeed is not by might or by power but by Holy Spirit.

*Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. **Zechariah 4:6***

Holy Spirit leads us into all truth, inspires trust in the Father and enthronement of Yeshua as a King Who cares for the holistic well-being of faithful saints, including their guaranteed rewards.

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal;²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal;²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also... ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. **Matthew 6:19-21,31-34**

²⁷ Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?²⁸ And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.²⁹ And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. **Matthew 19:27-29**

*¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.¹¹ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. **Hebrews 4:10-11***

Need for wholeness, wellness and soundness of spirit, soul, and body

While we may be doing well in one aspect of our triune nature or the other, life will be much more fulfilling if we apply the things learnt in this Course as basis to yield to the deeper dealings of the Holy Spirit, the word and the Blood of Yeshua to walk in holistic wellness of spirit, soul and body.

*²³And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it! **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24***

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. **3 John 2:2***

The human body can be sound 24/7 if the simple ordinance of God concerning healthy living is adhered to. The physical body can be made holy and thus fulfil its assignment as temple of the Holy Spirit and the inner man (the spirit and soul) when properly nourished with balanced food and constant rehydrating with recommended levels of water. Instead of sloganeering, saints must learn how to nourish the body to soundness so that the temple of Holy Spirit can fulfil the appointed destiny for which we were created and redeemed. Let us outline a few principles and practices saints need to take to heart and practice consistently.

1. Rest and Sleep

The physical body is not meant to run as a mechanical machine. Elohim designed time in such a way that we work in the day, get rest and sleep in the night. While we sleep, Elohim sets the body clock in motion to heal from wear and tear and cleanse the system. In the bid to get more done in a day, the easiest tendency is for rest and sleep to be compromised.

Spiritual Rest

Beyond physical rest, saints are also called to enjoy spiritual rest.

¹Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.³ For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest; although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.⁴ For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.⁵ And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.⁶ Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief;⁷ Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.⁸ For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.⁹ There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.¹¹ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. **Hebrews 4:1-11**

Spiritual rest is achieved when we shun worry, anxiety and rather have our minds stayed on the Lord in who we place our complete trust. This releases an atmosphere of profound peace which is not disturbed by external issues.

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee. **Isaiah 26:3***

*¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.¹⁸ For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. **Romans 14:17-18***

*⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; and again, I say, Rejoice.⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:4-7***

2. Physical Exercise

Saints are also called to exercise their physical bodies. The limbs are made for motion, not to be static. When they are moved regularly, and blood circulates well, the heart pumps blood at required levels, leading to sound health. Physical exercises include dancing to Praise songs; pacing around when praying; moving body parts and limbs when working and stretching the hands and legs at regular intervals is a good way to live. Those who are in sedentary jobs need to practice the art of standing and walking around after about an hour of sitting at their desks. Those who can afford it should acquire exercise machines. Lifestyle adjustment implies that we should walk rather than drive when on routine neighbourhood bound activities such as light shopping.

3. Healthy Food/feeding habits and water intake

The physical body needs balanced nutrition to operate at optimum capacity. Each of the food components - Protein, Carbohydrate, Fats, Vitamins, Minerals - need to be taken in recommended quantities.

Because the human body consists mainly of water, there is need for consistent rehydration with appropriate levels of water. It is recommended that adults consume the quantity of water recommended daily to stay in top form.

4. The Beauty of Holiness

Many saints are waking up to the need for exercise, enhancement of their physical features and healthy diets. The Word encourages us to go beyond physical exercises and seek the beauty of holiness which manifests as virtue proceeding from the presence of Elohim in and on our beings!

“For bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8

¹²The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Romans 13:12-14

For Christian sisters, one of the most forgotten and neglected exhortations is this one by Apostle Peter:

¹Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;² While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.³ Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;⁴ But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.⁵ For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands;⁶ Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. **1 Peter 3:1-6**

5. Living in Love, not Judgement or Legalism

One of the most powerful ways of staying fresh in the presence of the Lord and enjoying excellent relations with other humans is the life of love or charity.

⁸ Owe no man anything, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.⁹ For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.¹⁰ Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. **Romans 13:8-10**

⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; **Romans 12:9-10**

A life of love does not necessarily guarantee that everyone will admire and hail us. Love is stress tested and proven in spite of, not because of. It manifests in our attitude to those who hate, despise, or offend.

⁴³ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?⁴⁷ And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. **Matthew 5:43-48**

True love releases the capacity to forgive; not retain offence and willingness to remain on the higher ground of the narrow way till the end.

*¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not...
¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:14, 17-21***

These virtues can only be achieved by His Grace and our willing cooperation through yearning/earnest desire, faith, prayer and surrender of our vessels as instruments of righteousness. In that case, we need to be radical in refusal of access to Satan, demons, and motions of sin.

Consequences of clinging to old fleshly patterns of life

When saints refuse to enter into the rest of Yeshua, their spirit, soul, and body suffer undue strain.

i. Sin of all types can creep in, which is toxic and leads to backsliding and danger of missing the mark of holistic wellbeing.

ii. Immoral conduct brings guilt-consciousness, lack of confidence and inability to access the divine presence. *Psalm 15, Psalm 24;*

Psalm 66:18

iii. Pressure to meet up with appointments and drive to succeed often exerts strong pressure on the spirit, soul, and body of saints leading to faster wear and tear.

iv. Many saints get sick and die before time because of indiscipline in what they eat or drink.

v. Alcohol has the capacity to destroy vital internal organs such as the liver. When people are intoxicated, they have reduced capacity for making rationally informed decisions.

Vi. Eating unhealthy food such as Fats and Sugar have been known to trigger such diseases like diabetes and obesity.

vii. Lack of exercise and inadequate water intake puts major strain on the health of saints.

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” John 8:32

*“¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” **Romans 10:13-17***

Assignment

- 1. Please share 5 things you understand from this chapter.*
- 2. What will you do with this chapter?*

CHAPTER 15: SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY AND THE KINGDOM

We saw in *Genesis 2:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 4:12*, man, is a tridimensional being created in the image of Elohim and in His likeness. As we continue the last lap of this course, we trust that Elohim has more for us to receive. The essence of this work is to enable us to understand ourselves more comprehensively so that we can worship Elohim God in spirit and in truth as Yeshua, Jesus commanded in *John 4:23-24*.

New Birth: instant and in the spirit man!

You can grow up in a Christian home or hear the Word for years, months or days and not be saved. The New Birth is received in an instant of time. It is cataclysmic with the definite outcome of a transition of the spirit man from darkness to light and from subjection to the kingdom of darkness to conveyance into the Kingdom of God. When that happens, you are a new creation. Your yesterday is gone! You are forgiven! From a sinner, you transition to become a saint. These self-evident truths are articulated in *John 3:3, 16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-6; Colossians 1:12-14, 21-22*.

The Kingdom of God has two equally significant dimensions. The first is the present which is received in our spirit man (hearts – **Luke 17:21**). Though physically in this world, we are not of it and are required to constantly walk in the understanding that it will pass away (**John 17:1-19, 1 Peter 2:9-12**).

While on this side of eternity, we have a sacred responsibility to grow in grace until Holy Spirit, the Word and Blood of Yeshua enable us to walk in fullness of holiness, manifesting His nature. Secondly, we need to yield to the Holy Spirit to use our vessels to touch as many lives as possible by bringing them into the Kingdom of which we are citizens. In effect, our primary identity is citizenship of the Kingdom (not membership of a local church!) Though citizens of an earthly kingdom, our prime loyalty however is to the spiritual. Yeshua, Jesus was emphatic that His Kingdom was not of this world.

*Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” **John 18:36**.*

Elohim God has ordained that His Kingdom - which will soon be inaugurated at the Second Coming of Yeshua, Jesus - will be populated not by robotic beings but by people who willingly accept His rule and yield to His appointed process of being whole while on earth. These are people who made the value decision to accept the testimony of scripture that the key to enjoy the best of their Father on earth and prepare to co-rule with Him in the world to come is by dying to the self-life (rule of their soul and body) so that Yeshua, Jesus may be all in all. **Matthew 16:24-26, Romans 12:1-2.**

"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" Galatians 6:14

For the sake of His Kingdom which they yearn for, saints are to make it their priority in prayer and in practical pursuit. To demonstrate this priority, our time on earth is to be seen as a pilgrimage in the realm of time and preparation for the eternal phase of the Kingdom which is the real deal. For this reason, saints are to live in the present in the light of eternity.

*“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” **Matthew 6:10***

*³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” **Matthew 6:33***

*⁹ But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;¹⁰ Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.¹¹ Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;¹² Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.” **1 Peter 2:9-12.***

As we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, He uses the Word and circumstances of life to reveal the state of the soul and cravings of the physical body which war against spirituality.

*¹⁵But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” **Galatians 5:15-21***

By yielding to the dealings of the Holy Spirit, He shows us the motions of the soul (Mind, Will and Emotion) and cravings of the Body (appetite, wrong use of the tongue, and sexual drives) which are contrary to the will of Elohim God for His redeemed. The process of being open to Holy Spirit to show us what is not pleasing to our Father, what contradicts the Blood of Redemption at work in the motions of the soul and body and heartily giving Him right of way to take those things off is at the heart of “working out our salvation with fear and trembling.” ***(Philippians 3:12); Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:12-15; 1 Peter 2:9-12***

Elohim God has left us in an imperfect world full of imperfect people. The only way we can represent Him as His Ambassadors is by embracing His internal dealings in our souls to the degree that it gives up leadership of our being in cahoots with the Body. When this spiritual deliverance happens, we are not ruled by what the five senses of the body suggest (what we see, hear, feel, smell, taste) but by what Holy Spirit communicates to the spirit man who is enthroned to its rightful place as leader.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:14

The spirit man is where the new birth takes place as our will says yes to the good news; it is the dwelling place of Holy Spirit; and it and is where His gifts and callings are deposited. Because of this, the Kingdom is ordered not according to the flesh (gender, biological age or socio-economic means) but by the quality of the spirit man.

*²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. **Galatians 3:26-29***

The question of whether a woman can be called to ministry generally or be called to any of the fivefold offices is therefore a carnal-themed, old wineskin type of question that bears no relevance to the Kingdom of Elohim God! In the realm of the spirit-man, gender is a non-issue, and we are not to know any one after the flesh but by the Spirit!

*“Wherefore henceforth know **we no man** after the flesh; yea, though **we** have known Christ after the flesh, yet **now** henceforth know **we him no more.**” **2 Corinthians 5:16.***

It is in the realm of marriage that definite roles are assigned to the spouses.

Righteousness Vs Holiness

Take note of this truth: Righteousness or right standing with Elohim God on the merit of the Blood sacrifice of Yeshua is a gift of grace. We did not work for it, nor can we earn it by effort or prayers. However, righteousness demands a robust response from he/she who is justified by Grace. That response is holiness. **1 Peter 1:15,16** demands.

“Be ye holy, for I the Lord your God is holy”.

The Lord clearly reveals that saints have a definite part to play. That part is not to be legalistic. It is not to try to “touch not”, “taste not” or “handle not” as some religious folks try to make it out. For instance, in some congregations in Africa, men used to sit on one side of the aisle while women occupied the other side, including married people! These physical efforts were naively done in the name of holiness. In one denomination in Africa, brothers do not shake hands with sisters lest they fall into immorality! These are fleshly efforts of religion that mimic holiness!

It is Holy Spirit Who uses the Word to renew our mind so that, in a real sense, it aligns with the spirit-man to reflect the fullness of our being born again! By this, what we mean is that Holy Spirit uses the Word to wash off old ideas about life and living acquired from birth, native culture, background, education, and upbringing. As He washes them off, Holy Spirit begins to form the mind of Yeshua our Messiah and culture of the Kingdom. ***Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:23.*** As Holy Spirit does this, in say, a mixed congregation of African Americans, European Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics and Asian Americans, we all imperceptibly at first and clearly later, begin to think the same way: the mind of Yeshua. We begin to see life through the lenses of Yeshua, Jesus, and the Holy Scriptures. Our individuality gives way, and He becomes all in all. Unity of the Faith and a sense of true fellowship replace our former individuality and agenda-driven purposes for meeting together.

¹ *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,*² *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*³ *Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*⁴ *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*⁵ *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*⁶ *One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.* ***Ephesians 4:1-6***

The power of love and unity thus combine to release the fullness of the Presence and Power of Yeshua, Jesus.

*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. **1 Corinthians 1:10***

*¹⁹Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. **Matthew 18:19,20.***

When this renewal takes place, old mental strongholds are pulled down at the place of prayer and spiritual warfare because the Word has revealed clearly to the saint that the old way of thinking and living will lead one away from the purity and purpose of God.

³*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh;*⁴ *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*⁵ *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*⁶ *And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.* **2 Corinthians 10:3-6.**

The old doubt-filled life; the old carnal mind which wants to “see before believing”; the old carnal mindset which equates success with size of wardrobe, cars, houses, amount of cash in the bank and other criteria soon finds those things vain. The renewed mind understands easily that we ought to live by faith, not sight **2 Corinthians 5:7**. The new mind agrees with scripture that the Kingdom is not of this world and does not consist in the abundance of earthly possessions but rather that it is the righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost we enjoy from our passionate, intimate relationship with The Father in Yeshua Jesus **Romans 14:17,18**.

For this reason, the renewed mind leads the saint to give up life of worry and anxiety. Trust in our heavenly Father and His love takes over. With that heavy encumbrance off the way, the saint is able to seek first the Kingdom in all situations and circumstances knowing assuredly that Elohim God is able to and will provide all that is needful for life and godliness! **Matthew 6:25-34; 2 Peter 1:3.** Thus, we are talking about growing in grace and in the practical knowledge of Yeshua, Jesus. **2 Peter 3:14-18.**

*⁵And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall;¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 1:5-11***

Implication for the body

The physical body of the saint who has yielded to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and circumstances of life can be renewed, if the will of Elohim is so, like an eagle.

*⁴Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;⁵ Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. **Psalm 103:4-5***

By faith and in earnest prayer, the saint can receive healing and deliverance from diseases which were in the body as a result of sin before salvation. Such physical ailments such as sexually transmitted diseases; barrenness caused by badly executed abortions in the days of ignorance or indeed any other ailment can be healed by the stripes of Yeshua and through the mercy of Elohim God.

Family yokes such as curses brought by blood guiltiness (where an ancestor murdered people for instance as a robber and used the money to train his children and they all failed in life, passing that down to many generations); near-success-syndrome, poverty, lack of favour and such besetting family lifestyles as anger, wrath, jealousy, divorce-prone life and inability to settle in families can be broken. The saint who is growing this way soon finds that there is no more arousal of his reproductive organs to the presence of people of the opposite gender! He or she finds that the mind is clean of the former lust and impurities. This is holiness in action!

