

Discipleship a biblical pattern

Session I

(Foreword in the students booklet)

The bible as a covenant witness

FOCUS : To introduce to the students to the Bible as the witness of the covenant (marriage contract/ketubah) between man and God and the dwelling place (as a pattern for relationship) .

OBJECTIVE : You would have accomplished the purpose of the Bible study if group members understand :

1. That the Bible is a witness concerning the covenant between God and man.
2. That the pattern of the tabernacle and the furniture thereof is God's proposed pattern, the foreshadow of a dwelling place, as a place of meeting.
3. That Jesus as the Son of the Living God came to re-establish what God purposed, a dwelling place in the Spirit.

SESSION OUTLINE

INVOLVE : Hebrew marriage as an example set before us concerning the relationship between God and man. Three phases :

Phase 1 : Proposal and marriage contract as pledges.

Phase 2 : Dwelling place being built.

Phase 3 : Intimacy.

EXPLORE :

1. The Hebrew word for the Bible (book of the covenants) - covenants made between God and man. Covenant is like a legal contract between two parties explaining that in the Hebrew culture the bridegroom give a "kituva"(marriage contract) to his proposed wife up to a year in advance to consider, if she agrees and accepts the contract the marriage will take place on the ground of the contract. God called Israel into a relationship, and gave them a covenant agreement and asked them if they will obey. *Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice, and keep my covenant, then **you shall be my own possession** from among all peoples; for all the earth is mine; (WEBME)*

- The rights and obligations of both parties.
- Terms that would constitute a breach of contract and terms that constitute the agreement.
- Penalties and benefits with regard to being in breach or being in agreement.

The Biblical pattern, is the fundamental tool designed by God to order His relationship with mankind, this is called a covenant. A covenant is described as an agreement between two parties with various responsibilities, benefits and penalties.

To understand the Biblical pattern, is to understand the Covenant relationship

Today there is a tendency to focus on the new testament as an inheritance. The error in this is that God is a living God and an inheritance, as a will and testament, is given at the death of the one who wrote his will and testament.

The correct translations for the OT/NT would be "a truthful witness concerning the Covenant" - we therefore rather refer to the OT/NT as the Covenant of God, for we serve a living God who gave us a covenant, and fulfilled it in part through Jesus Christ - the Son of the Living God.

In part, for it is not yet the end, there is still responsibilities to be fulfilled on the part of God and on the part of mankind.

As mentioned, God established a covenant between Himself and mankind, on the basis of a mutual desire to be in a relationship, but God call us into a covenant relationship, because He desired not just a relationship, He desired an intimate relationship, a relationship where there is mutual communication.

For this purpose God told Moses to build a tabernacle as a place of meeting.

2. The tabernacle as a pattern and foreshadow for a dwelling place, to be built in the Spirit. Exodus 25:8-9 Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all of its furniture, even so you shall make it.

- Sanctuary - *1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you are a temple of God, and that God's Spirit lives in you? We became the sanctuary through Yeshua the Messiah.*
- This was God's plan from the beginning, as Paul said that the OT is a Shadow of the things to come, a teacher to direct us to Jesus in *Gal 3:24 So that the law has become our tutor to bring us to Messiah, that we might be justified by faith.* But the pattern stayed the same concerning God's dwelling place, the tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Solomon was to assist us in understanding **how God purposed to set us free.**

- Yeshua presented Himself as the way, the truth and the life and said that no one come to the father except through Him. *John 14:6 Yeshua said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."*
- The outer court as the way. Explain - God said you must freely come with an offering, for the forgiveness of sin. God send His Son Yeshua as the Lamb of God who presented Himself as an offering, offered by the High Priest for a sin offering for all of us. The holy place as the truth and a place of sanctification. The truth sanctifies us. *Jn 17:17 Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. The holy of holies, - the life, is in God's presence where we can hear Him speak into our lives. In God's presence, the Holy of Holies we have the arc of the covenant and in it is Aaron's staff - it is authority, manna - it is provision, the law - it is guidance; life in abundance, everything we need.*
- Yeshua said to the woman at the well in *John 4:10 ... "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."*

The mentioned meeting place, and the meeting in itself is however not outside of the covenant relationship, but very much part of the covenant and therefore part of the Biblical pattern. Likewise everything that has been written in the Covenant, is to help us in our relationship with God, and if we remove part of the covenant we remove part of the foundation where upon the relationship is built. Jesus said *Matt. 5:17-20 "Don't think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn't come to destroy, but to fulfill. For most assuredly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished. Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, there is no way you will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."*

The tabernacle as a meeting place was replaced by God with the temple that God instructed Solomon to build. God also gave instructions for a third temple, the living temple to be build.

3. Jesus as the Son of the Living God came with the purpose to bring in fulfilment what God purposed - an intimate relationship between God and man. Not just restoration of the relationship as before the fall **but a much more intimate relationship, a covenant** - where we choose to enter into the covenant. The Word of John 17 coming into fulfilment - God living within us. *Jn 17:21-23 that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me. The glory which you have given me, I have given to them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one; that the world may know that you sent me, and loved them, even as you loved me.*

- Jesus being the chief corner stone of the new living temple.
- Remind the students of what God instructed Moses in Exodus 25:8 a dwelling place. God did not intend a physical building for himself as a dwelling place for He said

Himself that He does not dwell in buildings. *Isa 66:1 Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: what kind of house will you build to me? and what place shall be my rest*

For this purpose God sent His only Son to lay the foundation for this new living temple, of which Jesus Himself became the chief cornerstone. The cornerstone (or foundation stone) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. It is important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.

But even though the structure in itself has changed, the pattern stayed the same from tabernacle to temple (first and second temple) and to the living temple. The pattern did not change, Jesus did not come to destroy anything concerning the covenant, He brought it into fulfillment so that the living temple could be constructed as the body of Jesus Christ, our Messiah. When Jesus said to the pharisees *John 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* By His death and resurrection He laid the cornerstone in 3 days, so that in Him and through Him (as the Way, the Truth and the Life) the construction will begin and be completed, to the glory of His Name.

The first stone, the Cornerstone, is the point of reference. No stone can be laid within this structure unless the Cornerstone is the reference point. Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God, who came to show us the Way, the Truth and the Life, He is the Chief Cornerstone. What is however important is to remember that we become part of the new temple only when we build according to the pattern. *Ephesians. 2:11-22 Therefore remember that once you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "uncircumcision" by that which is called "circumcision," (in the flesh, made by hands); that you were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ. **For he is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of partition, having abolished in the flesh the hostility, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, * that he might create in himself one new man of the two, making peace; and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, having killed the hostility thereby. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and to those who were near. For through him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.***

But remember as Paul warned saying *1Cor. 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But let each man be careful how he builds on it.*

* **(who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of partition, having abolished in the flesh the hostility, the law of commandments contained in ordinances,)** The mentioned - middle wall of partition - referred to the balustrade that separated or prevented the gentiles from entering into the Temple. There were warning notices on the balustrade, one of them is now in a museum in Istanbul, saying that foreigners have freedom of access provided they do not go beyond the balustrade which will incur the death penalty.

* In Exodus God gave the ordinance of the passover *Exodus 12:43-51 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. **One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.**" Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.* Remember that we have been circumcised in the heart and bought through the blood of Jesus. *Colossians 2:11-12 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. and Rev. 5:9-10 They sang a new song, saying, "You are worthy to take the book, And to open its seals: For you were killed, And bought us for God with your blood, Out of every tribe, language, people, and nation, And made them kings and priests to our God, And they reign on earth."*

APPLY : Ask yourself if you have made a commitment to enter into this relationship, as a proposed bride preparing to enter into a marriage.

