

Romans 14:9-12

⁹ *For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.* ¹⁰ *You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat your brother or sister with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.* ¹¹ *It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God."* ¹² *So then, we will all give an account of ourselves to God.*

So we looked at that, judgement! Here he is talking about judgement for the believers. Let's turn to *2 Corinthians 5:9-10*.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

⁹ *So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.* ¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive what is due them for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

It is talking about 'The Bema seat of Christ'. It is a term used in Greek. That is the judgement for believers. The other judgement for unbelievers is like going to a court. This one is like going to the judge at the end of a competition. The believers do not go to the other one. That is for judgment for your sins. We are not judged for our sins. We are judged for our faithfulness. Our judgment is a judgment for rewards. There Paul will say in *1 Corinthians 3:6-15*.

1 Corinthians 3:6-15

⁶ *I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.* ⁷ *So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.* ⁸ *The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.* ⁹ *For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building.* ¹⁰ *By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.* ¹¹ *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.* So, that is the something which we cannot do. That foundation - salvation is through Jesus. We can never earn salvation by works. Your good works doesn't earn your salvation - foundation, we only build on it. Meaning if you work after salvation, we are saved unto good works. But this is not talking about salvation. You cannot earn your salvation. Salvation is a free gift of God and then after that. ¹² *If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,* ¹³ *their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.* The 'day', it talks about the day of judgement. The 'day' is in capital. *It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.* ¹⁴ *If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.* ¹⁵ *If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved— even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

This is talking about the judgement seat of Christ, 'The Bema seat of Christ' that even those who have not built anything, they have no works of faith, they have no works of obedience but they are saved. They believed in Jesus for salvation. They will be just escaping through the flames. But they will end up in heaven with absolutely no rewards; they will be making it there with just salvation. And again we will see in *Colossians 3:23*

Colossians 3:23

²³ *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,* ²⁴ *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.* ²⁵ *Those who do wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.*

It is talking about receiving an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is not talking about salvation. It is talking about rewards. So it says, "Whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord". Meaning we serve God and there is a reward, a day when rewards will be given a day of that judgment of believers that God will give rewards. We looked at the purpose of judgement also because Romans is talking about everyone will stand before God, everyone will have to give an account.

1 Corinthians 4:2

² ***Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.***

So we will see we were saved for a purpose. God saved us, God did not save us without a reason. For God saved us for a purpose. So when He saved us what He has given us, is the Spirit of His Son and we have been saved and God has entrusted us with something and we will be saved for our faithfulness. Were you faithful with the Spirit that I gave you? Were you faithful with the life that I have given you? It's not the old life that we are living. It is a new life of Christ that we are living. Have we been faithful with it? So whoever has been given a trust must prove to be faithful. Remember in the past God dealt with us as sinners. He is not dealing with us as sinners anymore. He is dealing with us as stewards. That's what we have been looking at stewardship for the past many weeks. He is not dealing with us as sinners. If we talk and as the Word we study personally or we hear bring conviction about sin, He is not dealing with us as sinners, he is dealing with our sin so that we can renounce it and we can become better stewards. What stands in our way, in our stewardship is our sin. But he is not telling us that you are a sinner.

See, this is a mistake that people often make is that, every week I get some person asking me that, "When I accepted Jesus, are my sins forgiven?" And then what happens when I sin again? It's a very common question. But you need to realise that Jesus did not die for my sins to be forgiven alone. It's much more than that. Why does Jesus tell Nicodemus, "*Unless you are born again you cannot enter into the Kingdom of God?*" Because what Jesus does is, when I receive Jesus, what He does is, He is just not forgiving my sin, He is doing much more than that. He is taking care of my sin nature. There is "Sin" with a capital S and there are sins. What makes me sin? Why does David say, "*I was conceived in sin?*" Adam doesn't say that I was conceived in sin but everyone born of Adam is now conceived in sin. Because everyone after Adam and Eve fell, has got the sin nature in them. So when I accept Jesus, that sin nature is replaced with the holy nature of God. That is why you are born again from above. If you have doubts about that then turn to *1 John*. It talks about that nature. Remember that old nature is also there but God is also dealing with a new person, a new nature.

1 John 3:9

⁹ ***Those who are born of God will not continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.***

Now what is he talking about? He is not talking about the old me. He is talking about the new nature that has been given. The Spirit that is 'born from above' never sins. You can only kill your Spirit. You cannot make the Spirit to sin that is born from above. The Spirit born from above never sins. So Jesus never sinned. He walked on earth, He was in the flesh, He was born of the Father, born of the Holy Spirit, He walked every temptation, every trial, every test, and He never sinned. God knows in the Old Testament, your sins are forgiven, it makes no difference. Moses fell, David fell, Abraham fell, and they all fell. But in the New Covenant God is not going to continue the Old Covenant. He is giving you a new Spirit, a Spirit that is born from above. That Spirit will never sin. So when God says, "*Be perfect as I am perfect, be Holy as I am Holy*", He is talking about a possibility, the real possibility that when your Spirit that is born from above is fully grown and it is absolutely in control of the body and the soul then the body and the soul stops sinning. Your body will be destroyed because this body cannot be renewed. But your soul/mind can stop sinning if the Spirit is in absolute control. So we are growing towards that. The entire process of meeting, prayer, Word everything is to allow the Spirit to grow. So how do people fall away and fall away from salvation is because they did not take care of the Spirit. The Spirit is killed by starvation. If you starve a baby, a baby can die. That's why we keep on saying the fundamentals, you need the Word, you need the Church, you need the prayer, you need the fellowship, you need to walk by faith. Exercise! Then your Spirit will automatically start growing. But if you take one or all of this away, slowly the Spirit starves and dies. That is how people walk away from salvation. Yet the Spirit in itself never sins. The Scripture says, "*The Spirit never sins*". So, when God is talking about judgement, he is talking about He gave us His Spirit. Did we allow that Spirit to grow? Did we allow the life of Jesus to grow? If we turn to Gospel according to John, you will know how the New Covenant is different from the Old Covenant.

John 1:4

⁴ ***In him was life, and that life was the light of men.***

As oppose to the Old Testament, we go to is Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ ***Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.***

In the Old Testament, that Word was external. They needed the law. They were always looking at the law. God says, 'it's not going to work.' Now we have to internalise the Word; the Word becomes the part of you. The Word of God, in Him was light and that light became the life of men. When I receive Jesus into my life, in Him is life, the Word that became flesh. In His case, it's the other round. It's exactly the opposite for Jesus and for us. In Jesus, was the Word of the God and in that living Word was light and it became flesh and dwelt among us. So when you look at the light of Jesus you will see how the Word lived in the flesh because He was the Word and he became flesh. Now we reverse the process. Now we are born in the flesh. We are not born in the Word. We are born in the flesh. We are born again by the Word. Now we have to allow the Word to grow in us and control the flesh. He was fully grown Word that came in the flesh and the flesh was absolutely under the control of the Word. And he became the light for us. His life became the light for man.

Now, we have to reverse the process where we are full grown flesh into which the Word is born again, through the Word we are born again and as we allow the Word to grow and take over control. But where does the Word go? The word is going into the Spirit. He is Spirit. And the Spirit starts growing. Unlike our bodies the difference between the body and the Spirit is; each one knows how much you can eat, after a point you say you have enough. You know how much you will grow after 16, 17, 18 years, probably the only one who will grow here is Eric (if he grows). All others have stopped growing. And you know when you stop growing what happens? Why do people grow shorter when they grow older? It's not that you grow and then you remain like that. You know as you grow older you become smaller. You start bending and you start shrinking. You need to understand it's the same thing true about the Spirit. In the Spirit, you can never stop growing. Because Scripture says "*The Spirit can be filled without measure*". Never need to stop growing because God is Spirit and he never stops growing. He is from eternity to eternity. So He never need to grow. But if you stop growing then you start shrinking. There is only thing that happens in the Spiritual realm. Either you are growing or you are shrinking. Meaning, either I am moving ahead with God or I am backsliding. At any point in time you cannot say, 'I feel as strong today as I was in 2008.' 'No, either you have grown or you have gone back.' You need to realise in the Spiritual realm either you are growing or you are shrinking back.