The saint who allows Holy Spirit to sanctify the mortal body soon discovers the joy and power of moderation in what he/she eats or drinks. The correlation between food and health becomes self-evident. More importantly, as the peace of Elohim God which passes all understanding takes hold of the soul and as the saint begins to live out the Kingdom life of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (***Romans 14:17-18***), he /she discovers that the healthy heart does good like medicine and effectively leads to a sound mind in a sound body. This conforms with the words of ***1 Timothy 4:8*** that godliness is profitable in all things! Saints, the Kingdom life is real! It is not a set of doctrines or goose bump activities we engage inside the four walls of buildings called “churches”. The church is who we are – the very temple of the Holy Spirit through which He shows off THE PRESENCE and POWER of Yeshua, Jesus – very God, very Man!

On the other hand, it may be that one is genuinely saved but the physical body suffers various ailments. This does not imply lack of favour with the Father or presence of any sin. The Lord wants saints to be sensitive to the reality that those whose body is free of ailments are not holier or better than those who suffer from challenges in the physical body.

*¹And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.² And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?³ Jesus answered, neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. **John 9:1-3***

Critical issues

Because the saints press forward in spirituality, growing in grace and under the full sovereign rule of Yeshua Jesus, they come under His full benefice as their King. Nothing is impossible for them as long as such is in the will of the Father. This is why they pray earnestly based on the holy scriptures. The Lord, however, always reserves His best for those who make Him, not blessings, their delight and who live according to His Will in every area of life including all decisions!

³*Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*⁴ *Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*⁵ *Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*⁶ *And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*⁷ *Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.* **Psalm 37:3-7**

⁵*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*⁶ *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*⁷ *Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.*⁸ *It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.* **Proverbs 3:5-8**

More importantly, the Lord has His countenance open to those who are actively engaged in completing His mission which is to preach the gospel of the Kingdom in all nations so that the end can come for Him to return and set up the eternal phase of the Kingdom.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”. **Matthew 24:14**

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

For such saints, prayer is not a physical exercise nor is it an emotional joust. It is not about imposing our wills on a complacent Elohim God, expecting Him to rubber stamp our fancies and one-sided tantrums. Prayer becomes an expression of our dependence on Him as a good Father and gracious King. In prayer, we acknowledge that we come before an Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent King; indeed, the only true Potentate Who has a will, plan, and purpose for all of creation generally and us, in particular. Our prayer lives become acts of spiritual midwifery where we partner with Him to birth His will for our lives, ministries, congregations, cities, nations, and this generation.

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10

The priority of Elohim God becomes our priority! What He says for instance about the end times becomes the compass with which we evaluate world news. We no longer join the ranks of rabble-rousers of the religious right or liberal left. We are in the middle, standing on the known will of our heavenly Father and by the Spirit, decreeing and enforcing His will and ordinance upon our nations and generation!

We stand with Him concerning Israel not in terms of political agitation-propaganda, but in knowing the timeline of Elohim God. Instead of shouting ourselves hoarse over what is happening in the US, Europe, China, Russia, Iran, and the Middle East vis-a-vis Israel, for instance, we go to the Bible and inquire of the Holy Spirit. The result is that we will know assuredly that the times of the gentiles are coming to an end and that the ring of fire that is tightening around Israel signifies that the end is at hand.

We thus move assuredly to focus on finishing the task of the Master with every ounce of energy in us, knowing assuredly that the end is at hand, and we will soon be required to account for what we did with every gift, calling, money, opportunity and indeed assets He blessed us with! We make sure we are occupying in our assigned territory, getting ready and watchful over our hearts, minds, and indeed entire lives! ***Luke 19:10-28.***

In other words, the saint who is truly waiting for the return of Yeshua, Jesus proves this by active engagement with the present, spending and being spent in executing the present status as Ambassador of the King of kings in the court of the peoples and temporal governments to which we are assigned.

Armed with sound mind and notwithstanding state of our bodies, we demonstrate by the power of Holy Spirit at work within and through us that Yeshua, Jesus is indeed Lord. We do not fold our hands or escape reality into monasteries waiting for the sound of the trumpet! The trumpet sound can only be heard by those who are watching, praying and occupying for Yeshua not those who are lazy and timid! The parable of the wise and foolish virgins in **Matthew 25** spoke of the wise as those whose lamps were full of oil with which they were at the Master's service!

Assignment

- 1. Please share five things you learnt from this chapter.*
- 2. What personal message did you receive?*

CHAPTER 16: THE BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line of this Course on understanding the human nature is this: Elohim wants us to be sanctified wholly in the realm of the spirit, soul and body! He does not want any aspect of our lives to reflect the values and principles of the adversary, Satan, and the kingdom of darkness.

*¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.²⁰ But ye have not so learned Christ;²¹ If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **Ephesians 4:17-23***

What is inside will reflect outside. A diseased soul will make the anointing of the Holy Spirit which is received, warehoused, and released from the *spirit man to be of none effect because of character flaws, bad behaviour and negative or repulsive attitudes.*

Yeshua, Jesus said that those who believe in Him will enjoy the privilege of being used by Elohim God to release rivers of living water from their spirit man. How terrible it is to see a man or woman of Elohim God used mightily to heal the sick and deliver the oppressed only to display carnal propensities in the darkness of the night? How terrible is it to do the outward works of the gospel and yet the soul is full of bitterness, unforgiveness, strife or damaged emotions which manifest in a very low threshold of offence, resulting in near constant eruptions of anger, wrath and curses?

Do not ever be deceived by miracles sign and wonders or manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit! Yeshua, Jesus said that ministers of the gospel shall be primarily known by their fruit!

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. **Matthew 7:15-23**

By fruit the Lord means what rules the soul will manifest in what comes out of them. Is it the works of flesh or the fruit of the Spirit as these two passages from Paul's epistle to the Galatians show?

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*¹⁷ *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*¹⁸ *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*²⁰ *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*²¹ *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. **Galatians 5:16-21***

OR

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*²⁴ *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. **Galatians 5:22-25***

It is said that anointing without character will lead to nuisance! Many there are who, after their mountain top experiences of manifesting the power of the Holy Spirit, fall into the valley of soulish passions when the flesh takes over. Moses suffered this flip flop of spirituality and soulishness at the Mount of God when he returned to find the people in whoredom. Vexed in his soul, in a fit of anger, he broke the tablets of stone which the very fingers of Elohim God had inscribed His Laws! Soulishness was to make Moses fall short of the Promised Land when he struck the Rock rather than speak to it.

Elijah suffered this experience too after his epic encounter with the prophets of Baal when a single threat from Jezebel sent him running scared! **1 Kings 19** tells the epic story.

¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." **1 Corinthians 10:11-13**

Their issues were written for our learning. Sanctification of our soul and body is an absolute necessity to function in a way that is well pleasing to Abba Father! It is our insurance against falling into the ditch of the high wired politics we encounter even in ministry, the snares of false brethren who lie in wait and the horde of hell's demons which have possessed men and women whose greatest satisfaction is to have the dubious distinction that they are used of Satan to cause another soldier of the cross to miss the mark!

Saints have remained at babyhood stage for too long, drinking and desiring even more measures of spiritual milk! Many have developed itching ears open only to hear words of "encouragement". They have bought the lie that the work of kingdom ministers is to tell you what makes your soul happy!

*¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **1 Timothy 4:1-2***

It is by this principle that many saints are in a never-ending quest for happiness through what happens on the outside of the spirit-man: more money; wage rise; better jobs; new clothes; visiting the theatres and eating out in expensive restaurants, vacations and even sexual promiscuity!

