



## AFM Luton 2024 Theme

# Designed & Destined for Everlasting Glory

Hebrews 1:3, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Hebrews 2:10, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Romans 8:29-30

*Rev E and Mrs C Mbizi (Resident Pastors)*





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## **NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE**

### **Complements of the season!**

It's that time of year again, where we thank God because He has been gracious and kind to usher us, in to this new season of our lives. While the preceding year had positive developments, there were challenges too and I suppose this resonates with all of us. In spite of the challenges, we want to thank God because He always comes through for us. Our focus is never on the challenges or obstacles we face but, on the grandeur, strength and faithfulness of our God.

The onset of a New Year is a moment for reflection on the past year and formulation of plans for the future. However, as we look over the horizon of this New Year, no one knows what tomorrow holds but we can be rest assured that our future is safe and secure in the Lord because our God is too omniscient to be ignorant, too omnipotent to be weak and too omnipresent to be absent. Our confidence stems from knowing that God is sovereign which essentially means He has power, wisdom and authority to do anything He chooses with creation. He holds everything together, therefore, whatever we faced in the preceding year, whatever we will face in 2024 and beyond is no match for our God. The size, intensity or nature of the problem is insignificant in the presence of the Almighty God.

We would like to thank the Lord for our leadership; we acknowledge our church board, board of trustees, and every leader serving in our respective departments, ministries and functions. We would like to thank you all for your diligent servitude, commitment and dedication to the work of God. May the Lord bless you and your families. In addition, I would like to express my heart felt appreciation to the church board because they held the fort and ensured that there was no disruption to the work of God in my absence. Last but not least, I would like to thank every single member of AFM Luton assembly for making this assembly what it is. We always have sweet fellowship when we come together and this is pleasing in the sight of God. May God bless you all for your commitment to worship the Lord.

### **CHALLENGES**

A lot happened between the good, the bad and the ugly; this may be an understatement for some. There were spiritual attacks characterised by road traffic accidents, sickness or ill health etc. Some members of our church lost loved ones who were promoted to glory. I would like to thank the church for providing the much-needed moral and spiritual support during those difficult moments.

### **PLACE OF WORSHIP**

As we are all aware, the matter regarding the acquisition of our **place of worship** is still pending. We believe and have faith in God that we will close that chapter too soon. **OUR GOD IS ABLE!**



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## New Membership

We have been blessed with new members who have come to fellowship with us. It seems every week we have been witnessing growth in our membership. We are grateful to God because it is only possible through Him. We thank God for this development because it makes our fellowship stronger.

## Fellowship

As always we shared lighter moments where we came together to celebrate wedding ceremonies, family fun day, graduations and other celebrations that continually brought the church together. I would like to mention the Christmas celebrations we held as an assembly. We had a wonderful time together. We also had the privilege of having our AGM (Annual General Meeting) which was lead by our board of trustees, which was very successful.

## Departments

We would like to thank the Lord because most of our departments are thriving and flourishing. However, there is always room for improvement. The ladies department has been functional, the ladies have continued with online prayers on Mondays and on Friday with midnight prayers. May God bless you women of God for keeping the lamp on. However, ladies can we improve our attendance to the ladies meetings in 2024, thank you in advance.

I would like to implore us all to do things differently in 2024. We cannot expect different results if we do not effect the necessary changes required i.e our attitude to attend prayer meetings or departmental meetings. I would like to encourage all men to attend Men's Fellowship meetings. If you are a men, and you have never attended a service, I encourage you to attend by the mercies of God.

Our Youth department has been highly functional and participating in various activities. We thank our youth and encourage them to keep on. Our Sunday school has also been doing very well and we would like to thank the Sunday school teachers for the splendid work that they have carried out throughout the year. I would also like to thank the parents and guardians for bringing the children to Sunday School. To the children, thank you for the sterling work. We would also like to thank our ministries which include; praise and worship, hospitality and decoration, Welfare, health team and the ushering and security for your unrelenting commitment and dedication to the work of God.

May the Lord richly bless you.

I would like to appreciate the couples and cell groups however, there is necessary need for improvement.

**However, Can we also make a big clap for the MK cell group who completed all**



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**the attributes and revised and also managed to present them to church on a Sunday.**

As the New Year unfolds, let us be thankful for all we hold dear: our health, our families, friends and the church family at large. Let us release any grudges if there have been any such as; anger or bitterness for these are binding chains or hindrances that will derail us from what God has planned for us. Let us live each day in a God conscious way. Let us enter the new year reverently aware that God has endowed us with beauty and purpose. We thank God for 2024 and all the potential it holds. In the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, let us always be God conscious.

May 2024 be filled with optimistic expectations, sincere happiness and dedication to the work of God. Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Failure never overtakes you if your determination to succeed is strong enough. With God all things are possible

Have a blessed 2024

I thank you

May God richly bless you!

Rev. Elia Mbizi  
**(Resident Pastor)**



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## “THE THEME AND ATTRIBUTES FOR 2024”

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### Designed & Destined for Everlasting Glory

#### Theme Scriptures:

##### **Hebrews 1:3 (NIV)**

The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

##### **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)**

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

##### **Hebrews 2:10 (NLT)**

God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation.

##### **2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

“Now the Lord is the Spirit. And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, seeing the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces, as in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord”

##### **Romans 8:29-30 (NIV)**

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.



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## Theme breakdown

### Designed and Destined for Everlasting Glory

#### Definition:

##### **Designed:**

- planned or conceived in detail or for a specific purpose.

##### **Destined**

- of a person's future) regarded as developing as though according to a pre-existing plan. "he was **destined for great things**"
- intended for or travelling towards (a particular place).

##### **Everlasting:**

- lasting forever or a very long time.
- eternity.