And there you see He is the Word of God. And by the Word you and I are born again. In the Spirit we are born again. And as the Spirit grows, God asks us to be good stewards of that Spirit that Father has entrusted us with His Spirit and through that Spirit He says, "control your mind and your body and you take care of everything that I have entrusted into your hands." On that day you are not going to be judged for our sins, we are going to be judged for our faithfulness. Were you faithful with what I entrusted you? Were you a good steward of your mind and of your body, starting with the mind and the body because if I need to do anything outside, I need to be good steward of my mind and my body? If I am not a good steward of my mind, then I will look into my body. The problem is that anybody who wants to serve God needs a body to serve. Can anyone serve God without a body? Meaning even to pray you still need a body. You will say, 'No, I will not go; God has only called me for intercession.' Okay if you want only to intercede, you still need a body to pray. You need to use your tongue, you need to use your mind, you need to probably get on to your knees, you need a body. So if you have to use your mind and your body you have to start feeding your Spirit. You have to use your mind and your body to glorify God. Otherwise you will be in trouble because the mind and the body will get together and agree and overrule your Spirit. The mind will wake up in the morning and tell 'isn't your neck hurting today?' Because it's the mind which tells you that you are in pain. If there is no mind, you will not know pain. So your mind says your neck is hurting and your body agrees and says, 'Call up Sis. Joba and tell everyone that I am cancelling the meeting today.' They always agree. That's why nobody wants to get up in the morning when it is cold. That's why all children say, 'I don't want to go to school today.' You know what their mind is telling them 'It's very nice. Sleep under the sheet. Don't get up.' Often whenever we do it we find the mind and the body agree.

It happened with everybody including Jesus. In the garden of Gethsemane, His mind and body are getting together, mind it's a part of the soul. The soul and the body are getting together and telling Jesus 'Please don't go the cross'. Now who wants to go to the cross. Even Jesus did not like the cross. Your body never likes the cross. Your mind doesn't like the cross. For the first time, like I told you, in the soul is your will, your emotions and your mind. For the first time, His will is separate from the will of His Father. So he says, 'Not My will but Your will be done.' You never hear Him say that. He always says, 'I have come to do My Father's will', 'I speak the Father's Word', 'I do what the Father'. So the first time, the highest point of His testing, there is slight separation between His human will and the Father's will but His Spirit comes into control and He says, 'Not My will but Your will be done.' You know why? Because He has allowed His Spirit to control Him always so, at the

point when he is tested His Spirit is so strong, His Spirit overruled what His soul and the body are saying. And the pressure is so much on His body as His Spirit is trying to control His body, Scripture says, 'He started sweating blood.' So you can understand the pressure the body is going through. That is basically to break the curse of the flesh pronounced over the garden but you can also see the kind the pressure your body can put on your Spirit to overrule God's will. And you see that is happening.

And this is what Scripture is talking about. God will test our faithfulness. He says, 'I have entrusted these things to you. How are you faithful?' Everybody here wants to pray. Is there anybody who doesn't want to pray after becoming a believer? But you will see most of our obstacles we face is in our prayer life. Every day we face that obstacle. Either our mind wanders or our body refuses to co-operate. When you want to pray you feel hungry; when you want to pray you are yawning or you want to sleep. It's just that the mind and the body are not cooperating. It happens with everybody. It's a discipline. Over a period of time you can discipline yourself where you can bring your body and your mind into control where the mind starts focusing the body agrees. That's why fasting. Why do people say about fasting? What does Scripture talk about fasting and prayer together? When you are not really able to pray, why do you need to fast? Because fasting is the only way you can control your body. What is fasting? Fasting is basically denying the body. So you have to deny your body to be able to grow. If you eat and you are full, you are usually not able to pray well. If you sleep nicely for 10 hours and decide to pray, you will see that you are not able to pray well because your body has been saturated with sleep. Whenever you fill your eyes, your body with 5 hours of TV and decide that I will pray, you will see that you are not able to. If you have been saturating your mind or your body with something other than that of God, you will see that what is automatically affected is your prayer, which is your real part of your spiritual life. You are not able to. That's why people who worry will always call up others to pray. You know why? Because they are not able to concentrate because they have been worrying. They have been saturating their mind with unbelief. Worrying is unbelief; it is anxiety. So, they will call up everybody and think that they are being very spiritual. It is actually an absolute set on unbelief because they are worrying and they are not able to pray at all. And they are facing a real crisis and they should be praying. Yet, they are not able to pray because the mind has been saturated with unbelief and this is what the enemy does. God says, "I gave you a body; I gave you a soul; I gave you a spirit." First question He asks is, "Are you a good steward?" We will be judged for our faithfulness.

Second, *Hebrews 6:10-11*. We will be judged for how we treated each other within the body. First, within the body.

Hebrews 6:10-11

¹⁰ ***For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*** ¹¹ ***And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,*** Full assurance of your hope. NIV will make it a little simpler.

¹⁰ ***God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people*** they are called 'saints' in KJV. His people are called as saints, ***and continue to help them.*** ¹¹ ***We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.***

He is not talking about salvation; it's talking about your rewards. Meaning, it's not enough that I help somebody today or I help somebody tomorrow and feel good about it; He says, "No. This is not the way I am." This is the problem about the charity of the flesh and the charity. I'm using the term 'charity' because that's the actual English word for 'real love'. Love of the flesh and the love of the Spirit. The love of the flesh will feel good after you have helped two or three times and then, you forget. But you look at Jesus. From the beginning till the end, even on the Cross, He's still not stopping to give because He is giving; His loving is not determined by the reactions of people. "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Now, God is saying, "The way you treat people, your loving of people, your kindness, your mercy, your help towards people should not be determined by this factor on how do they react back to you." Do I get a 'thank you'? Do I get a card? Or are they good back to me?

Back in our Kerala weddings, what happens is, during the reception time, all these gifts comes, all these cash and everything comes. And there is a paper kept in which everything is listed on who gave who so that when a return gift is given, you don't give anything lesser than that. This is how it is done. If you give for my daughter's wedding Rs.1000/-, for your daughter's wedding, I will not give you less than a thousand. I'll give you one rupee more than that. I'll give you Rs.1001/- . It's written in the record as a book and kept. They write on the article on what was given. They know the value. It's not the

article but the value of the article. So, it's common.

So, what He's talking about is that, these are all the works of the flesh. But when God gives, God gives without measure. He doesn't keep an account of how much He has given us. For God so loved the world, He never stopped giving. Now, Scripture is talking about - in your giving, ***We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.*** What is that hope? It's not the hope of salvation; it's the hope of rewards. Why? Because God is a giver and we are naturally born-again as givers. So, we have to start acting on that part. You will see that giving is difficult only in the initial stages. And I actually notice that tithing is difficult only in the beginning. If you consciously practice the act of tithing, after some time, you will see that you don't have to even think about it at all. It comes naturally. Helping also comes naturally. The act of giving also comes naturally. After that, you don't even think. It becomes a part of your character. It becomes a part of your nature because that's how God is and God says, "You are born again in that image." And God says, "To be born again there has to be an image." I am born looking like a mixture of my father and my mother. But when I am born again, I am born again in the Spirit and the only image I have is of the Holy Spirit in which I am born again; the Father's nature. The Father is a giver. So, God is asking, "How do we treat each other? Are we treating each other with kindness, with love, with mercy?"

See, this was the key strength of the Apostolic Church. If you read in the *Book of Acts*, you will see how much they loved each other. And how did they know that they loved each other? They gave. There was absolutely nobody among them who was in need. We are talking about very difficult times. And it was not only the Church in Jerusalem but when the Church in Jerusalem was in need, you suddenly hear that another Church has heard that the brethren there are suffering and immediately, they are gathering stuff to be sent to Jerusalem. They sent to Jerusalem because they heard that the saints there are in need. So, God will judge us on that day. When you use the term 'judge', please remember, it's an evaluation. How did we love each other? How did we treat each other? *Matthew 10:41-42*

Matthew 10:41-42

⁴¹ He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

This is talking about the Ministry within the body. We have a Ministry within the body; we have a Ministry outside the body. The outside of the body is help; within the body is where it begins. Scripture talks about, in our giving, you should always begin within the family to outside the family. It's always beginning with the family. If you see a need within the family, you first take care of them. The same thing; if my children are hungry and my neighbor's children are hungry, as a father, I first feed my children and then, I will try to feed the neighbor. So, God always is very keen about His children taking care of His children first and then, outside. So that when the people outside see how we take care of one another, they will realize that their God is serious and their God is a God of love. And that's what it's talking about. *If anyone who receives a prophet because he's a prophet, he will receive a prophet's reward.* Sounds very strange. Remember, last Sunday's Message? Whom did she receive into her house? A prophet. Now, if she had received a teacher or an evangelist, he could have never told, "Next year, this time, you will have a child." She received a prophet's reward. Something only a prophet could do, she got. It's only a prophet, who can tell, "Next year, this time, you will have a child." You never hear a teacher or an evangelist saying that unless they have a prophetic gift. And she got a prophet's reward. A Shunamite woman, exactly a year later, was a mother.