Two dangerous doctrines are behind these lifestyles

i. The first is the doctrine of eternal security and “cheap grace” which says no matter what you do or how you live after salvation, nothing is imputed to you. In other words, “sin as much as you can because grace covers them.” This of course is a lie from the pit of hell. Grace may be free, but it is certainly not cheap, procured as it were with the very blood and esteem of the God-Man, Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah!

ii. The Second doctrine that has led many astray is the one which subtly enthrones self as Lord. This is at the heart of the False Prosperity gospel. With this doctrine, God in effect exists to service you – make you happy. The Holy Book encourages saints to seek joy, not happiness. Joy comes from the state of our relationship with Elohim God. ***Isaiah 12:3*** says, “with joy, you shall draw from the wells of Salvation!” ***Romans 14:17-18*** says joy in the Holy Spirit (that which has no bearing with what happens on the outside but rather what happens in the inside) is one of the sure proofs of the Kingdom that is within you. ***Luke 17:21***

Where there are true Kingdom Leaders

If we have true Kingdom leaders who share the heart of Abba, all saints in various congregations will be trained, equipped, activated, and released to be functional parts of the Body of Jesus the Messiah (Christ), they are planted in or connected to! Miracles become a lifestyle rather than an event that depends on the disposition of the man or woman of God. No one is a ‘laity’. No one warms the benches. Everyone is thus a minister, fulfilling the dream of Yeshua, Jesus to lead a Royal Priesthood. ***Romans 12:5-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 2:9-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11***

True Kingdom leaders thus make a deliberate effort to decrease and emulate John the Baptist who pointed the people to Yeshua, Jesus.

*²⁶And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.²⁷ John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.²⁸ Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.²⁹ He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.³¹ He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.³² And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.³³ He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.³⁴ For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.³⁵ The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. **John 3:26-36.***

For this to happen, true Kingdom leaders are open to the ministry of the Fivefold and make deliberate efforts to expose the sheep to those who have the word, gifts and anointing, the flock committed to them need, to be fully nourished.

*¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **Ephesians 4:11-12.***

There is no room for insecurity in them because the flock is Yeshua's, Jesus' own, not theirs! True leaders focus on teaching saints the pure word of Elohim God, not fanciful doctrines of men and encourage them to grow in grace and hear from their heavenly Father independently for confirmation and persuasion, just like the Berean Christians in Acts. They encourage saints to discover the gifts of Holy Spirit in them and proceed to tap into it. Any saint who is not receiving on a regular basis the varied inputs of the Fivefold will stagnate and can never be empowered or fulfilled.

Empowerment therefore shifts from the old religious paradigm of an anointed man or woman of God who swaggers into town to “perform” miracles to the process of making all saints what Elohim God intends them to be: an empowered people who seek intimate relationship with Him! That quest for intimate relationship with Elohim God in Yeshua, Jesus requires a progression and growth in grace. **2 Peter 1:5-11.**

*¹⁴ Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.¹⁵ And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;¹⁶ As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.¹⁷ Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.¹⁸ But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. **2 Peter 3:14-18***

That growth in grace is designed to lead to a three-step transition in terms of maturity.

- i. The journey begins as a babe in Yeshua at the new birth. With the right ingestion of spiritual milk, the saint begins to grow. There may be struggles with a host of issues and besetting sins of the old life. With the first level of sanctification, the saint finds his/her heart more in love with God.
- ii. This leads to a state of intimacy with the Father that is based on friendship, not legalism.
- iii. Subsequent sanctification experience to a deeper level deals essentially with the mindset of the saint. He/she is able to see the full import of his/her awesome position in Yeshua, Jesus. This is the stage of sonship. Sonship drives the saint to take responsibility to be, in a sense, an effective partner with Yeshua, Jesus in executing His authority over the environment where he or she lives. It is about making your territory too hot for Satan and his agents to operate in unchallenged! In spite of this awesome privilege, the saint knows that the real deal is coming the day Yeshua, Jesus returns and inaugurates the full phase of the Kingdom. ***John 15:9-15; Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 3:26-29; Matthew 16:19***

The whole idea is for us to live the way Yeshua, Jesus lived – at the behest of our Father in heaven! We dare not make decisions of our own nor dare we live anyhow. Sonship is about being responsible for securing the territory assigned to us so that the preaching of the gospel is not hindered. Let us see the example of Jesus Who every saint is called upon to emulate:

*“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” **John 5:30***

*“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” **John 6:38***

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” **John 12:24***

Let us see what Jesus said is the basis of walking in the Kingdom life:

*²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? **Matthew 16:24-26***

Paul, the apostle was a man who so followed Yeshua, Jesus that he could ask saints to emulate him also (**1 Corinthians 11:1**). Let us see what he said is the basis of living the acceptable Kingdom life:

*¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. **Romans 12:1-2***

Let us hope Abba Father has spoken enough to grab our attention; enough to make us allow the mirror of the word to show what the sword of the Spirit needs to cut off from our fleshly realm (soul and body)! Let us hope that none of us will be too proud to contend with Elohim God and His Word! Let us hope every one of us is open for Holy Spirit to use the Word we have learnt in these chapters on Understanding the human nature to wash off carnality in us. Let us pray that Elohim God will do a massive sanctification of saints in all the nations who are part of the Kingdom Educational System (Global School of Ministry, Master Class, Yes Course, GSOM and True Kingdom Live Channel on YouTube) so that a mighty holy army of battle-ready saints will arise and shine for Him! Let us believe that saints who are fit for purpose in the final harvest will emerge from this very sanctification project.

¹² *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*¹³ *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* **Hebrews 4:12-16**

Let us go boldly to the Throne of Grace to tell our Father that we want to be conformed to the image of Yeshua! Let us open up to the deep cuts of the word as they excise out of us every vestige of the Old man – that crafty body of Sin inherited from Adam which is comfortable with religion and religiosity.

Let us desire for more of Yeshua, Jesus to be formed in our vessels of clay. Let Him how forth from our spirit-man, through the soul and body for all to see that He is indeed alive and King! For that reason, let us emulate Paul and die daily, yielding to Him so that He may continue to work in us all that He has purposed so that we can be all He meant us to be. In this pursuit, we find comfort in the words and attitude expressed in the immortal words of ***Philippians 3:1-14***: We want to apprehend all for which we are apprehended by Yeshua, Jesus! None of us has arrived at our destination yet! May the dealings of the Word, the Blood, and circumstances of life as we study this Course be used by Holy Spirit to propel us into the place where we truly enter His rest and walk in brotherly love. ***Hebrews 4:1-11, Hebrews 13:1***.

Let His dealings bring us to a place where we do not worry or fret over things outside our control such as the attitude of those who prefer to play games with Him and brethren. Knowing that all things indeed work together for good, let us allow the Lord to show us that some fires we go through are of His making in order to work out His eternal purpose and deal with our soul in deeper sanctification. Let us come to a place where we no longer see Satan in all tough situations! In the midst of some fires, we need to ask the Lord to do and allow what seems right in His sight – as long as it brings and gives Him glory. The transformative effect of this grace He will work in us will produce out of our fragile human frames, a depth of incredible depth of faith-life and courage.

Saints, this is to say that whatever fire Elohim God allows to come our way is certainly not ordained to consume us but to refine, take off dross and bring forth the gold within.

¹ *But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”* **Isaiah 43:1-2**

Saints, let us go for gold in this phase of the Kingdom! The world to come will be a piece of cake if we allow the heat of the now to do its work in the now. Who is coming with us???

