



THE CHAPEL OF FAITH, UNIJOs

Holding Forth the Word of Life

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES

Possess the Gates

Genesis 22: 17



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POSSESS THE GATES – Genesis 22:17

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Printed in Jos Plateau State Nigeria by

FOREWARD

God Almighty, the owner of the heavens and the earth, in His magnanimity, mercy and grace has brought us into another year with His strong Word - Possess the Gates (Gen. 22:17). "Possess the Gates" is an injunction, a mandate for us, His sons and daughters, to first of all takeover and then possess the gates which hitherto had been captured and possessed by the enemy and his cohorts. To possess has to do with consistently and persistently sustaining ownership on taking over, and never to yield the gates again to the enemies. This, apparently, is a call to battle, and requires strategizing, equipping and fighting all the way.

In this fierce life-and-death duel, the believer must beware and at the same time know that the enemies will not just fold their hands and willingly handover or surrender the gates on a platter to us. We must therefore be all prepared and brace up to the challenge of facing the enemy head-on until we takeover and possess the gates of the enemies as instructed by our God. We must arise from this year to possess the gates of business, politics, media, entertainment and sports, economy, education, family and the Church which the enemy has taken.

May the Lord count on you as you gird your loins to possess the gates of the enemies and then occupy till the Master returns; for you are more than a conqueror in Christ and must serve with your family devotedly. The Lord be with you all. Amen.

Chaplain

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Possess the Gates

Genesis 22: 17

1st Quarter Possessing the Gates

Genesis 22:17.



STUDY ONE

UNDERSTANDING THE GATES I: BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT

TEXTS: Prov. 16:32; Matt. 15:17-20.

MEMORY VERSE

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Prov. 18:21.

INTRODUCTION

A gate is a doorway to an enclosed place or entity. It is a place of authority where dominion is exercised. An individual has several gates through which either righteousness or sin can take control. This control can happen in any one of the gateways of body, soul and spirit. The body gateways are the senses of touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing. The soul gateways are mind, will, and emotions. The spirit gateways are intuition, revelation, faith and hope, among others. As unbelievers, our gateways were dominated by sin. Now that we are born again, we need to deliberately yield and subject these gateways to righteousness, thereby taking charge or possessing them for Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss body, soul and spirit as gateways from these Scriptures:
Gen. 6:1-5; 11:1-6; Prov. 16:32; 18:21; 25:28; Matt. 5:28-30; 15:17-20; 1 Cor. 2:9-16; 1 Jn. 2:15-17.
2. Share experiences of your body, soul and spirit as gateways.

CONCLUSION

This study has shown that the body, soul and spirit are gateways to our lives and they determine the issues of life. May we guard them diligently for godly use.

STUDY TWO

UNDERSTANDING THE GATES II: DOMAINS OF INFLUENCE

TEXTS: Mic. 4:1-3; Rev. 17:1-13.

MEMORY VERSE

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. Mic. 4:1.

INTRODUCTION

The gates we have been called to possess go beyond those that impact us individually. They also involve gates that influence the society, nations and in turn affect our individual capacities to walk in the plans and purposes of God. Several domains have been identified as critical areas of influence that affect the individual Christian, the Church, our vocational callings, social life and the activities of God's kingdom. In this study, we shall be examining some of these domains of influence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the domains of influence from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 18:17-19; 41:38-43; 45:7-9 Exo. 31:1-6; 1 Sam. 16:17-23; 1 Kgs. 4:29-34;
Mic. 4:1-3; Matt. 28:11-15; Lk. 16:1-12, 17-23.
2. Share your own experience of domains of influence.

CONCLUSION

Our domains of influence cut across family, religion, education, government, media, business, arts and entertainment. Let us take advantage of these domains of influence to advance God's Kingdom.

STUDY THREE

POSSESSING THE GATES: WHAT IT ENTAILS

TEXTS: Josh. 14:7-15; 1 Thess. 4:3-7.

MEMORY VERSE

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Prov. 4:23.

INTRODUCTION

Possessing the gates demands taking charge of our body, soul, spirit and domains of influence. As believers, for us to have control over our inheritance and exercise dominion within our spheres of influence, we need to have adequate understanding of what possessing the gates entails.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What does possessing the gates entail from the following Scriptures?
Gen. 22:15-18; Josh. 14:7-15; Prov. 4:20-23; Dan. 1:3-8; Job 31:1; Matt. 8:28-33; Lk. 10:19; Rom. 12:1,2; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Phil. 4:6-9; 1 Thess. 4:3-7.

CONCLUSION

Possessing the gates requires obedience to God's word and leading of the Holy Spirit, discipline, determination, and spiritual warfare, to mention but a few. May we arm ourselves with this understanding so as to possess our gates.

STUDY FOUR

DIVINE PROVISIONS FOR POSSESSING THE GATES I: THE WHOLE ARMOUR

TEXTS: 2 Chron. 20:17-25; Eph. 6:10-18.

MEMORY VERSE

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph. 6:11.

INTRODUCTION

The Christian life is a life of warfare and different weaponry is employed in it. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons the world uses. God has made available to us weapons that have divine power to demolish strongholds. In this study, we will focus on the whole armour of God as divine provisions for possessing the gates.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss the whole armour as God's divine provision for possessing the gates: Deut. 20:1-4; 1 Sam. 17:41-47; 2 Chron. 20:17-25; Jn. 1:1-5; Eph. 6:10-18; Heb. 4:12; Rev. 12:11.

CONCLUSION

We have several weapons in our armoury that have been divinely provided for us in order to possess the gates. May we deploy them appropriately.

STUDY FIVE

DIVINE PROVISIONS FOR POSSESSING THE GATES II: OTHER PROVISIONS

TEXTS: Gal. 5:22-26; 1 Tim. 6:6-11.

MEMORY VERSE

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Gal. 5:22, 23.

INTRODUCTION

In our previous study, we discussed the armour of God as divine provisions for possessing the gates. In this study, we shall discuss other divine provisions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are other divine provisions for possessing the gates from the following Scriptures?
Prov. 14:34; Matt. 28:16-20; Gal. 5:22-26; Col. 3:13-17; 1 Thess. 5:16-20; 1 Tim. 6:6-11.
2. Discuss the practical application of some of these provisions in possessing the gates.

