



The Link

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A non-denominational publication to the body of Christ

*"O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known;
in wrath remember mercy." Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV)*



Inside:

- ✦ *Spiritual Amnesia*
- ✦ *Perseverance*
- ✦ *Forgiveness: Its Significance to a Christian*
- ✦ *Prosperity is God's will for you*
- ✦ *The Word and the Heart*
- ✦ *God, revive us again*
- ✦ *Food For Thought*

EDITORIAL

Beloved, we are grateful to God for His grace in our lives and the opportunity He has given us again to be able to reach out to you. We trust the Lord that this edition of the magazine will be of immense benefit to you and God will make all of us to become what He desired us to be in Jesus name.

The burden in our heart in this edition is to be able to create a thirst in your heart to seek the Lord will a renewed vigour, to love Him as you should and live by His word continually. We believe that as we seek the Lord, He will revive us again and make us to experience Him in anew. We need to forget the things of the past and launch out for a new experience with God. We also trust that Lord to make you to know Him better and make you to experience what he alone can do in your life. Those things you run after that will begin to come to you with God working with you to accomplish great things in your life and in your concerns.

We welcome you to go through every article put together by beloved brethren that God has spoken to on various issues. Apply these biblical truths to your life and experience the awakening and a new experience with God today. We know our God is quite concerns about the state of His flock and He will definitely touch you as you yield yourself to him.

Thanks for your support, encouragement, and understanding; above all your prayers.

On behalf of 'The Link Ministries' and her partners, I wish you a very pleasant experience and transformation this year and always. We will be glad to receive your testimonies and comments as you partake in what God is doing through this ministry, feel free to call us and write us.

We love you dearly and pray that we will all be prepared as a part of a Church without spot or wrinkle which Christ is coming for in Jesus name (Amen).

Yours in His service,

Segun Ajayi

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Spiritual Amnesia</i>	2
<i>Perseverance</i>	3
<i>Forgiveness: Its significance to a Christian</i>	6
<i>Prosperity is the will of God for you</i>	8
<i>The word and the Heart</i>	10
<i>O God, Revive us again</i>	12
<i>Food for Thought</i>	15

THE LINK is a non-denominational teaching magazine sent or delivered free to your homes, churches, ministries, schools, establishment and any believer that requests a copy. **THE LINK** carries no subscription or news-stand price. **IT MUST NOT BE SOLD.**

This publication is being financed as the Lord provides through a group of brethren.

We would like to know how this publication has been of blessings to you, please write or call us.

You can also send in your gift(s) in cash or kind to improve the quality of this publication. (Cheques/Money orders should be made payable to Segun Ajayi).

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SPIRITUAL AMNESIA

Kunbi Ajayi

Amnesia, Anorexia, Asphyxia - big names for medical conditions ranging from loss of memory to a condition of extreme loss of weight due to lack of feeding and then suffocation. These are medical conditions that as children of God we don't want to have anything to do with.

Amnesia is a loss of memory that is occasioned by trauma or accident. It can last for days, months or years. But what has this got to do with us as God's children? Spiritually Amnesia the bible indicates is a necessary condition or state for us to be in; the bible declares: *"Remember ye not the former things neither consider the things of old"* (Isaiah 43:8). This is a pre-condition for God to move in our lives, removing fear and fanning alive the mighty flames of faith; when we forget the things of old. It becomes easier for us to believe; forgetting those things that are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before (Philippians 3:13). When we as children of God forget the past, leaving behind the negative things, such as the challenges we have gone through and the battles we seem to have lost, then it becomes possible for God to do a new thing in our lives.

If we dwell on the past, doubt comes on the wings of fear. Remember the One who has taken care of those fears repeatedly says, "fear not".

For us to fan the flames of faith we must remember *"God, who quickened the dead, and call those things which be not as though they were."* (Romans 4:17). We must not be weak in faith because of the passage of time or the happenings of the past.

Consider him faithful that has promised that he will bring His promises to pass, looking into the future with hope. For hope makes not ashamed (Romans 5:5). Hope is of the future not of the past. In Romans 8:24 the scripture states *"but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it"*.

For faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).