*That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than **of gold** that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at **the appearing of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:7***

Assignment

- 1. Please share five truths in this chapter.*
- 2. What is the personal application or message for you?*

CHAPTER 17: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

At the beginning of this Course, the synopsis set out the scope of what we would learn. We have covered a great deal of ground already. What remains is to provide biblical answers to some questions which were asked therein. Let us therefore go into the Question-and-Answer mode to make our learning complete to the extent the Lord ordained through this course.

Question #.1. How did death come about?

Answer: Originally, humans were created to enjoy immortality – just like Himself.

*²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. **Genesis 1:26-27***

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **Genesis 2:7***

Death came about as a result of sin. Elohim God had ordained that death would be the consequence of sin.

*¹⁵ And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat;¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. **Genesis 2:15-17***

When Adam and Eve sinned, they first “died” spiritually by being separated from the life-giving presence of Elohim God. **Genesis 3:1-13, 22-24**

From that separation, it was only a matter of time before the body expired. From that day, ability to sin and its consequences, ability to expire in the physical body were passed on naturally to all humanity through the process of procreation. From living up to 800 years and more, humankind progressively lived shorter lives. Elohim later set a cap which very few have lived up to and beyond.

*And the Lord said, My spirit **shall not** always **strive with** man, for that he also is flesh; yet his days **shall** be an hundred and twenty years. **Genesis 6:3***

By the time the book of Psalms was written, the mortality of man was reduced:

*⁹ For all our days are passed away in thy wrath; we spend our years as a tale that is told.¹⁰ The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. **Psalm 90:9-10***

This enables us to appreciate the essence of the Incarnation of Yeshua, Jesus which was to pay the price for recovery of all who would have been lost.

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned;¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law.¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.¹⁶ And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift; for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound;²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 5:12-21**

²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

Question #.2: What happens to the physical body at the point of death?

Answer: Physical death occurs when the spirit-man and soul are separated from and depart from the body. Every human on earth is appointed to die once after that the judgement follows on the appointed date Elohim God has set.

¹ To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:² A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment; Hebrews 9:27

The Body – when ‘death’ happens, the body becomes lifeless. No amount of money, intellect, or position in life can save a human from this separation of the inner being (the real being) from the outer being or body (the house in which he lived!) The body will rapidly decompose as its water base is polluted by the unrenewed cells and deconstructing systems (80% of body mass).

On the day of the first resurrection and rapture, the bodies of saints will be given a celestial version with which to live forever. **1 Corinthians 15** sets out the theology and practicality of the resurrection and what happens to the Body 'changed' in a moment of time.

Question #.3: Where do the spirit and soul of the righteous go at death?

Answer: The spirit and soul of the righteous go to rest in Yeshua Jesus in Paradise. Some parts of Scripture call this Abraham's bosom **Luke 16:20-25**. In other words, the spirit of the righteous can be said to go back to Elohim God, Who gave it in the first place. **Genesis 2:7, Ecclesiastes 12:1-7**. Because the soul is the realm of self-expression, it will account for what was done in the body while alive and how far it influenced the spirit-man. **2 Corinthians 5:9-11**

The truth is that the day a sinner makes a value decision to repent of sin and accept the propitiatory death of Yeshua Jesus at the Cross of Calvary, the spirit and soul of that person is redeemed from eternal damnation (except such a person backslides or goes into apostasy).

Physical death for the righteous is simply a transition into a state of resting in the Saviour/Messiah. Scriptures clearly teach that it is the first stage of reward for believing and serving Elohim God faithfully while on earth. It must be stressed that in the realm of eternity, the spirit and soul are treated as one: the inner or real man who was on pilgrimage on earth and needed a physical body to function for the span of time spent here returns to its Maker. ***2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Peter 2:11***

Question #.4: What happens to the spirit and souls of sinners, backsliders, and apostates at death?

Answer: Because they rejected the propitiatory work of Yeshua Jesus, those who die in their sins, including saints who backslide into a life of sin and apostates who embraced doctrines which made His death of none effect, at death, they stay in a place of torment waiting for the day they will be resurrected, judged, and punished in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone forever and ever. ***Psalms 49:5-20, Ezekiel 3:18-21***

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **John 3:16-19**

⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.⁷ For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God;⁸ But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. **Hebrews 6:4-8**

*²⁶ For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,²⁷ But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.²⁸ He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses;²⁹ Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **Hebrews 10:26-31***

Let us recall a message by a popular African Preacher to his congregation. A very senior minister died and was rejected because of bitterness over what an Associate Pastor did in breaking away from the Church, using some brethren to found his own 'church'. Years later he repented and sought to meet the Senior Pastor who blatantly refused to forgive. He died in that state and was denied entry into heaven. The irony is that the offending associate Minister may eventually enter the Kingdom if his repentance was genuine. To forgive and let go is not a favour to the assumed offenders! It is simply the pathway to get out of a self-imposed prison sentence as per **Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4:26, 30-32.**

Question #.5. What will be the critical differences between the time and place of rewards of the righteous and sinners?

Answer: 5.1. The righteous start to receive and enjoy their rewards at physical death when they go to rest. Paul said that this state is better and more preferable for saints as it marks permanent escape from the challenges of life which may lead to eternal damnation! It also marks the end of struggles, labouring for wages or profit, stress, crises, and disappointments. It is a state of sweet rest.

*²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.²² But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour; yet what I shall choose I wot not.²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better;²⁴ Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. **Philippians 1:21-24***

5.2. Subsequently, on the day of the Lord, the First Resurrection occurs with the righteous dead before the living saints are raptured. Those in this state will have their spirit and soul that are already redeemed, clothed with new celestial (imperishable versions) bodies. **1 Corinthians 15:35-58.** The redeemed spirit and soul now clothed with the celestial body will resurrect to meet Yeshua, Jesus in the air.

³⁵ But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?³⁶ Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die;³⁷ And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain;³⁸ But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh; but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.⁴⁰ There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory.⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption;⁴³ It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power;⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.⁴⁵ And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.⁴⁶ Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.⁴⁷ The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.⁴⁸ As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.⁴⁹

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. **1 Corinthians 15:35-58.**

*¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; **1 Thessalonians 4:13-16.***

5.3. The resurrected saints will be joined by other saints who are alive in this Day of All Days; the mother of All Days when truth of scripture will be confirmed! That Day is very near!!! **1 Thessalonians 4:17-18.** The taking away of the saints is what some call the “Rapture” or “catching away”. Labels are not the issue but what matters is the actual fact as described in the Scriptures. The reason for this development is that Elohim God did not appoint His saints to wrath on earth or in hell. Those who embrace Yeshua, Jesus and stick to Him in spite of trials and temptations pass from death to life and will be treated separately from the rest of humanity. He commits Himself to honour those who honoured Him while in the Body; not using their physical beings to serve Satan and sin. **John 5:24-29; John 5:51; Romans 5:6-21; Romans 6:1-23**

¹ But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.² For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.³ For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.⁴ But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness.⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.⁷ For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.⁸ But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.⁹ For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.¹¹ Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. **1**
Thessalonians 5:1-11

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment;²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. **Hebrews 9:27-28.**

5.4. These two sets of saints – those who would be resurrected and those who would be raptured will be taken to the JUDGEMENT SEAT OF Jesus Christ.

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 **Corinthians 5:10.***

This is not a judgement unto destruction. It is rather a time for evaluating the quality of work done; how faithfully saints discharged the vision and mission committed to their trust and the motivations for projects they embarked on. Did one build according to the divine pattern for the Church given to Apostle Paul or not? Was the Fivefold activated and given space to activate the Priesthood after the Order of Melchizedek? The fire of Elohim God will try every work done in His name. What was of the flesh; what was done out of strife or vanity will be consumed. Some seemingly ‘great ministries’ may be found to have been built with inferior materials and therefore will earn ministers no rewards, leading to their ‘squeezing’ into eternity without Crowns they thought they deserved.

*¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15.***

5.5. The outcome of this Judgement will determine who gets what quality of rewards. The scope of territory saints will be assigned to rule over in the Millennial Reign of Jesus will also be determined there. For instance, the persons who will supervise the entire territory now known as the United States of America or United Kingdom during the Millennial reign of Yeshua will be determined at this place. It may not be one of the great televangelists or Church leaders with mega congregations. It may be an unknown quantity, you!

5.6. The saints who passed through this gate of ultimate Redemption are ushered into immortality. They will enjoy the pleasures of life in heaven for a brief period of time (believed by interpretation of some scriptures as 7 years) while the world will descend into a period of Great Tribulation. The awesome glories of eternity when Yeshua hands over the Kingdom to the Father (*1 Corinthians 15:24*) and the mystery of Elohim is accomplished (*Revelation 10:7*) in the hereafter outlined in *Revelation Chapters 21 and 22* will be their abiding portion.

Question 6.6. What is the future of sinners, backsliders, and apostates?

6.1. Those who die in their sins have missed eternity with Elohim God without any remedy since they rejected His appointed instrument of eternal life, Yeshua, Jesus. *John 3:16-19*

6.2. Those who remain in their sins when the trumpet sounds will face 7 years of the rule of the opposite personality: the Antichrist! The Antichrist will unleash pain on those who claim to be saints but missed the exit of the true saints. A world ruler, he will be affirmed by the False Prophet who will make a mark in the right hand or forehead or the embrace of his name and number the linchpin of a global economic system. *Revelation 13:11-18, Revelation 14:9-11.*

Question 7: Are there exceptions to the rule of death?

Yes, the Lord made exceptions for Enoch and Elijah. They went into eternity via rapture, not death. ***Genesis 5:23-24, Hebrews 11:5, 2 Kings 2:1-12.***

Assignment

- 1. Please summarize any 4 of the 7 questions and answers.*
- 2. What are your personal resolutions flowing from what you learnt in this chapter?*
- 3. Would you recommend this chapter to other believers? If yes, please intentionally share with all your loved ones – both saved and unsaved.*

CHAPTER 18: CONCLUDING REMARKS ON SANCTIFICATION

As Apostle said in his epic letter to the Philippians (***Philippians 3:1***) to repeat some truths is safe. Of all the things shared in this course, the most relevant is this: Elohim created as a tri-dimensional beings:

- A body that came from the earth
- A spirit from His Spirit and
- A soul, which is the realm of self-expression.

The normal experience of saints is that when they stop growing spiritually, they begin to manifest the works of the flesh when the soul and its cravings stifle spirituality and rather manifests various negativities.

*¹⁶This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God **Galatians 5:16-21***

Elohim has made provision for our spirit, soul and body to be wholly cleansed (purified/sanctified) to walk in harmony with His holy Nature.

*“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”¹ **Thessalonians 5:23***

Needful as it is, Elohim does not force the sanctification experience on individual saints against their will. He rather responds to their felt needs for the experience. Let us therefore consider our role.

A. The Individual Saint

The journey to sanctification of spirit, soul and body begins when saints become aware of the need and look inwards. This is the stage where we do not focus outwards to what others are saying or doing.

“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.” 2 John 1:8

1. Sincere evaluation of one's real state. This is the stage of refusal to hide reality.
2. Dissatisfaction with religion, dead works, motions of sin in the flesh. The evidence comes from manifestations of the Old Man, such as his an easy tendency to outbursts of anger, offence, malice, an an unforgiving spirit and various struggles with purity of heart, mind, tongue, and actions.
3. Deep yearning for the blessed experience of sanctification.
4. Passionate, persistent prayers for the blessed experience
5. When our obedience is complete: by putting off and putting on what is revealed in the Word (for instance, ***Ephesians 4:21–32 & Colossians 3:5–17***). It needs to be noted that by the new birth experience, there is grace to reject certain motions of the flesh.
6. A consciousness of eternity and reality that the only time for preparation is when we are alive.

*²⁷And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment;²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. **Hebrews 9:27-28***

7. Persistent Faith in Elohim

B. Elohim's Tools

Elohim uses a number of tools, as we saw in this course. Here are some of the most critical ones:

1. Holy Spirit is He Who convicts of sin and mediates the new birth experience. **John 3:3-9**. He does not stop at our new birth but continues to reveal the holy standards of Elohim and illuminates the Word until we see the holy standards of Elohim.

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: **Philippians 1:6***

1. The Blood of Yeshua, Jesus. The same Blood that was instrument of redemption is also the chief tool of sanctification of spirit, soul, and body as

*Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. **Hebrews 13:12**.*

1. The Word of Elohim. As Sword of the Spirit, the Word is highly effective—when studied privately or fervently preached or taught in such a way that revelation comes forth.

*¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. **Hebrews 4:12,13***

1. Through whatever we are allowed to suffer. In His extravagant love, Elohim uses them to draw us closer and purifies us to be like Him.

*⁵Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations;⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **1 Peter 1:5-7***

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:28-39**

The right attitude to suffering.

1. Embrace all challenges to our opinion and perspectives as positive, rather than negative. Knowing what other people think or see is an asset, not liability.
2. It is essential that the Word of Elohim governs our attitude to all external stimuli
3. Rejection and persecution should be embraced with joy, not brooding and pain.

*¹⁰ Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.¹¹ Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. **Matthew 5:10-12***

4. Offence and Forgiveness are choices before us at all times. We need to choose wisely: to remit rather than retain.

*Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. **John 20:23***

5. If we focus on locating Satan and his demons as the instigator of evil from people rather than them, we will wage effective warfare against the real enemy and trust Elohim to change/transform our loved ones he used as vessels.

*¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; **Ephesians 6:10-18***

*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. **2 Corinthians 2:11***

Outcomes of Genuine Sanctification

1. Holiness unto The Lord marked by separation from evil and entire consecration of the being to Elohim for His use and glory.

He Transforms the heart, renew the mind, and sanctify the tongue/words. The Character of Yeshua and godly virtues become manifested in the life of the saint who abides in Him.

*“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”¹ **Thessalonians 5:23***

*¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. **1 Peter 1:15-16***

2. The works of the flesh are replaced by fruit of the Spirit in day-to-day lives of the saints

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*¹⁷ *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*¹⁸ *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*²⁰ *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*²¹ *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*²³ *Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. Galatians 5:16-23*

3.The Blessed Life of the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount
because the word is made flesh and internalised as principles of life.
Matthew 5:1-12, Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7

4.Capacity to live in love as Kingdom Culture/lifestyle

³⁴ *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*³⁵ *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:34-35*

⁸ Owe no man anything, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.⁹ For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.¹⁰ Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. **Romans 13:8-10**

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.**1 Corinthians 13:1-8**

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

5. The ability to walk in unity with other saints and alignment with legitimate spiritual leadership

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.²² And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one;²³ I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. John 17:20-23

¹ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:1-6

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1 Corinthians 1:10

6.Pure wisdom which manifests in wholesome words which edify others and foster Peace rather than strife. James 3

7.Life of gratitude which gives all the glory to Elohim and is devoid of Pride

8.Separation from the World whose lord is Satan

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever 1 John 2:15-17

⁴ *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*⁵ *Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?*⁶ *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.* **James 4:4-6.**

9. Enhanced capacity to forbear and overcome all challenges and trials.

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.* ⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing...*¹² *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.* **James 1:2-4, 12**

10. Enter our rest/Dependency on Elohim for all things.

⁹ *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*¹⁰ *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*¹¹ *Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.* **Hebrews 4:9-11**

11. A life which embraces the Cross and has very high threshold for pain because it is dead to self and alive in the spirit.

