

## WHO IS THIS JESUS?

***And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am? And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets. And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ. (Mark 8:27-29).***

Ministering to the unreached and the unchurched requires a sound understanding and knowledge of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. According to this passage, the question is in two folds. One was to understand the masses opinion about Jesus' ministry while the other revolves round individual disciples understanding the personality and personhood of Jesus Christ. Thus, as missionaries, the understanding of the ministry of Jesus Christ is dependent of the believers' knowledge of Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew clearly emphasized that the knowledge of the person of Jesus Christ is beyond flesh and blood. This revelation deeply enables the belief of individuals to understand that Jesus is God the son, and was choosing by God to manifest himself in diverse forms to meet the needs of the dying world for human comprehension. We must realize that there are limitations to what God can reveal to us through the words of an inspired book that are filled with humanly defined word.

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

Preceding the Great Commission, Jesus firstly advertised His authority to whoever is to make disciples of the nations. Such a disciple must understand that all power in heaven and on earth had been given unto Jesus Christ.

***<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (Mat. 28:18)***

### ICEBREAKER

The parable of some blind men and the elephant tells the story of six blind men who examined one part of an elephant and each come to very different conclusions on what an elephant is. They are all partly right, but also all entirely wrong. The story teaches that truth is relative to one's own perspective, and because the truth is relative, we all should strive to have

an encounter with the reality and respect the opinions of others in relating their encounter with religion as we carefully present the truth of the Gospel. After all, their views of reality are based on a different viewpoint than our own.

### **WHO IS THIS JESUS?**

The world have so much underscore issues of individual's identity. Who we are? What we believe? Where we hailed from? What is our status in the society? Etc. are the various questions with which we disclose individual's identity. However, the way we respond when someone asks about our identity is dependent upon individual's feeling. The average person responds to the question of 'who are you?' either by giving their nomenclature, offices, or by telling their vocation. In our society, who we are looks so important to the extent that, it determines the state of our well-being. The society daily advertises and idolizes the celebrities' world via various media platforms. Many idealize sports stars, actors, business men, and many others. This same society have become so obsessed with titles and references. In Fact, some have gone through great lengths to embellish their titles in order to glamorize or promote who they are.

Jesus was not exempted from ensuring that the world did not misconceive His identity. Despite living among His people to establish the purpose of His existence, the contemporary Jewish community of Jesus' time did not get it right with respect to His identity. To some, Jesus was the healer, while to others he was a welfare officer to be crowned. In another scenario, He was a teacher, a revolutionist, the carpenter's son, etc. In order to avert the delusion around His identity, He posited, **whom do People Say that I am?**

In Mark 8:27-30, Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi and He asked the disciples for the world's conceptions about His person: **Whom do People Say that I am?** The Disciples responded by saying some say; John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Though the Holy Bible is fully describe the person of this Messiah. Let us look who did people say that Jesus was and is.

The world's greatest question is the one here propounded **who do men say...? Who is Jesus?** The Nazarenes said that he was only the son of the carpenter; however they could not account for his wisdom and his mighty works. Throughout the other parts of Galilee it was admitted that he was something more, which was a matter of dispute then, and it has been ever since. Concerning Jesus alone, of all the men of history, has such a question and debate existed?

Mark described Jesus to deliberately avoid public exposure in order to concentrate on teaching the disciples. The same impression is probably intended in the Christological debate among the disciples. The disciples, as they have mingled with the crowd, were in a better position than Jesus himself to tune in to popular reactions around his ministry. He asked for a report on what people are saying about him. His question assumes that people will have been obliged to find an explanation for what they have observed by identifying Jesus in some category out of the ordinary. Hence, they must have a pigeon hole to put him in among the existed prophets.

The different opinions he was John the Baptist raised from the dead, as we have already seen (Matthew 14:2). This arose from the superstition of the people, and was adopted by Herod, as a natural result of his guilty fears. Some thought that he was the prophet Elijah who returned again to earth, because of the boldness with which he denounced the sins of the age; while this characteristic, combined with the sorrowful tone of his speech, suggested to others that he was Jeremiah. Others, unable to decide which prophet he most resembled, thought that he was "one of the prophets." None regarded him as less than a prophet, and therefore all were inexcusable for not accepting the account which he gave of himself. Their unbelief on this point was the result of preconceived opinions as to the character and career of the Messiah, which they held tenaciously, and which were not verified in Jesus.

This is the first of the 'Who' series as posited by Jesus Christ when He discovered a shallow understanding of the world with respect to His identity. This observation was born out of the peoples' reaction to feeding the multitude, the Pharisees' questioning, and feeding the four thousand.

God the Father announced Jesus as His Son while He was being transfigured before the disciples.

**At the transfiguration a voice came from the clouds and said: “This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased, listen to Him”. (Matthew 17:5)**

**When He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup>He came unto his own, and his own received him not. (John 1:10-11)**

The age long Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled in the days of John the beloved needed to be elucidated. But the expectant Jews could not recognize Jesus’ presence in their world. His appearance and ministerial approach defeated that of a revolutionist which they have long anticipated.

The birth of Jesus brought about an expectation of a great Son of the Most High as foretold by the prophet. The Heir to the throne of David in the manner to which the Jewish community will understand.

**<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)**

The angel said to Mary

**But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” (Luke 1:30-33)**

Nicodemus called Jesus a Rabbi and a teacher that comes from God

*Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." (John 3:1-2)*

Likewise the disciples could not ascertain the person of Jesus Christ, but could only marvel at the manifestation of His authority over the forces of nature.

*They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" (Mark 4:41)*

This reveals to us how Jesus brings peace to our world in the storms of sorrows, problems and in times of anxiety. Even the storms today obey Him.

