Christian Nuggets
in
A Nutshell

Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

In Christianity there are some major fundamental factors that builds and positively impacts one's walk with the Lord and such factors are the subjects in this book and which are an invaluable sources of information of which every Christian need to embrace in life as a way of building oneself in one's walk with the Lord and to be established thereby.

Apart from the major factors you are going to read in this book, there are other minor factors that need not be neglected but be part of one's life in one's walk with the Lord and which are not the subject matters in this book but which you are going to learn as well as you walk with the Lord, that they are equally useful in the Christian walk. Remember that Jesus Christ who is our Redeemer denounced the scribes and the Pharisees for having left out some matters of the law by selectively concentrating on others only and neglecting the rest and told them to be not hypocritical on the matters of the law (Matthew 23:23). No wonder Jesus told his

disciples that he came not to destroy the law, or the prophets but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17). The truth of the matter is that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by the faith of Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:15-21). But we thank God by sending to us Jesus Christ that by faith we who have believed in him the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us if we walk not after the flesh but walk after the Spirit (Romans 8:1-4).

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Chapter 1

Faith

Faith is a Christian virtue that forms the basic foundation for one's conversion to Christ Jesus as well as God's intervention in one's life. Faith is essential in the Christian life as is recorded in the Scripture, it pleases God and makes him to act accordingly.

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.

John 3:16

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9-10

If faith is such a wonderful thing where or how can one get it?

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

One does not need to look for faith but to hear the word of God and by believing in it whole-heartedly and acting accordingly one has it already. Fully trusting God at his word that he will do what he says, that is faith. Faith is not some dormant thing in one's heart but it is an active thing as it is alive.

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:17

Faith is acting on what you believe in. without any action faith is dead / non-existent.

And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came

behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole:

But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Matthew 9:20-22

There you are. The mere saying ‘I believe’, ‘I have faith’, is not faith per sei. If one has faith, that is, believes, one has to act as that woman who was diseased, as faith is a living and active thing in one’s life. Faith is so powerful, look at this.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5

The faith that one has in the Son of the living God, Jesus Christ, overcometh the world. Not atomic bombs or any other arms of mass destruction.

And there sat a certain man at Lys'-tra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:
The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,
Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

Acts 14:8-10

The cripple received faith by believing in the preaching of Paul and acted when instructed by him and he was healed.

By faith E'-noch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

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 11:6

Born again Christians have to live by faith on a daily basis.

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2: 4

There are no shortcuts for Christians (those who have been justified by faith through Jesus Christ) but have only one option which is to live by faith.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:22

Those are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ to all that have decided to be his followers.

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Phil-is'-tine.

And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Phil-is'-tine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

And I went out after him, and smote him, and slew him.

Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Phil-is'-tine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Phil-is'-tine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

1 Samuel 17:32-37

Now that is faith. It is great faith indeed as it shows overconfidence of David on defeating the Philistine giant called by the name Goliath, of Gath (incidental I see he had initials of double G- which I translate as Great Great) for I understand he was a champion out of the camp of the Philistines (verse 1-7) I do conclude saying this: to be great in life, one must be with God, as God is the greatest being ever and there has not been and there will not be any being greater than He. You can read more on such people as David, who had great faith, in my other book entitled 'The growing faith' Now just as David did after speaking to Saul, let us do the same - we need not listen to public opinion and go by it if truly we have faith but rather go ahead and act as long as what we are going to do is in God's will and not sin.

Chapter 2

Repentance

Repentance is a Christian virtue which goes hand in hand with faith as it is well factored in the Christian Walk. John the Baptist and Jesus Christ when ministering to people they began by telling them to repent and the same was repeated by the apostles when they began to preach.

Repentance is the means by which one can get rid of sin in one's life. It is the only way through which God can forgive people for the sins they have committed.

It is a way of life for Christian living (You can read further in my book entitled 'A Christian and A Repentant Life'.

The failure to repent of sin leads to death (Genesis 3:1-19, Romans 5:12; 6:23a) Genuine repentance leads to the forgiveness of sins by God (Psalm 51:17). It is only through such a repentance that the heart can be restored and revived (Joel 2:12-13)

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the lord, make his paths straight.

Matthew 3:1-3

The kingdom of God is only for the truly repentant. Repentance is the way of preparing one's heart for the Lord to intervene in one's life situations. It is to make it easy for the Lord to work in one's life.

Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Ca-per'-na-um, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zeb'-u-lun and Naph'-tali:

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet saying,

The land of Zeb'-u-lun, and the land of Naph'-tali, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles;

the people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 4:12-17

People were required to repent at that time and to date it is the same message for people to repent but why? Because the kingdom of heaven where God dwells is holy and no unclean thing can enter there at all - never (Revelation 21:27). Therefore, people must clean up in genuine repentance not faked repentance as the Pharisees and Sadducees did and were rebuked (Matthew 3:7-10).

The act of repentance paves a way for entry into the kingdom of God.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:36-38

Sins can be forgiven/cancelled by God only by true repentance on the part of the offender. The apostles called for repentance from the house of Israel.

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

Cast away from all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Ezekiel 18:30-32

As I said earlier, lack of repentance leads to judgment and death as the above scripture says. But if we repent of our sins we shall live as God is merciful and gracious. Sin as stated above only ruins.

THERE were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower of Si-lo'-am fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13:1-5

That is how serious to be impenitent in life.