##### **Glory** (Greek word "Doxa" Hebrew word for Glory is Kabod)

- The common word for glory in the Old Testament was Kabod which comes from a root that means literary "to be heavy".
- A person's weight was his glory. Therefore, one would be considered to have glory in those days if they had the weight of riches, power or position (Genesis 31:1; 45:13). A man's glory referred to what he was and what he had, his honour and reputation.
- God not only has Glory but He is Glory. David calls Him the God of glory (Psalm 29:3) and His glory is great (Psalm 138:5).
- The word glory in the Old Testament denotes God's brightness and radiance.
- The New Testament word for glory is 'Doxa'. It comes from a Hebrew verb that means "to think". It carries a different connotation. Doxa referred to a man's opinion of himself or his reputation (what others thought of him). But when applied to God it carries over the Old Testament idea of His majesty and splendour-the totality of His essence.
- And in Luke 2:9 the glory is visibly manifested in brilliant light when the shepherds heard the announcement of the birth of the Messiah. God's glory shines.

### **Defining the glory of God is impossible, because our perspective will always be narrow and limited. However, God's glory can be defined as:**

- All that God is, all that God has, and all that God can do. His path, His perfection and His protection.
- The Glory of God is the beauty of His Spirit; it is not an aesthetic beauty or material beauty but the beauty that emanates from His Character, from all that He is.
- The Glory of God is His manifested presence.
- The glory of God is the magnificence, worth, loveliness, and grandeur of his many perfections, which he displays in his creative and redemptive acts in order to make his glory known to those in his presence.



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- The glory of God is the infinite beauty (manifestation of His character) and greatness of God's manifold perfections.
- Romans 6:4 states that Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father. And in Romans 8:11 the scripture also says "The Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead. These scriptures show that the glory of God is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Throughout scripture, the bible refers to different instances when God revealed His glory to mankind through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*God's Glory encompasses the greatness, beauty and perfection of all He is. There is none like Him, He has no rivals and no valid comparisons can be made to Him. He is beyond our ability to estimate, understand or describe.*

## **Elaboration of the theme**

God created man in His image, after His likeness (Genesis 1:26a). The key phrases are "the image" and "likeness" of God. Notice that this was not the case with any other creature, plant, or animal. The image referred to is the Spirit of man which sets us apart from all other creation. Therefore, since man is God-like in Spirit there are three faculties of the spirit that are worth mentioning:

- **The ability to create**, mankind has the function of creativity because they were made in the image of God. This sets them apart from the whole animal creation.
- **The ability to communicate**, God speaks and so does man. Man is the only creature that can talk. Animals do not use language; they have certain signals which they utter, and which are mutually understandable. But they are not able to convey ideas, and discuss matters together, they cannot talk over an issue as we do. That prerogative is only for man. Notice the importance of the faculty of speech, the universe sprang to being because the word God spoke. God spoke all creation into being, unlike other creatures, man is the only one who can use the power of words like God. Words can affect us and change us, words can heal, harm, or restore. What an amazing faculty of speech it is part of the image of God in man.
- **The ability to distinguish good from evil**. This practice is found universally among mankind. Everywhere man has a consciousness of moral values. We recognise moral choices and this marks us as having been made in the image of God.

## **Image and likeness**

- There is a difference between image and likeness. They are closely related but not the same
- The **image** is the existence of man as a spirit. It is the equipment that God gave us, the capacity to be godlike.
- The **likeness** is the proper functioning of that equipment. Therefore, when Adam was created, he stood before God as a Spirit dwelling in a body, exercising the functions of a soul. He had the ability to be creative, to communicate and to make moral choices. But he not only had the ability to do so, he was actually doing it.



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- So, man retains the capacity to be godlike but has totally lost the ability to actually manifest godlikeness. Man was not made to be Godlike; He was Godlike in the beginning.
- The principle of godlikeness is the repudiation of that self- confidence and resting on the working of another who dwells within. That is the way Adam functioned and fulfilled his commission and manifested the likeness of God before the fall.

## **SIN DISCONNECTS US FROM THE GLORY**

- We were designed for Glory. Before mankind sinned, they were in the glory. Romans 3:23 says “All have **sinned** and **fall short** of the **glory of God**. The pattern for measuring human short comings is the Glory. Romans 3:23 implies that sin made it impossible for humanity to reflect God’s glory as originally intended.
- To live in sin causes us to miss the mark or the intended target which is the glory of God.
- Salvation restores us to the target.
- The target for the Lord is for everyone to stay in the Glory.
- Jesus operated or functioned from glory depending on His father, that is God’s intention for us

## **The examples of people functioning in the Glory on earth**

- Notice how Jesus changed the atmosphere wherever He we went.
- Jesus turns water into wine (John 2:1-11).
- Elijah decreed that there be no dew or rain until he said so (1 Kings 17:1).
- Paul shakes off the viper into the fire and remained unharmed (Acts 28:5).
- Peter heals people by his shadow (Acts 5:15-16).
- Peter raises Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36-43).
- Joshua petitioned God to cause the moon and the sun to stand still so that he could continue fighting while it was daylight (Joshua 10:12).

Notice what Jesus says in **John 5:19** “the son can do nothing of Himself”. In John 14:10 He says “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me”.

Everything Jesus did was upon total reliance or dependence on the work of the father indwelling Him. We lost the secret of depending on God. That is why man can still create but everything he creates has a twist toward evil. We can still communicate but our speech or communication is corrupt. We still know the moral values but we deny them and rationalise them to exalt evil.

Paul shows us the plan of God to counteract the fall of man and he says to the Christians, “Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. <sup>10</sup>Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him” (**Colossians 3:9-10**).

There Is the likeness of God being restored in men. The image of God has never been lost, for men still retain the capacity to be God-like but he no longer has the



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ability until Jesus Christ is restored to the human heart. When he enters there begins the process of restoration.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** says “So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image”. That is the process of restoring the likeness of God in man.

## The Divine Exchange- Glory for Shame

- The opposite of Glory is shame
- On the cross, the Lord Jesus endured shame- such shame we can hardly imagine to bring us to glory.
- Jesus did not allow anything to deter Him from accomplishing His purpose to bring many sons and daughters to glory (Hebrews 2:10).
- **Notice Hebrews 12:2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Our Destiny

**1 John 3:2** says Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that **we will be like him**, for we will see him as he really is.