Discipleship a biblical pattern

Session 2

(Introduction in the students booklet)

Being aligned is obedience

FOCUS : To introduce to the students to the concept that being aligned with Jesus Christ is to walk in obedience to the Father, and being part of the living temple.

OBJECTIVE : You would have accomplished the purpose of the Bible study if group members understand :

1. That to be part of the living temple we need to be aligned with is Christ Jesus as the Chief Corner Stone.
2. That alignment (knowing God) is based on the knowledge of the covenant relationship and obedience.
3. That to be obedient is to have a personal revelation of Jesus as the Son of the Living God .We need to be born from above and not follow the traditions of men.

SESSION OUTLINE

INVOLVE : The analogy of building a building - and aligning the bricks to the chief corner stone.

EXPLORE :

1. Obedience to the Word of God as alignment to Christ Jesus. Explaining the idea that being Christ like, is building a dwelling place for God, and thus being aligned with the Chief Corner Stone. *(Show presentation of alignment with corner stone.) 1Jn 2:5-6 But whoever guards His Word, truly the love of Elohim has been perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. The one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked. (TS1998)*
2. The new Covenant established through the blood of the Lamb as in Jeremiah 31:33-34 is intended that we will know God and explain that a covenant is **an everlasting covenant**, for the covenant that God made concerning the sun and the moon is just as steadfast as the covenant He made with us.

Psalm 118: 22

The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.

The cornerstone (or foundation stone) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, it is important since **all other stones will be set in reference to this stone**, thus determining the position of the entire structure.

If we consider ourselves to be living stones within the temple that God planned and sent His Son Jesus Christ, to lay the foundational stone - The Chief Cornerstone, then we must make sure that we are aligned in reference to the Chief Cornerstone - Jesus Christ. But what does it mean to be aligned in reference to the Chief Cornerstone?

Jesus said in *Matt. 7:24* “Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock. We cannot align ourselves with the Son of the Living God unless, we willingly seek until we find **Him, as the Rock** with the **purpose to hear His Word and to do it.**

Why should we dig and through what should we dig? Jesus said *Mark 7:6-13* He answered them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **‘This people honors me with their lips, But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’** “For you set aside the **commandment of God, and hold tightly to the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.**” He said to them, “**Full well do you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.** For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother;’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban, that is to say, given to God;” then you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or his mother, **making void the word of God by your tradition, which you have handed down.** You do many things like this.” and again it is written in *Col. 2:6-15* As therefore you received **Christ Jesus, the Lord, walk in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, even as you were taught, abounding in it in thanksgiving. Be careful that you don’t let anyone rob you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the elements of the world, and not after Christ.** For in him all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, and in him you are made full, who is the head of all principality and power; in whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us; and he has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; having stripped the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. And Paul warned the followers of Christ, saying in *2Th. 3:6-14* Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **withdraw yourselves from every brother who walks in rebellion, and not after the tradition which they received from us. For you know how you ought to imitate us. For we didn’t behave ourselves rebelliously among you, neither did we eat bread from anyone’s hand without paying for it, but in labor and travail worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you; not because we don’t have the right, but to make ourselves an example to you, that you should imitate us.** For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: “If anyone will not work, neither let him eat.” For we hear of some who walk among you in rebellion, who don’t work at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are that way, we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat

their own bread. But you, brothers, don't be weary in doing well. If any man doesn't obey our word in this letter, note that man, that you have no company with him, to the end that he may be ashamed.

3. Yeshua used the example of the man that sowed the good seed and the enemy sowed corrupt seed while the people were sleeping. We must be watchful, the Hebrew word is (samar) meaning to be careful not to allow deceit. Therefore Yeshua explained that we need to dig down until we, ourselves find the revelation as with Peter, that Yeshua is the Son of the Living God. Explain that Yeshua said to Nicodemus that if a man is not born from above he will not be able to see the Kingdom of God. When Yeshua asked the disciples who do you say I am, Peter answered that "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God". Yeshua then said

Mt 16:18 I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my assembly, and the gates of Sheol will not prevail against it. In most comments the idea is that it is a play of words when considering the Greek bible. But I would like to suggest something different today. The book of Matthew is a Hebrew book and not Greek as suggested, the argument is available, but for now just consider the verse above (verse 17) *Mt 16:17 Yeshua answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. Yeshua called Peter "Simon Bar Jonah" - Aramaic for Simon son of Jonah. Peter in Hebrew means firstborn, Yeshua explained that Simon is the firstborn and upon this revelation (this rock) He will build His church (in the Hebrew it says that Yeshua's teacher will call together and instruct the assembly) dwelling place, for Yeshua said that He will be in their midst where two or more are gathered in His name. Remember God does not dwell in buildings, the building is not for God to come and dwell in. The building is for us to come together, in order that God will be in our midst.*

We need to dig through the traditions of man so that we can be separated on the basis of the truth, the Word is the truth, John 17:16-19 They are not of the world even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

To be aligned in reference to Jesus as the Chief Cornerstone, is to walk in obedience to the Word of God, not like the pharisees who aligned themselves to the tradition of man. Jesus said in *Matt. 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, there is no way you will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.* To be a living stone within the living temple, we need to be in perfect alignment to our Lord Jesus Christ, the chief Cornerstone.

Gideon asked a question in *Judges. 6:13-14 Gideon said to him, Oh, my lord, if Yabweh is with us, why then has all this happened to us? and where are all his wondrous works which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not Yabweh bring us up from Egypt? but now Yabweh has cast us off, and delivered us into the hand of Midian. Yabweh looked at him, and said, Go in this your might, and save Israel from the hand of Midian: have not I sent you?* If we want to see God's promises

fulfilled in our life and the lives of the people around us, we should as Gideon, adhere to the Word of God, and tear down the altars of our fathers (traditions) and build a new altar to the glory of God, based on the Word of Truth,. *Judges. 6:25-27 It happened the same night, that Yabweh said to him, Take your father's bull, even the second bull seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is by it; and build an altar to Yabweh your God on the top of this stronghold, in the orderly manner, and take the second bull, and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you shall cut down. Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as Yabweh had spoken to him: and it happened, because he feared his father's household and the men of the city, so that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.*

APPLY : What altars of the tradition is in your lives, did you break it down and rebuilt a new altar in the right order? Consider : You did not choose your parents, nor your country of birth nor did you choose your parents religion or their the way they choose to live. God knew all that and placed you in that environment because He had a plan for you. You must choose if you are going to be a victim or victorious. God chose for you because HE made you with all the required means to be a victor, that is His plan for all of us. It is a question of how do you respond.

Discipleship a biblical pattern

Session 3

(Workshop 1 in the students booklet)

Preparing to enter into the covenant relationship

Why... do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things which I say?
Luke 6:46

FOCUS : To prepare the students to understand the covenant relationship.

OBJECTIVE : You would have accomplished the purpose of the Bible study if group members understand that love is to be loyal to the covenant :

1. That grace is what we received when God sent His only Son so that whoever received Him will be saved unto eternal life. (AHAV = covenant loyalty)
2. That obedience in love (AHAV = covenant loyalty) is our reasonable response to the grace we received.
3. That our relationship, as a covenant relationship is built upon the knowledge of the covenant and the ability of the covenant maker to keep His promise and the ability of the involved party to walk in obedience and repentance (God showed us how the covenant would be restored if we broke it, God cannot break the covenant).

SESSION OUTLINE

INVOLVE : Relationship is based upon knowledge of one and the other.

EXPLORE :

1. Explore Luke 6:46 on the basis of the Hebrew word "Adonay". If you know God, why do you not obey God.

The Lord directs this question to a professing follower of Him,

WHY?