Now, the second one. That is *Hebrews 13:17*. Not second, actually. We are looking at a series.

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

There are two things in it. As somebody, *they keep watch over you as men who must give an account.* Account when? On that day? They see evaluation. There are two things about it. How we exercise authority and how we submit to authority. Two things are there about authority: Everybody will be exercising authority over somebody and everybody will have to be under somebody's authority. So 'Authority' will be a key over which we will be evaluated. How did I exercise my authority?

Scripture says, "How did you exercise? How did you submit? Submission to authority and exercise of authority both will be one of the parameters on which God judges us that day, everybody will be judged accordingly. That's why when you are given the authority to preach the Word, *James 3:1 will say*, How does KJV say?

James 3:1

¹My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

To whom who has been given authority will receive greater condemnation if you do not exercise their authority properly. Jesus said, "Authority in the world and authority in the Kingdom are completely different". The authority in the Kingdom, which we receive, is very difficult to exercise because always our perception is colored by the way people exercise authority out in the world. People use authority in the world to abuse, power in the world to abuse; you need to realize that's the problem. The problem is an unsaved soul, irrespective of what his race is, what his color is, what his background is will abuse power. That's why policemen in every nation, every color, and every tribe abuse power. You might think that a black man, because he has gone through slavery when he becomes a policeman will not abuse power. That doesn't happen; a black man will abuse a black man using the same power given to him by a white man. The problem is not with the power or the authority. The problem is with the unsaved soul, that's what power does, power corrupts. Power and authority goes together. So God in the body also gives this authority and power. The problem is when we get authority we try to use the way the world has used it. Here, authority has been given and it has to be exercised in love and exercised for the benefit of others. When it is used in lot over people then we have this problem.

You look how Jesus exercised authority, how did He exercise authority? He had power and He had authority, He had both. You need to realize we have authority we don't have power. We have been given authority in the name of Jesus but can we really do anything without that name? Really do we have power? We don't have power. If you're fighting an evil Spirit, do you really have more power than the evil Spirit? We don't have. Remember, the sons of Sceva? They came and said, "In the name of Jesus whom Paul preacheth come out." He said, "Paul we know, Jesus we know, who are you?" Now they used, the term they were trying to exercise power without authority. They didn't have the authority, so we need to realize we don't have power, the enemy has more power than us. What we have is authority, why? Because He says, "All power and authority has been given to Me". Now, "I send you in My name" but when Jesus exercised, He was very careful in exercising authority and power. He has both authority and power so in the garden of Gethsemane, when they come to arrest Him, He is exercising both. Because you need to realize at that point He has to exercise. Supposing Ailsa is Jesus and she is very weak and she has no power at all and they come and arrest her and crucify her on the Cross there is nothing big about it. Why did they crucify her? It is because she was unable to help herself. So there comes a huge crowd of soldiers to arrest Him in the dark in the garden and they ask Him. Who among you is Jesus? He says, "I am". Scripture says 'when He said, 'I am' revealing Himself as the eternal God, all of them fell flat to the ground.' He is exercising His power. He first revealed His power and He tells Peter, "Put your sword away. I know how many legions of angels will come if I just tell them to come". He's got power and authority and then He tells them, "Take Me". Only after the demonstration of His power that I am the most powerful Man walking on earth He says, "You cannot take Me unless I allow you to take Me." He says, "Now take me". Now that is what God is telling us, "I have given you My Spirit and you really have power and authority how you exercise it". Because if you take revenge, it's not what showing that you have either power or authority in the Kingdom. If you have real power and authority in the Kingdom, you will choose to forgive. It's a strong man who forgives; it's a weak man who takes revenge. It's a very strong man, it's only a very strong person who can exercise forgiveness, Jesus was an extremely strong person in the Spirit, therefore, even when He is on the Cross and they are abusing Him, hurling insults at Him, He says, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." So you see a paradigm shift-taking place.

Remember, the Apostle say, "Shall we call down fire from heaven?" And Jesus said, "Hang on." They went out with power and authority He gave them and He said, "Go". They came back and they were excited and said, "Lord, You know what? The sick were healed and the dead rose." He said, "Hang on, be glad that your names are written in the Book of life. You do not understand power and authority. You are excited over power. Just at the demonstration of power, suddenly you are exercising it because you see you got power over spirits and people. You haven't got it, you wait". Post resurrection and post-Pentecost you will see a sudden change happening. Now they have power and they have authority but they also have spiritual discernment. So, when they come to Paul, they say, "Oh, the god's have come from the mountains', Apostles tore their cloaks apart and said, 'Oh we are just like you, it's not us'. You know power, you know authority but you exercise it within the boundaries, which God has because we need to realize there is tremendous power, which God has released into

His children, if you are really walking with God. You know how they mocked Elisha? And you know what Elisha did? He called a bear and how many young people lost their lives? 42 youth! Yes, there is power.

I know a small little town that I come from with a small little river and there is a hanging bridge over which people stand and then the Pastor, an anointed man of God is baptizing people in the river and all the people crowded over there and they were laughing and hooting and making a lot of racket and abusing him. He kept on baptizing and they kept on shouting and screaming. When he finished baptizing, he said, "Tomorrow it will be your turn". The next day, the same set of people crossing the bridge, the bridge came down and all of them went into the water, nobody died. He said that tomorrow is your time. The thing is, there is power, that's why God says, "I will judge you for every careless word that you speak" for what we say and for what they say is not the same. You curse somebody out on the road while driving because he brushed against you and he got mad at you and said, 'you go this way'. You need to be very careful because the reason is, He said, "Put a girdle on your tongue because I've given you power and authority and because you've been made again in the image of My Father." Be very careful about what you say.

Matthew 12:36-37

³⁶ But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Why does He say that? If our words had no power at all then what's the point but God says, "Your words have power." This is specifically talking about believers, "Believers your words have tremendous power". God never speaks anything and it goes void, it achieves its purpose. Remember, it never goes void. God never speaks anything and it goes without purpose. What if you've been made in the image of God? The unbeliever would have fallen from that image but we have been recreated in that image and He says, "When you speak it will come to pass so, do not speak careless words". When we exercise authority, men of God I know how you exercise power only at the final minute. I know about a Pastor in Gujarat, powerful Pentecostal Church was troubled. One man in the congregation troubled him. Pastor forgave, kept quiet, finally there came a point when the Church would entirely breakup and so many lives would be affected and finally he said, "Lord, remove him." That guy died in one week's time. Lord removed him. Exercising authority some of them really know, they are very careful. God is telling us, "Be careful about how you exercise authority and how you come under authority."

And I feel this is a way, if one broad line of judgment in heaven is this - men will be judged for how they exercise authority and women will be judged for how they came under authority. And both will be rewarded accordingly. Honestly, I am telling you there will be a big thing about it. The thing is that, it's an open seal, men will be judged for how they exercise authority in their home especially and women will be judged on how they came under authority in their home. It is as simple as that and the fact is that, both sides are being questioned - How do men exercise authority? Have you been forgiving? Did you love? Have you been walking in mercy? Have you been a good steward? And for woman - Have you been submissive? Have you been listening? Have you been obeying? Basically what has happened is that the two structures have broken down, the men have disappeared (especially in the west), and they are nowhere to be found at all in the home. And the other side with the 1950-60, extreme feminist movement that has come in, it has gone to the other extreme of it where it says, "We will not listen to any authority".

