

# *Module 2*

## *The Walk of the Disciple*

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Distribution for Lighthouse Ministries International

<https://bibleschool2.wixsite.com/discipleship>

[lmi.bibleschool@gmail.com](mailto:lmi.bibleschool@gmail.com)

+27 66 245 0517 (Whatsapp & Telegram only)



# LEARNING OUTCOMES :

On completion of Module 2 you will be able to know what is The Walk of the disciple

# SPECIFIC OUTCOMES :

On completion of this Chapters you will be able to know:

## + Chapter 1

How a disciple walks in authority

## + Chapter 2 & 3

How a disciple walks in obedience

## + Chapter 4

How a disciple walks with a Kingdom mindset

## + Chapter 5

How a disciple walks in the fullness of Isaiah

# MODULE 2

# CHAPTER 1

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## M2C1

### A disciple walks in authority

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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FJ VAN DEN HEEVER  
R ENGELBRECHT



*Layout by E Cloete*



[Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com](mailto:Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com)

There is an authority that rests upon all disciples. It is the authority of Jesus Christ, made possible by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit was poured out so that we can have and walk in power from on high.

Therefore, a disciple who believes Jesus is the Son of the Living Lord and is the Messiah, and those who believe in the eternal Kingdom of God and those who are willing to lay down the Self for the glory of the King, shall walk in the authority of the Lord.

And such authority comes not from the Self or from man, but from God Himself.

*Matthew 28: 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Jesus said in John 15 that if we abide in Him then He will abide in us. He was saying that the more we die to the Self the more we will be living in the fullness of God, meaning the fullness of His authority, the fullness of the anointing of the Spirit and the fullness of His glory. His holiness and glory will then be manifested in us.

The Lord has given us this authority according to Matthew 28 to be His messengers in this world and to be His instruments of service. The authority is imparted so that we can fulfil our purpose, our calling and our mandate.

Authority rests upon the disciples to fulfil the Great Commission, and by such a fulfilment, set people free from the clutches of spiritual darkness, from pain, hurt, bondages and torment.

Jesus' first ministry work was to get rid of the devil out of His life.



When the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus stood on the authority of the Word and put the devil in his place. Just so, we have the authority to make sure the devil has no part of our lives, and we have the authority to lead others also to freedom and liberty. The authority invested in Jesus, now invested in His disciples, is the authority over death, sin and the forces of darkness.

We read of the well-known Scripture in Mark 5: *1 They came to the other side of the sea to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 And as soon as He got out of the boat, there met Him out of the tombs a man [under the power] of an unclean spirit. 3 This man continually lived among the tombs, and no one could subdue him any more, even with a chain; 4 For he had been bound often with shackles for the feet and handcuffs, but the handcuffs of [light] chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he rubbed and ground together and broke in pieces; and no one had strength enough to restrain or tame him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always shrieking and screaming and beating and bruising and cutting himself with stones. 6 And when from a distance he saw Jesus, he ran and fell on his knees before Him in homage, 7 And crying out with a loud voice, he said, What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? [What is there in common between us?] I solemnly implore you by God, do not begin to torment me! 8 For Jesus was commanding, Come out of the man, you unclean spirit! 9 And He asked him, What is your name? He replied, My name is Legion, for we are many. 10 And he kept begging Him urgently not to send them [himself and the other demons] away out of that region. 11 Now a great herd of hogs was grazing there on the hillside. 12 And the demons begged Him, saying, Send us to the hogs, that we may go into them! 13 So He gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out [of the man] and entered into the hogs; and the herd, numbering about 2,000, rushed headlong down the steep slope into the sea and were drowned in the sea.*

Jesus walked with authority, for He WAS authority. When the demon possessed man saw Jesus from a distance away, he ran to Jesus because he knew this is someone who can help him. And this is the kind of authority that should be evident in us, for we abide in Jesus who abides in us.

If we truly walk as His disciples, those who are in torment, bondage and in trouble should be able to recognize the Presence of God within us.

And like this man who ran towards Jesus, we need to walk in authority so that anyone who requires healing (spiritual, emotional or physical) or deliverance should take note of us from afar and run to us - they should run to us because they should sense and know that we can help. And we can only help if God's authority rests upon us as His disciples. Again, such authority comes not from the Self, but it comes from the Lord.

By preaching the Gospel in the authority of Jesus, we take captive all things that are opposed to God. Such authority loosens the spiritual and emotional chains that bind and yokes so many people.

Question, can people recognize the authority within you? Can people recognize the Presence of God? Do people seek you out for help to be free, to be saved, to be delivered and to be healed?

We must just be available as disciples to serve and be ready to be used by the Lord as disciples who walk in Spirit and Truth. Those who abide in the Lord as disciples have been given the keys to heaven to bind and to lose.

*Matthew 16:19: I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

We have been given the authority to preach the Gospel.

According to John 8, the Truth shall set us free. The Truth is Jesus.

When we preach Jesus, we preach Truth, and when we do so in Spirit and Truth, we preach in the authority so that the Truth sets people free from bondages, yokes and strongholds.

Of Jesus we read: *Colossians 1: 13 [The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 In Whom we have our redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins.*

*15 [Now] He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]; He is the Firstborn of all creation. 16 For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [by His service, intervention] and in and for Him. 17 And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together). 18 He also is the Head of [His] body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent]. 19 For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him permanently. 20 And God purposed that through (by the service, the intervention of) Him [the Son] all things should be completely reconciled back to Himself, whether on earth or in heaven, as through Him, [the Father] made peace by means of the blood of His cross. 21 And although you at one time were estranged and alienated from Him and were of hostile attitude of mind in your wicked activities, 22 Yet now has [Christ, the Messiah] reconciled [you to God] in the body of His flesh through death, in order to present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in His [the Father's] presence. 23 [And this He will do] provided that you continue to stay with and in the faith [in Christ], well-grounded and settled and steadfast, not shifting or moving away from the hope [which rests on and is inspired by] the glad tidings (the Gospel), which you heard and which has been preached [as being designed for and offered without restrictions] to every person under heaven, and of which [Gospel] I, Paul, became a minister. 24 [Even] now I rejoice in the midst of my sufferings on your behalf. And in my own person I am making up whatever is still lacking and remains to be completed [on our part] of Christ's afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church.*

*Colossians 2: 15 [God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].*

*Ephesians 1: 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength*



*20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

Just as important as knowing who Jesus is, as presented in the Ephesians and Colossians epistles, is to know our place in Jesus. At times we can forget the authority that Jesus carries, for in Him rests all authority, dominion and glory. Yet when we abide in Him, we abide in such domino and authority.

*Ephesians 2:6: 6 And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One).*

We are raised with Jesus in spirit, and thus spiritually in this world we are seated with Him in the highest authority. We should walk in such authority, and people and the devil should know and recognize that we function according to our heavenly place.

This is what it means to be a disciple.

A true disciple walks with God, follows Him, serves Him, abides in Him, abides in His Truth and Sprit, and thus is seated in heavenly places. The heavenly places is not reserved for those walking in religion or hypocrisy, but for those who truly obey His commandments and who seeks His ways and will.

The heavenly places are reserved for those who have a relationship with the Lord, who seek His Kingdom and His righteousness above all and anything else.

These days it, however, seems as if we are struggling to walk in authority, mainly because our authority rests not in our relationship with God but in our comfort with knowledge.

Authority comes down to legality, and for those who have a relationship with God, are legally permitted to exercise God's authority in faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the power of God.

**NB: We can do very little on earth if we are not legally compliant.**

And illegal immigrant cannot work in a country where he has fled to if he is illegal – he is then not recognized as being legal and cannot function in order to work and earn wages. He is also not legal to receive any benefits from such a government.

Anybody will agree we will rather receive a service in terms of labour from someone who has a legal backing – meaning some kind of legal training in his trade.

And this is how it is with the Kingdom of God.

Authority therefore comes down to being 'legal' in the spiritual realm in order to be recognized, and by such recognition, there is the freedom and the liberty to fulfil an assigned task.

This is how we operate with God. Your legality and recognition comes from God and He recognizes and knows who His disciples are truly.

You cannot buy such legality or recognition.

Neither can you fool the spiritual realm.

Just as God knows who truly serves Him, so does the devil know if we walk in authority. When it comes to the Lord's work, we have to be legal to be recognized to serve the Kingdom; otherwise we are an illegal spiritual immigrant.

If we fall not under the authority of God because of our Covenant with the eternal King, we work for the Kingdom illegally and will not receive any recognition for our service.

Think about it this way.

In order to be legal, one needs to fall under the authority of a government. If we do not fall under the authority of the Kingdom, how we can fulfil our mandate or our calling legally?

This means our service will hardly be recognized by the reigning authority, or by those wishing to oppose us.

An illegal worker constantly has to operate out of the sight of the authorities, but with God, the Lord will see all those who operate in His name and He will know if we operate illegally or not.

And so, does Satan.

He knows who operates legally and who operates illegally.

Therefore, we cannot fool God or Satan when it comes to the spiritual.