**Hebrews 2:10** In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

God permitted Jesus to endure those sufferings that we might come into His fullness. Notice God’s purpose: to bring many sons to glory. As a believing child of God, you are bound for glory.

- Everything that God has done historically, existentially or futuristically is for His Glory. We thank God because while God is Glory focused, you and I benefit in the process.
- God is holy and everything about Him is glorious. Even His creation speaks of His glory.
- Even when it doesn’t look like Glory, in most cases, whenever God does what he does, it will never stand to human logic. (GOD WILL NEVER MAKE SENSE TO YOU), He adds by subtracting, He multiplies by dividing, He gives by taking and He puts you ahead by making you get behind.
- We can never be successful in our Christian walk if we use our senses to perceive God, because he will never make sense to us. However, we pray that even though sometimes we cannot trace God’s hand, we can trust God’s heart and by the time He finishes moving His hand we will give Him the glory.



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**When you contemplate on the following examples does it look like glory?**

- Moses and children of Israel by the Red Sea (Exodus 14:13-16).
- Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6)
- Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:25-34)
- Lazarus' death (John 11)
- It did not look like glory as Jesus hung on the cross of Calvary (John 19:18)

Praise God, in all these cases God got the glory. A lot of times we find ourselves in a state of depression because we are trying to rationalize with our circumstances and deal with them with science and senses. In 2024, we want to experience the glory of God. We want to be conscious of His presence and experience the reality of the glory of God.



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## Theme Attributes

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### Attributes

There are two general categories of God's attributes

The most common way to classify God's attributes divides them into incommunicable (traits that God doesn't share or communicate to others) and communicable attributes (traits that God shares or communicates with us).

### Incommunicable Attributes include:

- **Eternal nature** (He is infinite, but we are finite, God has no beginning or end Psalm 90:2, Revelation 1:8)
- **Immutable** (He never changes but we do) Psalm 102:25-27, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17
- **Omnipresent** (God is everywhere at once, but we can only be in one place at a time) Jeremiah 23:23,24, Psalm 139:7-10
- **Omnipotence** (God is all powerful) Genesis 17:1, Jeremiah 32:17)
- **Omniscient** (God knows everything we are limited in our knowledge) Isaiah 46:10, Psalm 147:5, Hebrews 4:13, Mathew 10:30)
- **Self- Existence** (God is self- sufficient or independent in Himself but causes everything to depend on Him. Everything came into existence only through God (Revelation 4:11. Acts 17:24)

### Communicable Attributes Include:

- **Love** (God is love 1 John 4:8 and we are capable of loving too)
- **Holiness** (God is set apart from creation and morally pure, by the renewing work of God's Spirit, Christians are continually purified over the course of their lives. 1 John 3:3, Psalm 71:22)
- **Knowledge** (God has knowledge and we can have it too)
- **Mercy** (God is merciful and we are capable of mercy)
- **Justice** (God is just, and we are capable of justice.)
- **Goodness** (God is good and we are capable of being good Psalm 100:5, Psalm 34:8)
- **Peace** (God is not a God of confusion but of peace Romans 15:33, 16:20)



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## ATTRIBUTES

**Day 1: 2 January 2024**

### LOVE

#### Definition:

- An intense feeling of deep affection.
- A great interest and pleasure in something.

The most powerful force on earth is God's love. It was God's love for this world that motivated Him to send His Son, and it is God's love in you, that will motivate you to share the hope you have with the people in your life. The book of John tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8). This attribute of God was active or present before creation among the members of the Trinity. In His prayer in John 17:24 Jesus utters the following words in the prayer,

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world".

#### Scriptures

##### 1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

##### 1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

##### 1 John 4:8

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

##### John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

##### John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends

##### Psalms 136:26



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Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.

## **Deuteronomy 7:9**

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

## **Romans 8:37-39**

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **2 Thessalonians 3:5**

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance

This indicates that there was love from the father to the son from all eternity. It continues at the present time as evidenced in John 3:35 which says "The father loves the son, and has given all things into his hand. We imitate this communicable attribute of God, first by loving God in return, and second by loving others in imitation of the way God loves them.

The expectation of God from us is that we love Him with all our hearts, all our souls and all our minds and we should also love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-38). If we love God, we will obey His commandments ( 1 John 5:3) and thus do what is pleasing to Him.

We love God because He first loved us whilst we were yet sinners (1 John 4:19). Love completes the picture of a life in fellowship with God. Love is presented here as a consequence of, not a precondition for, being born of God. Unbelievers can love others to some degree, but not in the way that God's indwelling presence enables Christians to love (cf. 1 John 4:8-11).

Love will make a man a success. It will put him over where nothing else would make him a victor. Love never fails. It is the Master-ruler. It will lead a man out of selfishness, out of weakness and failure into the very strength and ability of Christ. There is no force in the world that it cannot dominate. It makes us wanted. It makes us a blessing. It enables us to take Jesus' place.

I wonder what would happen if we dared to go the limit with Love. Some have neglected it, acting as though they did not have it; utterly ignoring -its very existence, and yet they want the father's help in time of need. Love must be enthroned in the heart. It must govern the life. His very being was saturated with the passion that drove Jesus to the cross. Now you can understand 1 Cor. 10:24, "Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbour's good."



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Selfishness stops reigning. When we practice the love of God. What an unhappy thing it is for selfishness to have any part in the government of this New Creation. Selfishness is as deadly as poison. It is poison to the spirit. It is poison to the Body of Christ.

## Great facts about love

Let Love govern your life. Let Love rule your home, business, government. Whenever you step out of Love, you step into darkness and unhappiness, and so learn to stay in the Love way.

Living in Love is actually living in the highest, sweetest fellowship with the Father. It is actually living with Him. He has come into your body to make it His home. "Herein is love made perfect with us, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as he is. even so are we in this world."