Chapter 3

Holiness

Holiness is a Christian virtue which is a benchmark in Christianity and without which no man can see the Lord. God is holy and holiness is His standard for those who claim to be His.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire

shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:10-13

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:11-14

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

Seeing God face to face is possible only in heaven ideally as on earth it is something else (Exodus 19:10-21; 3:1-6, 1 Samuel 13:16-22, Numbers 4:17-20).

Chapter 4

Obedience

Obedience is the norm in Christianity as God do judge all disobedience; (Genesis 3:1-19; 4:1-12) One's love to God is only evident in obedience to the commandments of God just as Jesus told his disciples. The blessings of God are hinged on obedience to him (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

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.

Matthew 7:21

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man, he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:22-25

Obedience can be equated to blessings. Unfortunately, many of us want to be blessed yet we continue to live in disobedience. If we continue as such, we need to forget about being blessed all together.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

1 John 5:2-3

Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press.

And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee.

And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

Luke 8:19-21

To God it does not matter who you are. What matters is obedience to Him.

And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.

But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Luke 11:27-28

To obey is to be blessed.

And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Am'-a-lek, and have utterly destroyed the Am'-a-lekites.

But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gil'-gal.

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Samuel 15:20-23

Now disobedience is that bad before the Lord and one risk being rejected by him. Because to God to be partial or selective in obedience is no obedience. Remember the case of Naaman captain of the host of the king of Syria when he went to seek for healing from Prophet Elisha. It is only when he obeyed the instruction given that he received healing because God's blessings follow one's obedience to the word of the Lord (2 Kings 5:1-14).

Chapter 5

Righteousness

Righteousness is a Christian virtue that need to go hand in hand with holiness. Holiness is an enabler for righteousness and without it all can return out to be but a pipe dream. That is why the following scriptures support that fact.

Ye are the light of the word. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.
Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto that are in the house.
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Righteousness is good works done in the Lord, done by the power of the Holy Spirit in a believer. Jesus Christ was addressing his disciples who had received light from Jesus the light of the world (Matthew 5:12-17, John 1:1-14; 8:12; 9:5; 12:34-36). Christ's followers are

known as the children of light (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Ephesians 5:6-8).

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20

The righteousness of the saints surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees (the other people) as it is perfect, done in the Spirit of God and God is perfect, unlike the others who do them in the flesh by their own strength/efforts and most likely with wrong motives.

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.
The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;
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 10:34-38

Jesus Christ was doing good as he had God with him and was anointed by God and had power (Matthew 3:16-17, Luke 4:1-2, 13-14). We too need the Holy Spirit and power in us to do the same.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;
Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:11-12

That was Apostle Peter addressing God's own people, his children, the Church of Christ, why? Because they had received a helper the Holy Spirit to help them live holy and righteous lives here on earth. Now look further to the apostle's second epistle to the Church of Christ.

SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:
Grace and peace, be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
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:
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.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2 Peter 1:1-5

An epistle of encouragement by Apostle Peter knowing very well the divine potential given to the Church for Christian living and service.

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.
And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.
And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me,
These are the true sayings of God.

Revelation 19:6-9

The righteousness of the saints provided them with an opportunity to enter heaven and be wedded to the Lamb of God Jesus Christ the Messiah, Son of the living God.

Please do note that there is no mention of the righteousness of the scribes, the Sadducees or the Pharisees or any other group of people as theirs comes to nought as is hypocrisy and not righteousness.

Chapter 6

Love

Love is a Christian virtue that binds together all the rest in the Christian Walk and is two-fold; love for God and love for fellow mankind. Life without love is but void, God being love.

But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sad'-du-cees to silence, they were gathered together.

Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

On these two commandments hang the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:34-40

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

1 John 4:7-11

The love I am talking about is not the love as the world knows it, which is sensual and selfish but pure love know as Agape, which is a noun in the Greek language and is a selfless and unconditional love.

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 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 neighbor as thyself.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
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.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have no charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

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.

For we know in part, and we prophecy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest is charity.

1 Corinthians 13

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 13:34-35

Love is a mark that distinguishes Christians from the people as it is a special thing in the society and many lack it. The love of God has concern and cares for the welfare of all people.

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, son of Jonah, Lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, the son of Jonah, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:15-17

The fact that Jesus asked Simon Peter three times if he loved him shows a lot that love is a serious matter and is of much significance to the Lord. Jesus was putting across a point to Simon Peter and Simon Peter seemed not to have comprehended it. Jesus most likely asked that question as Simon Peter seemed not much concerned with the spiritual well being of the other disciples for he had told them that he was going a fishing and that appealed to the others and all went a fishing as well at the expense of fishing for souls for the Lord. Remember Jesus

met Simon Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the Sea of Galilee and he told them to follow him and he will make them fishers of men, that is, soul winners (Matthew 4:18-19). But now Jesus finds him at it again fishing for fish and not fishing for men!!! Poor Simon Peter Men's souls are more important for the Lord than fish for the stomach or for silver money, if it is for business). The Lord had to remind him of his cardinal duty of looking at the spiritual welfare of the rest. Earlier the Lord had told Simon Peter that he needs to strengthen his colleagues in their faith (Luke 22:31-32).

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Colossians 3:14

Remember what I said in the introduction of the chapter, that love binds all the other Christian virtues together. With love every thing fall well at its rightful place harmoniously.

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 21

It is all love, love and love. Amen.

Chapter 7

Prayer

Prayer is a Christian virtue which can be equated to spiritual breath. If one stops praying completely one can be spiritually dead just as in the physical if one stops breathing for some time one cannot still be alive but be already dead. It is a normal and noble thing in Christianity.