CONCLUSION

Other divine provisions for possessing the gates include the fruit of the Spirit, contentment, forgiveness, and prophecy, among others. May we apply these provisions in advancing the kingdom of God.

STUDY SIX

STRATEGIES FOR POSSESSING THE GATES I

TEXTS: Neh. 2:1-18; 2 Cor. 10:1-6.

MEMORY VERSE

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:(for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2 Cor. 10:3, 4.

INTRODUCTION

A strategy is a carefully developed plan or method for achieving a goal. God has given us different strategies for possessing the gates through our knowledge of Him. Some of these strategies include His word, prayer, and fellowship, among others. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss some strategies we can deploy in order to possess the gates from these Scriptures: Gen. 18:17-19; Neh. 1:4, 5; 2:1-18; Job 31:1; Ps. 119:9-11; Isa. 52:7; Dan. 1:3-21; Matt. 6:19-25, 33, 34; 2 Cor. 7:1; 10:1-6; Eph. 4:29.

CONCLUSION

It is imperative that we make use of the strategies God has given us in order to possess the gates. May we be willing to apply them.

STUDY SEVEN

STRATEGIES FOR POSSESSING THE GATES II: RAISING MEN

TEXTS: Gen. 14:14-16; Matt. 28:18-20.

MEMORY VERSE

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. 2 Tim. 2:2.

INTRODUCTION

In the last study, we discussed some strategies for possessing the gates. In this study we shall focus on raising men as another strategy. Men in this context are both men and women that are prepared and equipped by God in different ways and fashions, and who are vested with the responsibility of possessing the gates. God does not use men that he has not worked on.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss raising men as a strategy for possessing the gates from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 14:14-16; Exo. 18:18-26; 1 Chron. 25:1-7; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 4:13-16; 18:24-28; 2 Tim. 2:1,2.
2. Discuss raising men in other areas of influence not mentioned above.

CONCLUSION

As we possess the gates, we must also endeavour to raise men in different spheres of influence that will do likewise.

STUDY EIGHT

STRATEGIES FOR POSSESSING THE GATES III: EXEMPLARY MEN

TEXTS: Gen. 14:8-24; Acts 18:1-4.

MEMORY VERSE

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. Jas. 5:17, 18.

INTRODUCTION

An exemplary is a model, a prototype of a thing or person serving as a pattern of behaviour that can be emulated for a better outcome in every process. Examples are used to illustrate and explain issues and concepts better. There were biblical characters who were exemplars and excelled in their obedience to God in possessing the gates in their generations. This study examines such exemplary men who possessed different gates in their time and walk with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. Discuss the exemplary of men who possessed the gates from these Scriptures:
Gen.14:8-24; 41:25-44; 1 Sam. 16:18-23; 2 Sam. 1:17-27; Job 31:1; Prov. 31:12-27; Dan. 1:17-21; Acts 18:1-4. 1 Cor. 9:24-27.
2. Discuss other biblical examples of men who possessed the gates.

CONCLUSION

This study has shown that as men avail themselves of the opportunity to partner with God in their lives and spheres of influence, they can determine the course of events in their generations.

STUDY NINE

CHALLENGES TO POSSESSING THE GATES

TEXTS: Gen. 39:7-12; Gal. 3:1-4.

MEMORY VERSE

Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. Heb. 12:16.

INTRODUCTION

Challenges are obstacles that one encounters on the way to achieving set goals. Several things contend for our attention and can hinder us from possessing the gates. This study shall discuss some of these challenges.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the challenges to possessing the gates from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 22:1-3, 15-18; 39:7-12; 1 Sam. 2:12-17; 15:7-19; 1 Kgs. 20:39-42; Dan. 6:1-9; Gal. 3:1-4; 4:1, 2; 2 Chron. 26:14-18; Heb. 12:14-17.
2. Identify and discuss some contemporary challenges to possessing the gates.

CONCLUSION

We have seen from this study several challenges that could hinder us from possessing the gates. May we take heed so as to overcome them.

STUDY TEN

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT POSSESSING THE GATES

TEXTS: 1 Sam. 15:3-9, 24-29; Acts 1:17-20.

MEMORY VERSE

And he said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people. 1 Kgs. 20:42.

INTRODUCTION

God expects us to possess the gates and has given us all that we need to do so. Sometimes we lose focus and are not able to possess the gates. When we do that, it comes with consequences. This study focuses on some of these dire consequences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the consequences of not possessing the gates from these Scriptures:
Gen. 3:8-19; Judg. 16:15-21; 1Kgs. 20: 42; 2 Kgs. 5:20-27; 1 Sam. 15:3-9, 24-29; 2 Chron. 26:14-21; Lk. 14:33-35; Acts 1:17-20.
2. Discuss other consequences of not possessing the gates.

CONCLUSION

The consequences of not possessing the gates are dire and monumental. We should therefore yield ourselves to God and remain focused in order to avoid these consequences.

STUDY ELEVEN

BENEFITS OF POSSESSING THE GATES

TEXTS: Obad. 1:17-21; Acts 6:1-7.

MEMORY VERSE

But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. Obad. 1:17.

INTRODUCTION

We have seen from previous studies that it is God's desire that believers should possess the gates in order to bring to bear His plans and purposes in their lives and society. In this study, we shall examine some benefits of possessing the gates.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some benefits of possessing the gates from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 22:17, 18; Josh. 21: 43-45; Isa. 32:17-18; Dan. 3:26-30; Obad. 1:17-21; Mic. 4:1-7; Matt. 25:14-23; Acts 6:1-7; Phil. 4:6, 7.
2. Discuss other benefits of possessing the gates.

CONCLUSION

Possessing the gates of our lives and domain of influence will enable us to be a blessing, experience deliverance, holiness, peace and rest, among others.

Possess the Gates

Genesis 22: 17

2nd Quarter More than Conquerors

Rom 8:37.



STUDY ONE

UNDERSTANDING WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST

TEXTS: Jer. 1:4-10; Eph. 2:1-10.