Faith in the promises of God is a necessity for the sustenance of the hope for the future. This faith rests solidly on the unchanging promises of God. So, *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"* (Romans 8:31-32).

God says, *"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."* (Isaiah 41:10)

"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them." Isaiah 42:9

Begin to sing to the Lord a new song for He says *".....I will work and who shall let it?"* Isaiah 43:13b.

"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old, behold I will do a new thing now it shall spring forth, shall ye not know it?" Isaiah 43:18

So, forget the past and be fully persuaded that what He has promised, He is able also to perform.

PERSEVERANCE

Rufus Oladosu

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark" - Charles Spurgeon.

To persevere is to continue in your endeavour in the face of difficulty or opposition until you reach your goal.

The Christian journey is not for sprinters but for long distant runners. You have to make an unqualified decision to continue with Christ irrespective of whatever may come on your way to the glorious home.

There are several reasons why we need to persevere. Two of these will be discussed here.

First, the **loss of divine presence**; "Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him" (Heb. 10:38). There is no loss as grave as the loss of God's presence. What shall we gain if we throw in the towel? The difficulties we may face cannot be compared with the dire consequences of being abandoned and discarded by God.

The world's happiness is ephemeral. Its delicacies eventually turn to bitter gall. Who shall we turn to in the midnight hour of life? Who shall be our stay in the hour of need? The world ever so alluring is full of pains and sorrows; those who forsake Christ sign up for pain with no lasting gain. What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his own soul? There are matters whose effects are limited in scope and time.

However, the issue of sliding back because the journey is rough has eternal, timeless consequences.

A second reason is the **benefits of perseverance**. We evidently live in the age of ease, pleasure and haste. There is a tendency for even the believers to become resentful when Christian duties are difficult, un-pleasurable and requiring patience.

However, we need to remind ourselves that things of great value come out of perseverance. A pregnant woman perseveres for nine months and goes through the labour pangs to bring forth her sweet baby. A farmer perseveres through the clearing, planting and tending periods before the harvest comes forth. The precious resources in the earth's bosom are obtained only through the persevering efforts of men.

When you are tempted to quit, encourage yourself in the Lord. You are nearer to finishing line than when you started; the joy of finishing well will outweigh the sacrifices you might make.

I once read about a Chinese bamboo tree. This tree will not grow much for many years in spite of the application of fertilizer but by the fifth year, it will suddenly begin to grow reaching an amazing ninety feet in six weeks. At the curve of a change the obstacles usually appear very daunting. The midnight hour though is the darkest part of the night; it is also the womb from which a new day is born. It is not over until God says it is over – when we lay our sword in triumph and appreciation at His feet.

To persevere certain things are imperative.

The first is a meaningful personal daily devotion. It must be understood clearly that **God is the source of our strength**. As the branch that is cut off from the vine dries up, so also is anyone who becomes too busy to have a consistent personal devotion will run out of energy and becomes a casualty.

Daily devotion helps us to put things in the proper perspective and draw strength and wisdom to face life's challenges. Whatever distracts from the disciplines of daily worship, prayer, meditation on God's word and listening for divine guidance should be regarded as an agent of our archenemy, the devil. It is trying to sap us of vital energy we need for Kingdom pursuits. Such thing must be ruthlessly dealt with.

Secondly, we should **keep fellowship with men of like passion**. The Scripture instructs us not to forsake our fellowship with one another (Heb. 10:25). One of the tactics of the devil is to keep us in separate quarters, far away from the care, comforts and contributions of other believers. When he succeeds in this, we begin to develop "Elijah complex", feeling of being alone in the battlefield. God has not created any of us to be an Island and a solo performer. We are meant to operate as a team. This lesson should be learnt early. Team spirit is a force multiplier. If you want to finish well you must belong to the fellowship of those who are heavenly minded. If none is available where you are, please prayerfully consider birthing such a fellowship.

Thirdly, **maintain your joy**. Your joy contains your strength. As the Scripture says, the joy of the Lord

is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10). Depriving you of joy is a dangerous thing.