*²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? **Matthew 16:24-26***

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20***

*²² And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there;²³ Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.²⁴ But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.²⁵ And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. **Acts 20:22-25***

12.Manifestation of great grace to forgive all offences by people, emulating Yeshua, Jesus and Steven.

*³³ And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment and cast lots.³⁵ And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. **Luke 23:33-35***

*⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.⁶⁰ And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. **Acts 7:58-60***

Assignment

1. Please share 5 things you learnt.

CHAPTER 19: POSTSCRIPT

This course should bring us to a place where holiness is not external but an internal reality of a life where the heart has been delivered from sinful propensities and the whole being totally consecrated to the Lord.

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*¹⁷ *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*¹⁸ *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*²⁰ *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*²¹ *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* **Galatians 5:16-23**

⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.¹⁰ And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. **Romans 8:5-14**

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. **2 Corinthians 7:1**

²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24

A life that is so stable by being anchored 24/7 on the Holy Spirit to the extent that nothing on the outside: behaviour of others, their attitude or life issues moves us.

²² And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:²³ Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. Acts 20:22-24

A necessary recap of what we studied is worthwhile. Humans are made up of spirit, soul and body.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7

Let us endeavour to break down those three components and understand the signs of victory over the Flesh (Dominance of the Soul and Body over the spirit-man)

A. The spirit-man

1. It came from Elohim and is sensitive to Him.
2. The spirit-man recognises the residency of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
3. It yearns to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. On the day of redemption, the spirit-man receives a seal measure of the Holy Spirit as a down payment, which motivates the desire to be baptised for fuller measure. 2 Corinthians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30
4. It is built up by regular praying in the Spirit. Romans 8:26-27, Jude 20.
5. It is also built up by being regularly fed with the word.
6. It is sensitive to the will of Elohim and functions best when the leadership of the Holy Spirit empowers it to lead the soul and body.
7. When healthy, it has a lively conscience void of offence towards other humans.
8. It treasures liberty when it can function without restraint by other humans.
9. It recognises the dangers of interfering with the will of others and avoids the same.
10. When mature, it enables saints to deal with all manner of distorted personalities. This is because it takes responsibility to restore those who miss the mark and whose flesh rule their being.
11. It rejects unforgiveness, offences, anger, wrath and life of emotional oppression over the spirit-man.

B. The Soul. It is made up of these sub-compartments:

1. The Mind

1.1. The Intellect – which functions best, when free of strongholds of negativity.

1.2. The Imagination – in this chamber, humans can ‘see’ in the realm of the spirit which provides excellent grounds for Faith.

1.3. The Memory – functions like a dump yard where all life experiences – real or imagined are dumped.

1.4. The Motives. This chamber of the soul determines all things that we do. The motives of humans are known only by Elohim and the individuals concerned.

2. The Emotion – this is the realm of feelings such as love or hatred, likes and dislikes.

2.1. Healing is needed from damaged emotions which cause pain and hurt.

2.2. We need stable emotions which do not go rogue or fluctuate between fleshly and spiritual.

2.3. When the emotion is healthy, it avoids offences like plague.

2.4. When the emotion is healthy, it sees the need to forgive forward and quickly.

3. The Will

3.1. This is the facility with the capacity to make decisions based on options. Temptations remain so until the human Will engages with the object of seduction.

3.2. This is designed to be fixated on Yeshua, looking up to Him always.

3.3. This is gripped with the reality of our mortality and need to spend eternity with Elohim.

3.4. It is filled with love of Elohim and gratitude for redemption which drives it to a fixation to finish well. ***Philippians 3:7-16***

3.5. A weak Will leads to a weak being.

C. The Body

1. This is the Tabernacle or house wherein the spirit-man and soul live.
2. The body of the saint is the temple of the Holy Spirit and should be holy.
3. Immorality is an offence against the individual's own body as well as an insult to the Holy Spirit. ***1 Corinthians 6:1-20.***
4. It should be cared for so that it can be whole: with a regular intake of water, food and exercise.
5. Saints are to avoid actions which have the capacity to destroy the body.

Elohim wants us to come to a place where no part of us is dysfunctional so that we will not be sub-optimised or fall short of the years appointed for fulfilment of destiny during our pilgrimage.

⁸ *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*⁹ *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*¹⁰ *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*¹¹ *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*¹² *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*¹³ *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. **Romans 13:8-13***

Conclusion

The human nature with its three interrelated components – spirit, soul, and body - has been given to us as an asset from Elohim God so that we can live on this physical earth to fulfil His purpose. Every single person on earth is the product of an intelligent decision and design of Elohim God. This includes children born out of wedlock and even through incestuous relationships. This may sound strange, but it is nevertheless true.

i. Rahab was a common prostitute in the great city of Jericho. By saving the Jewish spies who came to her brothel, she secured her life and that of her family (***Joshua 2:1-24; Joshua 6:21-23***). She went on to marry an Israeli and became one of the forebearers of David and Jesus Christ (***Ruth 4:1-22***).

ii. A young man called Pharez was the product of an incestuous relationship between Judah and his own daughter in law Tamar, disguised as a prostitute. ***Genesis 38:1-29***. Pharez became a forebearer of Jesus Christ.

iii. Ruth was a Moabitess. Moab was the product of the incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughters who made him drunk (***Genesis 18:30–38***). Her past notwithstanding, by her marriage to Boaz, she became a forebearer of Jesus Christ.

These cases prove that Elohim God can wipe away the record of yesterday and do a new thing with anyone who is willing to receive His mercy. That mercy has been encapsulated into the redemptive work which Yeshua, Jesus accomplished for all humanity at the Cross of Calvary when He came to this earth as the Lamb of God who alone is qualified to take away the sins of the world. ***John 1:29; Hebrews 9:28***

The grand qualification for eternity is “whoever believes”. Believing in the heart and confessing with the tongue (***Romans 10:6-11***) is the starting point of a new life in Yeshua, Jesus. That life calls on us to press into Him and make Him our delight. It calls for understanding that He came to create a pathway for a new race that will populate the earth – the fourth race of people whose new identity is not after the old demographics of race, gender, age, socio-economic status but by one new universal bio-metric: redeemed by the blood! When anyone appropriates that reality, the Kingdom comes into his/her heart irrespective of background ***Luke 17:21; Revelation 7:9-10***

The redeemed are called to a life of true liberty in Yeshua, Jesus, the liberty that comes from giving up the old passions, ambitions, and desires which war against the soul so that He may be all in all. When this happens, they cease to live for this present world and its fleeting pleasures and attractions. They rather set their sights on something far more glorious and grandiose: the Kingdom of Elohim God.

When living in the Kingdom and living for Elohim God meet in the spirit, soul and body of the saint, the things of this world grow strangely dim. Their core passion becomes engagement with the very mission statement of Yeshua, Jesus as spelt out in ***Luke 19:10***

“To seek and to save the lost.”

This was the reason Yeshua gave us the Great Commission ***Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8***.