Love is perfect in itself, but it must gain perfect control of me. When Love becomes the rule of my life, I grow up into it until my life is dominated, ruled, governed by it, and that gives me a quiet fearlessness in His presence.

God is Love and I am a Love child. If I am walking in the realm of Love. I am thinking in terms of Love. I am acting according to the rule of Love. My whole life is pitched to the key of Love. Then you can understand that there is no fear in Love.

There is fear in everything else. When you are out of Love, you say and do things that you would be afraid to face. There is no need of the Ten Commandments now for us who are in Christ. We are in the Love Family and walk in Love, and as we walk in Love, we do ill to no one. That will make the most beautiful type of life.

Never any more harsh, bitter, unkind words spoken by us. No cruel insinuations, nor biting sarcasm. All our words would be soaked in Love before they were uttered, literally saturated with Love. Those words would need no artificial perfume. They would have the sweet fragrance of Heaven itself. What homes it would make!

What assemblies of believers where there would never be another unkind word spoken. Jesus never stepped out of the realm of Love. He was living the Life. He was walking in the New Way. He built the New Way. This is the new order for the full-grown man in Christ. It is the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Love can see only God in us, and God can only see Himself in us. We see men's overloads in order that we may bear them. We see their infirmities that we may share with them. We see their weakness in order that we may give our strength. We see their poverty in order that we may give them our money.

We become Jesus' men and women. As a battery is charged with electricity, we are charged with Love. We stay in His presence feeding on the Word until our whole being is saturated with Him. Then as we go out and minister to the people, we are lights, little luminaries blazing a path in life where sin has no part and the misery that comes from sin can never enter. Now we understand what it means to walk in Love;



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what it means to be in Christ. To experience the Glory of God let us live in love. To abide in the glory, let us live in love

When we see the depths of His love for us, it might bring tears or shouts of joy to our lips and ultimately inspire greater love for God.

As you go through life, you will experience many different kinds of love. But there is one love that is unlike any other, that is the Love of God. God's love is perfect, unchanging, unending, pure, beautiful and it is available to you no matter what you have done or where you are in your life. God's love is steadfast, and it does not depend on who you are but on who He is. God's love is relentless, difficult to comprehend but it is easy to experience. If you allow yourself to experience God's unconditional love, it will change your life forever. God was motivated by love to desire to spend eternity with us. Glory awaits if we live in love.

## Reflections

- Do you live a life of love?
- Do you hold any resentment, grudge or bitterness towards anyone? If so Repent now!
- Have you forgiven those who wronged you?
- Have you prayed for those who persecute you?
- As a love child, is love controlling you?

## Prayer points

- Let us pray that we continue in the love of God (**Jude 1:21, John 15:9**).
- Let us pray that our affection is towards Him that loved us before we were lovable (**Romans 5:8**).
- Let us pray that we are holy and blameless before God, in love (**Ephesians 1:4**).



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**Day 2: 3 January 2024**

## **DIVINE CONNECTION**

### **Definition**

The supernatural act of God whereby He links with people for the purpose of fulfilling their destinies. The connection is special because it originates with God, He orchestrates and executes it.

### **What is the principle of divine connection?**

The essence of this principle is that you are a spiritual being having a human experience. This means, first and foremost, that you are connected directly to God. Your connection is non-negotiable because you are an aspect of the divine made form. It is your birthright to cultivate that connection.

### **Scriptures**

#### **John 15:4-5 (KJV)**

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

#### **Isaiah 54:17 ESV**

No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.

#### **1 Corinthians 2:1-16 ESV**

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

## **FOCUS**

The focus is abiding in the continuous awareness of the presence of God. Consciousness of the presence of God is a heart exercise and the mind follows. Everything we do in life is because we are attached to the vine. The life of the vine inspires everything and the branch does not groan, travail or struggle to bear fruit



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because of its connection to the vine. Notice, some fruits in your life are not a result of any effort on your part but just come because of your connection with God. Jesus says if we maintain our connection through the word and intimacy with Him, bearing fruit will come naturally (John 15:4-5).

There is nothing we can do outside Him, the divine connection brings fulfilment and satisfaction that you cannot find elsewhere. To experience the glory of God, we need to remain connected to God. All we have to do is turn our affection towards Him. We do not gain by striving but by surrendering to God.

## Benefits of divine connection

- Promotion (Gen 41:40-41)
- Double portion of anointing (2 Kings 2:13-14)
- Preservation of life. (Psalm 91: 16)
- Healing (2 Kings 5:14)
- Prosperity. (1 Chronicles 13:14)
- Peter walked on the water (Matthew 14:29)

## How To Maintain Divine Connection

- Be intentional and have a set time to talk to God
- Do not do all the talking, also stop and listen to God
- Study the word of God and meditate on it. The word of God connects you to God.
- Have a conscious awareness that God is with you.

## How To Access Divine Connection

- Serve God wholeheartedly (Ephesians 6:7-8).
- Wait for God's timing; God does the connection in his own time and his own way (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
- Listen diligently to the voice of God and obey His commandments (Deuteronomy 28: 1-9).
- Be prayerful (Matthew 7:7).
- Play your part in the connections God brings into your life. (2 Kings 5:10-13).
- Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you (John 16:13).
- Associate with other Christians or servants of God (Numbers 14: 6-8; Deuteronomy 31:7).
- Be at the right place at the right time (2 Kings 2:1-6; 9-12)
- Use your gifting (Proverbs 18:16)

One of the best gifts we can receive from God is divine connection because divine connection is a divine arrangement for a divine purpose. Divine connection is God's intervention and just one divine connection is enough to settle a man for life. Are you divinely connected?



# APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

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## Reflections

- Think about other benefits of Divine connection
- Think about things that can cause a disconnection
- Think about things you can do as an individual to maintain the divine connection
- What can we do corporately to maintain the connection as the body of Christ.