After all those who walk in the Kingdom of Light, as disciples of the Lord, are opposed in thoughts, action, behaviour and morality to those who walk in the kingdom of darkness.

In Acts 22, Paul was handed over to be flogged for being rebellious in the eyes of the Jewish leaders. *25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" 26 When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, "Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman." 27 Then the commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes." 28 The commander answered, "With a large sum I obtained this citizenship." And Paul said, "But I was born a citizen." 29 Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.*

Paul was a Roman citizen. He therefore had rights, including a fair trial as a Roman citizen.

And by these rights, he can exercise his legal authority.

This is how it works in the spiritual realm. If we are a citizen of the Kingdom of God, we have rights and we have legal authority to act on behalf of the kingdom.

*We are citizens of heaven as mentioned in **Ephesians 2. 19** Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

As citizens of heaven we have rights, and by that right as granted by our citizenship, we can exercise our authority. While it is true that on earth some may get it right to operate in a country illegally, this is not the case with spiritual authority. God cannot be mocked, Satan cannot be fooled, but men can be deceived. This is why there are most assuredly ‘believers’ out there who are walking around operating under false authority.

It is after all easy to convince someone of your spiritual authority and this is what is happening in churches worldwide.

We are blinded by all the noise, smoke and mirrors.

There are those who operate for the Kingdom, and by all accounts it all appears good and proper, but ultimately there is a false authority in operation.

Such pretense authority cannot legally function in accordance to heaven’s recognition.

Therefore, we will have no impact to set people free from the grip of darkness.

Authority is not based on our qualification or our ability, but it is based on our relationship with God.

It is not based on our gifts but on our fruit, and it is not based on what we do but, on our obedience, and faithfulness to the Lord. A disciple walks in authority because a disciple follows the Master in Spirit and in Truth.

Indeed, those who walk with God walk in a relationship.

Such a relationship allows us to walk in the authority of God and is solidified through obedience, staying true to God's order, walking in His ways and will.

Too often we mistake real authority with false authority because we look at the physical instead of the supernatural.

There came a time when Saul no longer carried the authority, even though serving as king, because his relationship with God had faltered.

A shepherd boy was anointed to be true king during his childhood, because this boy – David – had a real relationship with God.

Real authority therefore rests far deeper than the outward.

So often you hear people speak of the great men of God and such assumptions are made on the stature of their ministries.

The truth is, one can reach the top of any food chain [be it spiritual] even without knowing God!

You simply have to apply a few marketing tricks, seduce the masses with sweet words and feed them what they desire and crave.

There is a lot of false authority in operation, and yes, people are deceived and blinded, but God and Satan knows who walks in true authority.



This is the beauty of it all, and so the humble [walking in true relationship] will be exalted and the exalted [the false authority] will be eventually humbled.

False authority is birthed when we follow a religion instead of following God's ways. Religion is man-made system and designed to appease man, while a true living relationship with a living God is thriving, alive, living and true.

Religion sets up false authority, while those who serve God operate in a true authority.

Religion dethrones and relationship enthrones.

Fame, fortune, money, popularity, and ability does not lead to authority, but true obedience and a love and fear for God does unlock such a path.

Anyone who operates under religion and not in the living faith of God will easily find themselves stranded when it comes to the matters of the spiritual, such as spiritual warfare.

There is no greater evidence of authority when a believer confronts a demon – a demon will know who operates under true authority and who doesn't.

Take for example the following Scripture: *Acts 19: 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

Many of us have seen movies dealing with exorcisms.

It is actually quite laughable that when the 'learned men of the cloth' deal with a demon they fail to exorcize the unclean spirit because their authority is not based on relationship but on a religion.

Demons aren't fooled.

They know who knows God and who the true disciples of Jesus are.

What do we think will happen if someone who operates under a false authority confronts a demon?

The demon will turn on that person and slay him, as mentioned in Acts 19.

The reality is that spiritual warfare has become watered down, and demons and hell has been denied because so many 'spiritual leaders' do not want a confrontation.

We do not want confrontation because we are operating in false authority!

A confrontation will expose false authority, shattering a false image of godliness.

Churches focuses more on healing, because it is EASIER to fake a healing than to fake deliverance.

It is easier to convince the masses through healing of one's supposed authority than to convince them that someone is being truly delivered by a demon.

After all, a demon is alive and real, and he will be not be pushed around by those playing in his camp!

For it is written in *Matthew 12: 25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? 27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

Clever sermons and a huge following is surely not a sign that we walk in authority.

Only our relationship with God determines our legality in the spiritual realm.

It says in *Mark 16 (AMP) : 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs and miracles that closely accompanied [it]*. The NKJV says it the following way: *19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.*

Signs and wonders and miracles were confirming the word of the Lord and His message.

Signs and wonders do not attest to the person, but the Lord.

So often we see signs and wonders and then automatically equate it to the ministering servant and to the authority of such a servant.

After all, we argue that if there are signs and wonders that the servant must be anointed.

This is not the case according to Mark 16.

God upholds His Name and His Truth and Word by performing signs and wonders.

He upholds Isaiah 53 that says that by the stripes of Jesus we are healed.

He upholds the truth that Jesus is above all dominion.

So if we see signs and wonders, it is God moving to confirm the Truth of His Word and the Truth of His message.

It never testifies to the spiritual condition or nature of the servant present.

A true disciple is only known by his fruits, and not by the manifestation of his gift.

Our authority thus rests in our relationship with God which is proven by our fruit and not by our gifts. Therefore, be vigilant by testing all spirits and test the fruits to ascertain authenticity of authority.

Think about this.

How can we really operate in the name of Jesus when we hardly know Jesus?

We may know about it and preach about Him, but do we really know Him?

It is like going to someone and telling them you have a right to enter a restricted area because you have been given permission by Jesus.

Then the person phones Jesus who says He doesn't know you!

This is how it works in the spiritual realm.

We can preach and teach Jesus, but do we personally know Him?

We can fool man, but not heaven or hell.

Jesus walked in true authority and such authority was recognized by Satan, demons, religious leaders, or any other power on earth. *Matthew 7: 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

The Lord has given us all a mandate – which is our purpose – but we can only fulfil it when we have the backing of the Kingdom.

And such backing comes down to authority, for you receive the authority, therefore the legal backing of the King, to complete what the Lord has called us to fulfil.

When we walk in false authority, we can do all that we can but our mandate will not come into fruition.

*Romans 12:2: 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

How we must seek God's perfect will so that we can walk in His authority!

The authority of God allows us to move in the full effectiveness of the gifts.

For those who walk in God's authority are those who thus abide in the Lord, and if they abide, they will bear fruit.

Authority therefore comes down to walking in character, and character speaks of holiness, integrity and the continuous walk to maintain our state of sanctification.

The Lord calls us to walk in the fullness of divinity, in the divinity of Jesus, and therefore walk in authority.

And those who walk according to such authority will be led by the Spirit in order for them to become witnesses, to teach, to preach and to baptize.

In the Book of Acts, we read how the disciples received power from above to be witnesses.

This was one of the primary reasons why the Holy Spirit was poured out, so that we can be equipped for service and to be witnesses.

But we can only do so when we are born again and are led by the Spirit (Romans 8).

We cannot be led by the flesh or our carnal nature.

The Spirit must guide and lead.

For those who are under the guidance of the Spirit and are in submission to the Spirit, are those who have allowed their lives to be changed by the inner working of the Holy Spirit.



This means our character will be changed, and this also means that we truly abide in Jesus.

And as we abide, we abide in authority.

Thus, the Holy Spirit, poured out to lead us in all truth, was sent so that we can walk in the image of Jesus; therefore, the Spirit was sent for the purpose that we can abide in Jesus so that we can walk in full authority.

And by that authority we can fulfil the Great Commission, but in order to fulfil the Great Commission we need to have to authority to take a stand against the kingdom of darkness.

Our authority however is not just for the purpose to witness, or to be a servant, or to fight darkness, but to help us to walk in authority by taking authority over our thoughts, our emotions therefore taking authority over the realm of the soul.

*This is what 2 Corinthians 10 alludes to - **The Spiritual War: 10 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. 2 But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled***

Indeed, there is authority invested in God the Father, living in the Blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit carries it. It is an awesome, electrifying, pulsating and quickening power that has been legally and spiritually been made accessible and available to those we commit to Jesus as their Savior, to the Father as their Lord and to the Holy Spirit as friend and guide.

In order to walk in this authority, one needs to abide in Jesus.

Ultimately therefore, authority comes down relationship. If we don't have a relationship with God, then we cannot walk in the authority of God.

Without such a relationship, we are doomed to wander confused and lost, unable to see the Kingdom of Light manifested through us in a world of darkness.

# MODULE 2

## CHAPTER 2

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### M2C2

## A disciple walk in obedience

### Part 1

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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FJ VAN DEN HEEVER  
R ENGELBRECHT



*Layout by E Cloete*



[Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com](mailto:Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com)

*John 15:9-12: 9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. 11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

In the first chapter of module 2, we looked at how a disciple walks in authority.