Consider : The Hebrew word that was used in Luke 6:46, was not Lord but Adonay. It is a title bestowed only to the one true God with a focus on His Majesty and Authority; In fear and respect of God the Hebrew people do not pronounce the name of God (YHVH) instead they use the name Adonay from Adon meaning Lord and "y" standing for Y from YHVH. Adonay is only accounted to God as the proper Name of the one true God.

The knowledge and use of the name implied a personal or covenant relationship; the name pictures God as the one who exists and/or causes existence.

The Lord Jesus then used the mentioned question to explain that a disciple is someone who

- (1) Comes to Him, to*
- (2) Hear His Words and*
- (3) Do accordingly.*

It is also interesting to note that the Hebrew word for disciple and "to learn" is the same root word. **To learn**, implies to be trained with the implication that the learning will be put to use. And **disciple** refers then to the one being instructed to follow in the manner as taught.

*The Lord questions the pureness of our hearts, our motives (good conscience) and proposed unfeigned faith in relationship to Him, "why do you call Me Lord (Adonay)".
If we acknowledge Jesus as the Son of the Living God, why then do we not obey Him.*

2. Explore Timothy 1:5 charging us that the goal is love (AHAV = covenant loyalty), love in Hebrew context is not what you receive but based on what you give.

Paul explained to Timothy the purpose of discipleship in 1 Timothy. 1:3-5 As I exhorted you to stay at Ephesus when I was going into Macedonia, that you might charge certain men not to teach a different doctrine, neither to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which cause disputes, rather than **God's stewardship**, which is in faith— **but the end of the charge is love, out of a pure heart and a good conscience and unfeigned faith;**

Discipleship is not about talking, but walking.
Stewardship of our faith in God is revealed as we

continually express our faith in love from a pure heart, a clear conscience and an unfeigned faith. A faith founded upon the Rock.

*Jesus used the parable of a wise builder to expand on His description of a **true disciple**, as a wise man who, before he starts building:*

Are you a
steward?.. Are your
faith founded upon the rock or
are your faith based on the
tradition of man?

- (1) Digs down to find the bedrock
- (2) Lays the foundation on the bedrock
- (3) Then starts building on the foundation.

John 18:37 “You say that I am a king. For this reason I have been born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. **Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.**”

If we profess that Word of God is the truth, and acknowledge that apart from the Word of God, no other truth exists, then we should follow in the example set by our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the very Word of God. Jesus said in **Luke 24:44 ... “This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled.**”

If then we profess to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we should listen to His voice, and trust that all will be as He said it will be. Remember as we enter into a covenant relationship, we enter into an agreement, if we expect a promise to be fulfilled based on the covenant relationship (The Word of God), we should make sure that we are in agreement with the prescribed covenant.

3. Explore that Gideon, knew the covenant God made with Israel, but he did not understand Israel’s responsibility in relation to the covenant. Covenant is not about receiving, it is about a mutual giving of oneself within the covenant (AHAV = covenant loyalty based on love).

Gideon questioned God's covenant with Israel, but God showed him that the Baal altar of his father is standing in disagreement to the covenant.

Gideon first had to destroy that which stood in the way before he could come into the promise.

Jesus redeemed us to the Father through His own Blood, giving us forgiveness of sin, but we still need to honor the covenant relationship.

If we sin and do not repent through the Blood of Jesus, we are in disagreement with the covenant and cannot expect the promise to be fulfilled.

Jesus said in *John 14:15* *If you love (covenant loyalty) me, keep my commandments.* and in *John 14:21* *One who has my commandments, and keeps them, that person is one who loves me. One who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will reveal myself to him.*” and in *John 14:23* *Jesus answered him, “If a man loves me, he will keep my Word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him.* (Confirm the dwelling place in the Spirit) but the warning is also there in *John 14:24* *He who doesn’t love me doesn’t keep my words. **The word which you hear isn’t mine, but the Father’s who sent me.** (Jesus and the Father is one, the*

covenant that God predestined was established by the Blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God.) Facilitator : In the book of Adam and Eve God said from the beginning that HE will reaffirm the covenant through His blood.

James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. For let that man not think that he will receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. This scripture commands us to ask in faith, based on the Word of God, and not doubt because in Christ we became partakers in the covenant, and may enter boldly to the throne of God. This is not a faith statement - to name it and to claim it, it is believing in the fulfillment of God's promises within the covenant relationship, which we entered into through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Is. 53:1-5 Who has believed our message? and to whom has the arm of Yaweh been revealed? For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he has no form nor comeliness; and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised, and rejected by men; a man of suffering, and acquainted with disease: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we didn't respect him. Surely he has borne our sickness, and carried our suffering; yet we considered him plagued, struck by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought our peace was on him; and by his wounds we are healed.

Consider : What is the substance on which you lay your foundation, is it the Word that will last forever or is it the traditions of man?

4. Explore Yeshua, is the yes and amen where upon every promise in the Bible stand. Explain the mentioned based upon the Rock as the revelation of Yeshua as the Son of the Living God.

Jesus said in *Luke 6:47-48 Everyone **who comes to me, and hears my words, and does them, I will show you who he is like. He is like a man building a house, who dug and went deep, and laid a foundation on the rock.** When a flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it was founded on the rock.*

Matt. 5:18 For most assuredly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished.

Jesus gave us many parables to teach us. Are we prepared to listen and learn from them? One such a parable - to me the first step in discipleship - is a confrontation with the truth!

**Have you ever been confronted with the truth, that Jesus is truly the Lord, as Paul had to acknowledge on the way to Damascus?
Consider this**

5. Explore based on Ezekiel and the prodigal son, the grace of God as we return to Him and the covenant relationship. *Eze 20:35-38 "And I shall bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and shall enter into judgment with you face to face there. "As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Mitsrayim, so I shall enter into judgment with you," declares the Master יהוה. "And I shall make you pass under the rod, and shall bring you into the bond of the covenant, and purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me. From the land where they sojourn I bring them out, but they shall not come into the land of Yisra'el. And you shall know that I am יהוה. (Rebellion is disobedience)*

*Luke 15:11-31 He said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of your property.' He divided his livelihood between them. Not many days after, the younger son gathered all of this together and traveled into a far country. There he wasted his property with riotous living. When he had spent all of it, there arose a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He wanted to fill his belly with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him any. **But when he came to himself he said,** 'How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough to spare, and I'm dying with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants."' "He arose, and came to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat, and celebrate; for this, my son, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found.' They began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants to him, and asked what was going on. He said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.' But he was angry, and would not go in. Therefore his father came out, and begged him. But he answered his father, 'Behold, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed a commandment of yours, but you never gave me a goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this, your son, came, who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' "He said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.*

Much can be said concerning this parable. But in reference to discipleship, what is important is the lost son came to himself, **his current situation forced him to reconsider.**

Discipleship starts with a realization of the truth, as each one of us have to consider the truth, this young man considered his situation in comparison to his father's house. Likewise God is calling on us to consider our situation, in comparison to the promises within the Covenant relationship. When we realize our own shortcomings and are prepared to return to the Father's House with a pure heart, clear conscience and an unfeigned faith, we enter into discipleship. The Father's House is the place where discipleship starts and is fulfilled (a child's discipleship starts in obedience to his father and the protocol of his father's house). If you feel like the prodigal son, consider your position in reference to your Father's House (GOD) and start looking for any disagreement in relation to the Covenant relationship with God. As God said consider your ways. Why? Because My house lies waste, while each of you is busy with his own house. (Haggai 1:3-9)

Discipleship is acting according to the Word of God, walking in obedience, it is not talking about it!