Paul wrote about his imprisonment in Jail. Yet the captives often referred to him rejoicing in spite of his imprisonment because he did not lose heart. He refused to allow doubt to steal the pure Joy welling up in his heart. He was in tune with the Holy Spirit, and the joy sound in your heart and the joy impart you with new strength.

Lastly, **focus on the eternal reward** separates winners from losers.

what they are going through

where they are going to. Certainly our

Lord is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). Rewards of finishing well are given.

Don't focus on the negative; focus on your reward.

Jesus did not flinch when unjust, severe punishments were meted out to Him because of the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2).

Paul spoke eagerly for the crown of righteousness given him (2 Timothy 4:8).

Moses persevered because he saw the invisible (Heb. 10:27).

There is a great reward for being faithful. **Keep the eternal reward in view.**

any difficulty you are facing now is temporary. The end of the journey is the faithful.

welcome you to eternal bliss. **Serve the Lord. Let no one take your crown.**

FORGIVENESS: ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO A CHRISTIAN

Olaolu Aderinwale

In Mathew Chapter 6 verse 12, the Lord said, *"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*. This part of what is popularly known as the Lord's Prayer is very significant as it forms the fundamental basis of all the prayers which we offer to God. In other words, the efficacy or otherwise of our daily prayers depends to a very large extent on our strict compliance with the spirit and letters of this aspect of the 'Lord's prayer'.

In this passage, Jesus Christ taught his disciples including us, the present day Christians, to pray to God daily for the forgiveness of our sins. This instruction is also important today as it was during the time when the Lord gave it.

Forgiveness is the act of stopping feeling angry with somebody for what he has done to annoy or upset. God Himself explains very clearly the meaning of forgiveness in Jeremiah 31:34, where He says, *"I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more"*. This is God's definition of Forgiveness and no other definition can supersede it.

The Quality of Mercy

Forgiveness is done by God in His characteristic nature as a merciful God. It therefore follows that by praying to God to forgive us our sins we are asking Him to exercise his merciful nature in our favour. When we confess our sins and exercise faith in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, God does have mercy on us. This is why the publican in Luke 18:13 said, *"God be merciful to me, a sinner"*. It therefore

follows that forgiveness presupposes the presence of mercy in the person who is forgiving. He also has authority, power and willingness to forgive.

Christian's position in the act of forgiveness

In the act of forgiveness, it behoves the Christian to take initiative and commence the process of forgiveness, whether from God towards him or from him to his 'debtors'. In other words, after acknowledging his sin against God, the Christian must ask God for forgiveness. In the same vein, he should call the person who offends him, settle with him and forgive him entirely. This is the Lord's injunction in Matthew 18:15, *"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."*

Conditions for forgiveness

To obtain forgiveness from God, two basic conditions must be met:

1. The Christian must acknowledge his sin and REPENT by changing his attitude towards sin. This is Peter's advice in Acts 3:19 where he said *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord"*. So, repentance is a prerequisite for forgiveness from God.
2. The Christian must be ready to change his conduct; make a change in direction and begin a new walk with God.

The totality of the act of forgiveness

The whole essence of forgiveness is well brought out in Jeremiah 31:34, "*I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more*". It shows that God's act of forgiveness entails that He forgives and forgets. Every Christian should adopt as his deliberate policy and practice to forget all the wrongs done to him.

This statement often uttered by some people that, "I have forgiven him but I cannot forget what he did to me" is unbiblical. It must not be heard among the children of God. Forgiveness must be total and unconditional just like God forgives and remembers our sins no more.

The principle of similarity

Another principle which the Lord Jesus Christ laid down for us to follow and is worthy of note is that which I termed, 'the principle of similarity'. Jesus Christ taught us to say "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors". The word 'as' means 'just exactly the same way' (not more and not less). In other words, the amount of forgiveness we are requesting from God should be **similar** to that which we accord those who wrong us.