It is, however, just as important to understand being a true disciple means walking in obedience.

For obedience is part and parcel of honouring the covenant with our Lord.

After all, as disciples we FOLLOW the Master – His ways, teachings, truths and commandments – therefore to FOLLOW implies obedience.

Now, there is obedience to God’s Word that applies to all disciples, and then there is obedience to God’s word personally that directs your life daily.

In this study, we will first look at the former, which is obedience to God’s Word, therefore His commandments. We need to remember from the outset our God is not a lawless God.

When we think of commandments, we tend to think Old Testament.

The Church has argued and debated tirelessly against the validity of the Old Testament and the validity of laws and commandments, and in the end the Church has thrown the baby out with the bath water.

Problem is, we want to be a free loving Church, basking in the grace and mercy of God, soaking up His love, enjoying His blessings, and love that feel of a community where there is no judgement or condemnation.

Yes, this is indeed the God whom we serve.

A loving God who is full of mercy and love and hope and kindness.

He has blessed us with all he blessings (Ephesians 1:2), and indeed, there is no condemnation for who are in Christ (Romans 8:1).

But, at the same time, according to Jesus, to abide in Him means to love Him and to love Him means to follow His commandments.

John 14:15 says (Jesus speaking): *If you love me, keep my commands.*

It is therefore clear.

If we say we love the Lord, then we need to obey.

Obey what?

His commandments.

You see, there are two sides to the coin regarding Romans 8.

If there is no condemnation when we are in Christ, what then if we are not in Christ?

Then surely we walk on dangerous ground.

And we are only in Christ when we obey the Lord's commandments, for this is love.

Do we truly follow His commandments anymore?

Is it not that we choose to rather follow doctrines without laws or commandments because we lack knowledge, understanding and wisdom regarding His laws?



We have hardened our hearts and we have set ourselves to eventually resist commandments, for we argue it is legalistic and out of date.

We are so afraid of entering the domain of the Old Testament that we would rather avoid it completely.

This is a dangerous route to take.

A disciple must obey the Lord's commandments.

Note, not the truth of man but the truth of the Lord.

Obedience to God's truths and His commandments is a characteristic of a disciple; ignorance is not an excuse for our lack of obedience.

We know the greatest laws :

*Matthew 22:35-41: 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

Few would argue with these commandments.

But do we know that there are roughly between 40 and 50 commandments issued by Jesus [depending on how you view duplications].

The fact remains Jesus made numerous commandments, and He expects us to follow them.

If this was not to case, then explain *Matthew 28:19-20: 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

We must go and make disciples, but in order to make disciples, we need to teach all that Jesus has commanded.

He in fact taught His disciples to follow numerous commandments, which spiritually upholds the commandments as taught to them by the Father through the old physical laws.

Take note, we are not to follow the 613 Laws of Moses in a physical sense, but we need to follow them in a spiritual sense.

Let us explain.

Jesus said in Matthew 5 that He came to fulfil the Laws of God. *Matthew 5:18-20: 17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

*19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Therefore, in Him is the fulfilment, not the cancellation, of God’s commandments.

I believe we can all agree on this truth, for this is what Matthew 5 explains.

So therefore, let us understand the LAW and the COMMANDMENT has been fulfilled in Jesus.

So to obey means to obey Jesus fully, for He is the LAW and the representation of Kingdom's order.

The word 'fulfil' in this context is the word *Pleroo* which implies "to complete," or to completely accomplish the purpose God intended. Heaven and earth have still not passed away.

The word "destroy" (kataluo in Greek) means "to loose or unloose what was before bound" so, if Jesus somehow transformed the law so that we don't have to keep it, He loosed us from its obligation.

But Jesus emphatically tells us that He did no such thing.

Jesus concludes His statement about God's law with a solemn warning to religious teachers: *"Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (verse 19).*

Some carelessly assume and assert that "these commandments" refers to the teachings of Christ that follow in the remainder of the chapter.

Not so!

The wording of the Greek text simply will not allow such an interpretation.

Actually, the word in verse 19 translated "breaks" (luo in Greek) is related to the word in verse 17 rendered destroy (katalu).

Luo literally means "to lose."

The Greek concept of destruction is to break or take apart.

Loosening a part is the first step in taking apart, thus breaking or destroying an object.

So Jesus' warning not only applies to anyone who disobeys even a minor detail of God's law and teaches others to do the same.

Even "loosing," or relaxing, any of the requirements is forbidden, because that is the first step toward destroying the law.

Jesus pronounces the severest penalty on any who would break or loosen even the least of the Old Testament commandments.

To put it simply, to follow Jesus is to follow God's Laws.

But to follow Jesus means to follow the higher spiritual laws that encapsulate the old laws.

To put it another way, we must keep the spirit of the law, not just the letter.

This is possible only through the presence of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:7-9).

It is also true that when Jesus talks about fulfilling the Law, He is not just referring to the Ten Commandments.

Remember, in the days of Moses, there were 613 Laws that expounded on the Ten Commandments.

What we need to understand is that the entire LAW of the old and the new is now spiritually fulfilled [completed] in Jesus, and such Law by the Spirit is not loosened or relaxed or compromised to make way for man's interpretations.

For example, where Moses taught, we shall not kill or murder, Jesus teaches that it is also murder to hate your brother.

Where Moses teaches about adultery, Jesus teaches about just looking at a woman with lust is adultery.

The Law of Jesus is the higher law – for example, abortion is also murder, but the higher law also makes room for spiritual abortion, which we commit when we lead not someone to Christ but lead them away from Jesus.

We shall not commit sexual immorality, but the higher law stipulates we shall also not commit spiritual fornication when we serve God and the world {for this is spiritual prostitution}.

We are called to feed and take care of the poor and hungry and needy, but this higher law stipulates that we need to also feed them spiritually by feeding them the Bread of Life {Jesus}.

God's two greatest commandments is to love Him and then to love others.

We also read that all commandments hang upon these two.

After all, the first four commandments of the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20 deals with how to love God and the next six on how to love mankind.

The 613 Laws of Moses then elaborates how to execute the 10 commandments so that we uphold the two greatest commandments.

The Law of Jesus encapsulates spiritually all that has been said by God from the beginning of time.

Of course, following the ceremonial rituals to the letter of the Old Testament no longer applies to the born again believer, because Jesus – who is the better way – became the great and final high priest who has once and for all died for our sins so that we have redemption by the Blood.

All of the old feasts have also been spiritual fulfilled by the higher law, such as Passover being fulfilled by the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

The Feast of Weeks that follows 50 days after Passover has been fulfilled by Pentecost, when the Spirit of the Lord was poured out.

So Jesus came to show us the better and higher way. He came to show us the higher spiritual law that envelops and encapsulates the old laws.

And as disciples we need to obey the spiritual LAW as fulfilled in Jesus.

In response to the young man who asked Him what to do to inherit eternal life, Jesus said, "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). The verses following clearly identify the commandments He referred to as those God gave in what we call the Old Testament. He cited several of the Ten Commandments as well as the fundamental commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" to make the point.

*Matthew 19: 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" 17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good?] No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 19 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " 20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions*

On another occasion, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Clearly, Jesus believed in, taught and kept all the commandments of God during His earthly ministry.

He also commanded His disciples to be "teaching them [new converts] to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20).

So when a disciple walks in God's commands, and he worships in spirit and truth, he thus walks in God's higher spiritual laws and ways.

But this does require obedience unto God's laws as upheld by Jesus, such as considering the higher ways of spiritual adultery and idolatry.

If the two greatest commandments are to love God and to love others, then a disciple needs to walk in such commandments. We need to love God above all, and we need to love others without being jealous, envious, bitter, cruel or unkind.

To love others means to walk in the Spirit of the Lord, manifesting the fruits of the Spirit to the glory of God.

If we truly uphold God's commandments, there will no idolatry in our life, no sin, no immorality, no wickedness and no evil.

If we love and obey the Lord, we will stop justifying our immoral ways and repent, for this is what it means to serve the Lord.

If we truly uphold God's commandments, we will begin to love others – caring for them spiritually and physically. We will not lust or cheat them or trick them or deceive them.

We will tame our tongue (James 3) and we will tame our heart.

To obey is the way of the disciple. We also cannot choose what to obey and what to ignore.

We obey God's Word as upheld by Jesus.

Therefore, we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to show us the true way of obedience.

If we obey, we will walk as disciples of God as stipulated in Ephesians 4 and 5 and also Colossians 3.



If we follow God's ways, we walk not walk in strife, anger, discord, disunity, but in faith, love and hope.

To love the Lord, means to obey, and this means to walk in His commandments.

We read often how the Lord *commanded*, for to command implies authority.

We read for example in *Matthew 11:1-3: 11 Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.*

If we ask anybody today what are the commandments of God, we will probably mention the two greatest commandments, but what about the others?

Are we mindful of God's higher laws that uphold and fulfils the old laws that deal with morality and our behaviour towards God and each other?