Jesus said, a wise man will dig down until He finds the Rock, the very reason why you believe. When Jesus asked Peter in *Matt. 16:15-19* He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my assembly**, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will be released in heaven."

In Haggai. 1:3-9 Then the Word of Yabweh came by Haggai, the prophet, saying, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies waste? Now therefore this is what Yabweh of Hosts says:

Consider your ways.

You have sown much, and bring in little. You eat, but you don't have enough. You drink, but you aren't filled with drink. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm, and he who earns wages earns wages to put them into a bag with holes in it. This is what Yabweh of Hosts says: "Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, bring wood, and build the house. I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified," says Yabweh. "You looked for much, and, behold, it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says Yabweh of Hosts, "***Because of my house that lies waste, while each of you is busy with his own house.***"

This Rock, is **the revelation of the truth of God and Jesus Christ His Son.**

*In Hebrew the word for lords and the word for Lord in reference to God are spelt exactly the same but in Hebrew the pronunciation differs. In reference to the plural form of lord they say adoni, in reference to God they say Adonay. The y at the end of Adonay refers to YHWH. Thus the word Adonay is a compilation saying The Lord My God.

* *In reverence and fear of God the Hebrew people write G-d instead of God.*

INVOLVE : YESHUA HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US AS A COVENANT, HAVE YOU COME IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS CONTRACT.

Heb 10:5 Therefore when he comes into the world, he says, "Sacrifice and offering You didn't desire, but You prepared a body for me;

- How do you discern between a disciple and a lost son?
- What is stewardship, and how do you define it?
- If we are called to make disciples, where do we start?
- Can a child be disciplined outside his fathers house?
- Consider yourself to determine if there is a disagreement in your covenant relationship with God, and if so how will you rectify it?
- Consider your community and write a proposal as to what you think is the state of discipleship and if needed, how would you start discipling members of your community?

Discipleship a biblical pattern

Session 4

(Workshop 2 in the students booklet)

Returning to the Fathers House

If. my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicle

7:14

FOCUS : To prepare the students to understand the covenant in relation to our Father and His House.

OBJECTIVE : You would have accomplished the purpose of the Bible study if group members understand the covenant as a conditional promise or conditional implication :

1. That the covenant have a conditional promise, based on an unconditional love of the Father.
2. That the covenant have a conditional implication, without affecting the unconditional love of the Father.
3. That we received free will in order to enter into the covenant based upon the fulfilment of the provisions or not.

SESSION OUTLINE

INVOLVE : A contract for leasing a property or even a work contract is based on conditional promises and implications.

EXPLORE :

1. Explore 'if' - as a conditional statement, based upon the scripture within John 6:38 and Luke 22:42. ("a condition is a compound statement formed by combining two sentences using the word if ... then. The mentioned can also be called an implication.)

God says "IF" meaning it is conditional.

Returning to the Father's House is the first step of entering into the Covenant Relationship, but it is conditional. (1) Called by my name, (2) shall humble themselves, (3)and pray, (4)and seek my face, (5)and turn from their wicked ways.

2. Explore 'called by God's name' as a condition.

God's possession of him. As we acknowledge Jesus as the Son of the Living God, and receive Him as the Lamb of God, sacrificed for my sins.'

Kindred (similar in kind). The man bears the family name, the wife take on the family name in marriage. We are adopted into the household of God in the name of Jesus.

Likeness. The Biblical meaning of 'name' is 'character manifested. Died with Christ Jesus that we can be recreated in Him, Jesus living within us. Isa 43:7 'everyone who is called by my name, and whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yes, whom I have made.' (we are created for God's glory). Jn 17:22 'The glory which you have given me, I have given to them; that they may be one, even as we are one;'

CALLED BY MY NAME:

What does it mean to be called by His Name?

In Biblical times, a name was given in relationship to the father. The Bible would often refer to a person (especially sons) as the son of the name of the father. To be called by the name of the father make you part of the household of the father.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name:

By what name are you called?

*Do you believe in the Church, or do you believe in the Lord?
Is your fellowship founded upon the rock, or on the traditions of man?*

3. Explore 'humble themselves' as a condition.

SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES:

What is the meaning of humbleness?

1. Not to be proud or arrogant.
2. Acknowledging your own insignificance, inferiority and inability in the presence of God.

3. To know your rank, importance, and status in the presence of God.

4. To be courteously respectful in your own opinion relating to the Word of God.

5. To rightly judge yourselves in comparison to God and His creation.

1Sam. 5:2-4 ... ark of God, and brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. When they of Ashdod arose early on the next day, behold, Dagon was fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of Yabweh. They took Dagon, and set him in his place again. When they arose early on the next day morning, behold, Dagon was fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of Yabweh; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands lay cut off on the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.

If we dig down, it is with the purpose of finding the rock (the very truth upon which the foundation of our faith is laid). But in order for us to dig down, we must be prepared to deny ourselves,

for the Glory of God's truth can only be revealed as we humble ourselves in the presence of God, not acknowledging anything concerning ourselves. When the 24 elders perceive God for who He truly is, they are prepared to throw down their own crowns (achievements and understanding).

Facilitator to explain that they only saw the glory of the King, because they sit in His presence. The prodigal son decided humble himself and to return to his father's

house, saying to himself "I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. **I am no more worthy to be called your son.**" His father received him with joy in his heart.

Rev. 4:9-11 When the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, to him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever, and throw their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your desire they existed, and were created!"

4. Explore 'pray' as a condition

AND PRAY:

Have you ever considered that prayer is not about asking but more about hearing?

Jesus said that He came to do the will of the Father who sent Him, if He knew the will of the Father, why did He pray so much? To ask, no - He prayed to hear His Father's Words so that He can tell us what the will of the Father is. The battle and the victory of the cross did not take place on Golgotha, but in Gethsemane and were established when Jesus said "not My will, but Yours, be done". (Consider what Jesus said concerning the wise man, who digs down (pray) until he finds the rock.)

1Kings 18:36-38 It happened at the time of the offering of the evening offering, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Yabweh, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Hear me, Yabweh, hear me, that this people may know that you, Yabweh, are God, and that you have turned their heart back again. Then the fire of Yabweh fell, and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

Elijah is another example, his faith was based on the fact that he did only as he received from God. God is faithful if we are obedient.

Jesus said in **Matt. 10:38** **He who doesn't take his cross and follow after me, isn't worthy of me.** The condition to enter into the covenant relationship, is a willingness to take up your cross (to do whatever the Father requires) as we follow the example of Jesus Christ - "not My will be done but Your will be done".

Gideon desired to see the glory of the God who brought them out of Egypt, but before he could see the glory of God he had to break down the Baal altar, representing the tradition of his

father, in order to rebuild an altar to the glory of God. (Judges 6:13&25)

5. Explore 'seek His face' as a condition.

AND SEEK HIS FACE :

*Lev. 9:6 Moses said, "**This is the thing which Yabweh commanded that you should do: and the glory of Yabweh shall appear to you.**" John 7:18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of him who sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.*

To seek the face of the Lord our God, is to do nothing in accordance with our own design, but in the pattern we received from God. If we do it according to our

own design, we seek our own glory, but if we do it as received from God, then we do it to the glory of the One who gave it. For example, if you as a child received specific instructions from your father to do something, and you do it exactly as the father instructed, the father will get the honor and the glory. But, as in this example, you decide that you know better than the instructions you received, and do accordingly, it is for your own glory or detriment.

If we are call children of God, where is His honor as our Father.

Jesus came to show us the Way, to set the example so that we can be aligned with Him as the Chief Cornerstone, as we build together a dwelling place for God.