So finally, you have the by-product of this entire generation both men and women growing up who says, "rebellion" is the catchword, do not talk to us about authority. So this is again, when it comes to believers, God is bringing us back to square one and says, "This is the problem, come back, why did I send My Son? Now I sent My Son to show two things. One, as a man how He will exercise authority and as a son how He will come under authority." You see that's what Jesus did, as a man He exercises authority with so much love, so much kindness, so much compassion, He exercises His authority always. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and He is a Jewish Rabbi, yet you will see how He exercises authority with love. He goes and sits on the well waiting for the Samaritan woman to come to Him. How kind and merciful He is? He is exercising authority over them. He can walk away saying, "How does it matter? Let her go to hell, I don't care", but "No" God has entrusted something unto Him and He is walking in love. He enters the Garden of Gethsemane, the last one remember what He says? 'Whom do you want?' 'It's Me you want right? Take me, let them go.' I am wondering what would have happened if they had tried to take the disciples? Who set a boundary? "You can't touch them, you can take Me." What if they would have tried to cross that boundary and tried to take them, something else would have happened there. Let them, they all ran away, He is exercising His authority as a master over them, He says, "I love you, go, you don't get beaten up in

the process, you go." On the other hand He also showed what submission is. All the way unto the Cross right from the beginning as a child, formed as a human being, something you can never figure out like how does the eternal God from everlasting to everlasting suddenly become a seed in the womb of Mary without knowing anything? How does He begin from knowing everything to knowing nothing for a season, there He is. That is submission, that's so difficult for us, and it's so difficult. Why is that when we are worrying and upset over something we are not able to sleep? Why is it that we sleep well when we are not worried? The simple thing is that when we are worrying we are not able to sleep, the simple thing is we don't want to give control. When we are sleeping we are letting off control. When you are sleeping, you have no idea what's happening. When you are worrying you don't want to sleep because you are giving up control over your problem. So, when we are worrying it is basically question of rebellion. We think worrying is a question of problem; it is a question of rebellion. You still don't want to let go and say, "You are God and I let go and let me sleep." No! You are worrying and worrying, 'how can I solve this?' It's a question of struggling with God for control. 'How will I solve this problem?' God says, "You can never solve it". You will say, "No, I will still try". And by the time you look, it's early in the morning the light is starting to come in. It's a question about control. We come to the root of it; it is the old nature still fighting for control.

On the other hand we got a big problem but we got a bigger solution within our hand we will turn around and go to sleep. Doesn't matter how big the problem is if the solution is in our hands we are not troubled. We are not troubled by the size of our problems; we are troubled by the nature of our problems. If we cannot solve the problem then it starts troubling us. Why is that rich people are not worried about breaking traffic rules? When the policeman comes, they have a solution ready there. Businessman Sanjeev Nanda (1999 BMW hit-and-run case) got yesterday two years reduced, he will come out in a few months' time, they tried to buy every witness, everybody. How many people did he kill? Six people. He ran over with his BMW on the people who were sleeping on the pavement. Six people were dead. In a few months he will come out. Why wasn't he very much bothered? Because he knew he had enough money to buy every witness, everybody, the case was very weak. And yesterday the term has been reduced by two years that means within a few months he will be out of jail. He almost completed his term while his case was going on, within two month he will be out. But how many people died? Now, one of us tries that. You will be in for life because you know why? You cannot solve that problem. You don't have the resources to solve that problem. You have people deal with problems, you need to realize, you lose sleep over problems, which you cannot solve. God says, "It is basically an act of rebellion." If you are submissive, surrendered to me, then what happens? You know, one guy has already been killed, tomorrow is my turn, I am going to get killed but I am surrendered to God, what I want to do? I want to turn around and am going to sleep.

Angels had to come and wake up Peter, "Peter, come we have come to take you." 'What? Where am I? Oh I am in the prison.' You need to realize the angels had to come and wake him up from his sleep; it's an absolute act of surrender and faith that he's sleeping because he is a surrendered person not a rebel. Both are classic examples of faith. Peter sleeping in the prison and Paul and Silas singing in prison. You know why they sang in prison and they did not sleep? There's a reason why they were singing and not sleeping and there's a reason why Peter was sleeping and was not singing. Peter was sleeping because at night that's what people do. Paul and Silas were not sleeping at night because their legs were in stocks and their backs had been broken. So they couldn't sleep. If your legs are in stocks and your back has been whipped thirty-nine times then you cannot lie down. So if you cannot lie down and sleep then we know only one thing to do, 'we will sing.' Peter was not put in stock nor was his back broken, he turned around and went to sleep. Night is the time you go to sleep. They both are surrendered people not rebel. Surrendered people and that's what God is talking about. When you stand before Me I will ask you how did you exercise authority? How did you come under authority because I don't see any one of these guys saying that, "Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I bind this jailor and I command these doors to be opened?" They have authority, it could've probably worked, because they were walking under tremendous anointing but they never used that anointing to overrule God's plans for them.

If you need to realize that we can, God has given us the free will to over-rule God's will for us. God's got a will for us that is why when we study *Romans 12*, what is God's perfect and pleasing will? How will you know? You've got two things to do. One, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, two, renew your mind with the Word of God, three, then you will know what is the perfect will of God. He will never reveal the perfect and pleasing will to me, for me, to me until my body and my mind is under subjection to the Holy Spirit till then we are all walking under the secondary will of God. We will never know the primary will of God, because He will not give it, He will not reveal it to us until surrender takes place. These are people who have come under surrender, once you've come under surrender God is able to tell them. "No Paul, no he is a man who is

going to suffer so much for My name. Ananias, you don't worry about him, you lay your hands upon him, let his eyes be opened, you baptize him because he is the man who is going to suffer tremendously for My name." And he told all His disciples, "Yes, you all want to drink from this cup, yes, all of you will drink from that." They are able to receive it. Now is God able to tell us? How will we do it if God were to tell us?

God told Pastor Martin that one-day he would die in Bangladesh as His servant. He knows, he doesn't know when but he knows. So what do you do? If you are surrendered what you do if you are not surrendered? If you are not surrendered you will stay in Tamil Nadu because that's as far you can stay in India; you can get away from Bangladesh. But if you are surrendered: One, you will go to Assam, because that's as close you can get to Bangladesh in India. Two, you also have a Muslim preacher coming to your house and teaching you both Bangla and Urdu every day. Preparing, why? Because you are surrendered. You are not submitted you are surrendered. I will get him here one day. He's a wonderful man, what a cheerful man. I am telling you so much joy he has. Somebody sent me money for him last week, I transferred it from my account into his account and I called him up. Whenever you call him, he seems to be up there rejoicing. I said, "Pastor, where are you"? He said, "I am here in the market brother." I said, "Praise the Lord, what are you doing in the market"? He said, "So many guests in the house brother, don't know what to buy for them." I said, "Why? No money? He said, "Very little money brother." I said, "Don't worry, go and buy the whole market I just transferred five thousand in your account". "Praise the Lord Brother! I was just standing here and wondering what do I buy for them?" What a cheerful man yet he knows his destiny. And all his guests are Bodo Tribals who all come for his Wednesday night of healing. He won't send them, he will say, "You stay here for a week, I will teach you the Word and then I will pray for healing for you." Incredible man, you should meet him to see. I introduced him to David and Anila and he stayed in David's house in Chennai and David tells me, 'how can a man rejoice over the smallest of things?' You give him some rasam and he says, "That is tasty" and he is rejoicing in the Lord over there. Anything you give him he is full of bubbling with joy and rejoicing. His son wouldn't go to school, he tried everything finally somehow managed to finish class ten and now he's gone to Tamil Nadu got saved, got baptized, finished his BA, finished his MA. He's telling me, "Brother I can't believe that same Charles is saying, "Father I want to go for MPhil," who didn't want to go to school? What an incredible man of God.

How did we exercise authority? How did we come under authority? We will be judged on that day. Let's look at few more and then how did we use the gifts that God gave us. God has given everybody gifts, no one can say, "I don't have". If you don't have it's because you didn't ask.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6(Look at that verse very carefully because there is something more to it than we see)

⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

You see there are three different words used there; usually people miss that. I will read the simple NIV version.

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

You know what this is talking about a spiritual gift but He's talking about "His operation". He says, "Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father, are you getting it? When a gift is given to you and you exercise it, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit working through it. The same Spirit; the same Lord; the same God. Both are talking about the Spirit; the Lord is Jesus Christ; the God is the Father. So don't ever take a gift that we have received by the Holy Spirit once we are born again lightly, because when you exercise a gift the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is working through it. There are different kinds of gifts but it's the same Spirit. There are different kinds of administration, the same Lord Jesus. There are different kinds of working, but the same Father works through them. Look at *verse 11*.

1 Corinthians 12:11

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

So, we need to realize don't look at one gift as low, one gift with envy somebody else's gift, the Holy Spirit has given gifts as He determines and the Father and the Son work in us and through us using that gift and we will be judged about how we used that gift.

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ ***As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.***

Each one has received their gifts but I don't know what your gift is. Maybe just calling up and encouraging people, maybe this is a natural talent to encourage people, gift of God. Some people can just keep on encouraging people, some people can help, lot of gifts are there, not just what you see in *1 Corinthians 12* there are so many gifts within the body. God is the one who has given you the gift. It did not come to you naturally; it is God who gave you the gift. God says in Peter, "Be faithful stewards of the gift that God has given you. Be a good steward," why? On that day He will ask you, "How did you use the gift that I gave you?" Did you hide that gift? Did you increase that gift? Were people blessed because of that gift I gave you? Would you be able to tell on that day, "Lord, you gave me this gift; these many people I could bless on that day because of the gift you gave or did you hide it? So we will be judged on that day for the gifts He gave us.