Are we aware that we are called to walk in God's Truth, seeking a holy and blameless life where we walk in His Shalom to His glory and for His glory?

This is what it means to walk as a disciple.

We need to become mindful again of what God said in the Old Testament, how it operates and functions within the spiritual laws of Jesus and we need to know how to apply such commandments so that we stay true faithfully unto the Laws.

This requires the guidance, wisdom, counsel and knowledge of the Holy Spirit, as mentioned by Jesus in John 16 when He promised to send a helper.

Why do we need a helper?

So that by the Holy Spirit – who is the Spirit of wisdom, might, knowledge, counsel and wisdom, (Isaiah 11:2) – we may be led to walk in Truth, know Truth and apply Truth within the context of God's commandments.

Do we really understand that the higher law of murder is spiritual murder, meaning turning to people to a religion instead of God, as what Jesus accused the Pharisees and Sadducees of in Matthew 23?

He accused them of shutting up the heavens and leading people astray.

That is spiritual murder.

What about theft?

We know what it means to steal, but have we considered that even in church doctrines we actually encourage the idea of robbery, such as the teaching of tithing.

After all, this is nothing more than stealing from the people because we manipulate for own gain.

The New Testament Covenant is about freely giving as the Spirit leads, but not the legalistic and erroneous modern-day doctrine of tithing, which remains an Old Testament law that is directly tied to the Promised Land of Canaan.

Consider also how we steal from someone when it comes to time, and how we can steal someone's attention and energy and even joy.

Satan does this well, but mankind also excels in such art.

There is therefore a higher law we need to be mindful of, but because we lack the understanding and wisdom, we would rather ignore it and seek an easier path.

A disciple of the Lord is required to walk in wisdom, and by such wisdom comes understanding and knowledge of how to obey Jesus (note not man) so that He may be glorified and exalted.

An example of how Jesus fulfilled the higher laws, we read John 5:18 where Jesus was accused of breaking a command: *Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.* "

Did Jesus break the Sabbath commandment in the law of God (Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15)?

Clearly not, for Jesus said in *John 15:10: 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

Why did Jesus say that He obeys the commandments when it appeared, He transgressed the Sabbath Law?

Remember, Jesus was dealing with the Higher Law.

We read in Luke 6 : *Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands. 2 And some of the Pharisees said to them, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" 3 But Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read this, what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he went into the house of God, took and ate the showbread, and also gave some to those with him, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat?" 5 And He said to them, "The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."*

Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath.

So one uphold the Law of the Sabbath by following Jesus in Spirit and Truth for He is the Lord of the Sabbath!

Did Jesus destroy the law?

Fortunately, not even though many think He did just that.

Even though they don't say it in those exact words, the result is still the same.

Some say Jesus transformed the law, meaning that, by accepting Christ as Saviour, a Christian is somehow credited with the righteousness of Christ.

They assume this means we don't need to keep the law, because Jesus allegedly kept it for us, and the law really doesn't apply to us after all.

This, however, is not true.

We are called to follow God's higher 'spiritual' laws.

Jesus was, however, opposed by those who were holding onto the traditions of man. It says in Matthew 15:9: *" 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*

Jesus quoted this statement from Isaiah 29:13 and applied it to the "tradition of the elders" (Matthew 15:2) as taught and practiced by the hypocritical, self-righteous scribes and Pharisees who sat in judgment of Him.

These "commandments of man" were also known to the Jews as the "oral Torah" or the oral law. It was this distorted interpretation of the law that Jesus sought to correct in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus therefore was never attacking the Old Testament - how can He for the Laws came from His Father - but the understanding many of his hearers adopted.

We must therefore be careful when we add our own commandments, or when we subtract from God's commandments as we will without the guidance and wisdom of the Spirit.

Once we do so, we step over into tradition, which is nothing more than a manmade set of rules and regulations that have become habit passed down from one generation to the next.

Jesus thus taught on the proper application of the commandment upon which the particular tradition was based.

He thus fulfilled the Law in its entirety by restoring it to its complete original meaning and intent.

Our righteousness must therefore exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 5:20) in that we must keep the law of God in its proper intent.

This therefore means following the higher Law of Jesus that spiritually encapsulates all laws.

When the Jews charged Jesus with breaking the Sabbath (John 5:18), they were accusing Him of violating their misguided human traditions regarding the Sabbath.

The Gospel accounts contain many such confrontations during which Jesus' conduct on the Sabbath was condemned by the legalistic scribes and Pharisees (Mark 2:23-28; Mark 3:1-6).

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus offers to live in us.

But He does not live our lives for us.

We must all repent and yield ourselves as servants of righteousness, with the realization that God is working in us "both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Love is the basis of God's law, and one cannot claim to love God apart from obedience to His commandments (1 John 5:2-3, 1 John 2:4).

By replacing the laws and commandments of God with human traditions – meaning our interpretations of God's Laws – then we walk in deceit and are in danger of being swallowed by such deception like the Scribes in the days of Jesus.

Now, in conclusion, let us be reminded of 1 John 2: *3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. 7 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. 8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.*

There is a great truth in this writing by John, which places emphasis on the great importance of obedience to God's commandments.

Take note when he write: *The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.*

Who is the Word?

*John 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.*

You see, God has always been the author of all the commandments, and the old commandments are now fulfilled in the new, yet have not been passed away.

This is why John also says he is not writing a new commandments but an old commandment.

Why?

Because the author remains God; it is just that the higher spiritual law fulfilled in Jesus – pertaining to the Gentiles as well - supplants the laws that were specifically focussed upon the Jewish people.

If we truly want to follow God in Love, we must obey in Love.

**We cannot teach His commandments if our human traditions override the Truth of God.**

**We can thus only be true and real disciples of God when we allow His commandments in accordance to the Spirit to work in our lives.**

**Then only can we follow and teach as Jesus commanded.**



# MODULE 2

## CHAPTER 3

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### M2C3

## A disciple walk in obedience

### Part 2

*Layout by E Cloete*

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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FJ VAN DEN HEEVER  
R ENGELBRECHT



[Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com](mailto:Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com)

Last week, we looked at the importance of obedience, especially obedience to God's Word and God's commandments.

This week, we continue to look at the importance of following God's will for your life and His will in general.

Obedience is the key to walking in a pure relationship with the Lord.

Yet these days obedience is often compromised, for we live in days where everyone does as they see fit.

It reminds of the Scripture out of *Judges 21*:

*25In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes (AMPLIFIED).*

They were therefore not following the will of the Lord, for we need to understand the will of the Lord is NOT the ways of the world, for the will of the Lord is one of goodness, love, kindness, purity and holiness while the ways of the world is one of jealousy, rage, hatred, strife and violence.

In the days of the judges, following the reign of Joshua, we find the Israelites had fallen into wickedness.

*We read of this account in Judges 2: 7 And yet they did not listen to their judges, for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed down to them. They turned quickly out of the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not so. 18When the Lord raised them up judges, then He was with the judge and delivered them out of the hands of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to relent because of their groanings by reason of those who oppressed and vexed them. 19But when the judge was dead, they turned back and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, following and serving other gods, and bowing down to them. They did not cease from their practices or their stubborn way.*

On several occasions does one find in the Book of Judges the phrase that everyone did as they saw fit.

People were idolatrous, rebellious and they had a wonderful time partaking in their flavour of pleasure and deceit.

The Israel nation were therefore no longer following in the footsteps of God, as diligently presented and upheld by Moses and Joshua.

We are therefore presented in the days of judges with a nation that had fallen victim to moral relativism, which means that everyone's truth was based on their own outlook, perception, understanding and standards.

The moral code of the day was therefore not determined by God's righteous law but each and every one's own form of truth.

Moral relativism is when one ascribes a truth which is only relevant to oneself and of one's immediate surroundings. It is therefore man following his own will, and not the will of the Lord.

It is a frightening situation when mankind no longer seeks to be governed by absolute truths, but rather seek to be governed by their own moral compass and by their own sense of right and wrong.

Quite simply, this is idolatry and rebellion against the divine and natural laws of God that will always supersede the laws of mankind.

For when we turn our back on God and seek to do as everyone sees fit as in the days of judges, then we find a pending chaotic system of functionality where nothing makes sense.

Why would anything after all make sense when rebellion and idolatry is the fodder of the devil?

It says in *Romans 1: 18* *For God's [holy] wrath and indignation are revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who in their wickedness repress and hinder the truth and make it inoperative. 19* *For that which is known about God is evident to them and made plain in their inner consciousness, because God [Himself] has shown it to them. 20* *For ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible and clearly discernible in and through the things that have been made (His handiworks). So [men] are without excuse [altogether without any defense or justification], 21* *Because when they knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile and godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened.*

Indeed, in the days of Judges the people no longer honoured and glorified Him as God or give Him thanks, instead they became futile and godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened.