*John 17:4-8 I glorified you on the earth. **I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do.** Now, Father glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world existed. **I revealed your name to the people whom you have given me out of the world.** They were yours, and you have given them to me. They have kept your word. Now they have known that all things whatever you have given me are from you, for **the words which you have given me I have given to them,** and they received them, and knew for sure that I came forth from you, and they have believed that you sent me.*

6. Explore 'turning from our wicked ways' as a condition.

AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS:

To be wicked constitute that you do not serve God according to His righteousness.

(Jesus said if our righteousness do not exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees we will not enter into the Kingdom of God).

To turn from wickedness, **is to keep the statutes and to do what is lawful and**

Mal. 3:18 Then you shall return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who doesn't serve him.

Ezek. 18:21 But if the wicked turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

in right standing with God. (Is. 55:7 *let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to Yabweh, and he will have mercy on him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*)

Num. 16:26 He spoke to the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins.

Beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, you fall from your own steadfastness!

Peter is warning us to be aware of the wicked, lest we are carried away with the ERROR of the wicked.

THE ERROR of the wicked is clearly defined as not walking in the statutes of God, and transgressing the Law of God. (Mark 7:6-8 He answered them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ “For you set aside the commandment of God, and hold tightly to the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.”)

| 2Pet. 3:14-18 Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for |
| these things, **be diligent to be found in peace,** |
| **without blemish and blameless in his sight.** Regard |
| the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved |
| brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, |
| wrote to you; as also in all of his letters, speaking in them |
| of these things. **In those are some things hard to be** |
| **understood, which the ignorant and unsettled** |
| **twist, as they also do to the other Scriptures, to** |
| **their own destruction.** You therefore, beloved, |
| knowing these things beforehand, **beware lest, being** |
| **carried away with the error of the wicked,** you fall |
| from your own steadfastness. But **grow in the grace and** |
| **knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To |
him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Today there is a tendency to say that we are not required to keep the law, but if so, why do we need to repent?

Acts 17:30-31 "The **times of ignorance therefore God overlooked. But now he commands that all people everywhere should repent,** because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained; whereof he has given assurance to all men, in that he has raised him from the dead."

Again Jesus declare to those who know Him by name

Rev. 2:13-17 "I know your works and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. **You hold firmly to my name, and didn't deny my faith in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where**

Satan dwells. But I have a **few things against you, because you have there some who ... who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans** likewise.

Repent therefore, or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth. He who has an

ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, which no one knows but he who receives it.

Rev. 3:15-20 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing;' and don't know that you are the wretched one, miserable, poor, blind, and naked; I counsel you to **buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich; and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.** As many as I love, I reprove and chasten. **Be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me.**

It is significant that the "deeds" and "doctrines" of the Nicolaitans are only mentioned in connection with the churches in these two occultic and pagan cities. It seems that according to the "doctrine" of the Nicolaitans it was alright to have one foot in both worlds and that a christian needn't be so strict about separation from the world. This, in fact, was the "doctrine" of the Nicolaitans that Jesus "hated." It led to a weak version of Christianity that was without power and without conviction - a defeated, worldly type of Christianity.

- In your own words, what is the meaning of IF in context to the Word of God?
- What does it mean to be called by the Name of God?
- What is the meaning of humbling yourself in the presence of God?
- To pray is to listen, explain this in your own words?
- What is crucial in your walk with God if you want to see His face?
- Explain wickedness, and think of a few examples?
- What constitute the commandments/traditions of man?

The Jews in the time of Babylon, formulated their own law, called the talmud. When Jesus told the Pharisees that they have set aside the commandments/statutes of God and followed in the tradition of man, He referred to the talmud.

**APPLY : Consider your tradition in comparison to the Bible.
Think about your upbringing what you experienced and how you have been brought up.**

Discipleship a biblical pattern

Session 5

(Workshop 3 in the students booklet)

Finding the Rock

What is this rock?.. Matt. 16:18 I also tell you that you are Peter, and on **this rock** I will build my assembly, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it

FOCUS : To consider the meaning of “**on this rock I will build my assembly**”.

OBJECTIVE : You would have accomplished the purpose of the Bible study if group members understand that :

1. The building being built (the body of Messiah) should reflect the excellence of Jesus, as we build in the right order, coming in agreement with the Word of God - Jesus is the Word.
2. Jesus is the Rock, and the revelation of Him is what enable us to trust in Him.
3. That we cannot build in the presence of God on account of our own tradition or understanding.

SESSION OUTLINE

INVOLVE : Matthew 16:18 based upon the Hebrew reference to “stur” - “Rock” as being a title of God/focus of stability, and the word to build (banah) is begin to build or to restore/set up referring to a process, it can also refer to establish.

EXPLORE :

1. Explore how do we reflect the excellence of the One who called us out of darkness into His glorious light.

What is this rock? Peter explains to us in his own epistle :

1Peter. 2:5-10

*You also, as **living stones**, are **built up as a spiritual house**, to be a **holy priesthood**, to **offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ**. Because it is contained in Scripture,*

*“Behold, I lay in Zion a **chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious**:*

*He who believes in him will not be disappointed.” **For you therefore who believe is the honor, but for such as are disobedient,***

“The stone which the builders rejected,

Has become the chief cornerstone,” and,

*“**A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.**” For they stumble at the word, being disobedient, whereunto also they were appointed. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, **that you may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:** who in time past were no people, but now are God’s people, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone, and we are the living stones, being constructed in **one spiritual building**, so that we can offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, **to show forth the excellence of Him who called us** out of darkness into His marvelous light.

John 12:48 He who rejects me, and doesn’t receive my sayings, has one who judges him. The word that I spoke, the same will judge him in the last day.

As Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone, we all who believe in Him should be aligned with Him. But we cannot build a spiritual building if we as the living stones do not align with one another. To not be in alignment is to be in disobedience to the Word of God. *(For they (referring to pharisees), **stumble at the word, being disobedient...**)*

John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **these are they which testify about me.**

John 5:45-47 “Don’t think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is **one who accuses you, even Moses**, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote about me. **But if you don’t believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”**

The Word requires that this building, (the spiritual sanctuary) must be built in such a way that it will bring forth the excellence of the One who called us. We must remember that the building we are required to build is not man's initiative, God ordained it. If we want to be part of this sanctuary we must seek God's

guidance in it, for there can only be one cornerstone, to which we must be aligned. Jesus said He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He did not say He is the ways, for there is only one way. *Ephesians 2:20-22 being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit. it is one house.*

Consider for a moment; it is not possible for the body of Christ to show forth the excellence of Christ Jesus, if we align each according to his own tradition.

2. Explore the possibility that the building being constructed as the Body of Messiah is established with the purpose to defeat the enemy, a battle line to manifest God's Kingdom on earth, as a weapon against whom the enemy will not prevail.

Do we build in vain, no!!!!

We are called to build a sanctuary, a temple to the glory of God. But in order for this temple to be glorious it must be founded upon the Rock, and then constructed in the right order. If we align ourselves with Jesus Christ, the Chief Cornerstone, we need to be aligned according to Him and not according to our own understanding or the traditions of our fathers.

God said to Gideon, in his search to see the glory of God, that he must break down the altar of his father and upon that **stronghold**, he must rebuild a altar to the glory of God in the **right order** (the Hebrew meaning of right order is battle line). It seems as if, building a sanctuary is not just a building, it is a battle ground. If the building is not laid in the right order, in alignment with the Chief Cornerstone, the enemy will be able to destroy that building for it is not founded upon the Rock. Jesus explained that he who hears and doesn't do it, is like a man who build his house on sand. So in reference to this scripture, it is clear that the sanctuary we are called to build, is not for ourselves, but so that God's kingdom can be established, not only in defense but also in battle. Jesus said that His fellowship, the body of Christ will be established on

John 17:20-23 Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me. The glory which you have given me, I have given to them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one; that the world may know that you sent me, and loved them, even as you loved me.