1 Timothy 6:17-19, He is talking about money, God has given us money. God says, "How you use your money?" You can store up a reward in heaven by the way you use your money. He is talking about "Storing up treasure, laying up treasure for them selves as a firm foundation". Now you can't earn Salvation with money, you cannot but He's talking about something else. "You can earn a reward in heaven by the way you use your money."

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ ***Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.*** (I am sorry to say this but all preachers will say verse 17 and not 18, they will say, you should use it for your enjoyment, they won't say verse 18) ¹⁸ ***Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,*** ¹⁹ ***storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.***

What is He talking about? He is talking about eternity. During the time of eternity, you would have set up a firm foundation; you would have stored up treasure in heaven by the way you utilize because all are not blessed with money even in the kingdom. All are not blessed with money; everybody is struggling. Some are blessed with money but if you immediately realize, "I am a steward of God's money". Because some people have been talented with the gift of making more money so they know how to use money to make more money. Suddenly, you need to realize that gift has been given for a purpose. So, the Scripture says in Book of Acts, "The ones who have money brought that money and put it at the Apostles feet so it could be used for those who didn't have money because money is not been given." Money you don't take it with you. Money is been given for a purpose within the Kingdom. That is why there should be no lack in the Kingdom. All the resources for God's people are already available within the Kingdom. And some have been blessed with it and God commands them because you have money it is not a sign of special status within the Kingdom. Do not be arrogant about it because there is a teaching that goes that money is a sign of God's special blessing upon you. If you are really blessed you will have more money. God says, 'Hang on, that is not what I am saying,' what does it say? Do not put their hope in their wealth; because I am blessed with this money and blessed with then I am very sure I am going to heaven. He says, 'Please be very careful it is absolutely uncertain, but to put their hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.'

Put your hope in God; do not put your trust in your blessings as a sign of assured salvation. Because I am blessed here and there that means God's favor is with me. He says, 'No.' Your hope should always be in God and not in your blessing. Your blessings are given for a purpose, for God will ask, 'were you a good steward of the wealth that God gave? Be good steward.' How was our stewardship of money?

Ephesians 5:15-16

¹⁵ ***See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,*** ¹⁶ ***redeeming the time, because the days are evil.***

We will be asked about the stewardship of time. How did we use our time? ¹⁶ ***redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*** We are living in a time and age, which are even more evil than when Paul wrote it. The days are really evil; meaning as each time, each minute, each hour goes by is getting closer and closer to that day. And God says, 'live carefully. Be very careful how you live, as wise and not unwise, redeeming the time.' Meaning this is the time now to cut off all flab. I am not talking about excess weight I am talking about how we spend our time. It's time to start really start using our time.

Spending time with God, spending time with Word, spending time in doing things that God has entrusted us and cutting if necessary time of our sleep, all our unnecessary activities now is the time to cut off. Because we are coming closer and closer to that day, this is the time to redeem the time.

Now how do you redeem time? How is it possible? Now if you have found your gold, to redeem gold you have to give money. Otherwise the guy is not going to give your gold back. Meaning if you redeem something you need to give something in return. That's why Scripture says *we were not redeemed with silver or gold, we were redeemed by the Blood of Jesus*. How do you redeem time? What is God talking about? Be wise and not unwise. Meaning – check out your time and see what all areas in your life in a day you can cut out, things unnecessary for God. If you sleep for 8 hours, then say, 'Lord, I am going to sleep for 7 hours or 6 hours.' Suddenly you got 2 hours. If you spend 45 minutes sitting over a meal, you can cut out half an hour and say, 'Lord, I am going to eat in 15 minutes. I am going to use that 30 minutes for something else.'

Honestly to tell you, practical examples how you can be? Like if you are a person who is alone at home while you are cooking you can choose to listen to the Word, something that I do regularly. All my Ravi Zacharias comes out in the kitchen. You can choose to listen to the Word while cooking. And you are alone at home and you eat your breakfast alone, you can choose to take the Word along with your breakfast. And what is happening you suddenly realize there is enough time. And most mothers including Joyce Mayer will say when their children were growing they spent their silent time with God in the loo where the children couldn't get in. All those who have small children the best place to find your silent time is to shut yourselves in the bathroom, they will knock and all and after sometime they will sit down. But that's one time where you get your time alone.

God is talking about how will you redeem your time? It is because we are spending a lot of time on things that are unnecessary. What if He proclaim if some people don't have to fast from food, like in the Thursday Bible study for men we are looking at Nehemiah, how he went through the process of building the walls and the gates, because that's what God is talking about. The gates are the open doors through which the doctrine comes in. I take care of the gate while congregation builds the walls. How do we build the walls and the gates? What are the steps we need to do? And one of the steps talks about is fasting and prayer. Last week we looked on prayer and now we are looking on fasting. And you know what for some people fasting is not a big thing at all because most of the time they are fasting. They don't like eating. So fasting is not a big thing for them. But suppose you ask the same people to declare one year fast from TV? Or 21 days fast from TV? They will be a little shaken. We looked at what you cannot do without that really takes your mind.

Fasting is denying of your flesh. Lots of people are stuck to the TV. They spend hours on the TV or Internet, today's modern addiction is Internet, replace TV with Internet. Or mobile, calling, talking, talking and put in the pocket and charge it while talking when the battery runs out. You look back, one hour and ten minutes; because the company is making it cheaper and cheaper and you talk longer and longer and your bills are always the same. When it was Rs.5/- per call or 5ps, per call the bill is still the same because then you talked lesser and now you talk more. But the whole problem is your time is going and now you need to realize how do I redeem my time? Because God is going to ask us how did you redeem your time? Did you use your time profitably? And then, *Matthew 5 and Mark 10*

Matthew 5:11-12

¹¹ ***"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.***

Mark 10:29-30

²⁹ ***"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the Gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.***

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ ***I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.***

It's talking about one principle.

2 Corinthians 4:17

¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

God will ask us how did you respond to the sufferings because of His namesake? And you know the final one we read, you know this guy? He says, **¹⁷ For our light and momentary afflictions**. You know what his light and momentary afflictions were for Paul? But you know what he calls it? He calls it light and momentary because he is looking at it in terms of eternity. He says absolutely nothing; I am going through it, beaten up, almost killed, starved, hungry, ship wrecked, whatever a human can go through that man has gone through. And God is asking us when you go through the sufferings because you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, because of Him, because of the Word, how did you respond to it? The way we should respond is given in *Matthew 5*, that's the way we are supposed to respond. And if we respond that way the rest of the Scripture says what is the reward you will store up in heaven. The response is **¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad**. Are we happy when we lose something or somebody because of the Gospel? Can we lose because of the Gospel? It's very difficult to speak that because today you are always told what you can gain because we follow the Gospel? But the authentic Gospel is what you actually lose if you follow this Lord? He says, 'don't worry about it, and be exceedingly glad.' Peter will also talk about it what actually happened during their days, talks about the persecution.

1 Peter 4:12

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

Hebrews 10:32-34

³² But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated (Saved), you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

Lot of people in this millennium and the past 2000 years, have lost so much because they chose to follow the Lord. Even in many countries today if you are a Christian they will confiscate everything. And how did they take it? They **joyfully accepted**. One of the parameters we will be judge on that day is how did you take persecution? How did you react to suffering as a believer? What was your attitude? Were we joyful or always complaining and grumbling? Remember the children of Israel in the desert? They were brought out by Him; sent out by Him; clothed by Him; they were onto the Promised Land, where they were promised great reward. A piece of land, silver and gold, you will live in houses which you didn't build, drink water from well which you did not dig, and you will have cattle and sheep, they were promised great rewards on earth. And they are been brought out of the land of bondage, they are saved, they have come through the Red Sea, they were baptized. They were baptized with Moses in the cloud, baptism in the Holy Ghost, and now they are coming and partaking of the water. Paul says in Corinthians the rock that followed you from which you drank was Christ Jesus, everything they are partaking. But what was the problem, because of the suffering from Egypt to the Promised Land, they complained and grumbled and they ended up with nothing.

Now God is asking us. What is your attitude? What is our attitude when we suffer lot because of the Kingdom, because of His namesake, how will you? Everyone will stand before God one day and be judged. *Philippians 2:14-16*. How do we run this race? Connected with the one we looked earlier

Philippians 2:14-16

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

When God tells you to do something and you know that God is asking you to go through a situation, how do you go through that situation?