MEMORY VERSE

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

INTRODUCTION

Our identity in Christ is a function of our relationship with Him. It is not based on education, economic worth or social status. Knowing this fact enables us to maximise the potentials that God has endowed us with, for our walk with Him, living and ministering as more than conquerors. Understanding who you are in Christ is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss who you are in Christ from the following Scriptures:
Ps. 82:6; Jer. 1:4-10; Rom. 6:1-10; 8:28-39; 2 Cor. 5:14-21; Gal. 4:1-7; Eph. 1:3-12; 2:1-10, 19-22; 1 Pet. 2:9,10.

CONCLUSION

From this study, we have seen that we have a new identity in Christ; being a royal priesthood, we are gods and more than conquerors. Indeed, we have an enduring inheritance.

STUDY TWO

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

TEXTS: 2 Chron. 20:1-30; Rom. 8: 31-39.

MEMORY VERSE

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Rom. 8:37.

INTRODUCTION

A conqueror is one who overcomes an adversary. To be more than a conqueror is to enter into the victory that Jesus Christ has won for us. Consequently, we can approach the battles of life with confidence. More than conquerors is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What does more than conquerors entail from the following Scriptures?
Exo. 14:9-22; 2 Chron. 20:1-30; Jer. 1:18,19; Rom. 8:31-39; 2 Cor. 4:5-17; Rev.12:11.

CONCLUSION

God has given us an overwhelming victory – this victory is fully signed, sealed and delivered to us by the blood of the Lamb. Go and live in this victory!

STUDY THREE

MORE THAN CONQUERORS II: DISPOSITION

TEXTS: Rom. 8:24- 39; 2 Cor. 4:1-18.

MEMORY VERSE

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor. 4:16-18.

INTRODUCTION

Our outlook to life and the attitude we display are crucial in order for us to live victoriously and accomplish God's mandate for our lives. In this study, we shall discuss some of the dispositions that we should have as believers who are more than conquerors.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some dispositions of believers as more than conquerors from the following Scriptures:
Num. 13:30-14:1-9; Josh. 14:10-12; 1 Sam. 30:3-25; Prov. 24:16, 17;
Ps. 112:4-10; Isa. 28:16; Dan. 3:15-18; Rom. 8:24-39; 1 Cor. 10:10-12; 2 Cor. 4:1-18; Phil. 4:4-7; Heb. 11:13-16, 25, 26.
2. Discuss other dispositions not highlighted above.

CONCLUSION

We have seen from this study that for us to live as more than conquerors, we should have faith in God, joyfulness, thankfulness, patience, courage, peace and rest, among others. May we adopt and put on these dispositions in our daily life.

STUDY FOUR

THE NATURE OF OUR VICTORY

TEXTS: Deut. 20:1-4; 1 Jn. 5:4, 5.

MEMORY VERSE

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 1 Jn. 5:4.

INTRODUCTION

The victorious Christian life is rooted and grounded in faith through the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a life lived in triumph over the world, the devil and sin. This differs from victory that comes by worldly means. This study focuses on the nature of our victory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the nature of our victory from the following Scriptures: Deut. 20:1-4; Josh. 10:8-11; Ps. 3:3-6; Zech. 4:6; Jn. 16:33; Rom. 8:31-39; 9:14-16; 1 Cor. 10:13; 15:50-58; Col. 2:9-15; 1 Jn. 5:4, 5.
2. How can a believer sustain the victory?
Ps. 1:1-3; 2 Cor. 10:4-6; Eph. 6:11-16; 1 Thess. 5:16-22; 1 Pet. 5:6-9.

CONCLUSION

The nature of our victory in Christ is by grace, mercy, the Lord being our refuge and He fighting our battles, among others. May this continue to be our testimony in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY FIVE

ABIDING IN CHRIST

TEXTS: Ps. 63:1-8; Jn.15:1-10.

MEMORY VERSE

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me. Jn. 15:4.

INTRODUCTION

To abide in Christ means being habitually in communion with him and in total dependence on him. Just as branches are connected to a tree for life and vitality, so also as believers, God expects us to stay connected to his Son, Jesus Christ, for our life and sustenance. This can be made possible by developing and maintaining an intimate and personal relationship with Christ. In doing this, we can maintain our victory in Christ and continually be more than conquerors. Abiding in Christ is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how to abide in Christ from these underlisted Scriptures:
Ps.1:1-3; 63:1-8; Mk. 3:13-15; Jn.15:1-10; Lk.10:38-42; 2 Cor. 3:13-18;
Gal. 5:16, 18; Col. 3:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:14; Heb.10:23-25; 1 Jn.1:1-7.
2. How does abiding in Christ help a believer to be continually more than a conqueror?
Ps. 27:1-6; 63:1-8; Isa. 26:3; Jer.17:7, 8; Jn.15:4-8; Gal. 5:16, 18.

CONCLUSION

Abiding in Christ is crucial if a believer must continually be more than conqueror. This entails being connected to him, being taught of him, setting affection on him, being habitually with Christ in communion and walking in the Spirit, and so on. May we continually abide in Him.

STUDY SIX

AUTHORITY OF A BELIEVER

TEXTS: 2 Kgs. 2:11-15; Lk. 10:17-21.

MEMORY VERSE

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Lk. 10:19.

INTRODUCTION

Authority is the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. A believer's authority comes from God. God sent Jesus to redeem us and restore our lost authority. This confers powers, rights and privileges to a believer. Authority of a believer is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the authority of believers from the following Scriptures:
2 Kgs. 2:11-15; Lk. 10:17-21; Jn. 14:12-14; Acts 1:8; 3:1-9; 4:7-13; 16:16-18; 20:8-11; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Jas. 4:7; 1 Jn. 3:9; 5:4, 5.
2. How can we exercise this authority as believers?
Jn. 14:12-14; Acts 14:8-10; 16:25, 26; Eph. 6:10-18; Jas. 4:7.

CONCLUSION

God has bestowed upon us extensive authority. Let us endeavour to exercise it in our daily living.

STUDY SEVEN

ARISE AND SHINE

TEXTS: Isa. 60:1-7; Phil. 2: 12-16.

MEMORY VERSE

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. Isa. 60:1.