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:5-6

Jesus touched on prayer as he expected them to be praying, just as he too was often in prayer. Prayer is a way of life in Christianity and to

pray more is better and to pray less is worse and not to pray is the worst ever and actually it is to endanger and expose oneself in the spiritual realm by doing so.

And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the Mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.
And when he was at the place he said unto them, pray that ye enter not into temptation.

Luke 22:39-40

That is just one of the dangers among others (verse 40 above) for not praying.

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:
And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.
And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself,

Though I fear not God, nor regardeth man;
Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.
And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.
And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?
I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18:1-8

Prayer need to go hand in hand with faith (James 1:5-8).

Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey.

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where they abode both Peter and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Al'-phe-us, and Simon Zelo'-tes, and Judas the brother of James.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 1:12-14

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:17-18

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Jude 20

We ought always to pray in order to build our faith. If we look at the life of Jesus, we find he was always praying when not teaching or preaching.

Equally, the disciples of Jesus after he had ascended back to heaven, we so saw they too took praying more seriously. It is almost impossible to live as a Christian without praying.

In prayer one can be speaking to his heavenly Father as well as engaging in spiritual warfare among others. One must speak to his Father and that is obvious and one must engage in spiritual warfare as the enemy is always around wanting to bring one down (out of one's faith) using all

means. Therefore, one cannot afford just to sit back but need to stand and fight (1 Peter 5:8-11).

Chapter 8

Fasting

Fasting is a Christian virtue that goes hand in hand with prayer as it cannot function alone as alone it would be a meaningless venture. Prayer when prove not to be effective as it should in any situation; fasting is added to it to reinforce it. All the above two are a way of life in Christianity. Serious situations that seem not to move out of a Christian and impact negatively need both prayer plus fasting, as a last resort to change the situation.

Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for their disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast.
Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.
But thou, when thou fastest anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:16-18

Both prayer as well as fasting should not be done for public show or approval but for a purpose at a secluded place and for one's benefit or for the benefit of others.

Here again just as in prayer in the previous chapter Jesus has touched on fasting to his disciples and expected them to do the same as he himself used to do and prior to his public ministry he fasted for forty days and forty nights not eating or drinking (Matthew 4:1-2).

And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,

Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oft times he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him hither to me.

And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, why could not we cast him out?

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain,

Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Matthew 17:14-21

When things prove quite tough do apply the four wheel gear (high gear) which is not prayer alone but prayer plus fasting, fasting being that

high gear for the situation to change for the better and to come out of the sticking mud.

It seems the disciples were more used to prayer alone and hardly fasted as well and it resulted in their Master being embarrassed by the report of that man.

Point to note: The likes of lunacy and other infirmities need to be addressed when one had already been from prayer and fasting lest one is found in an embarrassing situation as the disciples as one could be confronting more powerful devils who cannot be easily cast out with little power. Remember Jesus was full of the Holy Ghost and power and that is why he rebuked the devil and it came out the same hour without resistance as the power was beyond it.

Chapter 9

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a Christian virtue which one must have as it means a lot as it brings about freedom and peace in life removing one from spiritual bondage. It is a duty to Christians as we are going to see.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses; your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long- suffering. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Colossians 3:12-13

Forgiveness goes hand in hand with love and where there is no love one cannot expect to get forgiveness as love is a facilitator for forgiveness.

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owned him ten thousand talents.

But forasmuch as he had to pay, his Lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

The servant therefore fell down, and worshiped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him a hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told their lord all that was done.

Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Shouldest not thou also have compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?

And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Matthew 18:21-35

A big lesson it is. We need to apply the golden rule in our lives by doing to others what we would want others do to us (Matthew 7:12).

Peter by asking the Lord that question on forgiveness probably thought in his mind that it was a simple matter and must have been surprised by what the Lord told him. Forgiveness is a matter of life and not a one off occurrence. It is unlimited. You can see for yourself the danger for lack of forgiveness. It is wickedness before God. One can easily suffer torment for lack of forgiveness, so the solution or rather to avoid suffering as a result of not forgiving others, just forgive them all the time and it will be well for you.

Chapter 10

Study

Studying the word of God is a Christian virtue in the Christian Walk for one to get to know the will of God which is found in the Scripture. To neglect to study the Scripture is to walk in the darkness and to stumble becomes obvious as day and night.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

The word of God is a lamp and a light to help us in our Christian Walk. To know the word of God you need to study it prayerfully and thoughtfully with an open mind so as to come to understand it. It is not a newspaper or a magazine that you just read and understand it all straight away as the scripture is inspired by God Himself who is a Spirit and spiritual things can only be understood with a spiritual mind and heart.

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

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Scriptures are for our instruction in righteousness and can enable us to be perfected in righteousness if we keep and do them accordingly. Hence the need to study them and get to know the will of God for our lives. We need to set time daily for some Bible reading and study as reading alone sometimes one may not fully comprehend and be able to apply it in life appropriately.

IN the first year of Da-ri'-us the son of A-has-u-e'-rus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chal-de'-ans;
In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood the books and the number of years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the

prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Daniel 9:1-3

Daniel had to study the books that contained the prophecies of prophet Jeremiah so as to be able to understand when the years in captivity for the people of Israel would end and God restore back Israel and after understanding he now went ahead to pray and fast over the matter.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a work man that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

It is only by studying the Scriptures can one come to understand them plainly and not twist them by wrongly applying them in life and which of course is both misleading and dangerous.

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

It is only by studying the word of God can one be able to have it dwell in one's heart and be able to teach it as well in encouraging others, as this other scripture says.

Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:
For, De'-mas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thess-a-lo-ni'-ca; Cres'-cens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.
And Tych'-i-cus have I sent to Eph'-e-sus.
The cloak that I left at Tro'-as with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

2 Timothy 4:9-13

Although Apostle Paul was in prison, he still wanted to take time and study the books / scrolls containing the word of God and get to learn. No wonder the apostle was so knowledgeable in the word of God and wrote at least two thirds of the epistles recorded in the Scriptures and now the Church of Christ continue to be blessed so much by them in her walk with the Lord.

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Ezra 7:10

By seeking the law of the Lord, you are actually searching the scriptures so as to get more understanding and that is what is Bible study and through it one gets revelation which comes about in constant study of the word of God. Merely reading of the word is not good enough as the word of God is deep and can be more that what your naked eyes see when reading. The word of God is wisdom and which is not

something simple or small. Therefore, one needs much effort to get it.

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;
Then should thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:1-6

The word of God is his breath from his mouth and is as treasure and can be found only by seeking and searching for it through much study.

Now one may ask, ‘why bother to study? I answer such a one this way: By virtue of you becoming a Christian you are a disciple of Jesus

Christ and therefore a student to him and need to learn a lot from him as your Teacher (Luke 6:40). Any student who does not learn and study well cannot pass an examination but can only fail in it. The same apply to a Christian who if fail to study the Scriptures (syllabus) can only fail in his or her Christian Walk and therefore not reach his or her final destination just students who fail in examinations cannot proceed with further studies. Christianity is a journey as it is long and one need to walk through to reach one's destination. It is also a race as there are rules to be followed strictly, in order to win a prize and to get rewards (1 Corinthians 9:24, Hebrews 12:1-2, Revelation 22:12). But all that is not possible if one does not know the rules. So, by studying the word of God one can come to know the rules and then strive to adhere to them and be an overcomer and winner in the end.

Chapter 11

Meditation

Meditation is a Christian virtue which helps Christians to saturate their minds with the word of God and which safe guards their minds from the attacks of the enemy who uses the mind of mankind as a battle ground. I can now understand why a certain brother many, many years ago visited the church where I used to fellowship and gave a sermon and now and then he would say that we need to act by the prompts of the heart rather that the head (the mind), because he must have known that many things that we get from our minds could have been corrupted and injected by the devil to make as err. Remember the devil can easily use the mind if one is not careful and thereby be misled, but not for the heart save only if one had allowed the wrong thoughts in the mind to sink down into the heart. So, let us have our minds to be saturated with the word of God and if it sinks into the heart it is still okay, we are

not misled as it is life and instead of harming us it arms us for battle against the enemy attacks.

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
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.

Psalm 1:1-3

Those who meditate on the word of God (the law) shall be blessed as they will be led by God's word and therefore be fruitful in their doings.

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

It is proper as well as profitable to both meditate on the word of God and to obey it.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

Our hearts need meditate not on just anything but on the word of God and the works of God.

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

When I look at the above scripture and ponder on the things mentioned I come to the conclusion that the word of the Lord and the

works of the Lord fit well with them as listed above. What to you think? Am I right or wrong? If you are to respond either way give reasons for doing so.

Chapter 12

Fellowship

Fellowship is a normal activity for Christians and involves the coming together by Christians with the sole purpose of building each other's faith in encouragements, witnessing, sharing the word, praising, worshipping and praying. Such a platform is for spiritual well being of those who have met be it two or more individuals and can be as often as possible. In the early church it was on a daily basis and if non believers joined them preaching would be included to persuade them to come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in their lives.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

And having a high priest over the house of God;

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from as evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:19-25

Now that is a Christian custom that goes on until the Church is raptured into heaven by the Lord.

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey.

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and

James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Al'-phe-us, and Simon Zelo'-tes, and Judas the brother of James.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 1:12-14

This time round after the ascension of Jesus Christ back into heaven the number of the saints that assembled together to fellowship was one hundred and twenty and on the day of Pentecost, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued in the same way for fellowship.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

As a Christian and in this digital era don't replace Christian fellowships with the social media by not attending church services and not

going to Christian fellowships, as such will not add any value to your eternity with the Lord.

Chapter 13

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a Christian virtue in showing gratitude for what the Lord has done in one's life on a daily basis as God does many things on a daily basis to all of us. God is well pleased with such activity in appreciating him for his doings. Remember the case of the ten lepers that Jesus healed and only one came back and thanked the Lord and God was well pleased with him. It is God's will for Christians to be thanking God always.

And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Sa-mar'-i-a and Galilee.

And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back and with a loud voice glorified God,

And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Sa-mar'-i-tan.

And Jesus answering said, were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?

There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Luke 17:11-19

You can see from the above scripture that Jesus was touched by the action of the one leper who came to give him thanks and was equally concerned for the other nine as he expected all of them to give thanks to him as it was God's doing. Remember that the one leper who came to give him thanks was a Samaritan and not a

Jew and that is why Jesus referred to him as a stranger.

How about you and I who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and are now the children of God he being our heavenly Father!? We need give thanks the more as we have been reconciled back to God in Christ Jesus and need to do as Apostle Paul did always thanking the Lord God.

If we fail to give God glory in thanking him it is like refusing to acknowledge his goodness which is quite discouraging indeed. God needs all the glory and honor from all of us as our Creator. If you look at verse 19 Jesus told that one leper that let him go his way as his faith had made him whole. That statement implies that the other nine lepers might have not been made whole by their ingratitude in not glorifying God who cleansed and healed them. No wonder some people who get healed in life later find the same illness has reappeared again in their lives - they had disapproved God's

work in them as useless and therefore deserve to remain in their bad state.