Our Lord even expatiated on this principle in Mathew 6:14-15 when he said, "*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.*" This statement is weighty! It is a very serious issue because God's forgiveness is correspondingly dependent on our forgiveness of those who offend us. The importance and unchangeability accorded this statement lies in the fact that it was Jesus Christ, The Word, Himself who

uttered the word; it is therefore eternal. All we just have to do as Christians is to fall in line with the **directive to forgive those who offend us.**

Invocation of a curse

An important note of warning must however be sounded here. To avoid invoking a curse on oneself, a Christian must **assure himself that he truly forgives those who offend him. You should read again and meditate on Mathew 6:15. The simple implication of it is that if a Christian prays to God for forgiveness but he does not forgive his brother or sister the following happens:**

1. God will not forgive him.

Meditate on this: "*So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*" (Mathew 18:35)

2. He is not saved from his sins

3. His prayers are not answered. The scriptures states in Psalm 66:18 and Proverbs 15:8
"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight".

(Continued on Page 9)

Prosperity is God's will for you

Samuel Olayide

Our Heavenly Father – the one that has called us is rich in all things. God is seriously wealthy, and He wants the same for all His children.

In Haggai 2:8, God said: *“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine.....”*

In the passage, God's wealth is measured in gold and silver.

In Rev. 21:15-20, John the beloved described what he saw in the heavenly Jerusalem:

“And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.”

A break down of the construction of God's city:

- 📖 The measuring tape - Gold
- 📖 Wall or fence - Jasper
- 📖 The city - Pure gold
- 📖 1st Foundation - Jasper
- 📖 2nd Foundation- Sapphire
- 📖 3rd Foundation - Chalcedony
- 📖 4th Foundation - Emerald
- 📖 5th Foundation - Sardonyx
- 📖 6th Foundation - Sardious
- 📖 7th Foundation - Chrysolite
- 📖 8th Foundation - Beryl
- 📖 9th Foundation - Tapaz
- 📖 10th Foundation - Chrysoprasus
- 📖 11th Foundation - Jacinth
- 📖 12th Foundation - Amethyst
- 📖 Gates - Pearl
- 📖 Streets - Pure gold

Personally, I have never seen this kind of construction in life. Not even Solomon, described as the richest king that ever lived, had fund for this kind of construction.

God wants us to partake of what He has. He wants us to enjoy prosperity. God wants us to enjoy a bit of heaven on earth. There's no trace of poverty in God's city.

Desire what God has. Let no tradition blindfold you. All good things come from God and they are yours.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

The gold in the hands of the gentiles belongs to God and it's what God used to tar the streets of heaven. Let's seek the Lord with all diligence and prosperity will come (Psalm 50:9-12).

If truly God is your father, abundance is yours by the new birth. In 2 Corinthians 8:9, the scripture says, *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich"*. He became poor for you to be rich.

FORGIVENESS: ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO A CHRISTIAN

(Continued from Page 7)

Regularity of forgiveness

God does not want His children to keep malice. He wants the Christian to forgive his brother or sister many times as occasion warrants.

This is confirmed by the Lord's answer to Peter's question as to the number of times a brother could offend and be forgiven. Jesus Christ said 'four hundred and ninety times'. *"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." (Mathew 18:21-22).

Brothers and sisters, though one is a professional offender or trespasser, it is absolutely difficult and even impossible for one man to continue offending another one man for 490 times in one day. What the Lord is saying here is that we must continue to forgive others INDEFINITELY.

Admonition

Brothers and sisters, I want to end this brief discourse with the admonition of Paul in Colossians 3:12-13 where he said, *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."*

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ shall not be in vain in our lives in Jesus' name (Amen).

THE WORD AND THE HEART

Odunayo Ogundipe

Beloved, if there is anything we need to thank God for today, it should be the Inspirational teaching of His word through His anointed ones on the television, radio, our local assemblies, etc. But the question is this, what is the state of our Hearts towards these teachings of the word of God?

People keep on hearing the word without any result. Some are forgetful hearer. Others would receive the word with gladness and thereafter, they are back to their normal self; no transformation or regeneration. As I pondered on what could have been responsible, the parable of the sower quickly flashed into my mind. This is the core of what we will be examining under the topic "The word and the Heart". God Almighty will work on our hearts as we study together in Jesus name.