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,

Christians are, in work places, are we activists? Or are we good servants there? Are we complaining all the time about the extra work that we get? I know a lot of people complain. They say, "They dump all the work on me." If they've dumped all the work on you, it's a recognition that you are better. They may know it but the reason the employer dumps the work on you is that he sees that you are able to do things better. And you are able to it because Scripture says, in the same *Book of Philippians* that *you have the mind of Christ Jesus*. So, you've been given something to do something. Then, you start complaining because, "I've given too much to do." I want you to see an illustration but look at that - how do we go to worship of life? Do we go through it with complaining, with arguing? Look at the previous two verses to that.

Philippians 2:12-14

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing,

What is our attitude in a normal workplace? We are not talking about persecution because of Jesus' sake. We are talking about the other problems we face. All the sisters, if the maid doesn't turn up tomorrow, and the sink is full, what happens? Oh, I know believer ammas (ladies) who go berserk. You know why? Believer maids have told me this. What happens? Or the water doesn't come. All these things that happen are basically a question of attitude. It's not a question of the problem or who created the problem. God is not talking about that. God is not saying that, "Therefore, you don't say anything to somebody who is not honest." He's not talking about that. He's talking about, "How do we react?" Do we react to an issue or do we react to the person? That's the whole problem. Do we react to that issue or do we react to the person. The problem is that, usually, we end up reacting to the person instead of reacting to the issue. If we were dealing with the issue, you probably not be worried. The first thing that would come in our mind is that - first, we will know our maid well. And once we know our maid well, we will start wondering, "Is she okay? Is her child ill? Did her husband beat her up and is she in the hospital?" Because you know how their lives are, for the most of them. If those are the things that come first in our mind; or, "I have been put through difficulties, I have been put through trouble. How dare she does this to me? She bunked twice the last month also." Now, you start keeping a record of all her wrong when Scripture says, 'do not keep a record of all her wrongs too. God is asking us, "How do we deal with this situation?" He says, "I will judge you." Why? Why should He judge us for that, we might ask. Because He says, "So much grace was given to us to handle these situations without grumbling. They couldn't handle. You told them to stay half an hour more and do more work, they grumbled." He said, "It's okay. They don't know Me. But when they didn't turn up for one or two days and you grumbled." And He says, "I will not take that because you know grace. They don't know grace. You have experienced My mercy. They haven't experienced My mercy. So, the way I judge them and the way I judge you will be different."

Then, the 10th one. *1 Corinthians 9:24-27*. Now, it's talking about rewards. Be very careful. It's not talking about salvation; it's talking about rewards. Now, giving rewards is directly connected to the body. It's not talking about anything else. It's talking about the body. It says,

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

God is saying, "The way we took care of our body - did we allow our body to rule us, or did we rule our body?" Because it's talking about a crown. So many people are going to lose because they allowed their bodies to dictate terms to them. When they should be praying, they were sleeping. When they should have been fasting, they were eating. When they should have been studying the Word, they were watching TV. These were all dictated by the body. Like today's believers, I'm not talking about non-Christians or the nominal ones. Today's believers do not fall away because of a lack of knowledge. Plenty of knowledge is available today. They know it all. They fall away because of lack of discipline. Discipline is the problem. We haven't disciplined ourselves. So many people still come late to Church. Yet, the same set of people will never be late to office on Monday or today. They will never. If we look back to see, "Why is it?" We will realize that it is the body. Now, we are not able to push this body any further because we have allowed this body to go to rot by indisciplining. Yet Paul tells

Timothy, 'endure hardship as discipline.'

Mothers, as parents we need to start teaching our children by putting them through a little hardship; not making things easy for them because they will not endure discipline later, when God tries to discipline them. Because we mess them up when they are with us, God has to spend double the time, training them, when they should be out on the field ministering. Because we didn't put them through hardship as discipline. We have to discipline them right away. You have to wake up this time. This is the time to wake up. You have to finish your breakfast within this time. Now, you are big enough to take care of your own room, your clothes, you have to polish your own shoes. You need to see that your room is clean. It has to be in order. Your books, this is your Bible study time. You may not understand anything; it is irrelevant. Read it, write it and keep it so that when you grow up, you would have the discipline of Bible study and prayer engraved in you, during the time God gave them into our hands. So that one day when they grow, they will not walk away from it. Discipline. It's a hardship for them. They are not enjoying anything of it. But after a point, if you work along with them, they will start enjoying. It becomes automatic. They will be able to do it automatically.

Imagine Richie is called by the Lord, to minister at the age of 20 and he is now in class 3. That means he is 8 years old. Now, in the next 12 years, he has actually sat down half an hour every day, studied his Word and memorized it. On the day God calls him, he walk out and he knows his Word left and right. He is ready. If we prepare him, on that day, all he needs is the anointing. That's all he needs. He needs nothing else because he is ready. When the anointing comes and the Word is already implanted, out is he there to go, prepared and ready.

That's what Jesus did with His disciples; He taught them the discipline of hardship and teaching of the Word and practical Ministry and said later in Jerusalem, "Receive the power." So, one thing you guys don't have, you need that power. There is still indiscipline in certain areas over here. That's why the anointing will break it. And the day they received that power, they are a different set of people altogether, extremely disciplined set of people. That's what God is telling us. "Did we keep our body into shape?"

If we ask this question once in a while in Church, if there is a bandh in the city for the next 7 days, will you be at Church on Sunday? Will you be able to walk and come? Or will you say, "It's okay. I will sit at home and pray?" It's got nothing to do with the problem of the Sunday Service. The problem has got to do with your body. You cannot walk 10 kilometers. And yet, that might be the day the Lord decides to visit the Church and answer your problems which has been there for 25 years. You never know how God works. He says, "You need to entertain strangers because angels come and visit you without knowing." You come and your answer is done and you will go. And you will realize, "What happened? Everything was okay. Yesterday after Church, I went back home and everything is okay." Your problem has been solved because "That day," He says, "I visited you." He chose to visit you. That was also the day of your testing.

What if Daniel had given up on the 20th day (*Daniel 10:4,13*)? Doesn't it say in the *Book of Colossians - The Lord appeared to over 500 of us?* After resurrection, doesn't Paul say that? Doesn't he say? How many? Over 500. How many were there on the Day of Pentecost. 120. What happened to the 380 plus? They did not receive the anointing. There was no record of them in history. Why? Lack of discipline. When He appeared, I'm sure He told to all of them "Go to Jerusalem and wait until you receive the power from above." Only 120 remained. What if they had left on the 9th day and said, "Ah, forget it. It's raining. Let's go back to fishing."? It's only on the 10th day that the fire came. It's a question of discipline. Sometimes, God never answers us from the day we ask because He is trying to put discipline in us. He says, "I want to. Because if I give it to you now, you will use it and you will destroy it completely. You will make it miserable. Instead of a testimony, you will have a blasphemy." Like Samson. Instead of a testimony, he became a blasphemy. And Scripture says, in the Book of Romans Chapter 2:24 ²⁴ **As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."**¹ Why? Because of lack of discipline. Extreme lack of discipline. What is said next is - it is our body. Our body needs to be trained. That's why God talked about disciplining your body. And fasting is the way you discipline your body. And fasting is not from food alone; fasting from all the things this earth lays.

You remember, food? Right from the beginning. How did the fall begin? Because satan used the eyes to tempt Eve with a fruit that was denied to them. And Scripture says that she found it was good for the stomach. What a godly man. If you look about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The godly man is Isaac. What a godly man. Right from childhood, he was extremely godly. Isaac was an extremely godly young man. Which man would allow his father to tie him up and put him on the altar and

says, "Okay, Dad. Kill me." There's no question of any struggle. There's no question of - he didn't allow him to tie. He tied him and put him up. What a godly man. Can you imagine a teenager at that level of absolute, total surrender? That is this young man but he had only one problem – 'he likes eating'. There was only one problem and that brought the disaster into his family. He is physically blind now and he is spiritually also, deaf. So, he says, "I think I'm going to die. Before I die, I want to eat one nice meal. Esau, you come. You know what I like, right? You go and kill." Now, he's forgetting everything. He said, "You go and kill that." He knows that Jacob can't do that. He knows Jacob won't kill that; Esau is the hunter. "You go kill that. You bring it. Cook it the way I like. I will eat it and I will bless you." If you cross it down, Esau was not the one to be blessed.

