

# PREVAILING IN CHRIST MINISTRIES

1609 East Del Amo Boulevard

Carson, California 90746

## November 2, 2010: Bible Study

**Scripture Reference: Joshua 3:5**

**Topic: "Get Ready"**

**Intro:** (Review and Examples of S.O.A.P.) – Ps. 126:5. We cannot do the impossible without God's word; His scripture; His presence. God is a present thought in my mind. He will not allow anything to come in and invade my mind. The basic message is, "get ready." (I Chron. 29:5) If you do what you are supposed to do, you will get your life situations together. If you get it together you will have peace you've never known. What I'm going to take you through will render your power insufficient. David said we need to consecrate ourselves before we do anything in the house of the LORD. You can tell when people are not consecrated because they're always in the negative. Consecration brings about better living. When the word is the incentive to come to church, then we will be able to hear God. Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17). Consecration brings about the joy of salvation.

- I. **Devoted to His Word:** (Ps. 119:38; Jn. 15:3; Jn. 17:17) – If they move in God's word, they will do everything better. There will be an anointing that God can use. This will be revealed to those who use the S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer). What is the Bible saying to me? I criticize, but I don't want to do any work. (Jn. 15:3) – The thought of the Word. (Jn. 17:17) – We get clean through the Word of God. The Word is the soap that gets the stain out. It's through the sanctification that Israel believed they were successful. When we consecrate ourselves, we must believe that things will get better. We should rejoice when our enemies turn to the LORD.
- II. **Let's See the Difference (between consecration and sanctification:** (I Kings 18:27-40) – Elijah pours the water (which can also be seen as the word of God) into the barrel. This is his consecration. He believed God to do something, expected it, and prayed for it. He offered up bullocks and poured the water. These were all consecration steps. What difference does my fasting, praying, and studying God's word make in saving a nation? Consecration was Elijah's part. Sanctification is the purification only God can do. We have to be sure to get rested if you are going to study the Word because God wants you at your best. You can't intellectualize the Word; you must trust God. The sanctification is what consumed the altar. God can consume you through His word. The vision you have is of His glory.
- III. **God Made the Difference (Isa. 58; Luke 24:49):** We fasted, but when we fasted to make a difference for the LORD, He showed up. We can't see the difference if we are out of line with God's purpose. If you are consecrated, you anticipate God's presence. Then you have to wait on God, when you do, He will show His favor. When the people waited for God, He moved and they fell on their faces. If you get your life together, He's going to do wonders. We have to be careful not to put our own efforts into what we are waiting for. God is ready to work a miracle; He's

ready to deliver. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength (Is. 40:31). Wait in a consecrated state.

**Conclusion:** Our awareness depends on a promise. People are looking at me getting ready to cross. They will see I'm not on that side anymore, but now I'm on the LORD's side. (Gen. 28:16) – The angels were ascending and descending but Jacob didn't know it. If we are not devoted, then we can miss Him again. While you have a good mind and have breathe to breath, read your Word. Never let it be said that I didn't worship you while I had the chance.

**Prevailing Thought:** I will consecrate myself and trust God as I meditate on His word, so that He will sanctify all that I've laid before Him.

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## November 9, 2010: Bible Study

**Scripture Reference:** Matthew 28:18-20

**Guest Speaker:** Bro. William Johns, Missionary

**Topic:** "World Mission Report"

**Intro:** The dynamics of the church is changing drastically. 100 years ago there was a meeting of missionaries representing many different countries. 100 years later, those same countries met again with a much bigger population meeting and more in Africa. We must get involved with the Body of Christ. There are over one billion people in Africa, China, and India each. There are places where the name of Jesus has never been mentioned. In the United States, there is on average one pastor for every 200 members. In other countries, the average is one pastor for over 200,000. Even with all the Christian resources and media available in the United States, the Christian population is declining. The United States has become the new Israel. Just as Israel had all the information available to them but did not share, the United States has done the same.

- I. **Jesus says, "All authority is given to Me." (Matt. 28: 18-20):** With this we know that Jesus is the greatest power in all the earth. We have no excuse to not go when the greatest power told us to go. He said to go and leave everything to evangelize the world (Lk. 14:26). *If you cannot be a disciple, you certainly cannot make one.* There are people who are going to Hell because we won't share the word of God with them. (Rom. 5: 18-20) – This is about two men who affected all men for eternity. Adam sinned and all men were headed to Hell. One Man's (Jesus Christ) act of righteousness saved all men. Adam had *one* act of disobedience. He didn't steal, kill, or commit adultery; he simply disobeyed what God told him. One act of obedience can send many to Heaven, whereas one act of disobedience can send many to Hell. Adam had no example; no man to go before him to instruct him. We have many examples and the greatest example in Jesus.
- II. **If we confess and believe (Romans 10:9):** "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe with your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, then you will be saved." The churches in this country are all familiar with this scripture, but many around the world do not know it and have never heard it. We have all this information but never receive it in our hearts. There are people in many other countries who worship without knowledge. They have the faith but not according to knowledge. We have the knowledge, but not according to faith. **(Rom. 10:14)** – How shall they call on Him whom they have not believed or believe on who they have not heard? How can they confess Him if they have never heard of Him? All of our building is useless unless it's to build up the Kingdom of God. There is no end to making disciples. There are places in Africa where they want to know so much about the word of God that they stay in worship service for hours praising and worshipping. They yearn for missionaries to come by and teach them. There is a particular shortage of African-American missionaries, and they desire so

much to learn from them. The church is growing by leaps and bounds throughout the world from the highest ranking citizen to the lowest. **(Rom. 11:25)** – There are a certain amount of Gentiles that must be saved. Until we stop being blind, we will not come in to the fullness of Christ. **(Eph. 1:3)** – We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

**Conclusion:** When we share Christ, we will in turn become strengthened in our own faith.

**Prevailing Thought:** There is no excuse for not sharing Jesus with this world, knowing how merciful He's been to me. I want others to know Him too!

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## November 16, 2010: Bible Study

**Scripture Reference: Psalm 46:1**

**Topic: "We Can't Handle It by Ourselves"**

**Intro:** It's what you believe that takes the stress out of the situation. No matter how wonderful we are, we all need a place to hide away at times. Even King David in his many victories needed a place to hide. It's our job to fall apart; it's God's job to get us together again. We become overwhelmed and we struggle through the next moment. We never forget we are Christians, but too often we forget we are human. We are not exempt from needing help in the form of food, rest, and recreation. The holidays become a time when people get depressed, even Christians. This is why we need to write things down because it becomes our therapy. We should write about how we feel and speak to God about it.

- I. **It's Not Unusual:** It's not unusual to be on the mountain one day and in the valley the next. The word of God doesn't matter if you never apply it to your life. We don't talk about stress and depression enough in the church. We feel like we can run through each day on our adrenaline. But we never take the time to build up serotonin (through rest) and endorphins (through exercise). When you just like on adrenaline, it drains you. You need to stop and turn off everything so you can be in the presence of God. Trouble will always end up bringing you to the presence of God.
- II. **The Freedom of Expression:** David talks openly before God and says he can't make it. He realizes that as a leader, he can't get strength for anyone else until he gets strength for himself. Talk to God; don't try to fool God into thinking you can handle it on your own. Tell Him when you're miserable. Tell Him when you're depressed. Tell Him what you need Him to do for you. AS long as you can talk to God, He can become your refuge. You *do* have somewhere to go. The enemy wants you to believe you're stuck, but as long as you keep in touch with God, you will make it. Don't curse the darkness, light a candle. David lit the candle of prayer in his dark cave. Shine the light of prayer so when you come out, people will know you've been with God. If you trust God, He will hold you together. This fact is not up for public scrutiny; this is a private matter between you and God. "Miles without Maintenance" – we think we can go forever without a tune-up. If ever you're running from a situation, you should be running toward God. Your situation will not make you turn to stimulants; it makes you turn to God.
- III. **He gets the vision of his strength (Lam. 3:22):** I went in struggling, but I'm in here with God so I can get my life together. People will know that God is your refuge when you come up out of your dark place. I'm in here finding out how to get better, not to perpetuate my excuses. I'm getting close to the Lord to get better. I don't want to be depressed; it brings about isolation. Some people mask their depression by their success. You could be ministering to a room full of people and be lonely. When you start getting lost in the ladder-climbing, you need to stop and ask, "What's important?" We worry so much to where we end up worrying enough for other people.

You think you are masking your issues, but all your loved ones can feel what you're going through. And then everything becomes a drudge and a chore. You feel like you have to keep up a façade for everyone and be strong for them. But God says, come to Me! He wants us to tell Him our burdens. You can't make it without God. It doesn't matter what church you go to, you need a relationship with God. If you never *understand* what you're reading in God's word, the devil is happy. He wants you convinced that you can't understand what the Word of God is saying. You must understand the Word because God has a message that will stand you up on your feet (Daniel 10:1-20). You need to decide you're going to walk with God regardless of what way your life is going. We talk real big about our Christianity but do we walk how big and bad we talk? (Lam. 3:22) – It's because of God grace and mercy we are not consumed; His compassions do not fail. *Question: If you had 30 days to live, what would be your priority?*

If you're waiting on God, you have a sustaining hope when right now isn't good. Just because you have a vision and no one else sees it, doesn't make it invalid. It's okay if other people can't see what you see. If you get a vision that inspires you, you will get to a place of invention and intervention.

**Conclusion:** We can't handle it by ourselves. In your weakness, you will find your strength. It's when you're falling apart that God holds you together. You can't explain it, but God holds you.

**Prevailing Thought:** Life is too unpredictable for me not to keep my focus on God's word. In dark places, I'm going to make sure I let God sustain me in prayer and in His word.