## Prayer points

- Let us pray that we remain connected to the Lord (John 15:1-7).
- Let us pray that we remain hungry for more of God (Matthew 5:6)
- Let us pray that God becomes the focus in our lives (Jeremiah 29:13).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you that you may bring forth good fruit (John 15:16).



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**Day 3: 4 January 2024**

## **KNOWLEDGE**

Greek word: Gnosis

### **Definition**

- The fact or condition of being aware of something.
- Facts, information and skills acquired through experience. The sum of what is known.
- The apostle Paul referred to knowledge in the sense of acquaintance or comprehension
- But Paul viewed certain things to be inscrutable or unknowable in themselves such as the mind of God.
- God's knowledge is unsearchable in the sense that it transcends the human capacity to comprehend and it is only through the Holy Spirit that insight into the mind of God is revealed.

### **Scriptures**

#### **2 Peter 3:18**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!

#### **John 17:3**

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

#### **Philippians 3:10**

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

#### **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.



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## **Proverbs 1:7**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction

## **Hosea 4:6**

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

The knowledge of God and His son Jesus is the heart of this whole issue of eternal life. The word Know does not refer to casual acquaintance but it refers to the knowledge that comes through experience and relationship.

When we know God, love Him and submit to Him as He is in all His glory, then we shall reach our highest goal in life: glorifying Him. This will lead to ultimate happiness. There is no greater satisfaction in life than to fulfil the purpose which God made us and saved us.

God wants us to know Him, as such; He took the initiative and revealed Himself to us. God is confident, the better we know Him, the more we will love, trust, worship, and serve Him. Notice, there can be no personal knowledge of Him unless He takes the initiative.

## **God reveals Himself in the following ways**

To know Jesus is to know God. Even though we cannot see or relate to Jesus physically as did the disciples, God has given us the inspired word as well as the spiritual faculties we need to know Him through His Holy Spirit who lives in us. The combination of The Holy Spirit in us and the word of God make it possible to know Him just as intimately as if we walked with Him on earth.

NOTICE: We need to be born again because we are not naturally born with our spiritual faculties' operative. In the second birth or rebirth, the Lord gives us spiritual life, eternal life (John 3:16). He brings us alive, spiritually and that is where our knowledge of God begins (John 17:3).

Once we have a saving relationship with Christ, from that point we have the spiritual resources to get to know God better. **2 Peter 3:18** says "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity Amen".

## **Our response to God's revelation of Himself**



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We must cultivate a desire to know God and commit to total involvement with Him. The quality of your response will depend on the intensity of your desire. The majority of us were born again and we have learnt enough about God to acknowledge the need for salvation. We have met Jesus personally and experientially in a saving relationship. But we have not progressed from here.

We get entangled in the hustle and bustle of other pursuits and end up with no time for God. Though we say we know Him, it is not a very intimate and thorough knowledge. We must desire to know Him so that we think as He thinks, we are burdened by what burdens Him, and we know His will.

**Exodus 33:11** says Thus the Lord spoke to Moses' face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. The phrase face to face refers to being in God's presence. Moses was getting to know God personally but he wanted to know Him better.

**Exodus 33:14** God says to Moses my presence will go with you. But that was not enough, every new revelation of God stirred up a hunger for more. In **Exodus 33:18** Moses requests God to show him His glory. Moses longed to know all that a human being can absorb about an infinite God. His soul hungered after the knowledge of God.

That's how we get to know Him, when we realise that our lives are empty without Him. David is another giant who had a desire to know God and we see it repeated throughout the Psalms for example **Psalms 27:4**. The Apostle Paul also had a desire to know God Paul says in Philippians 3 verse 7-8 "All position power, position, possessions and praise of earth are like dung compared to the excellence of knowing Christ. Those things have no eternal value, and it is futile to completely occupy our minds".

Moses, David and Paul were great man of God because of their desire to know God. We must have a definite commitment to God that involves our total being. To get to know someone you need to spend time with them. You have to take interest in what interests them. Because we haven't taken time to know God, we have stopped short of that point in our knowledge of God.

To know God, all three parts of our personality must be involved

**Intellect-** we learn about Him with our intellect, we study the bible, meditate on it, think through the implications and application to our way of living. To know God, we need accurate information.

**Emotions-** the more we learn about Him, the more emotionally we get involved with Him. His depth of love will make us love Him more



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**Will-** we must choose to act by our will in a manner consistent with the information we have received and the feelings we have experienced. (Titus 1:16). If we know God we will be obedient to Him.

We cannot confidently say we know God just because we have accumulated some facts about Him or even because we've had an emotional religious experience with Him. If we truly know Him, we are going to be obedient and live a life that is holy and acceptable before God because we know Him.

We are not going to be tossed to and from by the different doctrines or winds of change. Rather, we will continue focusing on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, because we know Him and we know we are destined for Glory. We know everything we will ever need in this life and in the life to come is already paid for. As our knowledge of God increases, we will discover additional areas of our lives which have not yet been brought under His control.

## Reflections

- To know is to know that you know nothing
- Knowledge is power
- Do you know that you are designed and destined for glory?
- Do you have a desire to know more about God.
- Do you spend time studying or meditating on the word of God.
- Is the knowledge of God critical in your own perspective?
- Do you think your knowledge of God corresponds with the stage you are at in God. For example some have been in church for 50 years, others 20 years and some 5 years or below?

## Prayer points

- Let us pray for the Spirit of revelation and wisdom in the knowledge of God (**Ephesians 1:17**)
- Let us pray that the Lord ignites an unquenchable passion for the knowledge of Christ (**Philippians 3:10**)
- Let us pray that we grow in the grace and knowledge of God (**2 Peter 3:18**).
- Let us pray that we do not get destroyed due to ignorance (**Hosea 4:6**).