INTRODUCTION

To arise is to come forth, stand up or emerge; while to shine is to radiate, illuminate, brighten or glow. As a people who are more than conquerors, God expects us to shine the light in us for the world to see. Arise and shine is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss arise and shine from the following Scriptures:
Est. 4:13-17; Job 11:15-20; Isa. 60:1-7; Dan. 6:1-5. Matt. 5:14-16;
Eph. 4:28-32; 5:8-17; Phil. 2:12-16.
2. Share practical examples of how to arise and shine.

CONCLUSION

Arise and shine requires taking a stand for righteousness and living a life that attracts men to Christ. Let us do these to the glory of God.

STUDY EIGHT

REIGNING WITH CHRIST

TEXTS: Ps. 110:1-7; Eph. 1:4-23.

MEMORY VERSE

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. Rom. 5:17.

INTRODUCTION

Reigning means exercising sovereign authority or power over a kingdom, realm or sphere. As believers, Christ has exalted us to this position of dominion with Him at the point of our salvation. This implies that as He is King over all, we also should deploy this royal privilege by exercising power over the issues of this life in every sphere of endeavour. Again, one of the promises of God and a core value of our faith is eternal life. Believers shall enjoy eternal reign with Christ as God has ordained at the close of the age. Reigning with Christ is the thrust of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss reigning with Christ from these Scriptures:
Ps. 82:6; 110:1-7; Matt. 25:31-40; Acts 14:8-12; Rom. 5:17; 8: 14-17;
1 Cor. 2:7-16; Eph. 1:4-23; 1 Thess. 2:10-12; 2 Tim. 2:10-13; 1 Pet. 2:9;
Rev. 7:9-17; 20:4-6.
2. What implication(s) does not reigning with Christ portend for believers?

CONCLUSION

Reigning with Christ as seen from this study, is not only awaiting the coming of the Lord for eternal reign, but also a daily exercise of the authority God has vested in us in the discharge of our responsibilities everywhere. May we reign with Christ continually.

STUDY NINE

SUFFERING AS A BELIEVER

TEXTS: 2 Kgs. 4:1-7; 1 Pet. 4:1-19.

MEMORY VERSE

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 1 Pet. 4:16.

INTRODUCTION

Since the fall of man, suffering has become part of our lived experience. There are diverse reasons why people suffer, including economic, social, academic, religious hardships, and so on. As Christians, we also suffer because of our faith. This is not a strange or new phenomenon as the Scripture and church history are rife with examples of brethren who suffered for their faith. Even our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ suffered in order to fulfil the mandate of God. However, it is expected that our approach to suffering as believers should draw from these examples and be different from the way humanity generally understands and responds to suffering.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what suffering as a believer entails from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 15:1-4; 37:5-11, 19-24; 1 Sam. 1:1-7; 2 Kgs. 4:1-7; Acts 4:17-21; 5:40; Rom. 8:35, 36; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 11:24-28; 2 Tim. 2:8, 9; 1 Pet. 4:1-14.
2. What should be the approach of a believer to suffering?
Job 1:19-22; Ps. 23:4; Acts. 4:23-30; 5:41, 42; Rom. 8:37-39; 2 Tim. 2:10-13; Jas.1:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:15-19.

CONCLUSION

As believers, we should not shy away from suffering for the Lord. Though it is not palatable, we should embrace it as an occasion for growth and to glorify God.

STUDY TEN

MAXIMISING CHRIST'S VICTORY

TEXTS: Ps. 37:1-9; 2 Pet. 1:2-11.

MEMORY VERSE

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. Phil. 2:12, 13.

INTRODUCTION

To maximise is to make the best use of an opportunity, place or thing. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ affords the believer victory, hence making the Christian more than a conqueror. However, the believer must be ready and willing to take advantage of this victory in every facet of life. How to maximise this victory and the necessity of doing so is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we maximise Christ's victory from these Scriptures?
Josh. 1:6-9; Ps. 37:1-9; Jn. 8:31; Rom. 12:1-3, 9-21 32; Eph. 6:10-20; Col. 3:12-17; 2 Pet. 1:2-11.
2. Discuss the necessity of maximising Christ's victory from these Scriptures:
Ps. 49:12, 20; Matt. 13:24-30; 25:14-30; 2 Pet. 1:8-11.

CONCLUSION

Maximising our victory in Christ is what we must and deliberately do in order to fulfil God's purpose. This is achievable by the help of the Holy Spirit. May God help us to so do. Amen

STUDY ELEVEN

THE TRIUMPHANT CHURCH

TEXTS: Exo. 1:1-12; Acts 2:37-47.

MEMORY VERSE

And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matt. 16:18.

INTRODUCTION

To be triumphant is to be victorious against all prevailing circumstances. The church has and is still facing diverse challenges. Despite these difficulties, the church has continued to advance. The triumphant church is that which is winning and overcoming against all odds. As believers, God expects us to continue to wax strong in the face of challenges in order to maintain the legacy of triumph. The triumphant Church is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the triumphant church from the following Scriptures: Exo. 1:1-12; 14:13-31; Dan. 3:14-30; Acts 2:37-47; 6:1-8; 8:1-8; Rom. 8:31-39; Gal. 2:6-9.
2. What can hinder the Church from being triumphant? 1 Cor. 1:11-15; 2 Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:1-21; Rev. 3:14-19.

CONCLUSION

We have seen some of the things that make for a triumphant church and some of the factors that can possibly hinder or prevent her from living perpetually in triumph. Let us imbibe the attributes that help us to continue in triumph and avoid those that hinder.

STUDY TWELVE

FAITHFUL TO THE END

TEXTS: 2 Sam. 11:1-17; Acts 7:54-60.

MEMORY VERSE

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10.

INTRODUCTION

God has made us more than conquerors and expects us to be faithful to him. There are several examples of those who began to walk in the victory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ but compromised along the way and some eventually turned away completely from the Faith. Yet many kept on and were faithful to the end, even unto death. This study focuses on being faithful to the end.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what it entails to be faithful to the end from the following Scriptures:
2 Sam. 11:1-17; Matt. 24:3-13; Acts 7:54-60; Rom. 8:35-39; 1 Cor. 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
2. Discuss some lessons from these characters that were not faithful to the end from the following Scriptures:
1 Kgs. 13:1-24; 20:37-43; Eze. 44:10-14; Matt. 24:45-51; 2 Tim. 4:10.