We see the measure of such a fall in *Judges 17: So after he returned the silver to his mother, she took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to a silversmith, who used them to make the idol. And it was put in Micah's house. 5* *Now this man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some household gods and installed one of his sons as his priest. 6* *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. 7* *A young Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, who had been living within the clan of Judah, 8* *left that town in search of some other place to stay. On his way he came to Micah's house in the hill country of Ephraim. 9* *Micah asked him, "Where are you from?" "I'm a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah," he said, "and I'm looking for a place to stay."*

Judges 17 relates the story of Micah who found no problem in serving the Lord while having idols in his house. He also installed a personal priest, even though the Law of Moses dictated that priests must come from the Levite tribe and must be stationed at the tabernacle.

We also read of another priest who had left his town, supposedly because the priest wasn't being taken care of by the other tribes as commanded by God. Micah would eventually offer the Levite, who had arrived seeking help, lodgings if he stayed and became his personal priest.

Everything we read in Judges 17 speaks of a situation where everyone was doing fit as they saw – the Levites were rebellious, the people were idolatrous and the people in general were making up their own rules and regulations as they pleased.

There was no more absolute truth, meaning no absolute truth was governing the people only a philosophical sense of moral relativism.

Indeed, people were doing as they see fit in the days of judges because the people had no king.

*The Book of Judges ends with 25: In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. (NIV) The story of Samuel follows the age of judges, with Samuel being the priest and the prophet who anoints a king in the form of Saul and later David. A king was needed to guide the people, but it was God's intention for the people not to have an earthly king but to serve the King of Heaven. Yet they remained rebellious, choosing an earthly king, not heeding the warnings of taxes and wars and being submitted to a centralized government.*

The message from judges is clear – if one follows no king, you follow your own way and so end up in trouble.

And this applies to us today more than ever – but we need to follow the King of kings. We need to follow the most High Lord and we need to do as He commands and dictates because of our love and respect for Him.

A disciple follows and obeys a King - Jesus. And the Lord's word is true. His guidance is pure. A disciple does not do as he sees fit. He obeys. He listens. And he follows the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

God's will – His very intent for your life, His purpose and design and mandate – must be followed and obeyed above all else.

For then we shall walk in blessing, and in favour with the Lord.

*This reminds me of Proverbs 3: My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct[a] your paths.*

If we truly seek the Lord's Presence and His glory in our lives, then obey and trust Him, and acknowledge His will.

For this is the duty of a disciple.

*In 1 Corinthians 6 Paul writes the following: 11 But you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), and you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), and you were justified [pronounced righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God. 12 Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me; but not all things are helpful (good for me to do, expedient and profitable when considered with other things). Everything is lawful for me, but I will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power.*

Paul thus alluded to the fact that everything is permissible but not all things are helpful and that everything is lawful, but that he will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power.

Paul was speaking from a point of view of someone who was serving the Lord under the Covenant of Blood, and not the Law, but he still made the point that there must be a prevailing sense of right and wrong which one adheres to and follows.

And that conscious movement adopted by Paul to obey in the pursuit of a holy and pure life sprung froth out of his service to God and not man.

Paul was thus under the Covenant of God and so came under the submission of God's ways, and by this submission followed God's absolute truths instead of doing as he sees fit.

Just as it was alluded in the days of judges of the importance of following a king, so Paul also made this point clear.

From the judges to Paul, we find a shift from the Law to Grace but no matter the shift, man needs to be governed by a king, and in this case as with us today, it is the heavenly King whom we should be obeying and following all the days of our life.

Without a king who sits on the throne of our heart and who captures our soul in the embrace of love, we are doomed by a destructive approach towards moral relativism.

Question is, are you led daily by the King of kings or are you determining your own path?

A disciple of the Lord seeks no other path or way except the way of the Lord. For the Lord Jesus is the Way, Truth and Life. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out to lead us in all Truth and to be our Counsellor, Advisor and Helper. The Spirit has come to lead us in the will of the Lord, in the path of the Lord and the way of the Lord.

**Why?**

Because when we follow the will, way and path of God by walking in His Spirit and Truth we shall walk in His goodness, strength, holiness and purity.

The will of the Lord also seeks to lead us to those green pastures and quiet rivers of Psalm 23.



It says in *Proverbs 19 verse 21: Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. And also Isaiah 55 verse 9: As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

You see, we need to follow the will of the Lord, and we need to follow His path and we need to follow His ways for ultimately His purpose shall prevail.

And indeed, His ways and thoughts are higher than ours!

We need to therefore trust and have faith in God's direction, purpose and desire for our lives.

As disciples we need to walk in that faith and trust, and be obedient to His will, to His purpose and to His ways.

A prevailing atmosphere of everyone doing as they see fit (therefore following one's own will) leads to a situation as described in *2 Timothy 3: 1BUT UNDERSTAND this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]. 2For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. 3[They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. 4[They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God. 5For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].*

Indeed, we need to follow a King lest we stumble in our ways of doing as we see fit, for such ways are foolish, unwise and rebellious.

Only when follow the true King shall we be guided and strengthened in true wisdom, as His hand rests upon us and His love leads us down to green pastures and quiet waters.

At the end of the day, a disciple of the Lord does not do as he or she sees fit. They follow God's wisdom, His plan and His way.

Yes, we do not do as we see fit.

We do not do as we please.

It is not about our will but the will of the Lord. It is not about our plans, but the plan of the Lord.

It is not about our wisdom, but the wisdom of God that we must seek and follow.

Let us remember *Mathew 6: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And also ... 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Matthew 6 is a prayer that we have heard and said many times, but it remains shocking how we have become casual and nonchalant when repeating these words, not grasping the true meaning of this prayer.

If we can truly abide in the perfect will of God, then we shall abide in the perfect life of Jesus. In other words, there is perfect life in the will of the Lord.

And so we must always remember that a disciple obeys the will of God above all else.

This was after all the teaching of Jesus in John 15, where He urges His believers to abide in Him so that He may abide in them. And this only happens when we truly abide in His will.

But then again, we need to know God (John 10:10) so that we may know His voice and thus know His will.

We need to be filled by the Spirit for the Spirit of God knows the mind of the Father (1 Corinthians 2:11-12), thus the will of the Lord.

Let us pause for a moment – because these days it seems that the Lord is asking us more and more to pause, reflect, consider and ponder deeply upon our walk with Him – what is Jesus really asking us to pray?

He is not just giving us a simple form of a prayer to recite blindly and without any passion or love - He is asking us to pray the ultimate prayer of deceleration regarding our faith, our hope, our obedience, our willingness, our faithfulness, and our desire to serve Him.

Jesus is asking us to live a life where our relationship with Him and our relationship with each other reflect the state which exists right now in heaven.

Are we grasping this?

We are praying for His will to be done on earth as it is heaven, meaning that in heaven there is love, there is truth, there is holiness, there is honesty, there is fairness and there is unity among all.

How the Lord is longing for His people to grasp the essential truth that He wants His will, settled in heaven, to be reflected in us and governing us.

And there is no greater testimony of our desire to follow Him as His children than by the prayer of asking the Lord that His will be done and not ours.

And that “will” in the Greek language speak of desire, purpose and intent.

Therefore, Jesus instructs us to pray that the will of the heavenly Father - that same Sovereign Lord of Isaiah 61 – be done, and we are to seek, pursue and desire that

God's purpose, desire, intent and desire for us all in this world be done, and not our own.

But can we truly look in the mirror and can we truly look deep into our hearts and honestly say that we are seeking the will of the Lord?

Are we truly living a life according to His will that reflects the glory of heaven and therefore His complete love?

If we truly seek to walk in God's love, His life and light, then we need to seek His will, but not only seek it, submit to it and yield to it.

It is one thing to pray for His will, but it another to actually yield and submit.

If we pray for God's will to be done, we are asking God's plan and purpose to take center stage at the expense of our own plans.

It is easy to say Lord let Your will be done, but are we actually submitting to His will and are we really yielding to it?

Many are our plans but only the plan of the Lord prevails.

So often we can pray for His will but in our hearts we still seek our own way and we seek for own plan to come into fruition.

And when seek to follow our own way and the road leads down a rocky path, how often do we need blame God?

It is indeed a very powerful prayer when we truly submit and yield to God's will, for this is when we completely and utterly give our lives in to His hands.

This requires ultimate trust, faith and sacrifice.

If we truly seek God's life and to walk in divine live, then this is a step we need to take – to yield completely and utterly without question or argument.

It is all about the will of God.

From the beginning to the end it has always been the will of the Lord.

For this reason, again, Revelations 1 reads: 8 *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

The will of the Lord – His intent, purpose and desire – existed at the beginning and will exist at the end, always pure, always true, always perfect, always real and never wavering.

From the beginning until now and until forever it has always and will always and shall always be about God and about His will for our lives – we who are the masterpiece of His creation.

And His will is so designed and so exists to prosper us, to protect us, to make us joyous and blessed.

And to prosper speaks primarily of being more like God in spirit, soul and body.

And now we may ponder what the will of the Lord is.

The long and the short of it is that for every individual the Lord has desired a certain path be walked – and that this journey becomes a journey of spiritual discovery and revelation as we seek Him, pursue Him and desire Him.