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**Day 4: 5 January 2024**

## **HOLINESS**

Greek word: Hagios means sacred, pure and worthy

### **Definition:**

- Holiness means separation, to be different
- Holiness also refers to God's unique personality, His exalted position and the specific places He dwells.
- The holiness of God refers to His unique person that there is no one like Him. God is separate from anyone you have ever known or met. God is totally different. God is in His exalted position, absolutely separate from everyone.
- **Wherever God dwells, it becomes a unique and separated place.**

God is the most Holy one. He is called the Holy one of Israel (Psalm 71:22, 78). The Seraphim around God's throne cry, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory (**Isaiah 6:3**).

**Exodus 15:11** say" Who is like you, Oh Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness". No one is like the Lord in holiness, He is totally separate.

**1 Samuel 2:2** In Hannah's prayer she says " No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God".

**Psalm 99** refers to God's exalted position. There is no one in the same camp who is over everything like He is. There is no one on the face of the earth who is greater or higher than God. He is holy, He is in an exalted position and absolutely separate from everyone (**Psalm 99:1-2**).

**Isaiah 57:15** says "for thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, Whose name is Holy". He is absolutely separate because of His exalted position. He high and lofty. He is above all people, above everyone and everything. That is how separate He is.

God's holiness also refers to the places where He dwells. It is notable that wherever God dwells, He always adds the adjective HOLY to it.

**Ephesians 2:21** indicates that all believers with God dwelling in them become a holy temple in the Lord.

## **Scriptures**

### **Romans 6:22**

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.



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## **Hebrews 12:10**

They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.

## **2 Corinthians 7:1**

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

## **Romans 6:19**

I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

## **Luke 1:74-75**

to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

## **Ephesians 4:20-24**

That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

## **Leviticus 19:2**

“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

Wherever God dwells becomes a unique and separated place. And it becomes holy ground. God calls us to be separate and unique in this world.

Notice in **Exodus 19:1-6** God says to the children of Israel, “You shall be to me, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. God is referring to Israel as a holy nation but did they not sin? Yes, they did.



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Did they not disobey God? Yes, they did. The children of Israel were sinful and they were not holy in the sense of being separate from sin. But God said they were a holy nation because He wanted them separated from all nations on the earth.

Notice in **Leviticus 11**, how God gave them a kosher diet which was different to everyone around them. God wanted to illustrate that they were different. So, they were going to eat differently.

## **Leviticus 11:44**

The Holiness of God also refers to His special people. He wants His people to be separate from all nations around Deuteronomy 7:6 says for thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God: The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

The holiness of God referred to the nation of Israel. In 1 Peter 2 we notice that God not only refers to the children of Israel, but He also refers to the church of Jesus Christ. Notice what the scripture says in

## **1 Peter 2: 9-10**

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; <sup>10</sup> Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

## **The nature of God's holiness refers to**

- His unique person
- His exalted position
- The places where He dwells
- His special people and designated priests
- His remarkable power
- His faithful promises
- His absolute purity

## **God's remarkable power**

God is holy and His power is separate from any power you have ever seen or understood. No explanation can adequately explain the power of God. Revelation 15

## **God's faithful promises**

Psalm 89 :30-37

God is different from anybody or everybody who has ever made any promise to you. God never goes back on His word. His promises are Yes and Amen. God is so different that what He promises comes to pass no matter what happens in one's life.



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God's word is a sure anchor to the soul because God cannot lie (Hebrews 6). We know that by these immutable elements i.e. the character of God, and the word of God, we know that everything God promised will pass. As we are designed and destined for Glory, we should be Holy as our God is Holy.

## Reflections

- Do you think it is possible to love a holy life
- Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to help you live a holy life

## Prayer points

- Let us pray that we honour God's name when no one is looking
- Let us pray for the Lord to help us not to be casual with sin in any way (Ezekiel 22:26).
- Pray that our thoughts, our desires, our words, our actions, everything about us is holy and completely pleasing and honouring to God (1 Peter 1:15-16).
- Lord Jesus, help me to walk with you in holiness so that will I fulfil my destiny and the purpose of my existence
- Help to me to live a holy life so that I can represent Christ on earth.



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**Day 5: 6 January 2024**

## **PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

### **Praise**

Definition: to boast, to rave, to commend, to speak well of

### **Worship**

Definition:

- To honour or show reverence for as a divine being or supernatural power
- To regard with great or extravagant respect, honour or devotion
- Worship is when we give our deepest affections and highest praise to something

When we worship the Lord, we experience a measure of the presence of God. **Praise** is our response to His nature and worship is our response to His presence. Through **worship** we enter into the realm and measure of glory. In this atmosphere of praise, you begin to connect with His nature. One cannot delve into God's nature and not want to worship.

The words Praise and worship cover the whole of our response of love and appreciation to the Lord. They sum up our reason for living (Isaiah 43:21, Ephesians 1:6).

### **What is praise?**

- Recognising who God is (Psalm 104:1-4, 1 Chronicles 29:10-13).
- Acknowledging God for all He has done for us (Psalm 25:8-10, Isaiah 25:1)
- Exalting God (Psalm 34)
- Honouring God (Daniel 4:34-37)
- Magnifying God (Luke 1:46, Acts 10:46)
- Marvelling in God (2 Thessalonians 1:10)
- Glorifying God (Revelation 15:4, Psalm 29:1)

### **Why should we praise God?**

- God is enthroned on the praise of his people (Psalm 22:3).
- Nothing can praise God quite like man (Psalm 30:9, Psalm 115:17-18)
- Praise proclaims God's greatness and majesty to the world (Psalm 66:5-6).
- Praise releases God's blessing to us (Psalm 67:5-7).
- Praise releases God's power (Psalm 149:6-9).
- God created man to praise Him (Isaiah 43:21).



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- Praise is a sacrifice that pleases God (Hebrews 13:15-16, Psalm 107:21,22)
- God is worthy to receive our praise (Revelation 5:9-14).

Praise is a weapon against the enemy. Satan is allergic to praise.