"A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Luke 8:5-8)

Now the interpretation: The Sower could be the preacher, teacher, pastor, authors, and singers, the

magazine in your hand or the Bible. **The seed is the Word of God.** Categories of the hearts of people that hear the word or read the word are as follows:

- *"Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*
- *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*
- *And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*
- *But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:12)-15*

The Scriptures aforementioned are the true picture of the body of believers today. Except we want to deceive ourselves, these four categories of heart are found in the church; it calls for a serious concern. No wonder, despite the number of churches, congregations, programmes on television and radio even on the Internet, the heart of many is not regenerated, godly manner or character is still lacking, iniquity is on the increase. The reason for these is not far from the points mentioned above.

The first category of believers is those that hear the word but it has no place in their hearts; then the devil which is the enemy of their soul comes and takes away the word out of their hearts. The word is not engraved in their hearts. Anyone in this category needs to surrender his heart totally to God.

Another set of people are those whose hearts can be likened to a rock. When the word is preached to them or when they read or hear, they receive it with joy. But because their heart is stony; there is no nourishment. Hence, the words have no root, and when temptation comes, they fall away. These are the people you see in the church today, zealous, and most excited when the word is being preached. But give them a little time, because of the nature of their heart, they would fall away with little temptation; the word has no root in their hearts.

The most common state of the heart is this third category. There are many whose hearts are so occupied with the worries of this world, pleasure and riches. All these are referred to as thorns. These people are in the church, they receive the word but the cares of the world choke everything and they are like people that have not received the word at all.

An honest and good heart which must be the desire of the heavenly minded Christian is the one whose heart is a fertile ground for the word of God to grow, develop and bear fruit unto righteousness.

This category of believers can be likened to the Berean Christians. The Bible says in Acts 17:11: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." This is a good heart to be desired amongst Christians, the heart that is prepared when the word is preached.

Anyone that belongs to the first three categories needs to go to God and pray according to Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right Spirit within me".

When you have the opportunity to preach the word or if you want to read it, the heart must, as a matter of necessity, be properly prepared.

The entire body of Christ needs your prayer. On a daily basis, commit the heart of people into the hand of God so that they will not just be hearing or reading the word without any resultant effect. God bless you.

O GOD, REVIVE US AGAIN

Segun Ajayi

"LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people; thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned thyself from the fierceness of thine anger.

Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease.

Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? Wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations?

Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" Psalm 85:1-6

Our God has shown us so much favour. He forgave us our iniquity and covered our sins; we that were far off, gentiles without hope, he has brought near to himself by the blood of his son Jesus Christ. He did not consider how wayward we had been and what abominations we have committed, what wickedness we have done. He brought us his kindness, and had mercy on us. He set aside his wrath and fierce anger and made us His sons and daughters. He gave us a new heart to seek after him and made us a peculiar people; object of His praise and glory.

God said in Exodus 33:19 that *"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and compassion on whom I will have compassion"*. What a great compassion God has for us. Sometime I imagine what God could have done to us considering our waywardness. If he had showed his wrath for a minute, we would have all been destroyed. Thank you Lord.

The Lord said in Hosea 2:23 *"I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved which was not beloved"*. We are now being declared to be the children of the most high, the living God.

In this discussion, we want to draw our attention back to God. We desire that all return to Him and ask Him to revive us again that we may be all that He desired us to be. We trust God that at the end of this discussion we will plead for God's mercy again; **He will restore everyone and make us to rejoice in His love and salvation.**

The State That Requires Revival

If we consider the seasons and weather, there is always a time of the year when there is actually no rain. We call this season, the dry season. But even during this season we notice that though everything seems dry and hot, some plants actually survive and remain green. Often times I wonder how they manage to get water and continue to grow. Early in the morning, if we look around on these plants we notice a form of water given by God to sustain these plants. God releases dew from heaven in the night to provide for this plants. Praise God.

There are some regions of the world that sometimes do not even enjoy this dew from heaven. There is complete dryness; no plant survives in this region. The geographers call this region a desert.

Desert: This sometime is the state of a believer that has lost favour and touch with God. There is complete dryness; no dew, no water, no sustenance. There is no blessing from God, no joy, except paralysis. Prayers are unanswered, God seems far away. Everyone stays away from this life because; this person is of no benefit and cannot be a source of blessing to anyone. Everything seems to be dead from within. The heaven becomes like brass and there is no form of communication from there to the heart of this fellow. The state of such a believer is very pitiful.