The Samaritan woman saw Jesus as a prophet who revealed the truth of her past and present.

*Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. (John 4:19)*

Judas confessed to have murdered an Innocent blood after discovering the person of Jesus upon crucifixion.

*After betraying Jesus and realizing what he had done, Judas stated in Matthew 27:4: "I have sinned...for I have betrayed innocent blood. (Matthew 27:4)*

Several other accounts from the Scriptures gave a clearer picture of Jesus Christ. All these were born out of individual's opinion and encounter. This clearly suggests that, a missionary must strive to understand the views of people to be evangelized. We must move from the known to the unknown in order for the world to have a personalized experience with Jesus Christ.

## 1. WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

In verse 29 Jesus asks his disciples the second episode of the 'who' series. It is similar to the first question, but completely different. ***“Who do you say that I am?”*** Jesus took a broader look into the question and brought it down to the personal opinion. “Who do **YOU** say that I am? He was not looking for what other had said, but Jesus was looking for a personal conviction and an “I believe statement”.

He had reserved it until he had given them the means of forming a matured judgment “Who do you, my most intimate and trusted friends—in contrast to the other people who neither know me nor understand me—think I am?”

Jesus is looking for a real and personal response from us. He is not looking for what our Sunday school teachers, pastors and general overseers believes about him. He is not looking for your book knowledge about Him from the numerous books that you have read. Jesus wants to hear an internalized version of all that His person means to you.

A correct perspective and answer to the question of Jesus' identity is the basis of our mission work. We need to decide if we truly believe in Jesus as our Messiah, our Saviour and our redeemer or if He was merely a good man who meets our needs, or a prophet who foresees the future to guide human actions as some people have claimed.

Some have claimed that Jesus was a good servant of God and just a fabrication that He never existed as God in flesh. Some, like Gandhi said he was a good man and a good teacher. Some groups say he was just a prophet and not the Son of God.

If we believe Jesus to be the God sent Saviour of the world, we need to decide if God sending His son to this earth and dying on the Cross was sufficient and necessary for us to have a relationship with God via forgiveness of sin.

**“You are the Christ!”** This was Peter’s response in verse 29. It is just an answer that Jesus was looking for. This response means more than salvation; it is a response that will bring about salvation and deliverance.

***<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)***

***<sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup> In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment, because in this world we are like him. (1 John 4:15-17)***

Peter’s response further established **JESUS: GOD THE SON**

This is the first attribute of Jesus that predated every other revelation of Jesus’ person. After God had made several attempts to reunite the erring world unto Himself, God concluded that there was no perfect sacrifice that could atone the stained souls of humanity. The only perfect sacrifice was found in the person of His Son—Jesus Christ. Thus, a seasoned missionary must cause all of mankind to come to the full knowledge of Jesus Christ that was advertised in Matthew 3:17. God proclaimed Jesus as His Son and must be listened to (17:5 at transfiguration).

Attributes of Jesus as God the Son includes

- His existence prior the virgin birth. **He was in the beginning with God (John 1:2). Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am (John 8:58)**
- His incarnation was deliberately aimed at redemption. **But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:31)**

- The personification of God the Son made him a perfect and legitimate sacrifice for eternity. **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). In this the love of God was made manifest among us that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him (1 John 4:9).**
- The Son as God is immutable in His Deity. **...like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end (Heb. 1:11, 12). Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8)**
- The Son as God is all powerful. The state of His incarnate existence would exist both on earth and in heaven where Jesus will dwell with the saved. **For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him (Col. 1:16)**

**Jesus: God the son** is the basis of the knowledge which a missionary must possess before going into the world to till it for God. In fact, it is the basic of mission because, the authority of God is needed to win the world unto God.

## **WHO IS JESUS IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES?**

The apostles were the first set of the most intimate disciples of Jesus Christ. Throughout the Holy Bible, they jealously guarded the gospel with the truth of Jesus' person, and did not by any means make a muddle of being a little Christ.

Following Peter's confession, Jesus directly instructed them not to tell anyone <sup>30</sup>**Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. (Mark 8:30).** Why did Jesus hide his identity from the world? He wanted to manifest himself to the world as a model of godliness. In the same way, he wanted the disciples' lifestyle to tell the world about his mission and mandate.

When Jesus resurrected, he publicly proclaimed that:

**And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth (Mat. 28:18).**

Right after earning the utmost and superior power to the king of this world, Jesus commanded the disciples to:

**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>[20]</sup> 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. Amen (Mat.28:19, 20)**

A believer is expected to have encountered Jesus Christ before such is commissioned to preach the gospel.

**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 Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8**

In 'Acts of the Apostles'. A question keep resounding, **who is this Jesus?**

### **WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS IN THE MEDICAL WORLD? ACTS 5:12-16**

The early days of the church were a time of prodigious growth that was characterized with apostolic miracles.

**“People brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.” Acts 5:15-16**

People wanted to believe there was something special about Peter, and they began seeking proximity to him in hopes of having some power pass over them. Though there was no clear clue that Peter’s shadow was the

cause of the healing because, verse 16 concluded that “**all were healed**”—even those who were not under Peter’s shadow.

That was not the only time that people sought a special blessing through a physical object.

**<sup>21</sup>for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." Matthew 9:21**

The paralyzed man in **John 5** believed that water in a certain pool could heal his lameness. Likewise, some Ephesians in **Acts 19** strongly believed that healing power was stored in articles of Paul’s clothing. Some people in our contemporary generation today put their trust in handkerchiefs that have been “prayed over,” in relics of the saints, in holy water, in one prayer mountain/arena, a particular prophet/minister/pastor, etc as the custodian of miracles. In fact, many ministers do acclaim the miraculous acts to be their handiwork and specialization without acknowledging Jesus as the owner of Miracles.