Matt. 16:18 I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my assembly, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

Luke 6:49 But he who hears, and doesn't do, is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream broke, and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

the revelation that He is the Son of the living God, and that the gates of hades will not prevail against it - it is a battle line that has been drawn.

3. Explore that the victory is achieved when we acknowledge that we cannot trust in ourselves and our own inability, and start trusting in Jesus and His ability to do what seems impossible.

Have you found the Rock?

The prodigal son shows us something concerning our relationship to the Rock. One thing we know is that what God established, He established forever.

Concerning the prodigal son, let us consider :

He returned to his father's house, in the knowledge that he will find it as he left it. He said to himself that he

will humble himself in the presence of his father, because he is not worthy to be a son anymore. Why did he consider himself not worthy to be called a son anymore? Can it be because of his previous decision to leave his father's house to do as he pleased with what he received from the father.

On his return, even though thinking; 'if only I can become a servant in my father's house', his father came out to embrace him. Upon hearing the repentance of the son the father called on his servants to clothe him, to give him a ring and new sandals. (The father's action in clothing the son, constitute an invitation from a loving father to a lost son to return home).

Facilitators goal : Explain that all invited to return home, but there is a protocol in returning home.

Ezekiel. 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them forevermore.

An invitation to return home : When God told Moses to build the tabernacle (sanctuary) as a place of meeting, the heavenly sanctuary was given as the pattern. The outer court represented the place of being clothed in righteousness, before we could enter into the sanctuary (The Father's House).

Based on this, the parable of the prodigal son, it not just a call to return to the Father's House, but there is also a protocol for entering

into the father's house. The robe represented forgiveness, the ring, the restoration of his authority as son and the sandals to walk in accordance to the rules of the father's house. In the Hebrew culture the disciple was called to walk in the teaching of his master,

Luke 15:22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.'

Mark 1:7 He preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen.

(walking in the sandals of his master). When John the Baptist said that he is not worthy of untying the sandals of Jesus, he meant that his teaching is not to be compared to that of Jesus, he only came to prepare the way.

Consider what God told Moses at the burning bush.

Exodus. 3:5 He said, "Don't come close. Take off your sandals from off your feet, for the place you are standing on is holy ground."

To come into the true sanctuary of God, we need to leave our own teaching (sandals) so that we can receive what God has for us.

APPLY : What teaching have we received that is not Biblical but based on tradition, consider who influenced you and how : Tell the story of the women who would cut the lamb's quarter before she would put it into the oven. One day someone asked her why do she was doing it as she was cutting away a lot of meat. She explained that her mother did it the same way, then she asked her mother who explained that the pan she used was too small to fit the lamb's quarter.

- Based on all the above mentioned, describe in your own words, how the church as the representative of Christ Jesus should conduct themselves in order to show the excellence of the One who called us out of darkness into His glorious light?
- What is the difference between God's Word and the tradition of man?
- How will the church of Christ be best identified as a true representative of Him, according to your understanding?
- Why is it so important that the foundation of our faith is laid upon the Rock?
- What does it mean to align ourselves with the Chief Cornerstone, Jesus Christ?
- What is the meaning of being clothed by the Father, especially considering the sandals.?

Discipleship a biblical pattern

Session 6

(Workshop 4 in the students booklet)

Entering the Father's House

FOCUS : The pattern of our Father's House and the furniture thereof.

OBJECTIVE : You would have accomplished the purpose of the Bible study if group members understand the :

1. The purpose of the pattern God gave to Moses.
2. Process of sanctification.
3. The purpose of a sanctified life.

SESSION OUTLINE

INVOLVE : The tavnit hamishkan as the pattern of the tabernacle. The tavnit refer to an image, form or shape, by implication a model, or resemblance of a construction. The root word is the same root word for build, as when Jesus said that He will build His assembly.

EXPLORE :

1. Explore God's plan for sanctification based on the pattern of the tabernacle and what Jesus said in John 14:6, I AM the the Way, the **Truth** and the Life.

*John 17:19 For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be **sanctified in truth.***

*Rom. 15:16 that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be made acceptable, **sanctified by the Holy Spirit.***

*Acts 26:18 to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among those who are **sanctified by faith in me.***

The generic meaning of sanctification is "the state of proper functioning." In the theological sense, things are **sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends.** A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she **lives according to God's design and purpose.**

SANCTIFIED
In Truth
By the Holy Spirit
By faith in Me

*2 Tim. 2:19-21 However God's firm foundation stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let every one **who names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness.**" Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of clay. Some are for honor, and some for dishonor. **If anyone therefore purges himself from these, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, and suitable for the master's use, prepared for every good work.***

The purpose of the Father's House is to set apart (sanctify) those who choose to enter the Father's House with the intend to be made holy unto God and His purpose.

We cannot sanctify ourselves but **God designed a pattern to sanctify us for Himself.**

Therefore obedience to the pattern according to God's design, is of utmost importance, if we truly want to come into the full purpose God ordained for us from before the foundation of this world.

*Ex. 25:8-9 Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, the **pattern of the tent, and the pattern of all of its furniture, even so you shall make it.***

Amazingly the whole purpose of God's design/pattern is to lead us to Him, and into His glorious House!

As mentioned, (1) we are sanctified in truth, (2) we are sanctified by the Spirit and (3) we are sanctified by faith.

2. Explore the table of showbread (Hebrew: לחם הפנים lechem haPānīm, literally: "Bread of the Presence"/bread of His presence) as the Word manifesting on earth as Jesus (Emanuele=God with us).

(1) Sanctified in truth :

Jesus said to the Father in *John 17:17 Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. **The truth is the Word of God, and there is no other truth that can contest the WORD.***

Consider :

That Jesus is the **Word of God** manifested in the **Flesh** as said in *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* and in *1John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we saw, and our hands touched, concerning the Word of life.*

When Jesus said to His disciples in *John 6:50-51 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. **If***

Matt. 16:11-12 How is it that you don't perceive that I didn't speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that he didn't tell them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

*1Cor. 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, **but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.***

***live forever.** Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of **the world is my flesh.**"* They did not understand that Jesus, the **Word, is the bread of life**, who manifested on earth in the **Flesh as the Salvation of God**, so that whoever eat of this **bread (unleavened) will live.** This

bread is not defiled by the leaven of the Pharisees (teaching of the talmud, tradition of man), it is the pure undefiled Word of God that came down from Heaven to show the Way the Truth and the Life.

God's design :

The pattern that God showed Moses for the sanctuary, had twelve loaves of bread placed on the table of show bread, the bread was unleavened and were called the "bread of presence" which refers to being face to Face, or in THE presence of God.

Jesus is the Bread from Heaven, the pure undefiled Word of God. God instructed Moses that the table for

All leavened products were prohibited from the altar. Although the cakes/loaves of the show bread are not described as being offered upon the altar, it was carried into the inner part of the sanctuary, therefor it is highly probable, according to all references, that it was unleavened.

Matt. 5:17-18 "Don't think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn't come to destroy, but to fulfill. For most assuredly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished.

the show bread should be made with **acacia wood (flesh) and overlaid with Gold (nature of God). This lead us to consider that** the table represented Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God (both man and God) who ensured our **pass over from death to eternal life.** The table also had two rims (crowns) around to

ensure that **not even one bread crumb will fall to waste**, this reminds us that the whole Word of God has been given for guidance and reproof concerning the conduct in the Father's House.