It takes more than words to convince this person of His state. It takes more than just counselling. It takes the power of heaven to make the eyes of this fellow open.

You may wonder what we are driving at in this discussion. You may even think that this does not concern you. After all, I go to church, and I am this or that in the house of the Lord.

Please, do not excuse yourself. Consider your life. Are you experiencing any of the above mentioned maladies? Is your situation similar? It may be that you have allowed something in your life that has drawn you away from God into other things. It may be that your heart has gone very cold towards God and you have given your heart to something else, a 'god' in your life. Hence, you have fallen into a state of dryness referred to earlier in this discussion.

This state of dryness, described above is the state of many believers. They still go to church. They still do many things in the house of the Lord, but many are not experiencing God the way they ought to experience him. This is often because their hearts

have been drawn to ~~vanities, things of this world and pleasures that make God go far away from them.~~

It is also possible that ~~pride and arrogance occasioned by the lofty position and privileges they are enjoying will not make them to realize that things are going wrong. Brothers and sisters, there is a need for revival.~~

This state of dryness ~~causes men and women who ought to be enjoying God's favour, blessing and blessing to begin to look for solutions what what is none. Yet God is not far away. There is no rain or dew from heaven just like it happened in the story of First Kings 17:7; even the brooks have dried up. Obadiah and Ahab in I Kings 18:5 looked for water in the fountains and brooks, and searched all over the land. The search for solution instead of bringing relief and comfort rather brought in more suffering, everything seemed hopeless. Meanwhile the source of the Living Water was neglected. The heavens still had water but no rain or dew came over this people of God. The search did not yield any result until the people returned to God, the Source of all water, rain, brook and fountains of favour, blessings, comfort and sustenance.~~

What Can Be Done?

1. Search Your Heart

The heart is very important, with ~~the heart we choose to do what is right; we choose to love something above another. With the heart we worship and serve God. With the heart we long for anything that is important to us. The Scripture says in Deut. 6:5 that we should love the Lord our God with the whole of our hearts and mind. It is the heart that loves God that can serve God and please Him.~~

It is this heart that can choose to seek God above all other things.

The Lord says in Isaiah 57:15 that He will revive the heart of the lowly and the contrite (a heart that is ready to make amend, that is sorry and penitent). The Lord will create a passion in such a heart that will love Him more, love the things of His kingdom and will experience a touch of heaven. In such a heart the Lord will reveal His purpose and counsel. The Holy Spirit will reveal fresh inspiration and the word of God will become a delight. There will be joy.

To get to the state of restoration and revival we need to search our heart. Is the heart right with God? Are you sorry for anything wrong you discover and ready to make amends? Is your heart always seeking after God? Is there something or someone you honour in your heart more than God? Is there a love for things of the world or vanities that other people long after? Humble yourself before God and set your heart right with him. If your heart is in a good state, then you will experience God's revival when you call on Him today. God promises in Isaiah 57:18, "I will heal, I will guide him and restore to him, creating praises on the lips..." Praise God.

2. Return to the Lord

You may wonder. Have I gone away from the Lord? Have I departed from the Lord? You may say, "Not really".

Yet you know there are obstacles and objects that stand between you and your Lord that ought to be removed. Such obstacles and objects may be things

you or the enemy put in there to hinder or block you from enjoying effective fellowship with the Lord. These may include the challenges of life, situation with your job, pressure of life and distraction from other individuals.

The fact of the matter is that you are not where you ought to be as a child of God. You have left the Lord, your first love, unattended to. Like Martha you seem to care about other things instead of caring for the state of your relationship with the Lord. Ponder awhile and consider this issue. Are you still as you were when you first met the Lord? Are you still relating with your God with the same fervency and affection as you had at the beginning? Can you say that you still belong to the Lord and you love Him as you once did?

If not, you need to return to your first love. He is still waiting with open arms waiting to pour His affection on you as you respond to His beckoning and call.

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." (Hosea 6: 1-3).