In the medical profession, you do not need to be in a specific hospital but to surrender self to certified doctors who will administer both procedural and western medicine. Likewise, in Jesus is the **GREAT PHYSICIAN** and **HEALER**. In Acts 5, the sick were not healed by shadows or auras of magical garments. They were healed as a direct answer to the apostles’ prayer in **Acts 4:30**:

“Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

The miracles performed by the apostles were demonstrations of the Lord’s power and mercy, affirming **Christ Jesus as Savior**. This in return testifies that their message was true. Thus, Jesus Christ is the evidence of God’s power to heal. This is not dependent on anyone’s ability to be in the right place, at the right time, under the right conditions. Shadows come and go, but God’s power is constant.

## JESUS CHRIST: THE RESTORER

***‘Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal.’*** (Psalm 69:4)

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and son of Man. He is called many names in the scriptures. One of these is a Restorer. He is referred to as a restorer because of his divinity; He was human and divine at the same time. He took on the human nature so that He could identify with human.

Psalm 69:4 is descriptive of the suffering and death of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ. He is represented as speaking of himself as one who is almost overwhelmed in sorrow and suffering. He was referred to as ‘a man of sorrow’ (Is. 53:3). In this verse, Jesus complains to his Father of the hatred and malice of His numerous enemies. These are the Jews, the Romans, and the spirits of darkness. They were like a numerous herd of metaphorical ravenous wolves surrounding the Lamb of God, thirsting after his blood, which on the long run they ‘shed’. Though He was innocent, He took upon Him human sins and became sin, that He may restore those who are lost and the sinful This will be discussed under the following sections:

**A. The Robbery.** Someone has been deprived of that which the Savior restored. God and man were robbed. ***‘I am forced to restore what I did not steal’***

- **The devil robbed man.** In Genesis 3:1-6, this robbery was committed by Satan, who is called a murderer and a liar from the beginning (John 8:44). Man was created by God in His image. He was happy and placed in charge of God’s garden (Eden).
- Man was robbed of his purity. His soul became depraved; full of evil passions and lusts. Genesis 6:5; Romans 1.
- Man was robbed of communion with God. 1 Corinthians 6:11.
- Man was robbed of holy intelligence. The understanding is now darkened. Ephesians 4:18.
- Man was robbed of holy freedom. He became a slave to sin, a transgressor, condemned, and exposed to the wrath of God.
- Man was robbed of happiness, as connected with purity, etc.; and

- Man was robbed of paradise. He was expelled – and lost the hope of Heaven. He became subject to natural death. Such is the abject state of man – robbed of life – natural life – spiritual life – eternal life.
- **Satan also robbed God.** God was robbed of his glory. His glory was seen in man's purity - in man's intelligence – in his resemblance to God, made after his own image. All this Satan reversed. God was also robbed of man's affections and obedience. The beneficence of the Creator, was man's motive to love and obey God. But he yielded his affections to Satan.

**B. The Restoration.** "*I am forced to restore what I did not steal.*" This implies 'my suffering and death, and the gift of my Spirit – I restored that image of God, and the Divine favor which I did not take away.'

To restore, means to place again in the first state or condition, Isaiah 1:26; Acts 1:6; also to make restitution, or satisfaction for injuries inflicted. Christ may be called the Repairer, etc. Isaiah 58:12.

- He was prompted to restore love. He was a voluntary sacrifice. John 10:17, 18.
- He restored by his sufferings and death, which were vicarious. He obeyed the law, endured its penalty, and became the victim of its curse as man's Surety. God's government was honored – the claims of Divine justice were satisfied. His sacrifice was an offering, etc. Ephesians 5:2. Thus he restores to God, that which he took not away, and to man he restores:
  - Righteousness, in state, and in heart. He is pardoned and justified. He is regenerated – made holy.
  - Divine Favor. God through Christ, smiles upon him. He adopts him – communes with him, etc.
  - Spiritual understanding. 2 Corinthians 4:6.
  - Spiritual happiness; arising from being saved; from holy exercises, and blissful anticipations.
  - Paradise. The Heavenly Inheritance. Paradise regained! Body and soul will be restored from the ravages of sin, and be introduced to that glorious eternal Eden, to sin and die no more.

## JESUS CHRIST: THE BREAD OF LIFE

*'And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.'*

(John 6:35)

Jesus refers to Himself as the Bread of Life. God is our Provider, and Jesus is the Bread of Life. John recorded Jesus' promise that all who freely accept this bread will no longer hunger. The first of the "I am" statements of Jesus, which solidify His nature as fully God and fully man is "*I am the bread of life,*" which describes the way we will find full satisfaction in and through Christ alone.

Bread is one of the essential foods of many cultures all around the world. It is a staple food in many diets, and for centuries it would have been one of the most accessible foods for people of all wealth and social status.

Bread or food is human basic physiological needs. In fact, it is the the first human concerns that must be satisfied before other needs are considered. The body needs calories and a variety of nutrients including protein, fat, and carbohydrates everyday to grow, function, and repair. Without food, the body begins to atrophy.

In Jesus' culture, bread would have been understood as a nutritional necessity. It also has historical significance for the Jewish people, relating to God's life-sustaining manna, which kept their people alive in the desert. Jesus chose bread as His metaphor intentionally. Manna, basically a word that means "what is it?" is a bread-like substance that fell from heaven (Psalm 78:24), and that tasted like honey and coriander seed.

Jesus, said, "I am the bread of life." Bread was essential for life in the Middle East. If Jesus had been in Yorubaland, he would have said, "I am the amala of life." In Asia, "I am the rice of life; or the noodles of life." If you go into any of these different cultures and ask the locals, they would say they do not feel full or completely satisfied unless they have their bread, or their amala, or their rice or their noodles. Each culture would feel that they need their local food to physically live. These are necessary for survival.