The long and the short of it in broad strokes is that the Lord has called us all to be set apart unto Him – set apart in His love, truth, holiness, purity, life and light.

We have been called to love Him and to love each other as He loves us.

Above all, the will of the Lord is for us to walk in the realization that we are born to be His sons and daughters, here on earth and for all eternity.

It is only when we allow ourselves to follow His will – therefore seek His ways and purposes and delights above our own – that we truly learn to be children of the Most High.

It is only when we come to the realization that it is all about God and that when we seek Him above all, as Jesus urged as to do in Matthew 6 that His perfect and complete and beautiful will for our lives will be consecrated to His glory and to our eternal profit.

So, let us then pause and consider that when we pray that His will be done, that we indeed allow God to guide and lead us as His children of light in a world of darkness to the honour and glory of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us truly seek for His will to be done in our lives to reflect His will and way, as it is in heaven.

God is indeed the Alpha and the Omega – and to walk in the will of the Lord requires us to walk in fear and in the love of God.

That is after all the will of God – to love Him and to love each other as we should.

And as we have seen, we cannot do so unless we have learned to walk in the fear of God, to cultivate a holy consciousness and be aware of His holiness and His will.

In the post-modern world mankind loves to be in control of his own destiny and fate, laboring daily to build his own empire or kingdom.

But sadly, as man keeps to his own will, he will gather treasures that rust.

We can only find our true purpose, peace, security, hope and future in the will of the Lord.

And so Jesus called us to seek first the Kingdom of God and then all things will be added.

No matter how intelligent, wise or clever we think we are we will cause greater wear and tear to our spirit, soul and body when we keep walking in our will and not the will of the Lord.

Indeed, when we walk in the will of the Lord we walk in His footsteps and we therefore, walk along a path made straight and the rough ways smooth.

The Lord will go before those who follow His will and seek His glory.

He knows what is best for us.

He must be in control to keep us straight on our course through life.

We, however, have to submit and come under His complete sovereignty and authority

*At times we forget Matthew 22 which says “Teacher, which kind of commandment is great and important (the principal kind) in the Law? [Some commandments are light—which are heavy?] 37 And He replied to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). 38 This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment.”*

Obedience should always be our focus when it comes to our spiritual walk, and we must become careful that our pride does not prevent us from following the word of God.

We must also be careful that we do not become man-fearing instead of God-fearing, for then we tend to follow in obedience man instead of following God above all else.

The Lord must thus always remain the centre and all of our lives and He should be the one who dictates our path.

It is easy at times to get our priorities wrong, to even place ministry above a relationship with God, or we would cling to this world, even our families, above God as He dictates.



*A disciple need to remember it is ALL about God, and His Kingdom, and His Truth, and His Way, and it is about bringing the lost unto Him. It is certainly not all about our kingdoms and stature and importance.*

*We need to obey Him, obey His will, and we need to walk as the Spirit leads and guides.*

The Lord deserves all our attention and devotion, otherwise the greatest commandment flies out of the window.

He deserves our utmost obedience, no matter what He asks or commands, for we are His disciples.

*In conclusion, let us be reminded of the following Scripture: John 14:15 "If you love me, keep my commands ... In other words, if we love the Lord, we shall obey; we shall submit, yield to His wisdom and be led in Spirit and Truth.*

This is the duty of the disciple – to seek the Lord’s will, to seek His Kingdom and to follow in the ways, teachings and commands of our Lord Jesus.

# MODULE 2

## CHAPTER 4

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### M2C4

# Walking with a Kingdom Mindset

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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FJ VAN DEN HEEVER  
R ENGELBRECHT



*Layout by E Cloete*



[Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com](mailto:Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com)

So far, we have looked at how a disciple must walk in obedience to God's will and commandments, and how a disciple walks in obedience.

Just as important is that a disciple needs to adopt a Kingdom mind-set.

The Lord's Prayer emphasizes the need to focus first on God and His Kingdom, above our own, for indeed in the last days man will become lovers of the self, according to 2 Timothy 3.

Such self-love sparks selfish desires, wants and needs.

This is, however, not the way of a disciple of the Lord.

We are called to focus first and foremost upon the Lord.

We redeemed by the Blood of Jesus and we are citizens of heaven.

Therefore heaven – the Kingdom of God – is our first priority.

Philippians 3:20-22: Amplified Bible (AMP): 20 But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior, 21 Who will transform and fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform to and be like the body of His glory and majesty, by exerting that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself.

We therefore need to realize that as citizens of heaven, there is a greater government that governs us, and a greater ruler who takes care of His children.

The problem is, we still operate and function according to this world, and we allow this world to yoke us and keep us in bondage.

We all know the following well known verse: *Matthew 6: 33 But seek first His kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*Also consider Luke 12: 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things[c] shall be added to you. 32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”*

God has called it first and foremost to focus on the Kingdom, for the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:7).

This was emphasizing in the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 6.

When it comes to marvelous and spectacular developments and constructions, mankind has outdone itself.

From the ancient wonders to the modern marvels, from breath-taking engineering feats to glorious high rising developments, mankind loves to pat itself on the back.

From the beginning of time to our modern-day settings, man has been constantly building, from practical huts to towering ‘castles’ of steel and glass.

Cities, churches and homes have been transformed over time as man’s knowledge has advanced and as greater resources are made available.

Such is the way of mankind – laboring and working to become better, more wondrous and more astonishing.

But this quest has often blinded mankind to the greatest construction project that we should be attending to, which is the Kingdom of God, build on the foundation of Jesus within ourselves and established through the Gospel throughout the world.

*1 Peter 2: 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

*6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame"*

We are called to focus on the Kingdom as His disciples, and to work on establishing His Kingdom in the hearts of all mankind.

For the Kingdom of God is everlasting, enduring, alive, magnificent beyond any imagination, spectacular beyond compare and it resides within the heavenlies and within the spirit and soul of the followers of the Living Lord.

And this Kingdom is not a figment of one's imagination – it is spiritual yet real – more real and tangible than this life and this world.

It is world to which we all are called (John 3:16-18) and it is a Kingdom prepared for us for it says in Matthew 25 (verse 32): Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

Glory to God!

What greater evidence of God's magnificent Kingdom, spiritual and real, when we read Revelations 21: 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Indeed, the Lord has called all man to seek above all else the Kingdom of God.

In the Old Testament this meant to honour the Temple in which the Lord resided, and to honour Him by following the Law of Moses.

Under the Covenant of Grace we are called to seek the Kingdom by following Jesus and walking in the Spirit and Truth and seeking to fulfil the Great Commission of Matthew 28.

To focus on the Kingdom is to seek the heart, will, mind, intention, purpose, plan and design of the King of such a Kingdom.

Is this truly the state of the church or are we still focused on our own desires, plans and agendas?

Kingdom-minded means being mindful of the King of such a dominion above all else.

1 John 2: 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Let us also read Colossians 3: 1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

We need to seek the Kingdom; we need to tell the world about the Kingdom and above all make it our priority to establish the Kingdom firmly first in ourselves and then the lost.

*It says in Matthew 6: 33 But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things (taken together) will be given you besides.*

We need to set our minds of God and then the anointing will flow to provide for all our needs.

*Ephesians 3: 20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams] - 21 To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it).*

*In 1 Corinthians 3 we are reminded of the following: 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.*

Truly, for those who seek the Kingdom of God, by seeking God, then surely our work will stand the test of time and our reward will be granted in heaven, just as God will take care of us on earth.

We can so easily be blinded by our own wants and needs, wanting to build our own kingdoms that we forget God's Kingdom always takes priority.

But this is not the way of the disciple.

A disciple of the Lord seeks the Kingdom above all else.

A disciple will have no other king except Jesus.

If we seek His Kingdom, then what we built here on earth shall survive.

Let us read from Haggai 1 (verses 3-11): Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while his house remains a ruin?"

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: *“Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvest little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”*

This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways.

Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured,” says the Lord.

“You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little.

What you brought home; I blew away.

Why?” declares the Lord Almighty,

“Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.

Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops.

I called for a drought on the field and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labour of your hands.”

In context to the chapter in Haggai, what then are we supposed to be building?

The house of the Lord!

The fullness of Christ means fullness in blessings, provision, healing, anointing, the Holy Spirit, Lord’s presence, Lord’s glory, and Lord’s treasures.



We, however, can't experience the fullness of such awesome wonders if we keep building our own houses (when placing ourselves above Lord), therefore leaving God's House (His Kingdom) in ruins (by our lack of attention, focus and commitment).

We can only discover such wonders when we build Lord's house of glory.

This means that we have to become Lord's house of glory in Spirit and Truth, which will empower and enable us to honour and exalt Lord through all that we do, say and think!

As long as we fail to submit completely to Lord, meaning that we desire to satisfy our own needs then we are building our own houses.

We, however, build the house of Lord when we live according the principles of His Word and Spirit.

We must make sure that Lord's house does not lie in ruins within us.