CONCLUSION

Challenges and afflictions are not new to those that God has called and chosen. It is He that is all-seeing and all-knowing that will issue the final verdict. Let nothing separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. May we remain faithful to the end, and so receive the crown of life.

Possess the Gates

Genesis 22: 17

3rd Quarter The Devoted Family

1 Cor. 16:15.



STUDY ONE

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEVOTED FAMILY

TEXTS: Deut. 11:18-25; 1 Cor.16:13-18

MEMORY VERSE

I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to everyone that helpeth with us, and laboureth. 1 Cor. 16:15, 16.

INTRODUCTION

To be devoted is to be given over to a cause or activity. The devoted Christian family is therefore a family that is steadfastly committed to God and the cause of the Gospel. Its members are consecrated, dedicated and passionately pursuing God and His Kingdom as His representatives here on earth. They are also committed to loving and caring for one another. This is not limited to the nuclear family but includes the body of Christ, which is the larger Family of God. We shall be considering some characteristics of the devoted family in this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Discuss some characteristics of the devoted family from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 18:17-19; 35:1-7; Deut. 11:18-25; Job 1:1-5; Josh. 24:15; Ps. 78:1-7; Acts 21:8, 9; Rom. 16:3-5; 1 Cor.16:13-18; 2 Tim. 1:3-5; 3:14, 15; 1 Thess. 2:7, 8.
- 2) From Eph. 5:31-6:9, discuss God's expectations from individual members of the devoted nuclear family.
- 3) Give some practical benefits of the devoted family.

CONCLUSION

The devoted family is characterised by dedication, faithfulness, love, consecration, prayerfulness and service to God, among others. Therefore, we must be purposeful in building and showcasing these attributes in our families.

STUDY TWO

PREREQUISITES FOR A DEVOTED FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 18:1-19; 1Pet. 3:1-11.

MEMORY VERSE

I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,). 1 Cor. 16:15.

INTRODUCTION

In study one we saw that a devoted family is one that is given over completely to the Lord, His Church and one another. However, this does not happen automatically. A deliberate effort is required in order to put the necessary ingredients in place and to create the right environment where members of the family can learn devotion. In this way, they can help one another grow in devotion to God and to each other. In this study, we shall be examining some of the prerequisites for a devoted family and some of the challenges to fulfilling these requirements.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the prerequisites for a devoted family from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 2:21-25; 17:9-14; 18:1-19; Deut. 11:18-21; Neh. 4:13,14; Jn. 15:12; Acts 1:12-14; 16:32-34; Rom. 16:3-5; Tit. 1:5-9; 2:1-5; Heb. 10:24, 25; 1 Pet. 3:1-11.
2. Discuss some of the challenges to fulfilling these prerequisites from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 16:1-6; 1 Sam. 2:27-30; Mal. 2:11-16; Matt. 10:34-39.

CONCLUSION

Raising a devoted family is very possible if we are deliberate in applying these necessary ingredients to our individual and family lives. However, it is important to note that there will be challenges. We must continue to trust the Lord to enable us to overcome these challenges in the power of the Holy Spirit so that our families will grow in their devotion to God and to one another.

STUDY THREE

FAMILY ALTAR

TEXTS: Gen. 35:1-7; Acts 10:1-4, 24-27.

MEMORY VERSE

And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. Gen. 35:3.

INTRODUCTION

In the Old Testament, the altar is a structure raised with stones in a designated place where sacrifices are offered in the form of worship to God. These offerings are of different types, among which are sin offering, thanksgiving offering, peace offering, and so on. However, after the death of Jesus on the cross, worship to God is no longer based on this structure; rather, it is worship that comes from the heart. Family altar is a place of devotion where every member of the family comes together to worship God. In this study we shall be discussing the family altar.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the components of the family altar.
2. What can we learn about family altar from these Scriptures?
Gen. 35:1-7; Deut. 6:6-9; Job 1:1-5; Ps. 95:1-3; Acts 1:13, 14; 10:1-4, 24-27; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Jas. 5:16.

CONCLUSION

We gather as a family to worship God in praise, prayer, repentance and studying the word of God at the family altar. May we be consistent in this practice.

STUDY FOUR

FAMILY INTIMACY

TEXTS: Ruth 1:16-18; 1 Cor. 7:1-5.

MEMORY VERSE

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. Gen. 2:25.

INTRODUCTION

Family intimacy is that close and warm relationship that exists among members of the family. There are different attributes which showcase family intimacy. Some of them include: physical, emotional and spiritual bonding. Many families have neglected this intimacy but God expects that ours will be different. It is therefore imperative for us to take into cognisance this pointless neglect and sustain it so that we can enjoy this essential intimacy in our homes. Family intimacy is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss family intimacy from these Scriptures:
Gen. 2:23-25; 24:61-67; 26:8; Exo. 2:1-10; Ruth 1:16-18; Ps. 128:1-6;
Job 1:1-5; Songs. 2:14-17; 1 Cor. 7:1-5; 13:4-8; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-9.
2. Discuss some implications of not maintaining family intimacy.

CONCLUSION

We have seen from the Scriptures that family intimacy is exceedingly essential and practicable. Each member must be devoted to achieving this. May we be spurred onto practise family intimacy.

STUDY FIVE

DISCIPLING THE FAMILY

TEXTS: 1 Sam. 3:1-11; 2 Tim. 1:3-5.

MEMORY VERSE

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. Gen. 18:19.

INTRODUCTION

Discipling the family means leading, training and teaching every member of the family to become a follower of Jesus Christ through the word of God and Christ-like living by parents. It is a core parenting responsibility, which is done consciously or unconsciously. God expects that Christian parents are not only disciples of Christ but are also enthusiastically involved in making disciples of those who are born or brought into their homes. Discipling the family is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what discipling the family entails from the following Scriptures: Gen. 18:17-19; Deut. 6:4-9; 1 Sam. 3:1-11; 1 Chron. 25:1-7; Ps. 78:1-7; Eph. 6:1-9; 2 Tim. 1:3-5; Tit. 2:1-10.
2. Discuss the consequences of not discipling the family from the following Scriptures: Lev. 10:1-3; 1 Sam. 2:12-17; 8:1-6; 1 Kgs. 1:5, 6.