For this reason, the redeemed of the Lord need to focus intently on using everything the Lord decorated them with – shape, beauty, education, spiritual gifts, physical and spiritual strength and indeed all things else to advance the Kingdom, knowing assuredly that our heavenly Father will take care of them and provide all that pertains to life and godliness for them ***Matthew 6:25-34***

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:” 2 Peter 1:3

The three indices of the Kingdom – righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit makes them unusual people because their satisfaction comes from connection with the Throne of Grace, not the material things their generation seek after. ***Romans 14:17-19***

In this present life, The Lord will raise some of the redeemed to high political office. He will empower some with extraordinary wealth. He will lift up some to great heights in various areas of life. There will still be some who He has elected to use at ground zero level as ordinary people serving an extra ordinary God and representing Him well even in that low estate. Those He has appointed to greatness will not achieve same by the normal process of 'hard work' undertaken by mere men. It will be His work of grace all through so that there will be no ground for boasting!

Knowing the terror of the Lord and the just recompense of eternal punishment which awaits those who die without Yeshua, Jesus, the righteous are under an impulsions and compulsion of love to do all in their ability and power to preach, teach, pray in and follow up people until Yeshua, Jesus is fully formed in them. There is no room for indifference if you truly love the Lord and the people who He created. We owe all men a duty of care to spend and be spent in the process of persuading men to receive Him as Lord and Saviour and thus escape the snares of eternal damnation!

We have done our part by allowing Holy Spirit to use us to download and release this practical message. Will you do your part? Will you take a stand today to believe the report of the Holy Bible rather than the fanciful ideas of men who have created their own doctrines of a pseudo-kingdom with which they hunt for your pocket first and then your soul? Would you take a risk and abandon the Bible in favour of the opinion of men? You decide! Our hands are free of the blood of anyone reading these messages! Please read ***Ezekiel 3:1-27 and Ezekiel 18:1-32.***

Assignment

- 1. Please share any 3 things you received from this lesson.*
- 2. Would you embrace the principle of **2 Timothy 2:2** and use the revelation of Truth in this course to teach other saints? Please feel free to share the videos and lesson notes.*
- 3. The Course Assessment/Essay. If you would like to be certified for doing this Course, please request for the outline of the assessment essay which should be completed within 2 weeks.*

The Course Assessment/Essay

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN NATURE

Please write an essay of not more than 500 words summarising what you learnt from Course 128: Understanding the Human nature. Within the essay, please use these questions/pointers as prompts of what to include:

Name and explain the three components of man as you understand from the course.

Name and explain the four components of the human soul.

What is meant by the word "Carnality" or Carnal man?

In what way can the soul be made to function for the spirituality of the saint rather than carnality?

When does the spirit and soul separate from the body and what are their respective destinations for saints and those who remain in their sins at the point of death?

What is the role of the conscience in our walk with God?

What are the four principal instruments of sanctification?

How do you deal with negative thoughts?

How can you differentiate whether or not the thoughts are yours or just an attack?

Please describe these terms 'hurtful memories', damaged emotions', negative mindset/strongholds, positive emotions? Can they be healed?

Please complete the essay within 2 weeks and send to the Facilitator at akclive.tv@gmail.com

Postscript

This download from the Throne Room is made available free of charge as the King instructed us for training those He will use to reform His Church and make her ready for His soon return. There is no Babylonian copyright restriction to limit your ability to use the material to study, pray it in and apply it in your life and ministry. This will enable you to build according to the Master Plan of the King, so you may be bold at His appearing! 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Please share this and all materials of the Asia, Middle East and Pacific Master Class Programme freely with friends, family and other saints. Please do not use them to print books! The right to do so has been granted to Kingdom Agency.

Understanding the human nature is one of the Courses in the curriculum of both Global School of Ministry and the Global Advanced Mentorship Program. It is an intensely practical resource which will help individuals, families, small groups, cell fellowships and kingdom communities such as local assemblies and fellowships to translate the free gift of righteousness into practical holiness.

If you would like to enroll for any of the structured free training programmes offered by this Kingdom Educational System, look up the options at www.akcamp.co.in. For those who are visual oriented, there are over 850 edited videos with graphics for better study experience on GSOM TV channel on YouTube and over 1,500 raw videos on the True Kingdom Live channel on YouTube.

How to be involved If you would like to be part of the elect who Elohim will use to impact and transform the Church worldwide with this revelation, there are various ways you can be involved, depending on your skills:

- i. Promote these revelations to the wider Body through Electronic or Print means or via Facebook and other Social Media
- ii. Be part of those who will use revelations in this course to train other leaders and saints within your loop of Kingdom influence;
- iii. You have the skills/capacity to edit or proofread these materials, Please send a note to: ampmasterclass@gmail.com
- iv. You can support in any other way: financially at paypal.me/kingdombooksclub

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN NATURE

Masterclass Curriculum The curriculum includes 40 courses and is divided into five modules consisting of basic and advanced courses. The basic courses are foundational Christian doctrines and beliefs, based entirely and completely on the Bible, as well as practical principles and practices concerning ministry and how to fulfill the same.

Module 1: Christian/Kingdom Foundation—8 Courses

Course 100: Constitution of the Kingdom—The Holy Scriptures as sure foundation of our Faith

Course 101: Understanding Elohim

Course 102: Understanding Yeshua Ha Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah

Course 103: Holy Spirit: Who He Is and What He does

Course 104: The Glorious Truths

Course 105: The Fundamental C's (responses of the Truly Redeemed)

Course 106: The Ultimate Three: Faith, Hope and Charity

Course 107: Grace

Module 2: The Kingdom and the Church—10 Courses

Course 108: The Church 225

Course 109: Kingdom Oriented Church Growth

Course 110: The Church of His Vision

Course 111: The Kingdom of Elohim

Course 112: The Ascension Office—Gifts (Fivefold Leadership Gifts) Course 113: Spiritual Gifts: What, Why, How

Course 114: Leadership in the Household of Faith Course 115: Authority

Course 116: The Great Commission

Course 117: Ministerial Ethics

Module 3: Kingdom Citizen and Ambassador – 9 Courses

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN NATURE

Course 118: The Call, Cost, and Rewards of Discipleship

Course 119: Ministry: Discover, Pursue and Fulfilling

Course 120: Personal Spiritual Growth and Maturity

Course 121: Market Place Ministry

Course 122: Women in Ministry

Course 123: Rewards of the Faithful

Course 124: Christian Marriage & Family Life

Course 125: Finances and Stewardship in Elohim's House

Course 126: Introduction to Christian Counselling

Module 4: Dominion Mandate of the Redeemed – 4 Courses

Course 127: Signs, Wonders, and the Miraculous

Course 128: Understanding the Human Nature

Course 129: Critical Adversaries

Course 130: Prayer & Spiritual Warfare

Course 131: Dispensations, Seasons and Times

Module 5: Digging Deep—9 Courses

Course 132: Doctrines of the Bible

Course 133: All that Yeshua, Jesus Said and Did Course 134: Apostasies, Heresies,

Errors and the Pseudo-Gospel Course 135: Priesthood and the Kingdom Church

Course 136: Divine Perspective of Purpose Course 137: 7 Letters from Heaven

Course 138: Legacies of Yeshua Course 139: Completing the Unfinished

Reformation Course 140: Strategic Kingdom Leadership

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN NATURE

Two issues have puzzled bible scholars for several centuries. The first is how to fully interpret Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 2:7 that Elohim God made man in His own image and likeness. This book provides an insight which clears the fog on what the scriptures mean. The second puzzle is how best to interpret 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 that Elohim will sanctify saints wholly – in spirit, soul, and body.

This book takes a deep dive into the triune nature of the human being as spirit, soul, and body. It provides actional definitions on each, and how they operate within the human persona. It goes further to articulate how entire sanctification is possible as well as how believers can live free of the debilitating effects of Sin.