You know what a godly young man, now an old man. He is willing to do for some of the wild game (meat). You know about Esau, Esau is another fellow who sold his birth right for a pot of lentils. His father is ustaad (went one step further). He is willing to bless him for some of the wild game (meat). Okay, but the problem is he's creating disaster in the family because when he says this, if you work it out correctly with the Bible and your pen and pencil and your calculator. He is only 132 years old. He is brought disaster into his house on that day he lived another 38 years. He didn't die, for the next 20 years when Jacob is away in Laban's place, here Isaac is still alive. Jacob comes back and he sees Isaac. What disaster he brings for a pot full of meat. And the does Rebecca do? She overhears, creates a mess over there and Jacob is scared and what does Jacob say? Jacob says, 'I am scared about this, I will be cursed.' What does Rebecca say? 'It doesn't matter because if your father curses let the curse be upon me'. Curse of deceiving your father let it be upon me. And what happens? What does Scripture says? 'Honor your Father and Mother, so that you shall live long in the land the Lord shall give you.' But Jacob is scared 'if I dishonor my father I will die.' Rebecca says, 'Doesn't matter let me die.' So what happens, Rebecca dies she never sees Jacob again. Can you imagine the disaster he created in his family? His wife died, he never sees Jacob for 20 years, and Jacob's life of 20 years goes with nothing at all. Rebecca dies and when Jacob comes back Isaac is still alive. Later, when Isaac dies, it's Esau and Jacob who buried him. Okay. All because you allowed something to control your flesh He's physically blind. Another 38 years. The physical blindness is not a curse it's the Spiritual blindness. Yes, he was stopped because you know what has happened? It is because now his flesh is prominent. What happens is if you indulge in your flesh in any area over a period of time your Spiritual ears starts shutting down.

Any area in your flesh, if you keep on indulging that's why Scripture says that Samson did not know, the Spirit of the Lord had left him, why? Because in one area of his flesh he was indulging over and over again He was a young man at the peak of his strength. He had no problem with food or anything, his only problem was his flesh and when he went indulged in that without restraint he became deaf. And he did not know the Spirit of the Lord had left him. With Isaac it was food. You look at the parallel in that. At the same time years later when Jacob is old and Jacob is blind then he tells Joseph, 'bring your sons let me bless them because I'm going to die'. He knows he is going to die. And he's blind and he's going to die. And when Manasseh and Ephraim come, he crosses his hand and Joseph says, 'that's not the way Dad, this is the elder and this is the younger.' He says, 'No, I know what I am doing'. He knows the elder shall serve the younger here also the younger is the one who is left not the elder. Meaning, when you are Spiritually awake even if you are physically old even if on your last breath God will still have something to speak to you, to tell you, do through you and do in you also. Both is happening - one is doing through him, working a Prophetic gift through him and also teaching him a lesson. See Jacob around 80 years ago, 'if you hadn't deceived your father I am the one who promised you not your father, that the elder shall serve the younger. If you hadn't deceived your father on that day when your father was planning to call Esau and he would have called you both and I would have crossed his hand, if you had blessing and not Esau. Why did you have to do it your way?' But He is doing a work in him and a work through him and he is preparing Jacob even on the day of his death.

You know why? Because the body was in control Okay, that's what God is talking about on that day we will be asked, you know because we are a new age prosperity Church where we like eating, like sleeping. Because we have been told, prosper in all areas. Eat Jalebi (sweet), all that you know. It's okay but the problem is we need to be always very sure that I can give it up like this (with a snap on your finger) if I need to. The thing is that - giving up. Will you be able to give up? You'll be able to give only when you are in, you know you have, like Paul says, I have beaten my body to shape. I do not fight like in the air; I don't run like a man aimlessly. I have beaten my body to shape. Can you give up? Can you give up anything? Have you brought your body into control? And then,

Daniel 12:3

³ Those who are wise shall shine, Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness, Like the stars forever and ever.

The stars differ in Heaven! But those who lead many to salvation will shine like stars for an eternity up there in Heaven. How many people have you brought into My Kingdom? This is the question He's going to ask you. Were you a good steward of a message that was given to you? Do you share about Me to others? Did you witness? Everybody is called to witness. Did you witness with your words, did you do witness with your life? Did you bring people into My Kingdom? The standard questions He'll ask you on that Day. How many people did you bring to Me? You'll shine like stars in Heaven. That's something, which only each one of us, only God knows how many we have brought and we know how many we have shared. You know so many Christians are scared or ashamed to share about Him. Are we ashamed? Are we scared to witness about Him? Knowing that there is no other way. Are we absolutely convinced that there is no other way other than Him? You don't believe in Jesus, you'll go to hell. Why we are more worried about offending somebody rather than see him going to hell. We are more worried about him losing his temper or offending someone or losing his friendship than the fact that I would rather lose the friendship than see him or her go to hell. Let me share; let me share due to the Lord but basically sharing. God is going to ask about us. Do we share? Do we talk to them about Him? Do we share? We might do all the other good things; we might help them and this thing and do good things. That's why I keep telling Sister Ailsa when we go to juvenile homes, the old age homes. All the things we do the things we do will be negated if you don't share Christ and the end of the day we are just preparing a body to go to hell. Not a person to be received through the pearly gates. We must never forget we minister in all these places; we buy medicines, food, clothes everything we do. Never forget the fact the most important part is - never forget to share Jesus to them. Because if you don't share Jesus to them we are just preparing, our ministry becomes storehouses for hell and not storehouses for Heaven. That is fundamental.

Remember that boy? I don't how many of you know Bhaskar who comes to Church. He cleared MCet; he is doing his engineering. But imagine he is come from Don Bosco Orphanage. Meaning- from whatever time he was abandon as a child he was grown up all the way not to engineering college and he hasn't heard about Jesus. He still goes to the temple and he is allowed to go to the temple and he doesn't know why the fathers are doing all this great things in his life. He doesn't know what the reason is. He doesn't know the Jesus anything at all. Now, because Rachel mam goes there brought him to Church and now he is heard the Gospel and now he is coming to Church regularly. Many, I'm sadly, honestly saying, many Catholic institutions do that. They do all the good works but allow them to be whatever they want to be. But I remember meeting Colonels in the Army who were picked up by Priests and Nuns from the villages put through the entire system they are big officers in the Army. And only when they came to the Army they heard and said, "Oh! This is what Jesus is. Then why didn't they tell me?" The first questions remember the Colonel Kali or whatever from Madhya Pradesh asking me. "Why didn't that father, he loved me like his own son, then why didn't he tell me about Jesus? Why didn't he lead me to the salvation of Christ?" Because probably he himself wasn't saved He didn't know how to tell. This is the sad thing. We can do all this good work and forget the fact that is not going to bring a person into the Kingdom of God. We should never forget to lead a soul into the Kingdom and then all the works that we have done has meaning. Otherwise all the work that we did just becomes like UNICEF, WHO it becomes another organization that does good deeds. And it's worth nothing.

And God will ask us have we given His testimony because that's one thing we can all do, share among the people we are share the Gospel, pray and share. Don't share and pray okay? Pray and share. First prepare the ground and then share. Prepare the ground and share the Gospel that there is no other way. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God okay. There are beautiful ways in which people are sharing with extremely good techniques; Ray Comfort's technique is very good. If you go and ask Eric have you ever lied in your life? Have you ever lied in your life? Yes. What does that make you? A liar, Have you ever stolen in your life, at least one rupee from your dad? 'Yes'. What does that make you? A thief. So, you are a lying thief. You know what the Ten Commandments say? But everybody says, Ah! I believe in the Ten Commandments. By the Ten Commandments itself, have you ever committed adultery? No brother. Have you ever looked at a woman with lust? Yes brother. You know what Jesus said about that? That is adultery. Now you are lying, thief and an adulterer also. Have you coveted for some thing, which you didn't have? Well now you are a covetous, lying, thief and an adulterer. Okay? Have you put God first in your life? No, brother you are an idolater now. You have broken all the Ten Commandments. Brother have mercy, we are ready for help. Okay. By your own confession you have broken all the Ten Commandments. And Jesus said, 'For God so loved the world, he did not come to condemn but to say you need forgiveness?'