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## November 23, 2010: Bible Study

**Scripture Reference: Jeremiah 29:11**

**Topic: "Stop the Car"**

**Intro:** We need to take responsibility for our lifestyles. Don't think that you are where you are because of something God did. Many of the issues going on with you have to do with our participation in bad behavior. It has to be decision over action. I made the decision, but it was the action I took that made the ultimate difference. You behaved your way into your situation. The plans that God has for your life will not leave you in a bad place

- I. **What's leading me is ultimately changing me:** Pull up an attitude that brings deliverance. I can't sit around blaming God. God didn't bless you with a blessing for you to abuse it. He expects you to have discipline about your life so you would participate in the behavior leading to God's predictable outcome for your life.
  
- II. **Joseph:** Somewhere between the pit and the palace was Potipher's house. I don't know if I'm going to get there after all I've gone through. *Your skills will take you somewhere your character can't keep you.* God is letting me go through some tough times to take the arrogance out of my life. Youth will too often want to live any kind of way without the consequences; wanting the achievements without going through the work it takes to attain it. We don't know what would have happened if Joseph had slept with Potipher's wife. You need to work to take on the behavior God ordered to become the person He is trying to produce. Joseph will end up where God wants him to be if He's trusting God for where he's supposed to be. "All things work together for good..." (**Rom.8:28**). Know what's leading you. It's decision over action. If I don't make the right decisions, then I have to pay the consequences. When Thanksgiving gets here, we need to discipline and moderation in what we indulge in. If we don't we will have to deal with the consequences, if not immediately then later on with future health problems. Keeping the right behavior will keep us disciplined.

**Conclusion:** What is it in your life that you're not asking God to take away? What are you not dealing with? Kill it before it kills you. The devil is depending on your arrogance to take God's mercy for granted.

**Prevailing Thought:** My walk with God is too precious to live recklessly and irresponsibly. I pray God will help me stay obedient and disciplined in all I do.

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## November 30, 2010: Bible Study

### Scripture Reference: Jeremiah 29:11

**Topic:** (Review of previous topics)

Discipleship causes us to achieve. There are consequences for your actions. You've acted your way into a situation. God wants you to know He's always loved you, but we are the ones who mess up with the actions we choose. God's plans and thoughts toward you never change, so if something doesn't go your way, then it doesn't mean He doesn't love you, but He allows you to go through things to deal with your character. Some people will never change until they experience the same pain they dished out to others. They longer you ignore God, the long you remain in captivity. God has given you a prophet to give you warning about the wrong direction to show you how much He loves you.

Now, if you're ready to stop blaming God for where you are, then you can take a look at His plans. You need to be ready to spend time in the Word so you can hear God speak to you. Dwell in the secret place (**Ps. 91:1-2**). There is confidence built up in the secret place and you need to abide there. That secret place is your morning devotion. (**Jn. 15:7**) – "If you abide in Me and My words abide in you..." Take time to spend with God. It takes stability to abide in His word. As you abide, He provides counsel. If we had someone strong enough to help, we won't have so many problems. If you follow after someone already blind to their own ways, you are more at fault than the one who fell before you in the same manner (**Matt. 15:14**). No good will come from you if you do not abide in the word of God.

Job was going through terrible trials and talking negatively, but at the end of the day he knew God knew the way he took. (**Ps. 119:54; Heb. 5:12**) – You need to be on a line with God that the devil cannot tap into. Have found that secret place yet? In the secret place, you can find all you need. It's God empowering you to take authority over everything in your life. No matter what's going on, I find peace in my secret place. (Dan. 10) – God spoke to Daniel and no one else around him heard it; it was a word for him. The place of secret is a place of stability that builds character. That character produces and predictable and dependable behavior. (**Prov. 11:14**) - "In the multitude of counsel, they are established." It doesn't matter who falls in the church, my faith remains the same because it's about Jesus. The blood of Jesus never loses its power. Don't try to be anyone other than who God called you to be. You are fully saved and have nothing to prove. You can either use your salvation for joy or waste our energy on complaining. We have the privilege of access because Jesus gave His life. It's not Jesus trying to get you to love Him, its Jesus trying to get you to love yourself. It's Him getting you to stop putting the love you should be giving Him into someone else.

Hosea was made to love a harlot who did not love him back; this could only be the love of God. This is God's way of showing us how we ourselves have played the harlot by choosing other gods over the Lord. Some of us chose many other people and activities before we finally came to the Lord. He drew you with loving-kindness (Jer. 31:3), not with material things or physical promises. He's giving you all that you have and you throw away His love for someone else. When Israel left Egypt, Pharaoh negotiated by

saying, you can leave Egypt, but leave your educated children here. But Moses refused to leave the children behind, as we should as well. Pharaoh wanted the educated children around so they could be turned around to benefit Egypt and eventually turning them away from God. There are too many behaviors we put labels like “bipolar” or “schizophrenic” on, instead of calling it what it is, sin. Our lifestyle says it all. Your reason for being here is so that your joy might be full (**John 15:11**).

**Prevailing Thought:** God wants me to know how valuable I am. No matter what goes on around me, if I will spend time with God and trust Him to guide me then my character will always be improving.