CONCLUSION

Discipling the family must be deliberately undertaken by parents through regular exposure of the family members to biblical principles, instructions, discipline, testimonies, guidance and their pattern of living aimed at pointing them to Christ. May we be willing to partner with God in this respect.

STUDY SIX

FAMILY MINISTRY

TEXTS: 1 Chron. 25:1-8; Acts 18:24-26.

MEMORY VERSE

All these were under the hands of their father for song in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman. 1 Chron. 25:6.

INTRODUCTION

God instituted the family for special purposes; one of which is to provide a platform where both biological and spiritual children can be nurtured, experience love and learn to serve God together. In a family, each member may operate in different areas of calling but working together to further the purpose of God. A family must therefore, prepare, equip and avail itself for this all-important assignment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss family ministry from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 1:27, 28; Num. 4:1-12, 21-28; Josh. 24:15; 2 Kgs. 4:8-11;
1 Chron. 25:1-8; Neh. 4:13-18; Acts 18:24-28; 21:8, 9; Rom. 16:1-10.
2. Discuss some contemporary challenges to family ministry.

CONCLUSION

God has endowed every Christian family with unique opportunities and responsibility for ministry. God is counting on us to establish His Kingdom through our family units while we await His return. May we be found faithful to this noble task.

STUDY SEVEN

CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE DEVOTED FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 13:1-12; 1 Cor. 6:1-7.

MEMORY VERSE

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. Col. 3:13.

INTRODUCTION

Conflict resolution is the process or mechanism of settling a dispute, misunderstanding or disagreement between two parties. Conflict is inevitable wherever human relationships exist. Conflicts can be experienced between members of the family. However, God expects that we employ godly principles in resolving our conflicts so that the cordiality of our relationship with Him, and with one another is unhindered. This study explores different methods of resolving conflicts in Christian homes and in the body of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the various ways conflicts were resolved in these Scriptures: Gen. 13:1-12; 27:41-45; 50:18-21; Lk. 17:3, 4; 1 Cor. 6:1-7; Phil. 2:3; Philem. 1:10-21.
2. Discuss the necessity of conflict resolution in the devoted family. Matt. 6:14, 15; 12:25; 1 Pet. 3:7-12.

CONCLUSION

Conflicts can be resolved amicably in families using godly strategies, such that our relationships: one with another, and with God are not jeopardized. May we be willing to accept the win-win ways of settling conflicts.

STUDY EIGHT

EXCELLENCE IN THE DEVOTED FAMILY

TEXTS: Prov. 31:1-31; Eph. 5:21-26.

MEMORY VERSE

And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment. 1 Chron. 12:32.

INTRODUCTION

Excellence is possessing good qualities in a high degree, having an outstanding feature. It is derived from the personality of Christ, for He is the embodiment of excellence in all ramifications. Excellence in the devoted family is exemplified by aligning ourselves with the Bible and its principles. Therefore, God expects the devoted family to exude and manifest excellence in their day-to-day living. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How can we manifest excellence in the devoted family?

Gen. 2:18-25; 1 Chron. 12:32; 25:1-7; Prov. 31:1-31; Jer. 35:1-14; Acts 18:24-28; Eph. 4:24 -29; 5:21-26; 6:1-9; Col. 4:6; 1 Tim. 5:8; Heb. 10:24, 25; 1 Pet. 4:8-10.

CONCLUSION

Excellence in the devoted family is not negotiable; everyone should play their role as this makes the family to stand out. May we strive to achieve excellence in the family.

STUDY NINE

SERVING AS GOOD EXAMPLES OF THE DEVOTED FAMILY

TEXT: Tit. 2:1-10.

MEMORY VERSE

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Tit. 2:7, 8.

INTRODUCTION

The word example in the Greek means “become a pattern”. Serving as a good example is therefore, serving as a pattern in a positive way to be imitated by others. Leading your family life in a good way creates a scenario that others will most likely want to emulate. As we relate with people on a regular basis, they watch us and are likely to emulate us. It is vital for families and family members to set good examples for others to follow. Serving as good examples of the devoted family is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does ‘serving as a good example of the devoted family’ entail? Gen. 47:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 31:10-31; Jer. 35:1-14; Acts 21:8, 9; 1 Cor. 4:15-17; 16:15-19; Eph. 5:1-12; 2 Tim. 1:5-8; Tit. 2:1-10.
2. What are the hindrances to serving as good examples of the devoted family?

CONCLUSION

When we serve as good examples, we become an inspiration to others. Let us strive to serve as good examples so that those around us can emulate our good works.

STUDY TEN

CHALLENGES OF THE DEVOTED FAMILY

TEXTS: Ruth 1:1-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-7.

MEMORY VERSE

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. 2 Tim. 3:1, 2.

INTRODUCTION

Families all over the world are faced with diverse challenges. Members of the Christian family also face challenges which may hinder their devotion to God, His cause and their commitment to loving and caring for one another. Many of these challenges are due to external factors, while some arise due to the dynamics of interaction between members of the family. Some of these challenges are becoming more prominent and severe in our days. In this study, we shall discuss some challenges of the devoted family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some challenges of the devoted family from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 19:30, 31; 24:1-8; Ruth 1:1-5; 1 Sam. 8:1-5; 2 Sam. 11:1-4; 2 Kgs. 4:1, 2; Lk. 1:5-7; 10:38-42; 12:13-15; Acts. 5:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:1-7.
2. What are other challenges of the devoted family in our present times?

CONCLUSION

The challenges of the devoted family include financial difficulties, infidelity, rebellion, childlessness, mishaps, violence, insecurity, injustices, suicide, and LGBTQ, among others. We must be careful not to allow them hinder our relationship with God and one another.

STUDY ELEVEN

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN THE DEVOTED FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 26:12-33; 1 Cor. 7:1-5.

MEMORY VERSE

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 Cor. 10:13.

INTRODUCTION

In the last study, we examined some challenges that may hinder the family from being devoted to God and to one another. God's intention is that individual members of the family and the family as a whole should overcome these challenges in order to maintain their devotion and fulfil His purpose in their lives. The word of God provides us with some strategies to do so. In this study, we shall look at how we can overcome these challenges.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can the devoted family overcome challenges?
Gen. 25:20-34; 26:12-33; 50:15-19; 2 Kgs. 4:1-7; Prov. 5:15-21; 23:13, 14; Lk. 12:13-15; 15:25-32; 1 Cor. 7:1-5.
2. In what other ways can the devoted family overcome challenges?