Yes, I need forgiveness. The only way is repent and receive Jesus as your Savior so that He may forgive your sins and cleanse you. Ray Comfort is a very powerful preacher okay. He's got a very famous sermon it is spread around the world called 'Hell's best kept secret'. Meaning - don't preach the law. Without preaching the law people will never come to a conviction of the sins i.e.; hell so nobody preaches the law to them. They will only say come to Jesus. That's why we only have festivals of blessings everywhere. You never hear about the law being preached. But unless the law is preached it is never conviction. And when the conviction is there, there is never repentance. So what happens, all the people who come to these blessings meetings, whenever tough-times come they leave Jesus and go back. On the other hand one is being confronted with his sin and he cries out to God for mercy and comes to God because to escape judgment and receives the love of God. Doesn't matter what tough-time come? He knows, 'I know where I am going, I know why He saved me'. He doesn't turn back.

For everyone who comes in the Kingdom looking because blessings were preached to them when blessings stop or it doesn't come they are ready to go back to their old gods, that's better. Anyone who's been convicted of the sin, and who knows what salvation is and the price God paid to save me, will never go back. And that is the 21st century's best-kept secret, not to preach the law. Don't bring conviction at all, but where there is no conviction, there is no repentance; where there is no repentance, there is no salvation. People come in just for other reasons. You look back and think about all the big evangelic meetings you see on TV recently; where do you hear them preaching on sin? They don't preach sin. Everybody will raise their hands for a prayer, welcome Jesus into my heart and after that where are they? Actual study this man did in one particular denomination in America. And he found in a period of time they had written, confirmed 225,000 who accepted Jesus and he went and checked the records and found 90% plus never went back to Church. They never went back on their commitment. And he is asking the Lord, "why is this?" The Lord told him "Because there is no conviction and without conviction who will stay in the Church?" The one who is convicted of sin will stay in the Church because he knows that there is life and I need to stand strong, that I don't fall back. The one who is looking for blessing, when there is no blessing coming in, he won't go. Or he will look for places where only blessing is preached. There is no conviction of sin taking place. When David Wilkerson heard about this man's method, he called him up and said "You come to my Church and do a seminar for all my workers." I can give you a copy of that message, a very powerful message.

And then at the end, I picked only 11 there could be more, you need to realize the final statement is - the person I am preparing to be today, is the person who will be in all of the eternity. When it talks about the imperfect being perfect, it's talking about our body. Our imperfect body will become a perfect body. Our soul will go through a point where a lot of sin will be taken away; we won't remember it at all. But I have already sealed myself into Zion. It's not a question of learning, there is no question of promotion anymore, I have already booked my promotion slot, that's where I will be. I can't display improvement, supplementary exam no going up.

Now this is extra-scriptural but Sadhu Sundar Singh was saying in one of his visions, there are seven levels in heaven, the ones in level 7 can come to 6,5,4,3,2,1; the ones in level 6 can come to 5,4,3,2,1 and minister to those people; but the one who stays at 1 cannot go to 2, 6 cannot go to 7 it can go to 5,4,3,2,1 meaning levels at which you can know God. And the same thing is there in Hell also. Why is judgment for sinners? See when we are put on a hot plate and you are put on a furnace at the broiler factory, you'll prefer the furnace. The difference in temperature is 1000 degrees or 1500, you'll say what difference does hell make? You go to hell then people will say put me in 1000 degrees Lord and not in 1500. There also there are levels according to your sin. The basic sin for which you went to hell is that you didn't receive Jesus. But then you'll be judged for your work and your level of iniquity will also send you to different levels of punishment. That's the judgment for them. Judgment for us (believers) level of faithfulness towards Him will decide our level of usefulness in the Kingdom, what level God put us in. Salvation is free; salvation is coming through the gate. But after coming through the gate what level you will be, what you'll get, what is the kind of house you'll get; all those things will be decided by it.

That's what Jesus is talking about, reserving treasure in heaven. Didn't He say that? He says, 'Don't store treasure on earth', He's talking about storing treasure in heaven. And that's what Paul is talking about. In the Book of Romans he says, "Stop judging each other, start judging yourself." The spiritual man judges all things and he himself is not judged. A spiritual man, if we could put Sadhu Sundar Singh that he's reached level 7. There's nothing for God to judge in his life. I believe Sadhu Sundar Singh is one of those guys; Sadhu Sundar Singh and Paul are level 7 guys. "Come over here, come My well done servant, come and sit there along with Me, you are level 7. I have nothing to say to you, nothing to judge about your life, clean and transparent." Paul says, 'This is the race I am running.'

Another time we will look at the crowns, which are mentioned in the Bible. There are 5 different types of crowns. And we're asking God "here am I God." And we ask the Lord "don't let these temporary, transitory things stop me for my eternity."

If God were to say "eyes haven't seen nor ears heard what God is preparing for those who love Him." It's got to be something; even Disney cannot imagine that not even 20th Century Fox can. And that's for all eternity, yet there is no grief, in heaven; you also need to realize that there is no tears, no sorrows. So if you have reached only level 1 there is no sorrow you'll perfectly accept God's justice, His righteousness and His love and say, "God You are right with me took keep me in 1." Level 1 is still better than outside the gate. And level 1 is better than the best in the world still; it's not that you lose. But if you look in terms, only people who love working, who enjoy their work will be able to understand that. Suddenly you have limited yourself from an eternity of serving God. There was this eternity of serving God at great spiritual capacity, but because of our unfaithfulness here, we limited ourselves there. You're working in a company and one day you realize that I messed it up, I could have become the CEO and you regret it. Now you are retired sitting over there "I messed up here, here, here otherwise I would have been the CEO."

Like my mother says, working in Kerala where at the age of 20 or 21 government job, my dad was the pioneer, he went to Bhutan, he told her to come, she resigned the job and she went. She began at the class in the Registration Officer in the Registrar's Office. She retired as a teacher God blessed a lot of young people through her, but the one who joined after her retired as the Instructor General of the Registrar. And when she saw his picture in the paper, now she's retired, she looked at him and said "My gosh! This guy was my assistant there in the office and he's retired as the top guy in the government in that area. She's looking and saying "your father messed it all up (it's no longer my husband okay) you're father messed my career." So that's the thing we're talking about we mess it up when God says we can be right there at the top, that's why we study the Book of Revelation, it's all promised to overcomers. If you overcome, if you overcome, finally when He comes in last, He says, "If you overcame, as I overcame, you will sit with Me on My throne and reign along with Me." He's promising you the top level 7, you shall reign along with Me all of eternity.

That's what C.S Lewis is trying to do through Narnia, sons of Adam ruling different worlds. So in Narnia, the first one, it is High King Peter remember all the young ones? They are the ones who are ruling. The second one when you come to Prince Caspian, Susan has gone in there and come out and Caspian has fallen in love with Susan and she says, "I'm 1300 years older than you!" C.S Lewis is a very strong believer so he wanted to write this thing for children about how you will reign one day with Jesus, if you walk in obedience here you will be ruling. But you do not know the universe, how many kingdoms or worlds are there and God is actually preparing a set of princes and princesses who will rule along with Him. A privilege not given to angels, it says now they are above us but one day they will be below us, we will rule over them also. We will tell them and they will do things as you command that's what the whole preparation in the Kingdom is about that's what we are missing. We'll pray?

Closing Prayer:

Father we thank You, we praise You, we worship You God. Thank You Father, thank You Lord! We thank You Father because You're a God who loves us. We thank You Father because we don't have to earn our salvation O God. If we had to earn our salvation, none of us would have been here today, it would have been impossible beyond us, nobody could have kept the law but Father, we thank You that You set the law through Your son and You nailed the law onto the cross in Your Son and He has set us free. But as we die to ourselves and are alive in Christ Jesus, we can keep the law in the spirit, we can obey You, we can walk with You, we can be good stewards of everything that You've given us. And we are without fear because You have not given us a spirit of fear, we are without hatred because You have given us a spirit of love and You gave given us Your mind O God so that we can understand everything. Help us O God, each one of us to continue to grow into our full potential in the spirit O God. So that O Father that day, each one of us can hear from You "well done My good and faithful servant, enter into My joy." Thank You Father, thank You. We commit once again all the needs and the prayers before Thee. We believe in You O God our Father. All the others wherever they are Master, may Your rest be with each one of them. Thank You Father. We plead the Blood of Jesus over each one of us O God, touch us, separate us for Your glory and each household represent here O God. Speak Your salvation into the members in our houses who do not know You O Lord. Father, we pray this year be the year of salvation for many O God, let not this year pass by in their life O God without You walking into their hearts. Thank You Father, do whatever is fit O Master. If You have to turn their life upside-down we pray O Father You'd do it so that their souls may not be lost O Master. Change situations, circumstances, Father, send forth Your word and heal them of their unbelief. Thank You Father, we praise You, we worship You for in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen.