



**VENUE**

**Divine Encounter Fellowship  
Ministries International**  
*Ragoo Road, D'abadie.*

**FACILITATOR**

**Apostle Dr. J. Vernon Duncan**

T: 868-646-8268 / 868-646-0203 | E: [info@divineencounterfmi.com](mailto:info@divineencounterfmi.com)

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**LESSON 1:**

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## TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- Repentance and consecration
- Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- Methodical study of the word/meditation
- Prayer and Fast
- Worship
- Establishing a prophetic culture

## REPENTANCE AND CONSECRATION

### *Repentance is a lifestyle, not an act*

One should be in a perpetual state of penitence so as not to block the flow of the Spirit.

Acts 3:19: Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Repentance must be a state of being as a prerequisite for the downloads

### *Prepare for Downloads*

Like in IT, one has to ensure that there is adequate storage room to receive further downloads (Ps. 68:19: God daily loads us ...)

Need to delete unwanted files or shift some files unto a flash drive or other device to free up space for the down loads.

Repentance allows us to empty piled up wastes and dead works from the inside.

### TIMES OF REFRESHING

A specific provision for God's people

Comes directly from the throne room

Always available, but released only with repentance

To keep us at the cutting edge of our faith and our ministering.

To sharpen and keep us sensitive to hearing God's voice

To keep our relationship fresh, so that we do not depend on past glories (2 Cor. 3:18)

So that Satan cannot overcome us.

Satan like a basketball coach; he studies you and learns your routine until he calls "time-out" and implements a counter-move

Must be wise not to depend on the old experience

**The rights and privilege of entry into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:19-20) place a demand on us to:**

Draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith (Heb. 10:22) – **clean, confident and believing**

Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water (Heb. 9:14; Eph. 5:26 – *the power of the Word*; Ps. 24:3-4)

## The Process

“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he comes and rains righteousness upon you” (Hos. 10:12)

Practice living a righteous and consecrated life. 2 Cor. 6:17: “Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”

Abstain from every form of evil (2 Tim. 2:16; 1 Thess. 5:22)

Sow seeds of righteousness, so that we can reap in joy and not in sorrow, regret and remorse

Speaking of a lifestyle of righteousness

The daily or moment by moment observance of doing that which is right and proper in the sight of God.

Observe carefully (Deut. 28:1)

## Break Up Your Fallow Ground

We must surrender our hardened hearts to the Lord.

Allow Him to break up and remove our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh so that we can yield to God

Do not be stuck in your own ways

Ask God to continuously remove any tendency to falsify, to be hypocritical, subversive or the like.

Let the Holy Spirit remove pride and arrogance from us, for He resists the proud and gives grace

to the humble (James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5-6).

Humility a major key to authentic prophetic ministry – allows for free exchange.

Need plowing and tilling of your spiritual soil so as to receive the outpouring of God's revelation into your life.

Can't be legalistic, over-analytical and inflexible if you have to prophesy

Your faith has to be spontaneous and responsive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit

Lord, give us hearts of compassion, for we need this to bring comfort, edification and exhortation.

Recognize any spiritually barren condition.

Examine your hearts for tendencies to be impersonal, self-centered and self-serving.

Father release a bulldozer type of anointing in me to remove any bedrocks of evil or foundations of iniquity that constantly breed transgression and rebellion against You.

### **Change Your Wineskins**

Matt. 9:17: "Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins and both are preserved."

We repent of our old religious traditions and mindsets, fixed ways of doing things.

Remove inflexibility, unyieldedness and stubbornness, oh Lord.

### Lord, Make Us Into Vessels Of Honor

Rom. 9:21; 23: "Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one **vessel for honor** and another for dishonor?" v. 23: and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared before hand for glory.

Wash us and purify us through your blood; cleanse our conscience from dead works that we would serve You in Spirit and in truth (Heb. 9:13-14).

### Lord Make us into Vessels of Honour

Make us worthy carriers of your glory (Your face) to the world--2 Cor. 4:6-7.

Creation groans in birth pangs, waiting for the manifestation of this glory from the sons of men (Rom. 8:18-19).

One must be consecrated to minister: "And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place ..." (Lev. 16:32)

### Gird up the Loins of Your Mind

1 Pet. 1:13: "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind..."

V. 15: "But as He who called you is **holy**, you also **be holy** in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be **holy**, for I am **holy**.'"