Dearly beloved, as you return to the Lord, He will revive you again and raise you up after restoring and healing you. You will experience a relationship that will make you to know the Lord again and experience freshness of favour and blessing from

him. He will come to you as a downpour of blessings and refreshment from heaven.

I believe by now you will begin to search your heart and uproot and destroy everything that ought not to be there. Make a conscious effort to consider your ways and all that take your attention from the Lord. The Lord is waiting for you. He will make the heaven to open up to for you if you remove every thing that had made the heaven to be like brass. Do it today and a time a refreshing will come from the Lord (Amen). Pray in Jesus Name.

Food For Thought

Free at last

One windy spring day, I observed young people having fun using the wind to fly their kites. Multicoloured creations of varying shapes and sizes filled the skies like beautiful birds darting and dancing in the heady atmosphere above the earth. As the strong winds gusted against the kites, a string kept them in check.

Instead of blowing away with the winds, they arose against it to achieve great heights. They shook and pulled, but the restraining string and the cumbersome tail kept them in tow, facing upward and against the wind. As the kites struggled and trembled against the string, they seemed to say, "Let me go! Let me go! I want to be free!" They soared beautifully even as they fought the imposed restriction of the string.

Finally, one of the kites succeeded in breaking loose. "Free at last" it seemed to say. "Free to fly with the wind". Yet freedom restraint simply put it at the mercy of an unsympathetic breeze. It fluttered ungracefully to the ground and landed in a tangled mass of weeds and string against a dead bush. "Free at last" – free to lie powerless

in the dirt. to be blown helplessly along the ground. and to lodge lifeless against the first obstruction.

How much like the kites we sometimes are? The Lord gives us adversity and restrictions. rules to follow from which we can grow and gain strength.

Restraint is a necessary counterpart to the winds of opposition. Some of us tug at the rules so hard that we never soar to reach the heights we might have obtained. We keep part of the commandment and (pardon the pun) never rise high enough to get our tails off the ground.

Let us each rise to the greater heights our heavenly Father has in store for us, recognizing that some of the restraints that we may chafe under are actually the steadying force that helps us ascend and achieve.

A Prayer: Lord, make me an instrument

Lord, make an instrument of thy peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is injury, let me sow pardon

Where there is doubt, let me sow faith

Where there is despair, let me sow hope

Where there is sadness, let me sow joy

Where there is darkness, let me sow light

Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others

Lord, open my ears that I may hear their cries

Lord, open my heart so that they need be without succour.

Let me be not afraid to defend the weak because of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

Show me where love, hope and faith are needed and use me to bring them those places and so open my eyes and ears that I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee.

No one is too weak, too vile, and too unimportant to be God's instrument.

- Life-care Christian Ministries

In the beginning God created everything perfect and He had wonderful fellowship with Adam and Eve. But man decided to disobey God. This resulted in sin and death.

Saviour for You

God did not want us to die and live without Him forever. He said, I will die in your place. So Jesus came to this earth and died on the cross and shed His blood for us. If we believe this and accept Him in our heart as our saviour, He forgives our disobedience and we are born into God's family.

Forgiveness

Now when God looks at us, He doesn't see our "black" sin, but a clean heart that is forgiven. Forgiveness makes us white as newly fallen snow.

Growth

As we yield ourselves to Him, we grow as Christians. Just as green plants and trees grow and produce fruit, so we grow in our Christian life and produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control.

Special Promises

As we go through life, we have precious promises that are "good as gold". God has promised that as His children, we will live with Him forever in His wonderful home called heaven, where the streets are paved with gold.

*Do you want to a part of this God's wonderful family?
Please take the steps outlined below:*

Acknowledge: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Rom 3:23 (NIV)
Say, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Luke 18:13 (NIV)

Believe: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)
"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:18 (NIV)

Confess: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9(NIV)

Pray like this: Dear Lord Jesus, come into my heart right now. Your word says if I come to you, you will in no wise cast me out. I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that you are the Son of God. I believe you died and rose for my justification. Thank you for agreeing to be Lord over my life. Thank you because I am saved NOW.

If you have just taken this step, we would like to pray along with you. Please contact us at the address below or contact any gospel Church close to you. God bless you and keep you in Jesus Name (Amen)

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