God also provided manna in the wilderness - a miraculous daily provision of food sent from heaven—to save the Jews from dying of starvation in the desert. Unlike the Bread of Life that Jesus offered in John 6, manna was food that spoiled by the end of the day. *'Then Moses told them, "Do not*

*keep any of it until morning. But some of them didn't listen and kept some of it until morning. But by then it was full of maggots and had a terrible smell. Moses was very angry with them. After this the people gathered the food morning by morning, each family according to its need. And as the sun became hot, the flakes they had not picked up melted and disappeared'. (Exodus 16:19-21).*

In the Bible, “bread” is used in several different ways:

- ✧ **Natural bread.** This bread is the natural food we eat for the nourishment of our body. Matthew 6:11 is referring to this natural food when it says, **“Give us this day our daily bread.”** We have to consume natural food in order to live.
- ✧ **Miraculous bread.** This is also natural bread for physical sustenance, this bread was God’s supernatural supply from Heaven. Following their exodus from Egypt, the Israelites found themselves in the desert without food. God miraculously met their need by giving them “thin flakes like frost on the ground” (Exod. 16:14). God miraculously supplied natural bread for the Israelites to eat. Another instance of miraculous bread is found in Matthew 14: 19-21. Here Jesus fed the multitude supernaturally, using natural food. With only five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus fed more than five thousand people!
- ✧ **Unleavened bread.** Unleavened bread was used for the Passover meal. Exodus 12:17 says, **“And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.”** The celebration of eating the unleavened bread in observance of Passover was a type, or shadow, of that which was to come. As God delivered Israel from Egypt at the hand of Moses, so God delivered us from slavery to sin through Jesus Christ. God commanded Israel to remember their deliverance by observing the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- ✧ **Show bread.** The show bread was holy and kept in the tabernacle for the priests to use in their offerings to the Lord. According to Leviticus 24:8, **“This bread is to be set out before the Lord regularly, Sabbath**

*after Sabbath, on behalf of the Israelites, as a lasting covenant”* (NIV).

- ✧ **The Living Bread.** Jesus came to earth and announced, *“I am the living bread that came down from Heaven.”* Through Christ Jesus, a whole new dimension of life has been made available to us. When we accept Jesus Christ into our hearts and lives, partaking by faith in His broken body and shed blood, we walk into a new dimension of living. Natural bread is earthly, but spiritual bread is heavenly. Natural bread is corruptible, but spiritual bread is incorruptible. Natural bread is limited, but spiritual bread is unlimited. Natural bread feeds the body; spiritual bread feeds the spirit.

What then does Jesus the Bread of Life mean?

- **He is the sustainer of life.** Jesus referring to Himself as the Bread of Life means He is the one that sustains life. The Bible says *‘For in him we live, and move, and have our being’* (Acts 17: 28). No wonder Jesus said *‘I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing’* (John 15:5). He is the sustainer of every human life.
- **Jesus fully satisfies.** So what does Jesus mean when he says, “I am the Bread of Life?” Well, simply put, he means that we are not satisfied spiritually unless we know Him. We are not spiritually satisfied unless we have Jesus in our lives. Or to be more blunt, we cannot survive spiritually without Jesus. As food satisfies, Jesus satisfies every human longing. It takes only the Bread of Life to feed about 5,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and a little fishes (John 6:1-15).
- **The bread of life prevents spiritual death.** Jesus made an interesting observation: *‘Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal’* (John 6:27). The food that Jesus gives remains forever and has the effect of producing life forever. Jesus said He is the bread from heaven and whoever eats this bread will not die *‘This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.’* (John 6:50). Jesus

again said *'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh'* (vv. 47-51).

- **Jesus offers spiritual nourishment.** Just as bread provides physical sustenance, Jesus, as the bread of life, provides spiritual food and sustenance for our souls on our journey of faith. Jesus satisfies our hunger and thirst for righteousness. When we believe in Jesus and accept him as our Lord and Savior, we become filled with spiritual nourishment that cannot be found anywhere else. This nourishment gives us strength to face life's challenges and helps us grow closer to God. *'...he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.'* (John 6:35).
- **Turning To Jesus In Times Of Need.** When we embark on our spiritual journey and feel lost, we can always turn to God. Jesus, the bread of life, offers us comfort, guidance, and hope when we need them most. By spending time in prayer and reading the Bible, we can deepen our relationship with him and find the help our soul craves for.
- **Eat the Bread of Life and live.** Jesus presented His body to the believer to eat and live. In Holy communion, we eat His flesh and drink His blood. This is a covenant that if we do, we will live and die not. It is also an indication that if we die, we will be raised up as He did. As a believer, you must come to eat of this bread, so that you can live. *'And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.'* (I Cor. 11:24).

## JESUS CHRIST: THE DOOR

***I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (John 10:9)***

This is also one of the 'I am' sayings of Jesus Christ. He proclaimed Himself as the DOOR through which men can enter into the kingdom of God.

You need an access to get into a place and come out. Doors help us to get in and out of a room, car, bus, train, or airplane. This means that where there is no door, a person could be confined or locked up in a particular place. Being confined, tied down or restricted connotes stagnation. May you not be stagnant in Jesus name.

There is an absolute necessity for a door before one can enter a particular structure or building; you cannot get into a physical structure without it. Likewise, there is a need of a door for a person to enter salvation and eventually the presence of God. However, there is but One door to God. There are not many ways but only One way to the place of blessing and salvation. In Acts 4:10-12, Luke clearly told us this fact: ***“Then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.’*** So, there is no other door, but only one - Jesus Christ.