The words, "HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD" were inscribed on a plate fastened on the turbans of Aaron (the high priest) and his sons.



# LESSON 2:

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## THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Joel 2:28: “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.”

Acts 2:17: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy ...”

### Baptism With The Holy Spirit Essential For Manifesting the Gifts of the Spirit.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit – that which Jesus does (Matt. 3:11-12)

He is poured out on the believer in Christ to empower him or her to manifest the gifts (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 17; Lk. 4:14-18; Lk. 10:19).

Acts 2:1-4: “... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other ...”

Luke 4:1: “Then Jesus being filled with the Holy Spirit returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”

V. 14: Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him (His fame) went out through all the surrounding region.

- Baptism With The Holy Spirit Essential



- V. 18: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor ...’
- Acts 1:8: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

### You Can’t Experience the Full Manifestation of the Spirit without the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The charismata gifts emerge out of the experience of the baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire

1 Cor. 12:7-11: “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all ...”

#### **The Baptism with the Holy Spirit (UB pp. 2, 31-49)**

Matt. 3:11: “I indeed **baptize** you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Greek word *baptizō* – the only word for baptize in the NT; different shades of meaning. Meaning based on the context and the specific way the word is used.

John the Baptist pays the highest tribute to Jesus.

Refers to a contrastingly higher baptism than he could ever offer, one outside of his league

A Superior baptism: (i) because of the superiority of the New Baptizer – Jesus Himself; and (ii) a superior means or instrumentality of that new baptism – the Holy Spirit and fire.

- Nuances of baptizō:
- To dip, to submerge, to inundate with water
- To cleanse by dipping or submerging
- To wash, to make clean with water
- To initiate or induct
- To overwhelm, to cover, to overshadow; to be heavily under the influence of.

The first three nuances refer to baptism in water or water baptism.

The fourth nuance (to induct) refers to being introduced into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit: “For by one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body** – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made **to drink into one Spirit**” (1 Cor. 12:13)

### The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We are born of the Spirit when we confess our sins; the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and quickens our spirit (Jn. 16:8; Heb. 4:12)

Makes alive who were dead (Eph. 2:1)

We come to the altar and confess our sins, resulting in a cleansing by the blood of Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit (1 Jn. 1:7)

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit vs the Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

The third dimension of our lives, our spirit, is now rekindled and comes into activation.

We now receive spiritual things (1 Cor. 2:14)

As a result, inducted into the body of Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

Also Rom. 6:3: “Know ye not, that so many as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?”

### **The fifth nuance refers to the baptism with the Holy Spirit**

To overwhelm; to cover, to overshadow; to be heavily under the influence of another

Some imagery obtained from water baptism; comparable to being submerged in water

Induction or introduction also bears slight resemblance to introduction into water

### **The Baptism with the Holy Spirit-When?**

Acts 2:38: Repent, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**

It normally takes place after one is saved and baptized in water (Acts 2:1-4; 8:16-17; 19:5-6; 1 Cor. 12:13)

Exception: Acts 10:44-48; they were hungry and thirsty; the Holy Spirit had no choice.

### **Analogies of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

I will **pour out** of my Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:17) – Like a strong shower

**Clothed with, enveloped or hidden in:** Endued with (Gk *enduo*) –

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high” (Lk. 24:49)

iii. **Drinking/Receiving (Jn. 7:37-39)**: If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.<sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;

Also Acts 8:15-17; 19:2; 1 Cor. 12:13

### **Analogies of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

iv. **Filled**: Acts 2:4: "and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with divers tongues..."

v. **A spring of water welling up** (Jn 4:14): Indeed the water I give him will become (*gennaō*) in him a spring of water welling up (Gk. *hallomai*) to eternal life

Gennaō: cause to arise or excite

Halomai: to gush forth.

vi. **Rivers (streams) of living water (Jn. 7:37-39)**

The result of the outpouring from heaven, the clothing, the receiving or drinking, the infilling, the welling up and the overflow.