Without the fullness of Christ we can never experience the full harvest of our work, neither shall we experience the full blessing of abundance when it comes to God's provision and protection (food, clothes, money).

We must stop following our ways (building our own houses), but start building God's house of glory.

When we become God's house of glory, the Lord shall be pleased.

The Lord does mighty wonders through those He favours.

We must therefore as a holy priesthood built to Lord's honour.

We are called to be spiritual sacrifices, since Romans 12:1 says that we must offer our bodies as offerings, holy and pleasing to Lord.

This is then our spiritual act of worship.

When we commit our lives fully to the Lord, then we will bear fruit and experience Lord's abundant blessing.

Remain in me, and I will remain in you.

No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.

Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. (John 15:4).

We need Jesus in our lives so that we can be changed and guided.

The Lord, however, needs a pure spiritual dwelling, which must become the house (temple) build in our spirit, soul and body.

Just as important is that we must not forget the foundation of the temple that was laid.

What is the foundation?

Jesus Christ of course!

We must therefore remember Jesus' sacrifice, as well as the day that we as living offerings committed our lives to Christ.

We are reminded that Jesus will always be the rock that we need to build on.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone (Psalm 118:22); ... build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

**(Ephesians 2:20-22) Christ must and should always remain the most important stone and foundation of our lives.**

**We need to make sure we as the living temples of the Lord are constructed on the foundation of Jesus lest we collapse in the wake of the devils' onslaughts.**

**The stones of fear, faith and love strengthen such a foundation.**

**A disciple's entire spiritual walk is grounded on the Rock of Jesus.**

**In 2 Timothy 2:20-21 we read: In a large house there are articles not of only gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.**

**If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.**

**We are the clay and God is the Potter.**

**However, as we grow spiritually, we must get rid of our clay and wood-like qualities, becoming pure and holy (gold and silver), so that we can become noble for God.**

**Clay speaks of a time when we are still being formed and moulded, meaning we are seeking to find our place in the Potter's hands.**

**When we build our own house, we remain like clay, not noble, but when we build God's house, we become like gold and silver.**

**When you refine clay and wood with fire, it gets burned and becomes of little use.**

**Gold and silver become purer when refined by fire.**

**God's fire refines us, for He desires that we must be refined so that we can become like pure gold and silver.**

Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purpose and some for common good? (Romans 9:21)

We must build Lord's spiritual house with gold, which means that we as His holy living sacrifices can't live in a lukewarm spiritual state.

For then we shall retain our clay and wood-like qualities.

We need to grow in the fullness of Christ so that we can become like gold and silver spiritually, worthy to build the King's house. Satan thrives on destroying, yet for those who walk in the fear and faith and love of the Lord shall overcome.

If we want to enjoy the fullness of the Lord, we must avoid walking in hate [unforgiveness], in unholy fear and without hope.

We need to build our lives upon the foundation Jesus, who is the way, truth and life.

The Truth is we need to fear Him, love Him and have faith in Him, for this this is the Way to the Father which provides us with life.

The Word says that is we love the Lord, and then we will obey Him because His commandments are not burdensome.

If we love, we must act as living testimonies of the Gospel.

To walk in faith, love and holy fear is vital, for they are all intertwined, interwoven, and each one is dependent upon the other.

We need to build with these stones if we wish to build a solid life on Christ.

We can't enjoy the fullness of the Lord and all His blessings if we only pay attention to one or two of these blocks.

Shall we therefore not in this day set our sights on the marvels of the greatest Kingdom that has ever existed – on the Kingdom of God that will endure all time and all eternity?

For those who believe are citizens of this Kingdom (Ephesians 2:19), now and everlasting.

Let us make every effort to seek His Kingdom above all other gold and silver, and to labor to His Glory so that we may be full of joy and hope.

*Jesus says in Matthew 11: 28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. 30 For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne.*

If we therefore function according to the Kingdom, then there is liberty of the Spirit, yet, if we allow ourselves to be governed by this world, then there is slavery.

It is that simple.

Let us seek His Kingdom as His disciples, not yoked to the world but finding our strength and hope in a Covenant where grace abounds the more sin abounds.

*Consider the following: Matthew 17: The Temple Tax: 24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?” 25 “Yes, he does,” he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. “What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes— from their own children or from others?” 26 “From others,” Peter answered. “Then the children are exempt,” Jesus said to him.*

*27 “But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a fourdrachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”*

Jesus firstly makes a point that He does not see Himself as a citizen of earth but of heaven.

And because He does not depend on the provision of the world – which is earthly – He orders Peter to go and catch a fish.

You see, when we have a mind-set that is of God, our provision comes from heaven, not earth.

And God is a God is the supernatural and the practical.

He will provide for our means, be it spiritually or practically.

Peter was ordered to do a practical exercise [fishing], but the result was supernatural.

God will always move supernaturally but also spiritually to provide for the children of heaven!

We must just believe and have our mind set upon the Kingdom.

It is also interesting that Peter was given a task of fishing to find the coin.

Understand, Peter was a fisherman, so he could do this task.

The Lord did not say to him to go into the woods and chop down a tree.

The Lord has given us the practical and spiritual abilities and skills and talents to complete our task on earth.

As long as we remain true to these skills, to our calling, to our mandate, then the Lord will provide the provision.

The provision of heaven therefore functions when we move in the will of God, for when we move in His will, we will move according to our purpose, mandate and our talents.

*Now, let us read the following: John 21: Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish: 21 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. 6 He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.”*

In John 21 we find the disciples struggled with still being earthy minded.

They were toiling all day to catch fish.

Their provision was locked up in earth, and so they had to toil to get their provision for they were operating by the natural laws.

These were the same disciples who had walked a journey with Jesus, but their minds have not been totally renewed.

Once can say they were still focused too much on their own needs and not the Kingdom of God which is one of supernatural power and provision.

Jesus, however, showed them a better way.

He showed them how to rather trust and rely in the Kingdom of Heaven for their provision.

They needed faith, and trust in the mighty Lord.

Just so, as soon as our mind-set changes from earthly to divine, our provision changes for we are not bound to the earth but we are bound to the Kingdom!

The beauty of the Kingdom of Heaven is that there is a spiritual realm where provision never runs dry, where the living waters never run dry, where the value of the Blood of Jesus does not fluctuate, where the storehouse are always full and the blessings never cease.

*Jesus teaches the following important lesson: John 4: 7 Presently, when a woman of Samaria came along to draw water, Jesus said to her, Give Me a drink - 8 For His disciples had gone off into the town to buy food - 9 The Samaritan woman said to Him, How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan [and a] woman, for a drink?—For the Jews have nothing to do with the Samaritans – 10 Jesus answered her, If you had only known and had recognized God’s gift and Who this is that is saying to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him [instead] and He would have given you living water. 11 She said to Him, Sir, You have nothing to draw with [no drawing bucket] and the well is deep; how then can You provide living water? [Where do You get Your living water?] 12 Are You greater than and superior to our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and who used to drink from it himself, and his sons and his cattle also? 13 Jesus answered her, All who drink of this water will be thirsty again. 14 But whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give him shall never, no never, be thirsty any more. But the water that I will give him shall become a spring of water welling up (flowing, bubbling) [continually] within him unto (into, for) eternal life.*

Praise the Lord! Those who cling to and rely on the Kingdom for all needs, will walk in the abundance of God, and this abundance never runs dry, and the provision never runs dry, for God is the Lord of the impossible.



*Jesus made this same point in John 7: 37 Now on the final and most important day of the Feast, Jesus stood, and He cried in a loud voice, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink! 38 He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water. 39 But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed (trusted, had faith) in Him were afterward to receive. For the [Holy] Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (raised to honor).*

With God, there is always more than enough for us to prosper, firstly in spirit, then soul then body, but we need to set our minds first on His Kingdom and on His Glory.

Indeed, there is a constant flow of God's blessing, but we need to remain in the will of the Lord so that we may be used as channels of blessing.

There is a constant flow of His Power, anointing and strength to fulfil our mandate as disciples – yet our minds must be Kingdom-based.

This means laying down our crowns before the King of kings and Lord of lords so that His way, will and purpose may be exalted above our own.

This is the way of the disciple.

Let us become Kingdom-minded so that we live for the Kingdom, and those who live for the Kingdom shall be provided and protected by the Kingdom.

Let us also be reminded on Luke 12 when Jesus was speaking to His disciples: 32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

When our minds are on the Lord, we shall not fear, for the Kingdom has been given to the adopted sons and daughters who serve the Lord in relationship and in Spirit and Truth!

May we as disciples walk in His Glory with our hearts and minds focused on Him alone.

# MODULE 2

# CHAPTER 5

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## M2C5

**A disciple walks  
in the fullness  
of Isaiah**

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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FJ VAN DEN HEEVER  
R ENGELBRECHT



*Layout by E Cloete*



[Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com](mailto:Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com)

If we are a believer in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells in you and tailors His ministry to you personally. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we can walk according to the reality of Isaiah 61 and 67.