Let us therefore be careful enough to acknowledge God's interventions in our lives as ingratitude is not different from sin and that is why the Scriptures encourage giving thanks to the most High God.

Please note that the Pharisees ascribed Jesus' work on the sick and demon possessed who he healed, as the work of the Devil's power and Jesus warned them of the danger with such thoughts (Matthew 12:22-32). The glory and honor that is due to God and not Satan (Romans 13:7, Matthew 22:15-21).

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.

And 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 3:16-17

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2: 1-4

Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever.

Psalm 30:12

Thanksgiving need be part and parcel in our lives and should not be just on occasion.

MAKE a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

If you look at the book of Psalms you find that the psalmist is full of thanks for God's doings as God is good. If you look further at the epistles of Paul to the Church of Christ you will also notice the same pattern of thankfulness as he kept on thanking the Lord for the things the Lord had done.

Chapter 14

Service

Christianity involves serving God as his servant and serving humanity as well and is mandatory and is rewarding as well.

And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Deuteronomy 10:12

The Israelites were a shadow of the Church of Christ in the wilderness experience and were expected to serve the Lord and to obey his commandments and now that the real Church of Christ is around; definitely she has no option but to serve the Lord even the more before she is taken to be with the Lord there in heaven for eternity.

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all

the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

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.

Matthew 4:8-10

So it is written for mankind to worship and serve the Lord.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16

After calling his twelve disciples Jesus sent them out to the mission field to go and serve him there.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. A'-men.

Matthew 28:16-20

The Lord Jesus Christ commissioned the Church to go to all the nations of the world and serve him in preaching and teaching the word of God.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:8-10

Serving humanity is part of service to the Lord when we do good to them and giving more attention to the family of God (those who have believed in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior)

As Christians, we have that responsibility which we cannot run away from as we are representing God here as Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). The service to the Lord is not in vain (Malachi 3:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:58).

Chapter 15

Faithfulness

Faithfulness is a Christian virtue of being truthful and marks Christians as true believers in Christ Jesus by showing loyalty to the Lord being honest in their lives. Moses was faithful to God just as Jesus was faithful to the Father as well as many other servants of God like Abraham, Samuel and so on.

WHEREFORE, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;
Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

Hebrews 3:1-2

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over him household, to give them meat in due season?
Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when the cometh shall find so doing.

Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Matthew 24:45-47

We need as Christians to be faithful in our service to the Lord and constantly in serving him in one way or another.

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them,

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:14-23

That man commended his two servants who he had given five talents and two talents respectively for their faithfulness. The Lord Jesus Christ too will commend and reward only those Christians who served him in a faithful way.

LET a man so account us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

We are not only ministers of Christ but stewards as well and faithfulness is required from each one of us as we shall all give account to God (1 Corinthians 3:11-15, Romans 14:12).

Chapter 16

Commitment

Commitment is the norm in Christianity that involves scarifying one's time in order to accomplish the task / s that one has been given in good time and without which one cannot achieve anything.

When they therefore were come together, they asked him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel?

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

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 Judea, and in Sa-mar'-i-a, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:6-8

To do the above - witnessing to all the parts of the earth for sure requires real commitment on our part or else it is next to impossible. Apostle

Paul accomplished much for the Lord because he was a truly committed Christian for the cause of the gospel of Christ and he outshined the other apostles in ministry work and he was confident for the work he had done for the Lord (2 Corinthians 11:16-33, 2 Timothy 4:6-8).

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. A'-men.

Matthew 28:18-20

We have to be committed Christians as we have been commissioned to do some work for the Lord.

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

It is only by total commitment can one finish doing ministry work that God had bestowed on one.

Chapter 17

Steadfastness

Steadfastness is a Christian virtue with the determination to accomplish what one has started bringing it to its logical completion.

And from Mi-le'-tus he sent to Eph'-e-sus, and called the elders of the church.

And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bounds and afflictions abide me.

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.

Acts 20:17-24

A very powerful testimony of Paul's determination to finish the work the Lord gave him unhindered by whatever lay before him in the work, that is, the hardships that awaited him.

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered and said into them, whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:18-20

Peter and John although they had been threatened and told not to preach or teach in the name of Jesus they were all the same determined to do just that and that nothing can stop them.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

To him be glory and, dominion for ever and ever. A'-men.

1 Peter 5:8-11

We must be steadfast in our faith to be perfected, stablished strengthened settled in the Lord by God.

Chapter 18

Separation

Christianity involves being separated (set apart) for God such that one need not be a party to sin or to any evil association in life.

WHEN the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hit'-tites, and the Gir'-ga-shites, and the Am'-o-rites, and the Ca'-na-an-ites, and the Per'-iz-zites and the Hi'-vites, and the Jeb'-u-sites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them:

Deuteronomy 7:1-2

Why was all that instruction to the children of Israel?

For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:6

The same do apply to the Church of Christ as God has chosen her.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

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.

1 Peter 2:9-10

How then should she conduct herself at this time?

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath

righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Be'-li-al? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord almighty. 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 6:14-7:1

BLESSED 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.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

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

Chapter 19

Warfare

In Christianity there is a perpetual warfare in the spiritual realm against their opponent who is Satan and his cohorts and the battles rage on both during the day time as well during the night. So, Christianity is not bread and butter. The battle also against the flesh (the body) as well.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
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.
Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:10-18

Christians must be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might to be able to stand against the enemy, and do so by taking with them the whole armor of God as has been listed above.