The setting for this claim 'Door' is the story of the Great Shepherd. Jesus' hearers did not understand the story when he told it to them, so without reservation, as plainly and as boldly as he could, he made the reference to himself, saying, ***‘I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.’***

In Jesus' day, there were two kinds of sheepfolds. There was the communal sheepfold in the villages and towns. The shepherds keeping their sheep out in the fields by day would bring them back into the village at night, and they would be enfolded in that sheepfold. It was a place with a strong door, and that door had a doorkeeper. Only the doorkeeper had a key to the door, and no one could enter the sheepfold except a shepherd known by the doorkeeper.

There was a second kind of fold. During the warm season, the shepherds would take the sheep far, far away from the villages. They would stay away for weeks at a time, and at night they would enclose the sheep in folds that were built out on the hillside. Those folds were simply walls enclosing a space, with an entrance. There was no door to that entrance, and once the shepherd had put his sheep in the fold for the night, he himself would lay down across the opening. So there is a sense in which the good shepherd was the door. And for the sheep to enter or depart from the sheepfold, they had to pass over the shepherd's body. It was that kind of sheepfold that Jesus was talking about when he referred to himself as the door.

In the most literal sense, the shepherd was the door. For there was no access to the sheepfold except through him.

What then does Jesus mean when He said He is the door?

- **He is the access to God.** Christ is our access. He gives us access to the most important, most sensitive places that ever existed in the presence of God. John 14:4-6 "And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him in John 14:6 "***I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.***" So, He is the access point to the Father. Jesus is the only one who came from God and died for mankind. He dies and rose again to save humanity. He said no one took His life from Him, but He laid it down. Ephesians 2: 18 referring to Jesus also says '***For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.***'
- **He is the ONLY door to God.** Several other religious people might claim to lead their followers to God. However, Jesus claimed singularity of Door-ship. '***I am the door..***'. The article 'the' means there is no option or rival to the door. Jesus actually said every one who claimed to be the door is a thief. '***All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them***' (John 10:8).
- **The 'door' leads to green pasture.** Jesus says that anyone who enters through Him will find pastures for his soul. The psalmist related with this when he said '***The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want***' (Ps.

23:1). The door leads to fulfillment and satisfaction. Verse 2 says '*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*' The door certainly leads to provision and nourishment.

- **Jesus the door provides protection.** Doors keep out things that we want to remain outside. In John 10 He mentioned thieves and robbers. Thieves are those who take from you by cunning means. They are the ones who slip over the wall in their 'ninja suits', and you do not see them in the dark. On the other hand, there are robbers. Robbers are more vicious. Robbers are those who take openly, and usually with violence. But, we are not talking about physical thieves and robbers. We are talking about false ministers, false prophets, false teachers; there are both kinds. Jesus is The Door that protects us from them all. John 10:11-14 says '*But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*'
- **Jesus the door is a separator.** Doors provide a boundary; a mark of delineation between spaces. A door separates inside from outside. A door separates the house from the garage, or the bedroom from the hallway, or, the bedroom from the bathroom. It separates the office from the closet; warehouse from the store; the public area from the private area. You get the idea. There is a door that separates those two areas, and we know that confined into one space is one thing, and confined in the other space is the other thing. Christ, as the Door, is the One who separates us from the world.

JESUS CHRIST: THE WAY, TRUTH AND LIFE  
*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)*

In this passage, Jesus presented Himself as the way, truth and life. He was here speaking to his disciples and making a profound statement about His identity and the path to God. Each of the three elements in this statement has a specific meaning:

- **Jesus, the Way:** Jesus proclaims that He is the way to God, the means by which people can come into a right relationship with the Father (God). This indicates that following Jesus' teachings and accepting Him as Lord and Savior is the only path to salvation and eternal life. Jesus used the definite article to distinguish Himself as "the only way." He was referring to a path or route, and His disciples were confused about where He was going and how they could follow Him. As He had previously told them, He was again telling them (and us) to follow Him. There is no other way to heaven or to the Father. Peter repeated this same truth years later to the rulers in Jerusalem, speaking regarding Jesus, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). The exclusive essence of the one and only path to salvation is conveyed in the words "I am the way."
- **The Truth:** Jesus also declares that He is the Truth. In a spiritual and moral sense, He is the embodiment of God's truth. He is the source of divine revelation to mankind and the sustainer of all existence. Jesus was more than someone who just told the truth. He was the fullness of Truth. Truth, in the Christian understanding, is a person, Jesus Christ. He is the ultimate objective of our reality as its creator and sustainer. When Jesus said that he is the truth, he was saying that he is the embodiment and fulfillment of the Word of God and that he is absolute, the opposite of what is false or illusion.
- **The Life:** Jesus tells us that He is the source of eternal life. Believing in Him and following His path leads to eternal life with God. Through Christ, we can experience spiritual rebirth and the promise of life after

death. Jesus Christ is the origin or fountain of all life, all of existence. Scripture tells us, *'For by Him all things were created and All things have been created through Him and for Him'* (Colossians 1:16). John writes, *'All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being'* (John 1:3). The Greek word for life is *zōé*, which means physical and spiritual existence. Life always comes from and is sustained by God.

This statement of Jesus is central to Christianity, as it emphasizes His role in the salvation of human kind. It underscores the belief that faith in Jesus as the Son of God and the Saviour is the way to eternal life and a relationship with God. The statement generally conveys the fundamental Christian belief in Jesus as the mediator between God and man.