Entering the Father's House :

When we enter thus into the sanctuary God prepared for us, we **need first to submit ourselves in the presence of God, to be sanctified by the pure unadulterated Word of God.** Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God presents us before the Father in His (Jesus Christ) name, as we are washed by the Word to perfection.

Eph. 5:25-27 ¶ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the assembly, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the assembly to himself gloriously, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

3. Explore the Menorah (a lamp fuelled by oil as a light showing the way of truth) the Holy Spirit guiding us into the truth. The Law written in our hearts according to Jeremiah 31:33 so that we can walk in obedience and know God, the promise of the Father that Jesus said would enable us to witness unto Him, Acts 1:4 and 8.

(2) Sanctified by the Spirit

Being sanctified is to live according to God's design and purpose, therefore as we enter into the Father's House we need to remind ourselves that we come **under His authority and rule**. Jesus explained that we need to worship God in **Spirit and truth for God is Spirit**. Jesus also explained to Nicodemus that unless we are born anew, we can't see the Kingdom of God, for what is born of the **flesh is flesh and cannot discern the spiritual things**. To be able to see is to understand, but it is only as we surrender our own understanding to the Spirit of God, that we can be enlightened.

*John 3:3-6 Jesus answered him, "Most assuredly, I tell you, unless one is **born anew**, he can't see the Kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Jesus answered, "**Most assuredly I tell you, unless one is born of water and spirit**, he can't enter into the Kingdom of God! That which is born of the flesh is flesh. **That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**"*

God's Design :

Rom. 8:15 For you didn't receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Gal. 4:6 And because you are children, God sent out the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!"

God ordained in His pattern, that we can become His children in Spirit and Truth. Jesus explained to the Father in *John 17:8 for the words which you have given me I have given to them, and they received them, and knew for sure that I came forth from you, and they have believed that you sent me.* (bread of His

presence) Then Jesus gave instruction to

His disciples, that even though they did receive the truth, they had to wait

until they received the Holy Spirit *Acts 1:4* “Don’t depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me.

*This is God's ordained pattern : Truth (the Word) + Wisdom (Spirit) = Knowledge
(Faith fulfilled)*

Consider - The **disciples knew the truth as Jesus revealed it to them, but they had to wait in obedience** for the fulfillment of God's pattern, as instructed by Jesus, to receive wisdom from the Holy Spirit. This obedience in following God's design resulted in **3000 men being saved!**

The purpose of the light and the oil :

A light is there to enable us to see and to know, (adding wisdom to truth). To be sanctified in accordance to the design of God with the purpose of being used for His glory, we need to be enlightened (sanctified/set apart) in the Spirit so that the meaning of the truth can be revealed to us.

The menorah or lamp stand was the only source of light within the holy place. In order to be able to give light within the sanctuary the lamp stand, consisted of seven lamps, each with it's own oil. According to God's design the central lamp had sufficient oil for two days. Then according to Ex.37v18 there were 6 branches going out of it's sides. The three lamps on the left of the central lamp and the three on the right of the central lamp, each only had oil sufficient for one day. This caused the priest to do daily service within the sanctuary to ensure that the lamps had sufficient oil to keep them for the duration of the whole day. To enable the Word to be alive in us, according to the Spirit, we need to daily spend time in the presence of God in the Spirit. (Without the oil (Spirit) we have no light)

Understanding the Father's heart :

2Corinthians. 3:6 who also made us sufficient as servants of a new covenant; not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

As we receive the unleavened bread, the unadulterated Word of God, we have been set free in Christ Jesus. In Hebrew, freedom are expressed using two different words. The word "chofesh" meaning freedom from external restraints (i.e., “doing your own thing”), while the word "cherut" suggests the freedom to do what you should do, or to have the power to act responsibly. Cherut, then, is the sort of freedom that God wants to give to

us. Our deliverance is meant to clothe us with the power to walk in righteousness and truth, being sanctified for the work of God the Father. Thus we are made true servants of the new covenant through the Spirit of God.

Living to the Glory of the Father. If God be our Father then how do we give Him honor ?

Consider.

Romans. 2:29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit not in the letter; whose praise is not from men, but from God.

When we allow the Spirit of God to teach us concerning our Father's heart, we are filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit. He teaches us in wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and the fear of Yahweh. (Isaiah 11:2) The menorah represents the seven Spirits of God. The seventh (central) candle represents Jesus Christ, and this lamp contained enough oil for two days, for Jesus is the Sabbath, the rest into which we must enter. (Hebrew 3:7-19)

4. Explore the 24 elders of Revelation 4:4 and their reaction upon the revelation of God. Prayer is the result of the revelation of God, it is a gift unto God, and expression of our thankfulness for everything we already received. Romans 12:1, we become the sacrifice at the incense altar, but we need to be holy and acceptable.

(3) Sanctified by Faith :

Being sanctified in faith is the final stage of being set apart for service unto God as a **sacrifice acceptable and well pleasing** to Him. **Faith**, based/founded in the knowledge of **who God is**, is the requirement for making our sacrifice pleasing unto God. *Hebrew 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that*

he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.

God's Design :

The last piece of furniture in the Holy Place (sanctuary) known as the incense altar is the culmination of God's pattern. **Here we as children in our Father's House is granted the opportunity/privilege to express our faith to the Father, as He has revealed Himself** through all the furniture prior to the incense altar. As the smoke is given as a wave offering at the incense altar, so is our prayers an offering before the Lord. The incense altar is not a place of asking or receiving, it is **a place of offering and giving**. God designed the pattern with this purpose in mind: The incense that is **burnt before God the Father, is burnt on the coals that the priest carried from the burnt offering altar. (Which represents the sacrifice of the Lamb who was slain for our sins)**. When the knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God who was offered on our behalf, always burns hot in our hearts, as our first love, the incense (our prayers) at our altar of the heart will rise up to God as a sweet fragrance, acceptable to God.

Rom. 8:31-39 ¶ An invitation from a loving father to a lost son to return home. What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who didn't spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also with him freely give us all things? Who could bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ¶ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, "For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter." No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amazingly the whole purpose of God's design/pattern is to lead us to Him, and into His glorious House!

Our acceptable sacrifice(sanctified) :

The Incense Altar was the last piece of furniture within the Holy Place, just in front of the veil that separated the the Holy Place from the **Holy of Holies, which represents the very presence of God.**

It was here that the priest would offer up a sacrifice of incense before the Lord. It is said that the smoke was a wave offering to allow the sweet smell to rise up over the veil,

into the Holy of Holies before the priest could enter. The smoke rising over the veil, was a sign of an acceptable offer. Prayer is our highest service unto God, it is a sacrificial service. This is were our sanctification come to completion.

Prayer as required by God, is not receiving from God, it is a **place of giving, a place of sacrifice unto God, it is pure worship unto God for who He is.** This is the very reason that so few people are prepared to be involved with prayer, for there is no opportunity to receive something. **When you pray in this way, you just give unto God.**

APPLY : Two types of worship, Jesus warned against the worship of the gentiles for they worship what they do not know. The Greek or gentile approach to worship was based on idol worship where there was a idol for every need. The whole idea of worship was to get what you want, all you need is the right idol. True worship as demonstrated by the elders, is acknowledging God and the privilege that we may know God.

*The offering of incense was the apex of the daily morning and the evening services. According to the Rabbis, **this was the part of the temple service that was most beloved by God** (Zohar I 130:A). **The burning of the incense was symbolic of the prayer of the people rising up to God** (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4). The offering of incense had to take place after the sacrifice, because only after the atonement could communion with God take place. After the offering of incense, the Kohenim (priests) pronounced the Priestly Blessing upon the people.*

- Explain the meaning of being sanctified or set apart?
- Explain the order of sanctification, three stages?
- What is the meaning of being sanctified in truth?
- Explain the reason for being sanctified in Spirit?
- Why is the last part of sanctification the most difficult?