The meeting of two streams of power

Turbulence, bubbling, gushing forth, prophesying, speaking in tongues

How to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

**Repent and sanctify yourself; Acts 3:19**

**Love the Lord sincerely (Matt. 22:37):** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” **Express it**

A half-hearted approach will not allow you to be baptized with the Holy Spirit

**Be hungry and seek the Lord for it**

Matt. 5:6: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

### **How to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

Cornelius and household were hungry (Acts 10:44-46)

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word... the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

**Ask for It:** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

**Be patient and wait on the Lord:** Lk. 24: “... wait in Jerusalem until you are endued ...” Isa. 40:31 – “They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength...”

**Yield to the promptings of the Holy Spirit** until you get your breakthrough.

The genuine love of God as well as His joy will begin to fill your heart. You will begin to speak in tongues as the Spirit gives you utterance.

Sometimes you would need somebody like an apostle or other five-fold minister to lay hands upon you

Acts 8:17: Then laid they [their] hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.



# LESSON 3:

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## METHODICAL STUDY OF THE WORD

### THE WORD IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF FAITH, WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR PROPHECYING

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17)

Hearing (Gk. *akoe*; Heb. *shema*):

*Shema* – hearing accompanied with obedience (Deut. 6:4) – “Hear oh Israel, the Lord our God is one God”

Hearing here implies “understanding” or “comprehension”

Faith comes by understanding/obedience, and understanding/obedience by the word of God.

Refers to the *rhema* of the word, the personal revelation.

Can't have personal revelation without the word – essential for faith

## FAITH: A FUNDAMENTAL OF THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY

WHAT IS FAITH?

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for. The evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1)

Verse 6: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

## FAITH: A FUNDAMENTAL OF THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY

Substance: That which is tangible, that which can be held or grasped. In the natural realm, that which is physical, visible.

“The substance of things hoped for”:

It is substance although not yet seen in the natural realm. Thus there is another realm in which the substance exists. Substance speaks of something in actual existence.

“Hoped for” suggests that although I am living in the natural world, I expect to happen what is about to happen.

An interplay between two worlds of reality –

the natural world in which I live, and the supernatural world in which I am privileged to operate

As an heir of God, I am privileged to live in both worlds (2 Cor. 10:3): “Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh”

Faith: “The evidence of things not seen”

Ironically “evidence” in normal life refers to things seen- an oxymoron

Evidence of the interplay between two worlds

## **FAITH: A FUNDAMENTAL OF THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

I am seeing in the spirit realm what I have not yet seen in the physical realm

So I am reaching into the spirit realm as I believe God, seeing the thing I desire to receive from God



(through the eye of my spirit), getting hold of it, and bringing it into the present.

Faith moves beyond the present, projects its spiritual energy into the future and gets hold of the exceedingly great and precious promises of God, and brings them into manifestation.

Prophesying, decreeing and declaring are some of the finishing works of faith.

James 2:17: "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead"

### Faith Must Work with the Word to be Real

Rom. 10:17: "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God"

Faith is not generated from mere imagination or mental power

*Eph 1:17: That the father of glory may grant unto them (the Ephesians) the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, and that the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened.*

## **FAITH: A FUNDAMENTAL OF THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

For there to be understanding there must be revelation and illumination coming forth from the Word.

Faith emerges from this background

God Demands Absolute Belief in Him.

Heb. 11:6: “But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”

Faith demands belief in the absolute authority of God as the “I Am”, as well as diligence in going after Him.

### What Kind of Faith Do I Need?

Mark 11:22: So Jesus answered and said Have Faith in God (*Exete pistin Theou* = Have the faith of God)

V. 24: “...whateverthings you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

Have the kind of faith that God had when He created the heaven and the earth – e.g. “Let there be ... and there was”

### **FAITH: A FUNDAMENTAL OF THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

That’s the kind of faith needed to prophesy, so that when you say something you expect it to come to pass, regardless of the prevailing circumstances and how long it may take.

### How Much Faith Do I Need?

Luke 17:5-10: (Read)

As small as a grain of mustard seed; that’s all

More importantly: USE IT

## **THE WORD: A RICH KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR PROPHESYING**

2 Tim 3:15-16: "... and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Apart from generating faith, the word provides a rich knowledge base for efficient and authentic living.

The Bible a manual for life, provides the guidelines for successful living (Jos 1:8; Ps. 1). Expresses the mind of the Creator.

Describes how life was originally intended and designed to function (Ps. 119:105).

It is the source of truth about life. It instructs us on how to operate and troubleshoot our life.

## **THE WORD OF GOD ILLUMINATES AND CLEANSSES THE MIND**

Ps. 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Ensures proper spiritual protocol and the integrity of the one prophesying

Ps. 119:30: "The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple."

Jn. 15:3: You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

## **The Word of God is True**

Proverbs 30:5: "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

Jn. 14:6: "I am the way the truth and the life ..." Jesus is the word personified. One becomes acquaint-

ed with Him through the written word”

Jn. 1:1: In the beginning was the Word (logos) and the Word was with God and the Word was God

### **The Logos, the Graphe and the Rhema Word**

Inter-relationship between the logos (Jn. 1:1), the graphe (Scripture, 2 Tim. 3:16), and the rhema

The first, *logos*, refers principally to the total inspired Word of God and to Jesus, Who is the living *Logos*

### **The Logos, the Graphe and the Rhema Word**

A rhema is a verse or portion of Scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention with application to a current situation or need for direction – a Personal Word

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word [*rhema*] of God” (Romans 10:17). “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [*rhema*] of God” (Ephesians 6:17). “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word [*rhema*]” (Ephesians 5:25–26).

When Jesus told Peter to cast the fishing nets on the other side of the boat, Peter answered, “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word [*rhema*] I will let down the net” (Luke 5:5).

When the angel told Mary that she would have a child, “Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word [*rhema*]” (Luke 1:38).

## **Meditation, the Rhema and Prophesying**

Joshua 1:8: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

## **Meditation, the Rhema and Prophesying**

Create a culture of the word in your personal life – think word, talk word and do word.

Shall not depart from your mouth – constantly speaking the word

But you shall **meditate** in it day and night

Heb. *daw-gaw*: “To ruminate, roll over in the mind, analyze, study, imagine, muse, mutter, groanings”

Psalm 1:2-3: The object of meditation=God’s Law

Psalm 63:6-The object of meditation=The Person of God

Ps. 1:2-3: “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

Stability, fruitfulness, success – foundation for prophesying

Ps. 63:6: “When I remember You on my bed, I meditate (daw-gaw) on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.”

## **Meditation, the Rhema and Prophesying**

Other Heb. word is ‘See-akh’: “Communicating, musing, babbling, deeply considering, pondering, studying, putting forth thoughts”

## **Meditation, the Rhema and Prophesying**

Ps. 104:34: "May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord."

Ps. 119:15: "I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways."

Josh. 1:8c: "that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it"

For you to make use of the word of God to speak into the lives of people or to transform situations and circumstances, the word must move from the pages of Scripture (*graphie*) into your spirit, so that you deliver the word as Spirit and life.

Jesus' words (Jn. 6:63): "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you **are spirit, and they are life.**

*Why? Jesus spent much time meditating and praying to the Father*

Jesus began His ministry in prayer. As Jesus was baptized He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He spent 40 days of prayer and fast (Luke 4:1).

During many times in His life, Jesus withdrew from His disciples and the crowds to be alone to pray. He often went up on a mountainside or went to solitary or lonely places to pray. Sometimes He even went to pray very early in the morning, while it was still dark (Ref. Matthew 14:23, Mark 1:35, 6:46, Luke 5:16).

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# Lesson 4:

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## PRAYER AND FASTING

### JESUS IS OUR GREATEST EXAMPLE OF THE POWER OF FASTING AND PRAYER

Matt. 4:1-2; Lk. 4:1-2; He fasted for forty days and forty nights at the very start of His ministry.

Did not venture into ministry before he fasted and prayed

He said: “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting” (Matt. 17:21)

Examples of Fasting in Bible

Moses fasted for 40 days and 40 nights twice

First in Exodus 24:16-18: “Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.”

In preparation for receiving the Ten Commandments which God wrote with His own fingers.

Exodus 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

Second Time (to make atonement for the rebellious children of Israel): Exodus 34:28 – “And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And He wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.”

Ezra called a fast to seek God’s protection for the Jews returning from Babylon to Jerusalem (Ezra 8:21).

Nehemiah 1:4: “So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for



many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”

This gave Nehemiah the breakthrough to go to Judah and rebuild the walls of the city.