#### JESUS AS THE WAY

- ❖ He is the only One through whom we have access to God (Eph. 2:18; 3:12). He is our access to God by obeying His instructions, imitating His example, and depending on the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ alone. He does not just give us access, He alone reconciles us to God (2 Cor. 5:18-19).
- ❖ He cleanses us (washes; purifies) us, sanctifies (makes holy) us, and justifies (declares righteous) us (1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26-27).
- ❖ He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9).
- ❖ He is the only sinless example for us to follow (1 Pet. 2:21).
- ❖ He leads us to the Father. John 14:5-6 says *'Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'*

#### JESUS AS THE TRUTH

- ❖ He is not just an aspect of truth; Jesus is the truth. He is the truth in opposition to all false religions, and in opposition to the Mosaic law which was only a shadow of the truth. As truth, Jesus is the answer to man's ignorance.
- ❖ He is the source of all truth, the embodiment of truth, and the One by which we evaluate all truth-claims (John 8:31-32).

- ❖ The truth became flesh and dwells with us. *'And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth'* (John 1:14).

#### JESUS IS THE LIFE

- ❖ Jesus leads us to eternal life. John 17:3 says *'And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.'*
- ❖ He gives life in abundance. John 10: 10 says *'The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.'*
- ❖ He is the source of life. John 10: 28 says *'And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.'*

## JESUS: THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

Luke 8: 40 - 56

***'But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole'*** (vs. 50)

God is always interested in human well-being and health. Throughout the Bible, God demonstrated that He is concerned about our being in good condition of health. In Exodus 15:26, the Bible says '... if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee' (Ex. 15: 26). Again, in III John verse 2, the Bible says 'Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth'.

In Matthew 9:12, Jesus introduced Himself as the physician, who comes to heal people. This was evident in all His ministrations. He was always in contact with the invalid, the lame, the blind and all manners of sick people, but He often heal them all. **'Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with diverse diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them'** (Luke 4:40). Jesus, the great physician was known for His miracles of healing and deliverance. The scriptures say He was going about doing good. 'How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him' (Acts 10:38). Jesus was the great physician introduced in Isaiah 53: 4-5. 'Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed'.

In Luke 8, we are introduced to 3 people, who had incurable cases: the demon possessed man (vs. 27), Jairus' dying daughter (vs. 41) and the woman with blood disorder (vs.43). Humanly speaking there was no help or hope for these three individuals. But when Jesus Christ the great physician shows up, the narratives changed. Jesus demonstrated that as the great

physician He is Lord over demons, diseases, and even death! The great physician has power to heal both body and soul. From the passage, we can deduce the following:

- ❖ **Jesus heals and delivers the desperate** (vs. 40 - 42). Jairus was a man of distinction, respect and social standing; yet he comes and humbly falls at Jesus feet, He does not care what anybody thinks about him, he is desperate; he has a need in his life that only Jesus could meet. Desperation often brings people to their knees before Jesus Christ. Facing the death of his daughter brought him to his low. Sickness and crisis often drives us to our wit end; causing us to realize how much we need Jesus. When we come to Him in faith, He hears our cry and attends to our needs.
- ❖ **Jesus relieves the pains of the hurting** (vs. 43 - 48). Barely had they started toward Jairus' house when the woman with the blood disorder or issue of blood came in the crowd and touched Jesus' garment. This caused Jesus to stop, and turned his attention on her; which delayed getting to Jairus' house. Luke paints the picture of a great crowd of people 'suffocating' Jesus. In that crowd was an individual who was desperately hurting, and in need of healing and salvation of Jesus. Like Jairus, her desperation lead her to her solutions. She knew that Jesus was the only one who could help her. She had been to every doctor she could find, and had spent all her money trying to find a cure. Humanly speaking she was incurable; she was sick, weak, and broke, and this had been going on for 12 long years. The woman was socially alienated. According to the Law of Moses in Leviticus, if a woman had a blood flow problem she was considered ceremonially unclean. She had tried all the remedies that were given, taken all the medicine available, and kept numerous appointments, but no doctor could help her.
- ❖ **Jesus raises the dead to life** (vs. 49-56). Jairus needed help from Jesus but was delayed along the line. His faith in Jesus grew as he watched him heal this woman. When the servant said to Jairus, your daughter is dead don't trouble the master anymore; can you imagine how his heart must have sunk? **'When Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, fear**

**not: believe, and she shall be made whole'** (vs. 50). The girl was dead! When Jesus said she was sleeping he was giving us God's perspective on what it means to die as a child of God. The girl's death was not permanent; and as a child of God our death is not permanent. Our bodies will sleep in death, but they will rise again. Jesus has power over death.

❖ **Jesus is compassionate and touchable.** He is always touched by the feeling of our infirmities. He shows compassion as He heals and delivers people. He is moved when His children are in distress. *'For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.'* (Heb. 4: 15); *'But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.'* (Matt. 9:36).

❖ **Jehovah Rapha is His name.** God calls Himself 'The Lord who heals us'. Exodus 15: 26 says He will not bring any of the Egyptian diseases upon us because He cares for us. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Trust Him today. Remember, He sent His word and heals you. *'He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction'* (Psalm 107: 20). Confess His words back to Him today. 'Lord, you are the Lord that healeth me'.

Are you believing God for a particular healing today? He is a friend that can be trusted. Come to Him in simple faith. He is the healer. Shalom!

## JESUS CHRIST, THE MESSIAH

Matthew 16: 13-20

***'And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.'*** (vs. 16-17).

The major agitation of the Jews is the Messiahship of Jesus Christ; they do not believe that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah they have longed to see, and have waited for to liberate them from their bondage and oppression. They know about the coming Messiah but they do not know how and when He will come. The encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman shows the Jews still await the coming of the Messiah. ***'The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he.'*** (John 4:25-26). Many Jews today believe that God will one day send a Messiah who will lead the world into an age of peace and understanding.

The Book of Jeremiah states that the Messiah will be a great leader descended from King David 'The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, a king who will reign wisely.' (Jeremiah 23:5).

The Book of Isaiah also teaches that the Messiah will be a political leader and judge. He will create a fair government in Israel, which will become a global centre of politics. Many Jews believe that when the Messiah comes, he will rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and bring about the end of war so that everyone can live in peace.

The name *Christ* originates from the Greek word *Christos* which means anointed. When a new king was installed in Israel, a prophet would anoint him with oil to consecrate him. So, by calling Jesus "the Christ", it signified that He was the long awaited Anointed One who will be King over Israel and deliver them from their enemies. In the Old Testament, the corresponding Hebrew word for the Anointed One is *mâshi<sup>^</sup>yach* which we translates *Messiah*. Therefore, Messiah and Christ both have the same meaning - the Anointed One.

In our text, Jesus asked His disciples who people thought He was. ***‘But who do you say that I am?’*** Peter’s response was inspired by the Holy Spirit ***‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God’ (Matthew 16:16).***

Jesus also had an encounter with a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. This woman was not even a Jew, but a Samaritan who was hated by the Jews. She was however aware of the coming Messiah. ***‘The woman \*said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us. Jesus \*said to her, “I who speak to you am He.’*** (John 4:25-26).

*Christos* meaning "anointed" translates the word "Messiah," a term applied to the anointing with oil of kings, prophets and priests (Lev. 4:3, 5, 16). The Hebrew prophets were called "the anointed of God" (Psa. 105:15), and kings were called "the anointed of the LORD" (1 Sam. 2:10, 35; 2 Sam. 1:14; 2:7; 5:13; Psa. 2:2). The most common form of anointing was that of kings. "The LORD’S anointed" was the phrase used to designate the king chosen by God (1 Samuel 12:3; Lamentations 4:20). Christ is twice so designated, as the Messiah (Psalms 2:2; Daniel 9:25, 26; ‘the anointed one’). Christ combines all three offices of prophet, priest and king in His own Person.

This discussion will look into the Messiahship of Jesus Christ in the following perspectives:

- **Prophecies on the Messiah.** In Daniel 9: 24-27, the Bible told of the coming of the Messiah. So the Jews and even the Samaritans were anticipating the coming of the Messiah. The Messianic prophecies are the clearest signs pointing to the fulfillment of the role of the Anointed One.
- ❖ He would be a Hebrew from the tribe of Judah—and Jesus was.
- ❖ He was to be born in Bethlehem of a virgin, and He was.
- ❖ The Messiah would perform miracles, and Jesus did.
- ❖ He would present Himself by riding on a donkey, but then be rejected by His people; and the Messiah would suffer with and for sinners. One of

the most quoted messianic passages is Isaiah 53, where the Messiah was identified as the Suffering Servant.

The following are a few prophecies concerning the Messiah's coming.

- Numbers 24:17,19: *'I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel . . . a ruler will come out of Jacob . . .'*
- Psalm 60:7: *'Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet, Judah my scepter.'*
- Psalm 2:7-9: *'You are my Son, today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance; the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter, you will dash them to pieces like pottery.'*
- Isaiah 42:1,4: *'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations . . . He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth...'*
- **Declaration of the Messiah.** In John 12:9-17, Jesus Christ was declared as the Anointed one. *'The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!'* (vs. 12-15). The crowd was rejoicing and celebrating Jesus' arrival. During this period, the Jews were subjects of the hated Roman Empire. They thought Jesus was the Christ who would set up an earthly kingdom and would deliver them from their Roman oppressors.
- **The Messiah was rejected.** The Messiah that was praised a short while is now being rejected; these same people calling to make Him King rejected Him and are shouting even more passionately for His crucifixion! Jesus described this rejection in a parable. In Mark 12:1-11, Jesus tells this parable to relate how He would be rejected and ultimately killed. He is the Son of the vineyard owner that the religious leaders (depicted in the parable as the vine-growers) would kill. He was the chief stone in the corner that the builders (that is the religious leaders) rejected. God

is the vineyard owner Who will ultimately bring judgement on the wicked vine-growers. This parable relates how the nation of Israel rejects Jesus as their Messiah.

- **The suffering and sovereign Messiah.** The Messiah came to the world with a mission; to deliver His people from their bondage of sin '*That He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear*' (Luke 1:74). He came and fulfilled His mission through death on the cross. His suffering for sinners was prophesied and fulfilled. '*Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*' (Isaiah 53:12). This was fulfilled in Matt. 27:38 '*Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.*'
- **Return of the Messiah.** The concept of *parousia* or second coming refers to the future return of Christ to earth at the end of the age. This return will be visible and physical as he comes from heaven on the clouds to bring final judgement and salvation. Jesus Himself alluded to His return throughout His earthly ministry. He spoke of "the coming of the Son of Man" (Matt. 24:27), His "coming" (Matt. 24:46; 25:31), His "returning" (Luke 19:15), and His "coming again" (John 14:3). In the mind of the Saviour, His return in glory is essential to His messianic fulfillment.
- **Reign of the Messiah.** The Messiah will begin His rule by judging and purging evil from this earth (Joel 3:1-17). He will establish His earthly throne on Mount Zion in Jerusalem and will rule the nations with a rod of iron (Ps. 2:6, 9). Implements of war will be recycled into constructive tools (Isa. 2:4). This tells us that Jesus the Messiah will establish God's government forever, and He will be King over all creation. Jesus Christ will reign as king: '*Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*' (Isaiah 9:6).

## JESUS - THE UNCHANGING LORD IN A CHANGING WORLD

### Malachi 3:6-7

The love of God supersedes other love. The book of Malachi was written at a time when people's love towards God was cold. To this end, God sent his prophet to awaken His people that He is still the same God that their forefathers called upon. He did not absolve them of ignorance of him, but called them to order.