Discipleship a biblical pattern

Session 7

(Workshop 5 in the students booklet) Participating fellowship

God's plan...Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.
Exodus 25:8 (AMP).

FOCUS : God's ultimate plan - freedom in fellowship.

OBJECTIVE : You would have accomplished the purpose of the Bible study if group members understand :

1. The true meaning of freedom, is to do God's will, John 8:31-32.
2. The meaning of participating fellowship, as God's predestined plan for us all, John 8:35

SESSION OUTLINE

INVOLVE : The prodigal son, took his freedom from his father's house, with no real purpose, except to be free. He became a slave within his so-called freedom. He made a decision of his will to return to his father's house as a slave, and found his freedom. The enemy have been deceiving us from believing that freedom is found in lawlessness, but true freedom is found in purpose. God ordained for us a purpose, to serve Him - that is freedom - as the prodigal son who made the choice.

EXPLORE :

1. Explore freedom within the context of being a son in the house of God, recreated in Christ Jesus, to do the good works.

*For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] **that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].***

Ephesians 2:10 (AMP)

If we consider the words "let My people go, that they may serve Me", we can understand more concerning God's plan. God intended freedom for the

THEN THE Lord said to Moses, Go to Pharaoh and tell him, Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: ***Let My people go, that they may serve Me.***

Exodus 9:1 (AMP)

Hebrew people, so that they could serve Him. To bring to completion this promised freedom, God instructed Moses to build a dwelling place for Him, where He could dwell within the midst of the people, **so that they could serve Him.**

The dwelling place that God instructed Moses to build was a shadow of the real dwelling place God purposed, a living temple. The law serves to show us our own unrighteousness in comparison to the righteousness required by God. The tabernacle serves to show us the pattern God designed to save, deliver, redeem and restore us His children to their position before sin came into the world through Adam, the first man.

Jesus, as the Son of the living God, came to fulfill this pattern - to save, deliver, redeem and restore as He showed us the Way, the Truth and the Life. **When Jesus said "not My will be done, but Thy will be done" He expressed the freedom the Father intended for His children.**

The victory was achieved not at Calvary but in Gethsemane.

The dictionary defines freedom as "the power to act, speak, or think without externally imposed restraints; immunity from obligation." Our modern Western concept of "being free" has narrowed to remove any sense of communal responsibility, but instead to **encourage self-determination as an expression of the individual will.** Christianity has been profoundly influenced by this preoccupation with individualism, the unfortunate result of this is 38,000 Christian denominations worldwide! Freedom has come to represent the individual's right to determine **his or her own destiny with little or no regard for the corresponding destinies of those around them.**

"The True Meaning of Freedom," is celebrated yearly during the passover feast/ pesach where we express God's freedom to all mankind in Jesus Christ and the the Exodus from Egypt as a shadow. **Freedom, however, is always connected to a clear idea of ultimate purpose.**

Freedom without purpose, is slavery.

In Hebrew, there are two words for these concepts: chofesh and cherut. The difference is quite simply the freedom to do what you like versus the freedom to do what you should. Chofesh is the freedom a slave acquires when he no longer has a master and no one is there to tell him what to do. He sees himself now as a free spirit, **liberated from bondage and accountable to no one**. Chofesh means freedom from external restraints.

Cherut, on the other hand, **is the freedom the Israelites acquired at Mount Sinai in the form of a covenant**. God's message to Pharaoh was clearly one of cherut: "Let My people go that they might worship Me" (Exod. 9:1). He did not desire that His people simply transfer their slavish obedience from Pharaoh to Him. Service to God would be much different than service to the Egyptian king. Cherut would allow the Israelites to freely bind themselves to God and to His commandments.

Deliverance from slavery in Egypt meant the opportunity to choose to be in covenant with the one and only God, Creator of heaven and earth.

2. Explore the pattern as a proposed model of establishing a dwelling place for God in the Spirit, a union between God and man. Freedom restored, freedom to obey out of free will. A love relationship based on mutual covenant loyalty.

The tabernacle of Moses is not just a description of a dwelling place, it is a pattern designed by God to set us free to do His perfect will. The layout of the tabernacle shows the pattern of obedience into the presence of God. And it expresses freedom to choose to come into the Covenant relationship.
(participating fellowship)

In today's self centered approach to life, it is difficult to follow the pattern, for God's pattern is designed so that **more of Him can manifest in us. It is in contrast to the life of personal success, it is called a life of overcoming, where we become the dwelling place for God.** (overcoming fellowship)

I in them and You in Me, in order that they may become one and perfectly united, that the world may know and [definitely] recognize that You sent Me and that You have loved them [even] as You have loved Me. John 17:23 (AMP)

A pattern of sanctification

Jesus fulfilled God's pattern, with the purpose of making a dwelling place for God in the Spirit. Jesus brought God's plan in fulfillment as the first fruit, so that we through Him, can be

And so for their sake and on their behalf I sanctify (dedicate, consecrate) Myself, that they also may be sanctified (dedicated, consecrated, made holy) in the Truth.

John 17:19 (AMP)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things [that she might be holy and faultless].

Ephesians 5:25-27 (AMP)

sanctified (dedicated, consecrated) in the **Truth**. To be set free in the knowledge that the Word is the Truth and then to allow the Truth to transform us. We have the freedom of choice to surrender unto the Lord, to be washed by Him in Spirit and in Truth in order to be presented perfect unto the Lord.

Peter almost missed the opportunity to share in the glory of the Lord, when he

(Peter) said that he will not allow the Lord to wash him. If we want to partake in the glory of the risen Lord we first must allow the Lord to wash us with His precious Word of truth.

Jesus said to him, You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later on. Peter said to Him, You shall never wash my feet! Jesus answered him, Unless I wash you, **you have no part with (in) Me** [you have no share in companionship with Me].

John 13:7-8 (AMP)

Participating Fellowship, God's purpose!

Jesus said, "*And this is eternal life: [it means] to know (to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with, and understand) You, the only true and real God, and [likewise] to know Him, Jesus [as the] Christ (the Anointed One, the Messiah), Whom You have sent*". *John 17:3 (AMP)*

Eternal life is not a future state, it is a ongoing position of fellowship that God intended for all of us to have, when we choose to follow the pattern into the very presence of God. Then we no longer live but Christ Jesus lives within us, and we become the living temple of God, an instrument of glory as we walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit guiding us into God's perfect will.

When Jesus said to Peter to go out and cast his nets out on the other side of the boat, Peter told the Lord that they have toiled the whole night but could not catch anything, but on account of Jesus' Word, he said he will do so. God's plan for this partnership is that we will receive full nets without toil. (Luke 5:4-6) We are called to a glorious life in Christ Jesus when we walk in obedience to His Word.

The nets were filled, not by works but by faith.

Ezek. 44v18 states that the priests were not supposed to wear garments that made them sweat, in the same manner today as kings and priests of the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, we are not supposed to toil, (sweat) but in faith and in partnership with Abba Father, walk out His plan, prepared for us from before the foundation of the world! Eph.2v10.

Consider Elijah, the prophet.

At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and that **I have done all these things at Your word.** 1 Kings 18:36 (AMP)

If we realize that God has given us the privilege to sit at His feet, to be used by Him in the same way as Elijah was used, then we will begin to understand why Jesus said that He wants us to share in His glory.

Elijah experienced the manifestation of God's glory as he looked upon God, and did only what God told him to do. In the same way God want us to experience participating fellowship with Him.

- What do you think God's plan was from the beginning?
- What is the meaning of sanctification?
- What is the purpose of sanctification and why is it important?