Daniel the prophet fasted for 21 days for the fulfillment of God’s promises, and received mighty revelations from God. (Daniel 10:3).

Elijah needed to fast 40 days before he heard God’s voice again. (1 Kings 19:8)

The elders, prophets and teachers in Antioch fasted and ministered to God, resulting in the launching of Paul and Barnabas’ apostolic ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 13:2,3).

Esther fasted for three days when she learned of the threat to destroy the people of Israel:

“Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” (Es 4:16)

Paul was “in fastings often” (2 Cor. 11:27 NKJV).

## **Fasting and Prayer: The Foundation of Favour and Power**

**Case of Esther** – Unusual favour of God through fasting.

On the day after Esther’s 3-day fast, **Haman** who had gotten official approval from the king, to kill all Jews on a set day, **himself** was executed by order of the king on the very gallows he had set up to kill Mordecai.

The massive nation-wide plot to kill the Jews was destroyed within 3 days of prayer and fast.

After Jesus' 40 day fast, the Bible says:

"Then Jesus returned in **the power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all."

Fasting greatly enhances the power of the Spirit in one's life, making it easier to prophesy

Acts 1:8: "But you shall **receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Confirmed by Jesus in Lk. 4:18 – "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted..."

### **The Case of Jehoshaphat**

(2 Chron. 20:1, 3-4): "It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

V. 3-4: "And Jehoshaphat **feared**, and set himself to seek the Lord, **and proclaimed a fast** throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord ..."

V. 14: Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

V. 15: And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's'" (*word of wisdom*)

### **Fasting and Prayer: The Foundation of Favour and Power**

V. 16: "Tomorrow go down against them (*word of wisdom*). They will surely come up by the Ascent of

Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel" (*foretelling*).

V. 17: You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you" (*word of wisdom*)

V. 22: "Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated."

Favour is evident here as a result of the prayer and fasting of Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel.

### **Fasting with the Right Motive**

Isa. 58:1: "Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?"

Fasting that is confined only to religious piety (mere devoutness, religious ceremony) is not in alignment with God's purpose

### **Fasting with the Right Motive**

Isa 58:6-7: "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?"

Fasting must be guided by the faith in God that people will be delivered from spiritual bondage through the act of fasting and prayer;

Also by one's readiness to take significant action in helping the underprivileged and the disfranchised of society.

### **Why Does Fasting Produce Such Spiritual Power?**

Rom. 8:7: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" ...**a serious barrier**

1 Cor. 2:14: "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Fasting and prayer help to produce the spiritual man

### **Why Does Fasting Produce Such Spiritual Power?**

Gal. 5:16-17: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

The things you truly wish to do are spiritual, but you can't as long as the flesh is prominent.

Fasting takes you out of the zone of the flesh

Rom 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom. 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God..." explains why it is one's reasonable service to sacrifice the flesh.

Fasting disciplines and kills the domineering tendency of the flesh, and subjects it to the dying of the Lord (2 Cor. 4:8-10)

As a result, the **treasure** in earthen vessels (the face of Jesus, the spirit man, locked in union with the Holy Spirit, the manifested presence or glory of God) is released (2 Cor. 4:6-7)

V. 7: “But we have this **treasure** in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

Watchman Nee says: “Our spirit seems to be wrapped in a covering so that it cannot easily break forth” (Nee 1965, p. 9) – see B/T p.16.

At a certain level of spiritual activation through prayer and fasting, there is such a union between our spirit, the Spirit of God and the glory of Christ that one term seems to imply the other (See B/T p. 13).

When the outer vessel of clay breaks, the glory of God within emerges.

My spirit, the Holy Spirit and the glory of Christ are inseparable when I am in full spiritual flight.

Jn. 17:21: “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You have sent Me.”

Fasting is one of the most powerful ways of stirring up or activating **the gift of God (the Holy Spirit)** in us, eliminating fear and producing power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:6-7)

The prophetic can easily flow out of this experience

Fasting is a form of voluntary suffering that brings forth the glory of God from within us (Rom. 8:18-19)

Length of Fasts

Fasting also referred to as “Solemn Assembly”:

Joel 2:15-16: “Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, **call a solemn assembly**: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet – top priority.

Usually in Scripture, in 3 or 7 days; sometimes 10 days, 21 days as well as 40 days.