The concept of laxity does not start now, likewise changing procedure and rules has been from ages. In God is greatness and love. He gives us the opportunity to retrace our steps and come back to Him as a God who remains the same despite all the changes around us.

One of the most interesting thing in life to men is to live where there is tranquility, security, catch fun and have peace of mind. We seek security in relationships, finances, careers, church groups, friends, family, and even in political associations. Sometimes, we go the extra miles to get all these because we see it as a way to relate, but we often get disappointed. We live in a world that seek after their own interests. Even Christians are now following the ways of the world.

By definition, unchanging means "to remain the same, to maintain the originality even in face of trials, never changing in all area". If God remains the same, maintains is originality and potency then we know that His attributes remain the same, His actions remain consistent, and His expectations do not change. The consistency of an unchanging God and Lord provides us with security , peace of mind, stability, boldness and a place to anchor our faith. We know that God has all power, is everywhere, and knows everything. These attributes do not change. We can rest secured in an all powerful God when life is falling apart and things are turning in the other way, we can have peace in the knowledge that God is walking in us with an understanding that is beyond our own comprehension. This is because God knows everything, and we can rest in the fact that He sees and understands us and situations far outside our limited knowledge.

There are four things about God that guarantees his coming through when life challenges come: LOVE, PROMISES, PRESENCE AND GRACE.

1. **HIS PROMISES.** The world promises and failed but Gods words stands forever. God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, '*I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.*' (Gen. 22:17). And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. (Hebrews 6:13-15). Though the promise or fulfillment may tarry but let's wait patiently for it. Abraham waited patiently He stood on the truths he knew of the God that had called him and then he received the blessings of the promises. We are blessed to have scripture and a record of God's promises to us to hold firmly.

2. **HIS PRESENCE.** Sometimes, we think we are alone in the world not knowing that His presence is always with us. We have never been left alone in the challenges of life, if not we should have been consumed by the enemies. Psalms 139:1-13 alluded to this that His presence can't be hindered by anything, this is not just theological concept but a reality that shapes our lives, comforts us in trials and guide us in our life's journey. '*When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*' (Isaiah 43:2); '*Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*' (Jeremiah 23:24).

3. **His GRACE.** This is one of the theological themes, but we are not going in that direction but rather to examine the carrier of His grace when times and season are not smiling at us. Grace is defined as the unmerited favor of God or getting what you do not deserved. In our changing world we still see God's grace working things out on our behalf with profound testimonies. 1 Cor. 12:9 made us understand that God never changes even if the situation is not palatable, He is the Lord that does not change but changes things. This tells us that we can be world-mate but not grace-mate because the world changes but my Lord does not change but changes situation for good. His grace is there for you only if you can plug into it. It is this same grace that single out David for anointing etc

4. **HIS LOVE.** Gods love is unquestionable. It's real and unsearchable. God

will always love us and act with love towards us. We know that God always was and is greater than any fear we have of yesterday or tomorrow. 1John 4:19 tells us He's love and first loved us. He wants us to lean on him and enjoy more from him only if we can return to our first love Joel 2:12-13.

Our God is a God of all season and of all ages Hebrews 13:8. We sometimes forget that God is not a human being. We change our minds when our circumstances change or when we learn something new. God does not need to change for these reasons because He is not learning something new and He does not see anything in a new light. He was yesterday, today and will remain the same forever; though the world may change he remains same forever. Our God is pure Actuality.

## JESUS CHRIST IS THE LORD

Luke 6: 46-49

*'And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?'*

(vs. 46)

More of the presence and power of God we covet but from the source we do not reference and honor. Give honor to whom honor is due is not for us to do unto God but unto men it's most convenient because we see them everyday and get rewards of the honor we give to them. If we have better understanding of who GOD or LORD is may be we would have gone far in our relationship with him. Our lack of understanding of who God really is make us treat or relate with him anyhow. The name 'Adonai', usually translated as "Lord" in English, generally has a capital 'L' followed by 'ord' in small letters. The name occurs nearly 300 times in the Old Testament. Two hundred, fifteen of those times it is used in its singular form, Adon, in reference to people, often a title of respect or honor. In much the same way we would say "sir" or "your honor." It could mean "master" or "lord."

In this context, we are concern about the LORD which is the LORD of Lords, the creator of the universe, the beginning and the end. How can we measure His Power, judgement and glory? His manifestations, splendor and praises through His creation are enough for His testimonies. Jesus came from heaven to earth, reduced Himself to the measure of a virgin's womb, was born in Bethlehem, lived a perfect life and died sacrificial and vicarious death, was buried in a tomb and was raised victoriously, and afterwards ascended into heaven to occupy His throne in Glory where God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name. To this end, Lordship was at the very heart of Jesus' redemptive work on the cross. Paul makes this clear in Romans 14:8-9 (NKJV): **"For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died, and rose and lived again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living."**

When the names of earth's benefactors are no more remembered, the achievements of science are no longer of value, the postulations of philosophers become useless, when time shall be no more, multitudes, in

praise of Him in gratitude for salvation through His name, will still sing the song of Moses, and of the Lamb of enduring name. Therefore, the name of our Lord Jesus shall be exalted in all the earth and in heaven and there shall be no other name apart from His name. Philippians 2:10-11

When the LORDSHIPS of Jesus is a settled issue in the Christian's life, all other issues are settled. We gain access to call upon Him, bound and loose and get Liberty in all areas as the power has been released unto us. Luke 10:18-20. The central message of the scriptures is the LORDSHIP of Christ. This is incontestable and can be seen in all areas.

How does He become the Lord?

1. He was the one who was before the creation. Job 38:1;4-8; 1 Peter 1:20.
2. He created the universe.
3. He rules in the affairs of all men. Gen. 11:4