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 Corinthians 10:3-4

The battles Christians face can only be won by the power of the Holy Spirit that is indwelt and not by the flesh which is merely human effort / strength.

FROM whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

James 4:1

As I said in my introduction the warfare facing Christians is from without and from within. The flesh, that is, the body, also do wage war in Christians. So what do we do if it is so?

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.
But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:16-18

Chapter 20

Wisdom

Wisdom is a Christian virtue that is of necessity in a Christian owing to the delicate nature in the Christian Walk with numerous and varied challenges on a daily basis in the ministry work.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.
But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;
And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:16-18

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her.

She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Proverbs 4:7-9

And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 28:28

The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Proverbs 10:19

Wisdom does a lot of things in life to the holder of it:

Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

Ecclesiastes 7:19

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blow, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:24-25

With wisdom one can withstand all conditions in life.
For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

Luke 21:15

Jesus promised wisdom to his disciples. Read on.

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.
Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Li'-ber-tines, and Cy-re'-ni-ans, and Al-ex-an'-dri-ans

and of them of Ci-li'-ci-a and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

Acts 6:8-10

And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Daniel 1:20

The above who had so much wisdom were non other than the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah who were taken captive into the land of Babylon.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12:3

Chapter 21

Self-control

Self-control is a Christian virtue that if it is lacking can lead to unnecessary damage in the Christian Walk. It can be likened to a brake or a speed governor in a vehicle. It is a spiritual restrainer to say.

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Proverbs 25:28

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do to obtain a corruptible crown; be we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

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

BUT speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

Titus 2:1-2

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2 Peter 1:5-6

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8

And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Sa-mar'-i-tans, to make ready for him.

And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Eli'-jah did?

But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. and they went to another village.

Luke 9:51-56

Now suppose Jesus was not around to rebuke the two, they would have gone ahead to command fire to come from heaven to consume

those Samaritans and that is how dangerous to lack self-control in one's life.

Chapter 22

Perseverance

Perseverance is a Christian virtue and involve enduring in hardships in the course of set up goals. In the Christian Walk one cannot make it to one's final destination without it.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 10:22

There you are. It is there in black and white for us Christians. If we don't endure all the hardships in life we cannot reach our final destination which is heaven of course.

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

James 5:11

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:5

That advice to Timothy by Apostle Paul is both for you and me. We cannot make full proof of our ministries if we are not ready to endure afflictions. Afflictions are there to stay for all the ministers of the gospel of Christ Jesus.

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.

Romans 8:18

Let us focus our eyes in the glory awaiting us at the appearance of our Lord and Savior to take us to the kingdom of his Father and our Father, instead of focusing on the sufferings we experience here on earth.

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 things which are seen, but at the thing which, are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12

Chapter 23

Spirituality

Spirituality is a Christian virtue that touches on the epicenter of Christianity.

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

Romans 8:5-9

The Holy Spirit is essential in Christianity without him there is nothing like salvation. We just must have him to claim to be Christians as

Christians are said to be born again, Born again of water and of the Spirit (John 3:1-6).

It is also possible for a Christian to be carnal if allows the flesh to take control of life and that is why apostle Paul, wrote an epistle to the churches at Corinth and Galatia as follows hereunder.

AND I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of A-pol'-los; are ye not carnal?

Who then is Paul, and who is A-pol'-los ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, A-pol'-los watered; but God gave the increase.

1 Corinthians 2:1-6

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

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. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:16-18

As I said earlier salvation is determined and assured by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his speed Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye though the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:10-14

Verse 14 above says that those that are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. But one cannot be led by the Spirit of God and live a Christian life without being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. No wonder verse 9 of the same chapter says that if any man do not have the Spirit of Christ he is none of his, that is, he is not a Christian. Normally one becomes a son of God after believing in the Son of God and empowered by the Holy Spirit (John 1:10-13).

Chapter 24

Zealousness

Zealousness is a Christian virtue that has to do with passion or enthusiasm in doing something and in this case in ministry work.

After him Baruch the son of Zabbai **earnestly** repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

Nehemiah 3:20

From the above scripture I take note of one thing which is, in the building of the wall of Jerusalem which was totally destroyed, Baruch the son of Zabbai is the only one the Scripture point out that he repaired it earnestly. That tells us that he was more passionate and zealous in doing it and which is commendable as the following scripture says.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;

Not slothful in business; **fervent in spirit**; serving the Lord;

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Romans 12:10-12

It follows therefore that there is need on our part as Christians to be zealous for the Lord in whatever we are engaged in serving him. God Himself is zealous in doing his work as we can see from some of these scriptures among others:

And judgement is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgement.

And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and **was clad with zeal** as a cloak.

Isaiah 59:14-17

Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord God; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: **and they shall know that I the Lord have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them.**

Ezekiel 5:11-13

From the above two scriptures alone it is clear that whatever God does, he does it with zeal.

In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him aught to eat?

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

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.

John 4:31-35

In the above incidence Jesus was zealous in ministry work of harvesting souls for the kingdom of his Father and to him eating looked trivial.

And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

And he said unto them, how is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Luke 2:48-49

Jesus was busy with his Father's business after the feast in Jerusalem instead of going back home with his parents. Now that is a lot of passion for the affairs of his Father!

And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house a house of merchandise.

And his disciples remembered that it was written, **The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.**

John 2:13-17

Jesus was zealous for the temple (the house of his Father) and went ahead to clean it up. As followers of Jesus we too need have real zeal for the house of the Lord and what goes in it need be of great concern to us, in Jesus name, Amen.

AND Israel abode in Shittim, and people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the Lord against the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may be turned away from Israel.

And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye everyone of his men that were joined unto Baal-peor.

And behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;

And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and trust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly.

So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:

And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

Numbers 25:1-13

Phinehas was so zealous for his God and did what was right before God and saved the ugly situation and God blessed him and his seed.

Then Jehu came forth to the servants of his Lord: and one said unto him, Is all well? Wherefore came this mad fellow to thee? And

he said unto them, Ye know the man, and his communication.

And they said, it is false; tell us now. And he said, Thus and thus he spake to me, saying, Thus saith the Lord, I have anointed thee king over Israel.

Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king.

So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had kept Ramoth-gilead, he and all Israel, because of Hazael king of Syria.

But king Joram was returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said,

If it be your minds, then let none go forth nor escape out of the city to go to tell it in Jezreel.

So Jehu rode in a chariot, and went to Jezreel: for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah was come down to see Joram.

And there stood a watchman on the tower in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, I see a company, And Joram said, Take an horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, Is it peace?

So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, Thus saith the king, Is it peace? And Jehu said, What hast thou to do with peace? Turn thee behind me. And the watchman told, saying, The messenger came to them, but he cometh not again.

Then he sent out a second on horseback, which came to them, and said, Thus saith the king, Is it peace? And Jehu answered, What hast thou to do with peace? Turn thee behind me. And the watchman told, saying,

He came even unto them, and cameth not again: and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi: for he driveth furiously.

And Joram said, Make ready. And his chariot was made ready. And Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his

chariot, and they went out against Jehu, and met him in the portion of Naboth the Jezreelite.

And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?

And Joram turned his hands, and fled, and said to Ahaziah, There is treachery, O Ahaziah.

And Jehu draw a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot.

Then said Jehu to Bidkar his captain, Take up, and cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite: for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the Lord laid this burden upon him;

Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the Lord; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the Lord. Now therefore take and cast him into

the plat of ground, according to the word of the Lord.

But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, Smite him also in the chariot. And they did so at the going up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there.

And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his sepulcher with his fathers in the city of David.

And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah.

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.

And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?

And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? Who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs.

And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down; and some of her blood was sprinkled

on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her underfoot.

And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said,

Go, see now this cursed woman and bury her: for she is a king's daughter.

And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands.

Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel:

And the carcase of Jezebel shall be us dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.

2 Kings 9:11-37

When Jehu was anointed to be king over Israel, he was directed to smite the house of Ahab his master that God may avenge the blood of his servants who suffered at the hands of Jezebel.

Now Jehu was so zealous for the God of Israel and he hastened and completed the task with precision and the mission was accomplished.
The question now is, How do you handle the task God has given you? Do you hasten to accomplish it with much zeal or you are sluggish or procrastinate doing it?

That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 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 10:37-38

Jesus the Son of God was busy doing the needful being quite zealous how about you and I are we zealous too in serving God?

Chapter 25

Hope

Hope is a Christian virtue that touches on one's expectation in the future and which make one to remain steadfast in the Christian Walk.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it might be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:3-7

The hope we have in Christ Jesus is a lively one for Christ lives forever (Revelation 1:18) and will come back for us. So now we are waiting for him to come and take us to our mansions in heaven (John 14:1-3, Romans 8:22-25).

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present, world;
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;
Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Indeed, indeed, it is so, Amen.

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiply I will multiply thee.

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made a high priest for ever after the order of Mel-chiz'-ed-ek.

Hebrews 6:13-20

O Love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.
Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart all ye that hope in the LORD.

Psalm 31:23-24

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;
To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Psalm 33:18-19

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 42:11

IN thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.

Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me.

Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me, for thou art my rock and my fortress.

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth.

Psalm 71:1-5

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

Jeremiah 17:7

Chapter 26

Courage

Courage is a Christian Virtue that go hand in hand with faith as the opposite of faith is fear. One can be courageous only if one has faith.

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Deuteronomy 31:6

NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

From the wilderness and this Leb'-a-non even unto the great river, the river Eu-phra'-tes, all the land of the Hit'-ti-tes, and unto the Great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

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.

Have not I commanded thee?

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:1-9

For God to have reminded Joshua the son of Nun to be courageous it follows therefore that we too must follow suit and be courageous in order to go far and succeed in our endeavors, which is essentially in God's work. By faith David was very courageous and he accomplished his mission for the Lord by defeating the champion Goliath of Gath and removed the scorn of the Philistines on the men of Israel.

If we are fearful or afraid in situations in life as Christians, Satan and demons will be a happy lot indeed as they have already won the battle against us as we become as mince meat to them and pose no threat to them.

And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

1 Chronicles 28:20

David was encouraging his son Solomon to go ahead and build a temple for the Lord and he told him not to fear but be courageous as God will be with him to see him through. We too when faced with some work of the Lord we just need to take heart and be of courage as God does not disappear and leave as alone when faced with the challenges in life or the work of the Lord to do.

Chapter 27

Patience

Patience is a Christian virtue that has to do with waiting on God.

I WAIT patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.
He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

Psalm 40:1-2

The psalmist waited patiently for the Lord and the Lord answered his prayer and removed him out of trouble.

Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.
He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:
But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faith.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Quite encouraging indeed to take time and wait on the Lord as it will be worthwhile.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:2-4

So patience can work for our perfection in some way. Now that is good news for us Christians and quite encouraging as well.