Length of Fasts

Depends on the decision of the local church leader (as lead by the Spirit)

Or, if a personal fast, by what the Holy Spirit directs you to do.

One day per week recommended as a wise practice:

*Full fast* – only water for 24 hours

*Partial fast* – only water for 12 hours.

## **Types of Fasts**

**The Esther Fast:** A 3-day **full fast** involving water only (“Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day”)

### **The Daniel Fast (Two versions):**

(i) 10 days (Daniel 1:12):

“Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.”

Types of Fasts

(ii) 21 days (Daniel 10:3):

“I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.”

No pleasant food (spicy, delicious, savoury); maybe vegetables and water as in the 10 day fast.

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# LESSON 5:

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## TRUE WORSHIP: A JOURNEY INTO THE GLORY OF GOD

### THE NATURE OF TRUE WORSHIP

Scripture: John 4:23-24; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Cor. 4:6-10; Heb. 10:19-22; Ps. 24:1-6; Lk. 16:16

John 4:23-24 (Read also B.T. pp. 11-12 & Matt. 15:8-9)

True worshippers – genuine, authentic, real, pure, uncontaminated, unpolluted, untainted, non-hypocritical

John 4:23-24: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father in **spirit and truth**; for the Father **is seeking such** to worship Him. God **is Spirit**, and those who worship Him **must** worship in spirit and truth.”

Worship Defined: Gk *proskuneō*–profound reverence to God by kneeling, prostration or any equivalent gesture to demonstrate homage, acknowledging the superiority of God and being willing to hear his voice and take His directives.

Heb. *Barak* (Ps. 100:4): To bow at the knee and adore; to kneel expectantly in quietness before God; to bow one’s self toward God (Micah 6:6)

### THE NATURE OF TRUE WORSHIP

Heb. *Shāchā*: To bow in homage or obedience; allegiance to God; the most popular word for worship in OT. Goes beyond adoring; readiness to obey; no spiritual beauty pageant; not mere fasci-

nation

Cf. Ps. 27:4: Not only to behold the beauty of the Lord, but also to “inquire in His temple”.

This beauty demands inquisitiveness. Want to do anything to please the Lord

Peter, James and John at the Mount of Transfiguration

Matt. 9: Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

Isa. 6:5-8: God asked: “Who shall I send and who would go for us?” Iasiah: “Send me”

Heb. `Āvad: “To perform acts of worship”; “to minister”; “to serve” or “to slave.” Ex. 10:26: “We have to use some of them in worshipping ( `āvad) the Lord our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship ( `avad) the Lord”

From root word “worth” or “worthy” – wor/ship like fellow/ship, friend/ship, partner/ship, relation/ship – *Coming together with He who is worthy*

Equivalent to “fellowship” (*koinōnia*) – communion, joint participation, intimacy, intercourse, deep relationship

## THE NATURE OF TRUE WORSHIP

### In Spirit

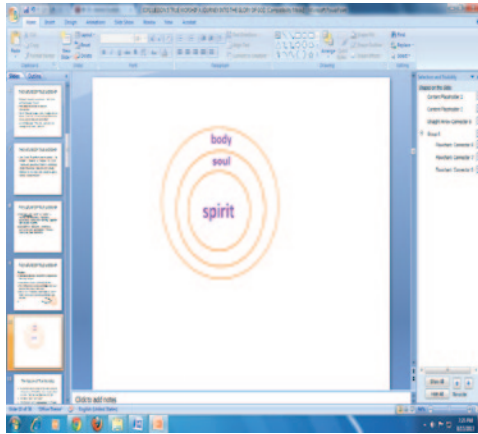
Flesh cannot fellowship with spirit – It will take spirit to fellowship with spirit

Impossible to worship (worth-ship) in the flesh

How difficult is it to worship in spirit? Man: body, soul and spirit (Gk. *pneuma*; Heb. *ruach*)

Gen. 2:7; 6:17 – neshama (violent breath) or *ruach* – breath, wind or spirit; we are more authenti-

cally spirit than flesh .



To worship in spirit is to let the Holy Spirit bring me into *koinōnia* with the Father who is by nature Spirit (Jn. 4:24). “Like” has true fellowship with “like.”

N.B. God is “Spirit” not “a spirit”

Worshipping in spirit is not an option; it is the only true way to worship; it is compulsory for true worshippers

The Father is seeking only true worshippers (v. 23)

## THE NATURE OF TRUE WORSHIP

2 Cor. 3:18 (Read B.T. p. 13, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)

Must get rid of the fleshly (body & soul) veils

Open-faced before God, no skeletons in the closet, plain-faced – no hidden agendas

(i) Veils: unforgiveness, anger, prejudice, emotional hurts, shame, anxiety, deception, hypocrisy, bitterness, low self-esteem, guilt, sexual perversion, pretense, fornication, adultery, lewdness, promiscuity, jealousy, selfishness, idolatry, pride, fear, crooked ways, rough ways (compare Isa. 40:3-5)

2 Cor. 4:6-10 (Read B.T. pp. 13-14, 3<sup>rd</sup> para.)

You allow the glory of God to enter your life and activate the treasure wrapped up in your earthen vessel – the face of Jesus (v. 6)

Why is it in an earthen vessel – that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us – total dependence on God (v. 7)

How is the earthen vessel broken? (v. 8-10)

Heb. 10:19-23

Boldness or freedom to enter into the Holiest as a result of the blood of Jesus is conditioned by drawing near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith (vv. 19-22)

Heart must be sprinkled from an evil conscience (v. 22). See Heb. 9:13-14

Bodies washed with pure water (v. 22)

See Rom. 12:1-2: Body as living sacrifice; be not conformed to this world

## **THE NATURE OF TRUE WORSHIP**

Ps. 24:1-6

Who is qualified to go into the hill of the Lord?

He who has clean hands a pure heart

Who has not lifted up his soul unto vanity (to an idol) – divided loyalty

Nor sworn deceitfully – promising one thing but doing another; vowing and not paying

Luke 16:16

Press relentlessly into the glory (compare Phil. 3:13-14)

True worship takes you into the *causal realm* where you are seated in heavenly places with Christ (Eph. 1:3, 20-23)

No casual approach will get you into the *causal realm*

## **THE IMPACT OF TRUE WORSHIP**

Spiritual Union with God:

Conjoining of spirits – Rom. 8:26: “..but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered”;

Gal 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ live sin me ...”

## **THE IMPACT OF TRUE WORSHIP**

1 Cor. 2:9-16: v. 12-13: Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual

Spiritual transformation: (2 Cor. 3:18). The flesh gives way to spiritual transformation that would bring you into the image of “the glory of God

The mirror of the glory of God – major spiritual instrument in worship

Into the same image – the Glory of the Lord

Progressive transformation (Gk. *metamorphōō*): from glory to glory

Spontaneous Response to His calling (Read . **B.T. pp. 14 ff**).

God’s calling not answered with the mind, but with the spirit

The flesh and the Spirit contrary to each other (Gal. 5:16) – the capsule (flesh) falls off in order for rocket to be released into orbit

Ultimate response anticipated by God from us is “Yes Lord”

Isa. 6:1-8: “...Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? ...Here am I! Send me.”

RECOMMISSIONING: Worship brings you into a face to face relationship with God where you are recommissioned.

## **JOURNEY INTO THE GLORY OF GOD**

Worship is a journey into the Holy of holies that ends with a face to face encounter (rendezvous) with the Father in the throne room

Three stages of Divine Communication:

*Todah* (Thanksgiving), *Tehilla* (praise) and *Barak* (worship) – Ps. 100:4

TOuter court – brazen altar, place of sacrifice – *Todah*

*T<sup>v</sup>hillah*: Inner court (mid court or holy place) – table of shew bread, golden lamp stand, altar of

incense —

The screenshot shows a PowerPoint slide with the title "JOURNEY INTO THE GLORY OF GOD". The slide contains a diagram of the Tabernacle layout, divided into three sections: OUTER COURT, HOLY PLACE, and HOLY OF HOLIES. The diagram includes labels for various items: The Brazen Altar, Gate, Laver, Table of shewbread, Golden lampstand, Altar of Incense, The Ark of the Covenant, and The Veil. The words "TODAH" and "T<sup>e</sup>HILLAH" are written in boxes within the diagram. The PowerPoint interface is visible, including the ribbon, slide thumbnails on the left, and the Selection and Visibility pane on the right.

Barak: The Holy of holies behind the veil — ark of the covenant, mercy seat, carvings of cherubims, shekinah glory--

## TODAH (Thanksgiving)

David dispenses with the ritualism of the Mosaic tabernacle worship – “enter,” “gates,” “courts.”

Todah is the Attitude of Worship

## TODAH (Thanksgiving)

Your attitude determines your altitude – from the known to the unknown, from the flesh to the spirit, from the natural realm into the Kingdom realm (Jer. 33:3; Eph. 1:3, 20; Eph. 2:1-6)

You focus on what God has done for you (B.T. pp. 47-48)

The place of sacrificial communication – do not always feel like it but you do it anyway (Rom. 12:1; Heb. 13:5)- *determination and passion*

Repentance – turning away or forsaking transgression; your rights of access can only be exercised when you meet the required conditions

Our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience (Heb. 9:14;10:22)

Clean hands and a pure heart – no vanity (Ps. 24:3-5)

Sacrifice without repentance is futile (Rom. 12:1-2)

The Holy Spirit's role – as *paraklētos* (comes alongside to help). Takes me through the paces of worship. No need for any physical substitute such as idol or image (B.T. pp. 48-49)

Faith also necessary (Heb. 11:1, 6).



## Lifting of the Hand

From the verb *yada* ("to extend the hand"). Root: *yad=hand*

An open, unreserved stance before God: "Lord here am I, take me as I am, take all of me" – Apos.  
Paul's wish: "Oh that men (Gk. *aner*) would pray every where, lifting holy hands without wrath (1 Tim. 2:8)

Humility – James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:6: "Therefore humble yourselves ..."; *You are higher--I am lower*

Surrender – "God you have me where you want me" – my own agenda, my own ambitions

Desire to go higher – e.g. a young child to his mother or father

Removal of weights and burdens

My hands are my spiritual antennas

(*Living hands vs dead metal*)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Stage : T<sup>e</sup>hillah**

Holy Place (mid-court)

Praise

The shift from *toda* to *t<sup>e</sup>hillah* almost effortless, the Holy Spirit does the work

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Stage : T<sup>e</sup>hillah**

Focus is more on God and less on yourself at *t<sup>e</sup>hillah*

You *halal* and *shabach* the lord as you move towards *t<sup>e</sup>hillah* (p. 50, B.T.)

Focus on the names of God, attributes and track-record (p. 51 B.T.) – not empty, vague expressions

Holy Place (mid-court) – cont'd

New realms of glory are entered into as you profile God (pp. 49-54, B.T.)

The Lord enters into and sits in your praises and is enthroned by them (Ps. 22:3)

**Worship**, *koinonia*, deep intimacy is realized as the Father returns the compliment and begins to shower back glory upon you (1 Chron. 16:35 – you begin to glory in His praise)

Esther and the king an excellent analogy (Esther 5:1ff) --pp. 54-56, B.T.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: Barak**

(Worship – Holy of Holies)

Taking hold of the scepter of the Lord (Ps. 45:6, Heb. 1:8)

*Bārak*: bow at the knee and adour – response to what you see

Worship is totally private, while praise is corporate. Halle/lu/yah from three Hebrew words-ha-lal (praise), lu (you or ye) and yah (Yahweh) – an invitation to others to join you – not strictly the language of worship

In the Glory

Stages in Worship (pp. 60-67, B.T.)

*Bārak* – “to bend the knee and adore” in response to Holy Majesty. Can't stand toe-to-toe in a face

to face encounter with Divine Majesty. An expression of the fear of God – *yarē ēt* vs *yarē min*

## **In the Glory**

Shāchā or shāchach – to bow in homage or obeisance, not just bowing at the knee and adoring, not just to behold the beauty of the Lord (Ps 27:4). There is more to worship than beholding the beauty of the Lord

Āvad – The place of the unknown Exod. 10:26: “We have to use some of them in worshipping the Lord our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship (āvad) the Lord. “to perform acts of worship, “to minister,” to serve,” “to slave” (pp. 64-67, B.T.)

Āvad – “to perform acts of worship, “to minister,” to serve,” “to slave” (pp. 64-67, B.T.)

The place of the unknown. Exod. 10:26: “We have to use some of them in worshipping the Lord our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship (āvad) the Lord.

Jer. 33:3: Call upon me and I will...