CONCLUSION

In order to overcome the challenges that the devoted family faces, we should be prayerful, persistent, consistent discipline of our children and not defrauding one another, among others. May God enable us to so do. Amen.

STUDY TWELVE

MAINTAINING FAMILY DEVOTION

TEXTS: Jer. 35:1-10; 2 Tim. 1:3-5.

MEMORY VERSE

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice, and I am persuaded that in thee also. 2 Tim. 1:5.

INTRODUCTION

The devoted family in the context of the studies we have considered, is that Christian family that is steadfastly committed to God and His kingdom. Such a family is bound to experience challenges and difficulties, but it must remain focused so as to maintain this devotion. This study is meant to guide us on how to maintain and perpetuate family devotions for generations. May God grant us understanding as we engage in this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss how to maintain family devotion from the following Scriptures: Gen. 18:1-8, 17-19; 35:1-5; Deut. 6:1-9; 1 Chron. 25:1-8; Job 1:4, 5; Ps. 78:1-8; Jer. 35:1-10; Acts 18:24-28; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:3-5; 1 Pet. 3:7-9.

CONCLUSION

Maintaining family devotion involves teaching, discipling, praying, family harmony, sharing testimonies, and so on. May we be deliberate in doing so.

Possess the Gates

Genesis 22: 17

**4th Quarter
Occupy Till I Come**

Luke. 19:13.



STUDY ONE

WHAT OCCUPY TILL I COME ENTAILS

TEXTS: Deut. 1:1-8; Lk. 19:11-27.

MEMORY VERSE

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. Lk. 19:13.

INTRODUCTION

The Lord Jesus came into to the world to save mankind and establish his kingdom on earth. Having conquered the world, He put His church in charge of administering the kingdom until he returns. Occupy till I come therefore means to take charge and be busy going about the Lord's business until he returns. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what “occupy till I come” entails from the following Scriptures: Deut. 1:1-8; Isa. 42:1-7; Eze. 33:1-9; Matt. 24:42-51; Lk. 19:11-27; Jn. 4:31-38; Acts 1:6-14; Rom. 12:3-13; 1 Cor. 15:58; Eph. 5:15-17; 1 Tim. 4:12-16.
2. How can we occupy till He comes in our sphere of influence?

CONCLUSION

We have seen from this study that occupy till I come entails engaging our gifts in the service of the Lord, staying focused, living purposefully and being steadfast to ensure that the will of the Lord is done on earth.

STUDY TWO

THE NECESSITY TO OCCUPY

TEXTS: Exo. 23:27-33; Lk. 19:11-27.

MEMORY VERSE

For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. Lk. 19:26.

INTRODUCTION

The opportunity and the time given to us is to influence our communities and the world for Christ. This commission requires individual and collective faithfulness to the end. However, if this opportunity and time are not utilized, the kingdom of God may not get to those for whom it was intended and His impact on earth will be lost. The necessity to occupy till He comes is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss the necessity to occupy from the following Scriptures:
Exo. 23:27-33; Deut. 7:1-7; Matt. 24:42-51; Lk. 19:11-27; Jn. 8:31, 32;
2 Cor. 5:16-20; 2 Tim. 4:1-8; 1 Pet. 3:13-16; 2 Pet. 1:3,4; 3:9-13.

CONCLUSION

God has given us a duty and grace to advance the kingdom faithfully. All faithful stewards will receive commendation, while the unfaithful will face retributive justice. May we not be found wanting in the Lord's assignment.

STUDY THREE

STRATEGIES FOR OCCUPYING

TEXTS: Neh. 4:6-23; Lk. 12:35-44.

MEMORY VERSE

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Lk. 12:35, 36.

INTRODUCTION

Strategy is a plan of action designed to achieve a goal. The Lord Jesus has asked us to occupy till He comes, therefore He expects us to do His work on earth like one who continually looks for His return. Even though we do not know when our master will return, we are expected to have a plan of action in place for occupying for Him. The focus of this study therefore is the strategies for occupying.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some strategies for occupying from these Scriptures: Neh. 4:6-23; Dan. 2:48, 49; Matt. 5:13-16; 25:1-10; 28:19,20; Lk. 12:35-44; 19:12-19; Col. 4:1-6; 2 Tim. 2:1-7, 14-16,19-25; 2 Pet. 1:5-11.
2. Discuss other contemporary strategies for occupying.

CONCLUSION

We have seen from this study that there are strategies we can employ in order to occupy until the Lord's return. We should engage them in order to effectively occupy. May the Lord help us as we do that. Amen.

STUDY FOUR

ENGAGING IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS

TEXTS: Jer. 1:1-10; Lk. 19:12-27.

MEMORY VERSE

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. Jn. 9:4.

INTRODUCTION

A business is an occupation or a trade one engages in to make profit. The kingdom business is God's business, managed God's way by God's stewards for God's purposes in the world. Primarily, this business is to reconcile men to God and to rescue them from damnation. As believers, we are God's stewards and co-workers in the Kingdom Business; however, there are requirements that we must meet in order to engage in it. In this study, we shall focus on some of the requirements and how to engage in the kingdom business.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some requirements for engaging in the Kingdom business from the following Scriptures:
Jer. 1:1-10; Matt. 5:13-16; Jn. 3:3; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Cor. 4:1, 2; 1 Tim. 3:1-13.
2. Discuss how to engage in the Kingdom business.
Jer. 1:7-10; Matt. 5:16; Lk. 4:18, 19; 19:12-27.

CONCLUSION

Engaging in the kingdom business requires us to be faithful and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. We must put into use all that God has entrusted us with to make optimal profit for the Kingdom.

STUDY FIVE

THE HARVEST IS RIPE

TEXTS: Jn. 4:34-38; Rev. 14:15-18.

MEMORY VERSE

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. Jn. 4:35.

INTRODUCTION

Harvest is used in the Bible to denote bringing in the lost into the Kingdom of God. Since the days of Jesus Christ on earth, He has pointed to the fact that sinners around us are already ripe for harvest. God expects us to reap the harvest at every given opportunity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the phrase “the harvest is ripe” entail from the following Scriptures?
Joel 3:13; Lk. 15:4-6; Jn. 4:34-38; 10:16; Rev. 14:15-18.
2. How do we reap the harvest from the following Scriptures?
Joel 3:13; Matt. 9:35-38; 28:18-20; Jn. 4:29, 35; Acts 1:8; Gal. 6:9.

CONCLUSION

The study reminds us that indeed the harvest is ripe. God wants us not to procrastinate or leave out any lost soul, but instead to reach out to them promptly at any given chance.

STUDY SIX

WORK WHILE IT IS DAY

TEXTS: Eccl. 12:1-7; Jn. 9:1-7.

MEMORY VERSE

I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. Jn. 9:4.

INTRODUCTION

The “day” in this study connotes periods when one has opportunities to do the works of the Kingdom; while the “night” is a hiatus or period of non-activity due to any of these mentioned above. It is incumbent on believers to understand these periods and opportunities to use them maximally and preach the gospel of the Kingdom. We shall be focusing on “work while it is day”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss “work while it is day” from these Scriptures:
Eccl. 3:1; 9:10; 12:1-7, Lam. 3:27; Eze. 3:17-21; Matt. 24:42-44; 25:1-13;
Jn. 4:31-36; 9:1-7; Eph. 5:14-17; 1 Thess. 5:6-10; 2 Tim. 4:1-5.
2. Discuss some consequences of not working while it is day.

CONCLUSION

While we have these opportunities to work for the kingdom, let us utilize them optimally, as we may not always have them.

STUDY SEVEN

HINDRANCES TO OCCUPYING

TEXTS: Num. 13:27-33; Lk.19:12 -27.

MEMORY VERSE

For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. 1 Cor. 16:9.

INTRODUCTION

Hindrances are obstacles or anything that restricts or slows one down from achieving a goal. God expects every believer to occupy until He comes just as He has commanded. However, there are several hindrances confronting the believer in achieving this purpose. The enemy uses the cares of this world, deceit, self-life, and so on to cause distractions that hinder us. Some of the hindrances to occupying and how to overcome them constitute the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following Scriptures, discuss some of the hindrances to occupying for the Master:
Num.13:27-29; Neh. 4:1-3; Prov.12:27; Matt. 13:22, 25; Lk.14:16-27; 19:12-27; Acts 5:1-4; 2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Rev. 3:15-17.
2. How can we overcome some of these hindrances?
Num. 13:30; Dan. 1:8; Matt. 6:19-21, 25-34; Mk. 13:32-37; Rom. 12:2; Phil. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:15; 4:2, 5; Heb.12:1, 2.

CONCLUSION

Though there may be hindrances to occupying, it is important to know that Jesus has made a way for us to overcome all such hindrances. May we be deliberate to work in this light and continue to occupy till He comes.

STUDY EIGHT

BENEFITS OF OCCUPYING

TEXTS: Ps. 91:1-16; Jn. 15:4-7.

MEMORY VERSE

And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. Lk. 19:17.

INTRODUCTION

There are certain actions that bring about benefits to a Christian, one of which is taking charge for Christ in fulfilling our mandate. Some of these benefits include: joy, divine protection, more influence, prosperity, and long life, among others. As believers we enjoy these benefits in this life and the one to come. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some benefits of occupying from these Scriptures:
Gen. 6:8, 18; 18:16-18; Ps. 91:1-16; Prov. 29:2; Isa. 40:31; Matt. 28:16-20; Mk. 6:7, 30-32; 10:28-30; Lk. 10:17-20; Jn. 15:4-7; Acts 2.1-4.
2. Share how you or others have benefited from your occupying.

CONCLUSION

In this study, there is no doubt that there are benefits accruable to us, others and the society as we occupy for Christ. Let us enjoy these benefits as we continue to occupy.

STUDY NINE

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT OCCUPYING

TEXTS: 1 Kgs. 20:35-43; Lk. 19:13-27.

MEMORY VERSE

For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. Lk. 19:26.

INTRODUCTION

In the past couple of weeks, we have been considering the injunction Jesus gave; namely, to “occupy till I come”. Our occupying till he comes is so crucial in our day-to-day affairs that failing to do so will result in dire consequences for any person, people or nation. This study is therefore focused on the consequences of not occupying.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following Scriptures, discuss the consequences of not occupying for the Lord:
Josh. 13:1; Judg. 16:18-21; 1 Sam. 2:28-36; 2 Sam. 11:1-5; 1 Kgs. 20:35-43; 2 Kgs. 5:20-27; 2 Chron. 16:7-13; Eze. 33:6-8; 34:1-10; Lk. 19:13-27; 2 Tim. 4:10.
2. What other consequences of not occupying can we see in our contemporary times?

CONCLUSION

From this study, we see that the consequences of not occupying till He comes are grave. We must therefore arise and live up to our responsibilities. Take your position in whatever God has instructed and committed to your charge and occupy till the Master comes.

STUDY TEN

LIVING WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW

TEXTS: Eccl. 12:13, 14; Matt. 24:42-51.

MEMORY VERSE

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Col. 3:1.

INTRODUCTION

Eternity refers to infinite or unending time or simply timelessness. Living with eternity in view therefore denotes living with the consciousness of life after death. The believer has the promise of eternal life with Christ, while the unbeliever is condemned to eternal damnation. However, a Christian living with eternity in view is not only concerned with himself but also for the condemned. Living with eternity in-view is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what living with “eternity in-view” entails from the following Scriptures:
Deut. 4:23, 24; Ps. 17:15; Eccl. 12:13, 14; Matt. 24:42-51; Rom. 13:11-14;
1 Cor. 15:19, 32-34; Col. 3:1-4; 2 Tim. 1:8-14; Tit. 2:7-15; 1 Pet. 4:7-11;
Rev. 16:15.
2. Discuss the consequences of not living with eternity in view.

CONCLUSION

The greater proportion of our lives will be spent in eternity. Let us therefore live blameless lives that glorify God with a view to spending eternity with Him in all facets of life. Failure to live this way comes with dire consequences.