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. behold, the husbandman waiteth

for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

James 5:7-8

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preffering one another;
Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
Rejoice in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
Distributing to the necessities of saints; given to hospitality

Romans 12:10-13

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God ye might receive the promise.
For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

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

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:36-39

Chapter 28

Watchfulness

Watchfulness is a Christian virtue which involves the alertness of a Christian on the appearing of the Lord and at the same time making all efforts to be found ready at his appearing.

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.
But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
For as the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,
And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Matthew 24:36-42

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

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

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

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

Luke 12:35-38

BUT of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

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.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that day should overtake you as a thief.

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Revelation 16:15

Surely we need God's grace on that. Let us now look at the following scripture touching on alertness/watchfulness for victory.

THEN Jer-ub-ba'-al, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and

pitched beside the well of Har'-od: so that the host of the Mid'-i-nites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Mo'-reh, in the valley.

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Mid'-i-a-nites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gil'-e-ad. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gedion,

Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you and deliver the Mid'-i-a-nites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Mid'-i-a-n was beneath him in the valley.

Judges 7:1-8

In the period that Gideon lived God chose for him only three hundred men which he would

use to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites and in the final process he used water (which is symbolic of the word of God – John 15:3, Ephesians 5:25-27) to test all the men that had remained (ten thousand) and used lapping of water with the tongue as a litmus test for those to remain with Gideon in his army of men. Normally a dog laps water in drinking as is a watcher of any one intruding his surroundings.

Now in our dispensation too, God is busy in purifying the Church of Christ and only the spiritually sensitive/alert will be saved in the rapture of the Church by Jesus Christ at his appearance in the clouds in the sky (Zechariah 13:7-9, Matthew 25:1-13).

Just as it was during the period of John the Baptist who told the people of Jerusalem and Judea that one was to come who is mightier than him and who will thoroughly purge his floor (Matthew 3:11-12) it is true that Lord is thoroughly purging the floor now.

The three hundred men with Gideon were people who could be watchful of the Midianites attack against them.

The Church of Christ needs to be a watchful lot waiting for her Master (the Bridegroom) lest she is left out in the rapture. There is no time concentrating on trivialities and unnecessarily getting absorbed in many things at the expense of alertness in daily life. It is a time to spend in useful ventures that are likely to add value in her eternity.

Watchfulness go hand in hand with readiness and if not, it is an exercise in futility as it leads nowhere or should I say it leads where one was not expected to be (Matthew 25:41, Daniel 12:1-2).

The following scriptures talk on the urgency of preparedness and readiness.

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. A'-men. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:7, 12, 20

Now that he is coming (our Lord Jesus Christ), are we ready!!?

Chapter 29

Humility

Humility is a Christian virtue worth emulating as it was found first in the Son of God and later in some servants of the Lord such as Moses the prophet of God.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man:
And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

Let us learn this lesson; that in humility comes obedience and in pride come disobedience and which lead further to rebellion.

And from Mi-le'-tus he sent to Eph'-e-sus, and called the elders of the church.

And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

Acts 20:17-19

From that statement he gave to the elders of the church at Ephesus it is evident that apostle Paul was a humble servant of God.

AND Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the E-thi-o'-pi-an woman whom he

had married: for he had married an E-thi-o'-pi-an woman.

And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

Numbers 12:1-3

What later transpired was not good news as the anger of the Lord was kindled against Miriam and Aaron the sister and brother of Moses the servant of the Lord.

I did say pride as being the opposite of humility and it finally leads to rebellion on the extreme as happened with Satan formerly known as Lucifer whose heart was lifted up and imagined he should be above God (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:13-17).

PRAISE ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.
For **the LORD taketh pleasure in his people**: **he will beautify the meek with salvation.**

Psalm 149:1-4

In the above scripture one can see the need for meekness in one's life as it is beneficial.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.
Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time:
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1 Peter 5:5-7

And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them,

When thou are bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him;

And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

For whosoever exalteth himself shall he abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 14:7-11

And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

I fast twice in a week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 18:9-14

The above two scriptures are lessons we need to learn on humility and may the Lord help us to begin to humble ourselves to our own benefit.

Let us look at one that showed humility in his life.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is

mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Matthew 3:11-15

And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What then? Art thou Eli'-jah? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet?

And he answered, No

Then said they unto him, Who art thou? That we may give an answer to them that sent us. what sayest thou of thyself?

He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Isai'-ah.

John 1:19-23

After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

And John also was baptizing in Ae'-non near to Sa'-lim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

For John was not yet cast into prison.

Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.

And 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.

John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

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.

He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 3:22-30

Although John the Baptist was a great man in the sight of God as a fore runner of Jesus Christ to prepare the way for him (Luke 1:5-17), he was humble enough and did not brag even when the opportunity arose for him to do so when he was asked to say who he was. Also, when Jesus came to him to be baptized, he told Jesus that he was the one to baptize him and not the other way round. Even when Jesus was

baptizing and he was told of it he was not embarrassed or took Jesus as a competitor for taking up his role as a baptizer of the people or even envying him for the many people that were going to Jesus. But rather he said as a friend of the bridegroom he was rejoicing greatly for seeing the bride with the bridegroom and that the bridegroom must increase and him to decrease (he knew he had accomplished his work of preparing the people for the Lord).

Now what did Jesus say about this humble man called John the Baptist? Please read the book of Matthew (Matthew 11:1-11).

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for taking time to read the nuggets contained in this book and hope and trust that your efforts in doing so will be rewarded by the Lord as you purpose to adhere to them.

In case you have any comments to make please feel free to do so using the address.

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