Isaiah 11 paints a clear picture. If we understand this Scripture, then we shall understand this is the point to where we need to journey towards so that we are completely and utterly led by the Spirit in order to be interwoven in the Lord.

*1AND THERE shall come forth a Shoot out of the stock of Jesse [David's father], and a Branch out of his roots shall grow and bear fruit. 2And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him--the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord-- 3And shall make Him of quick understanding, and His delight shall be in the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord. And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, neither decide by the hearing of His ears; 4But with righteousness and justice shall He judge the poor and decide with fairness for the meek, the poor, and the downtrodden of the earth; and He shall smite the earth and the oppressor with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5And righteousness shall be the girdle of His waist and faithfulness the girdle of His loins.*

Isaiah 11 speaks of the same Holy Spirit that came upon Jesus (Matthew 3).

But that same Spirit that came upon Jesus is the same Spirit [dunamis] that comes upon the disciples of Jesus when they submit their lives to the great inner working of the Spirit.

Thus, that same Spirit that led the disciples to be so fired up for the Lord in the New Testament works within us as well. So we discover of the Spirit the seven manifested work of the Spirit:

- a) He is the Spirit of the Lord
- b) Wisdom,
- c) Understanding,
- d) Counsel,

- e) Power,
- f) Knowledge,
- g) Fear of the Lord,

So according to Isaiah 11, the Holy Spirit was poured after the ascension of Jesus to therefore lead us in wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge and fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11 speaks therefore of a deep inner working of the Holy Spirit.

It speaks not of gifts, but it speaks of a natural spiritual state of the believer when they are completely submitted unto the Lord.

When we are truly submitted to the Holy Spirit, are led by the Holy Spirit and remain submitted to the Holy Spirit, we then become effective witnesses unto the Kingdom of God according to Isaiah 11.

The work of the Holy Spirit is truth-centered, and Christ-centered and Christ-glorifying – this is the walk of a disciple.

A disciple is called to walk in such a manner that it is Christ-centered and Christ-glorifying. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5), the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) and the perfected work of the Spirit according to Isaiah 11 leads us to become more like our Lord in character, nature and manner.

By the Spirit, we then walk in the fruit of the Spirit, which speaks of our character and moral fortitude, but we also walk in the very nature of God, empowered and equipped to do His will and fulfil the Great Commission.

When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jesus, He imparted to the Son of God wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, power, and the fear of the Lord.

Didn't Jesus after all delight in the fear of the Lord?

We need to come to a very deep realization what the Lord is saying here – we, His disciples, are supposed to walk like Jesus did, and we do so because the same Spirit that was on Jesus and that imparted wisdom, knowledge, counsel, understanding, power, fear of the Lord and the delight in the fear of the Lord is also upon us.

Jesus after all says in *John 14: 12 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.*

We have to comprehend that even though Jesus was the Son of God, He did all the signs and wonders and miracles, and He ministered and did the will of the Father because of the Spirit that was upon Him.

Isaiah 11 speaks about the Spirit empowering Jesus, hence the ability not to judge by the sight of His eyes but that he will decide by the hearing of His ears.

We also read that by the empowerment of the Spirit that Jesus with righteousness and justice shall judge the poor and decide with fairness for the meek, the poor, and the downtrodden of the earth.

We also read how righteousness shall be the girdle of His waist and faithfulness the girdle of His loins.

What we read here reminds us of *Ephesians 6: 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

We after all are called to wear the breastplate of righteousness and the belt of truth.

Isaiah also spoke about the Lord's ministry, and hence our ministry, in chapter 61 in the book of Isaiah: (Amplified Bible): *1 THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound,*

*2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favor] and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion--to give them an ornament (a garland or diadem) of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit--that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.*

That same Spirit, as prophesied over by Isaiah, came upon Jesus in the River of Jordan.

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord came upon Jesus so that the Son of Heaven could preach the Gospel to the poor and the lost; to the meek and the broken-hearted; to set the spiritual captives free; to free those who are bound; to comfort those who mourn; to bring joy where there is sadness.

Now, if we take the work of the Holy Spirit as spoken in chapter 11 and 61, we see how the Lord was empowered to do His work.

And Isaiah 61 and 11 connects how we are to minister fairness, to reach out to the needy, to stand for justice, to bring deliverance and to bring joy.

Indeed, God also calls us to walk in the fullness of the Spirit, in the power of the Spirit, in the might, comfort, knowledge, counsel and gifts of the Spirit so that we may be effective witnesses.

The Holy Spirit does not empower us to glorify ourselves but God alone, and for this reason our very character, nature, behaviour and actions must also glorify God.

This is therefore the entire work of the Spirit – changing us progressively to become more like the Lord, thus progressing from glory to glory to His glory.

Let us understand, Isaiah 11 and 61 came into fulfilment when Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan in water and in the Spirit.



We read in *Luke 4: 16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

Isaiah 61 speaks about the Lord who will come to restore the Truth, restore what is broken, and what needs to be mended.

He came to restore the physical and spiritual blind, the poor (for we are poor without God spiritually) and to set us free from the bondages of the world.

John 8:36 speaks about how if we are set free then we are free indeed.

Considering what we have read in Isaiah 11 and 61, about how it deals with meekness, and judging fairly, standing up with the downtrodden, the poor, the broken, and declaring the Truth in knowledge, power, counsel and might of the Lord, then let us now consider the Beatitudes of Matthew 5.

Remember, when Jesus was baptized by the Spirit of the Lord, the reality of Isaiah 11 and 61 came into fulfilment.

And so in the fullness of the Spirit, Jesus declares on the Mount the following: *2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Can we see how Matthew 5 connects with Isaiah 11 and 61?**

**Jesus speaks about humility, meekness, the poor in spirit, being merciful and the peacemakers.**

**Jesus spoke the beatitudes directly after being filled by the Spirit, for once He was baptised, the reality and the fulfilment of the work of the Holy Spirit according to Isaiah 11 and 61 came into fulfilment.**

**Now Jesus would go forth and preach the Good News to the spiritual poor, bind up the broken hearted and set the captives free!**

**He would not only heal the spiritual sick, but even the physical ill, and He would bring a message of hope, of life, of joy and liberty in the Spirit by the Blood of the Lamb.**

**Indeed, Jesus will go forth and not judge by the sight of His eyes, neither decide by the hearing of His ears but with righteousness and justice shall He judge the poor and decide with fairness for the meek, the poor, and the downtrodden of the earth.**

**Is this for example not exactly what happened when the crowd threatened to stone the prostitute to death?**

**We need to therefore understand that as disciples of God we walk by the same Spirit when we are baptised, and therefore Isaiah 11 and 61 should be a reality in our lives.**

**We, like our Lord, should uphold, understand and walk according to the Beatitudes for it encapsulates and fulfils the prophecies of Isaiah, and such speaks of the work of the Spirit within the believer.**

**And just so, we as disciples must seek to walk by the Spirit of the Lord in power, knowledge, counsel, and understanding and in the fear of the Lord in order to bind up the broken-hearted, set the captives free, and proclaim the Good News to the poor.**



And we like our Lord must also not judge by the sight of our eyes (for we walk by faith and not by sight) and neither should we decide by the hearing of our ears but with righteousness and justice shall we help the poor and decide with fairness for the meek, the poor, and the downtrodden of the earth.

The teachings of the Good Samaritan expounds on the reality of the Beatitudes, thus Isaiah 11 and 61, and so we as disciples are called to walk in a manner of serving and of leading others to the Kingdom of righteousness, liberty, joy, peace, love and truth.

Indeed, we do so for the walk of the disciple is to understand the Beatitudes and that we as disciples are called to be peacemakers, meek, and that we must remain humble (thus poor in spirit, meaning our salvation, hope and redemption forever lies with God and not the self).

We are called to bring comfort and strength to the downtrodden in the power and love of the Lord.

We are reminded that blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

This is the crux of *Matthew 6: 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

We as disciples are called to be merciful, and to be pure in heart for they shall see God.

It says in *Psalms 24: Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart.* And also *John 3: 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

After all, the Spirit of the Lord must so work in us that we changed as disciples of the Lord to become more like the Lord, thus pure in heart, so that we may seek and know the Lord.

And once we “see”, we can judge a situation fairly, for we are called not to judge by the apparent appearance but by the spiritual reality.

Yes, we are not called to judge, but this implies a judging by the physical and by the moral self, but we speak and move as the Lord leads, thus by discernment, fairness and truth.

Truly, as disciples of the Lord, when the times are rough, we must remember we serve a God whose Kingdom is not of this world. So when we are persecuted, we shall endure as Paul endured, and we do so to the Glory of our Lord.

This is the path and the walk of a disciple – a journey of Isaiah 11 and 61, where we walk in the Spirit so that the reality of the Beatitudes becomes part and parcel of who we are.

So let us follow the Lord as worshippers in spirit and truth, remain pure in heart so that we see and know His Glory and thus proclaim it as peacemakers who seek to bind up the broken-hearted and who will seek to set the captives free.