## What is worship?

- Worship =worth –ship=appreciating God because He is worthy (Revelation 4:11, Revelation 5:12).
- Worship has the implied meaning of selfless adoration of a greater being.
- Jesus shed His blood to give us the privilege of worshipping the father (Hebrews 10:19-22).
- Worshipping God is not just singing songs. Everything we do our work, pleasure activities, study, family etc. should be the worship of God. True worship of God involves us giving 100% of our time to Him, being totally available and totally obedient to Him. Worship of God is a life style of bringing glory to God.
- Worship is what the father is seeking.

## John 4:23-24

From this portion of scripture, we note the following,

- We Worship the Father, As redeemed sons and daughters, we love Him because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).
- We worship from our Spirits; we must be born again if we are to worship God acceptably. Our worship must be led and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Only He knows how to worship in a way pleasing to the father (1 Corinthians 2:10-16, John 16:13-15).
- We worship from our hearts- we worship in truth, out of the reality of a life lived in fellowship with God through Jesus His son. We need to offer heartfelt worship to God with our mouths (Matthew 15:8-9). We need to express melody in our hearts (Ephesians 5:19).
- We worship with our understanding- because we worship a God that we know personally (John 4: 22, Acts 17:22-23, 1 Corinthians 14;15)
- We worship from the will- we praise and worship God because He desires it

Worship is a priority in heaven. Whenever, we see a picture of God in scripture, we see worship in progress (Isaiah 6:1-5, Revelation 4:6-11, Ezekiel 47:1-12). Worship gives place for the rule of God. The issue is whether the life of God is in our worship. Ways we can offer praise and worship to God

- With words (Psalm 9:1)
- By shouting (Psalm 95:1)
- Bowing down (Psalm 95:6)
- Singing (Psalm 104:33, Psalm 33:1)
- Dancing (Psalm 150:4, Psalm 149:3)
- Raised hands, expressing dependence or victory in the Lord (Psalm 134:2)
- With instruments (Psalm 150:3-5)



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- With our whole life style (Romans 12:1, Philippians 1:20, 1 Corinthians 6:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- With Psalms, hymns, (Ephesians 5:19-20)

## Scriptures

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### **Isaiah 29:13**

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.

### **Hebrews 12:28-29**

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire.

### **Psalms 86:9-10**

All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvellous deeds; you alone are God.

### **2 Kings 17:38-39**

Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods. Rather, worship the LORD your God; it is he who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

### **1 Chronicles 16:28-29**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendour of holiness.

### **Psalms 63:2-3**

So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

### **1 Corinthians 6:20**

For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

### **Revelation 5:11-13**

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of



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thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!"

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!"

## Reflections

- Are you intentional about your daily devotion?
- How often do you worship?
- How often do you praise God?
- Do you praise and worship regardless of your situation or circumstances?

## Prayer points

- Let us pray for mind focus during worship (Psalm 57:7).
- Let us pray for the zeal or passion for intimacy with God (Psalm 63:1).
- Let us pray that God be glorified through our worship (Psalm 100:1-4).
- Let us desire to see the glory of God as we worship (Exodus 33:18-20)



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Day 6: 7 January 2024

## SPIRITUALITY

### Definition

Spirituality involves the recognition of a feeling or sense or belief that there is something greater than myself, something more to being human than sensory experience, and that the greater whole of which we are part is cosmic or divine in nature.

God is not made of matter; He has no parts or dimensions and He cannot be perceived by our bodily senses and is more excellent than any other kind of existence. He does not have a physical body nor is He merely energy, thought or some other element of creation. Scripture tells us in John 4:24 that God is a Spirit.

To think of God in terms of anything else in the created universe is to misrepresent Him, to limit Him, to think of Him as less than He really is. God made all creation so that each part of it reflects something of His own character. However, we must affirm that to picture God as existing or being like anything else in creation is misleading and dishonours who He is. God's total essence, all of His spiritual being, will never be seen by us, yet God still shows Himself to us through visible created things.

### How we relate with God

The bible makes it clear that we were created in the image of God. We have a body, a soul and a Spirit. The body is the physical part of us which God formed from the dust (Genesis 1). Our soul comprises of our will and emotions. Our emotion expresses how we feel, our minds tells us what we think and our will communicates what we want.

### Scriptures

#### 1 Corinthians 2:14

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

#### Romans 7:14

For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

#### John 3:5-8

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' read more.

#### Titus 3:5



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He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

## **Romans 8:12-16**

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

## **Galatians 5:16-17**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

## **Ephesians 5:18**

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

## **1 Thessalonians 5:19**

Do not quench the Spirit

- Until a person is born of the Spirit, his soul will run his life. He is used to assessing situations with his mind, and reaching his own conclusions. He pays considerable attention to his emotions and often allows them to rule him. He makes decisions based on the reasoning of his mind or as a result of the emotions or desires he has or by a combination of the three.
- When we get born again, we receive life in this deep area of our personality which was dead because of sin. We become alive by the Spirit of God and begin to live as a three part person with a body, soul and a Spirit as indicated in Romans 8:9-14, John 3:3-8, Galatians 5:16-25.
- In our generation, we have received the revelation from the word about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in other tongues. However, it seems we have stopped at the door to the supernatural realm of God. God wants us to go deeper into the Spirit so that we experience His glory. God wants us to learn to operate supernaturally in the realm of the Spirit. As we learn how to do that, God will have more freedom to demonstrate His glory and power to a greater measure on earth

John 3:2 says Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,<sup>[a]</sup> we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **To be like Christ we have to live in the spirit. We should be alert in the spirit.**

## **Reflections**

- Have you ever contemplated on the complexity of our make up Spirit. Soul and body?
- Who has overall control of your life. Your Spirit or your soul?



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- Have you ever asked God for the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

### Prayer points

- Father, open my spiritual eye that I may see what is my inheritance in you and the glory of my calling (**Ephesians 1:17**).
- Father, in the name of Jesus, mould my life to be like that of your son Jesus Christ, let my being be conformed to his being (**Roman 8: 29**).
- Father, in the name of Jesus, renew thy Holy Spirit in me, help me to be spiritually sensitive to the direction of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8**).



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**Day 7: 8 January 2024**

## **TRANSFORMATION**

### **Definition:**

- **A marked change in form, nature, or appearance**
- **A dramatic change in form or appearance**

Transformation is the opportunity to invent something completely new, be it a conversion, a commitment, or an action, in order to create an unprecedented and extraordinary future.

As the angels behold the Glory of God, they are transformed, you cannot see the glory of God and not be impacted. During the transfiguration, Peter, James and John saw Jesus transfigured and they wanted to remain there (Matthew 17:1-4). They forgot about the things that mattered to them, i.e. wives and children.

When we encounter God in that glory realm of the throne room of heaven it is transforming. Paul shares in **2 Corinthians 3:17-18**: “**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty [emancipation from bondage, true freedom]. And we all, with unveiled face, continually seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit” (AMP).**

### **Scriptures**

#### **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)**

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

#### **Colossians 3:5 (NIV)**

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

#### **Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



## APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION - LUTON

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### **Matthew 5:16**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### **Colossians 3:10**

And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

When we draw near to Jesus and encounter Him personally in all His majestic holiness, He draws near to us and His light and love transforms us. When that takes place, nothing and no one can ever take from us that supernatural, glorious, transformational moment. It becomes a defining moment in our lives, one that affirms who we are and what we have become—people captivated by Jesus and abandoned to the Father, spiritually on fire for Him and totally committed to Him from a place of deep, sincere thankfulness.

From this place of transformational personal encounter, our hearts continue to stir and a hunger is ignited as we draw nearer and nearer to Him. Brethren, our God is a relational Father and He desires for each of us to cultivate an atmosphere to experience more of Him. Not only to experience more of Him, but to enter into a place in the heavenly throne room beyond the veil. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil to the holy of holies was rent in two from top to bottom. This signified that Jesus had now made a way for all mankind, for those who would choose Him and His Kingdom, to have access to Him and His glorious presence.

What is even more profound and beautiful is that He sent the Holy Spirit to be here with us to anoint and empower all believers to walk in a supernatural life. John the Baptist clearly states in Luke 3:16 what Jesus will bring: “But John intervened: ‘I’m baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will ignite the Kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned’” (MSG). To understand more fully what occurred at Pentecost and what is available to each of us today, let’s look at what we receive when we welcome the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts Chapter 2 the disciples were in one place as the wind rushed in, it went to the very deepest part of a man or woman that is able to respond to God. They were suddenly, instantly filled with the very breath of life of God Himself, the Holy Spirit. And when they were filled their minds, thoughts, emotions, and belief in spirit-realm encounters were instantaneously transformed into a new paradigm and a Kingdom of God way of thinking.

It was a sudden and drastic change that filled each of them with boldness, joy, and fire, and tongues of fire were distributed on each of them. The fire of the Holy Spirit anointed and empowered each of them and they were set aflame, a burning torch. Let’s depict this in an even clearer picture. Instead of looking at the burning bush, they became the burning bush. The burning ones, commissioned by God Himself to



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go out and boldly proclaim the Gospel, to see a harvest come forth and to literally carry an empowerment to dramatically turn the world upside down for the Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit is this wind—the very breath of God, the fire carrying the glory and His ruach, His breath of life that comes into the deepest part of a man or woman who can respond to Him. Just as the 120 were filled, we too are completely filled, transformed from the inside out, and emboldened with His fire and glory to move and advance His Kingdom in this lost world. Holy Spirit is God here with us.

When we are baptized in Him and cultivate a relationship with Him, there is a power and authority given to pray to see breakthrough come. He fills us with His fire and presence. He ushers us into the throne room to encounter Jesus and His glory. In this place we are awakened to the reality that we are vitally united to Jesus and our heavenly Father and empowered and anointed for great Kingdom exploits.

Our spiritual eyes and ears are open to see and hear as Jesus speaks and leads us in our intercession. We are filled with the might and power of Jesus—a light that causes darkness to be expelled. Boldness, power, and authority are realized to engage in effective warfare to see victory.

## Notice:

- There is a difference between God's presence and power.
- God's power keeps you, sustains you, nourishes you ( Exodus 34:29).
- God's presence transforms you. Notice how Moses was transformed and forgot about himself.
- God's desire is that you are changed into the image of his son.
- The glory transforms you.
- The apostles were never the same.

## Reflections

- In what ways has your life been transformed by the Lord Jesus?
- How have you impacted the people close to you?
- How have you impacted people you meet in church, in the community or at work?
- Do you publicly profess your faith?

## Prayer points

- Let us pray for transformation by the renewing of our minds (**Romans 12-2-3**).
- Lord create a clean heart in me and renew the right spirit ( **Psalms 51:10** ).
  - Lord help me to draw close to you every day and grow in my relationship with you as we await your glorious appearance (**1 John 3:2-3**).

We also want to thank God in advance for everything we are believing for, in 2024 (Mark 11:24).



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**Day 8: 9 January 2024**

## **FAITHFULNESS**

### **Definition:**

The quality of being faithful; fidelity.

God is reliable and faithful in His words. He always does what He promises to do and we can depend on Him never to be unfaithful to His promises. Thus, He is a God of faithfulness (Deuteronomy 32:4). This quality is essential to His being, without it He would not be God. For God to be unfaithful would be to act contrary to His nature (2 Timothy 2:13). Faithfulness is one of the glorious perfections of His being. He is as it were clothed with it (Psalm 89:8).

Far above all finite comprehension is the unchanging faithfulness of God. Everything about God is great, vast, incomparable. He never forgets, never fails, never falters, never forfeits His word. To every declaration of promise or prophecy the Lord has exactly adhered, every engagement of covenant or threatening He will make good, for "God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19).

### **Scriptures:**

#### **Romans 8:30**

And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

#### **1 Corinthians 4:2**

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

#### **Revelation 2:10**

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

#### **Matthew 25:21**

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

#### **Revelation 14:12**



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This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

## **Proverbs 20:6**

Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?

## **1 Corinthians 4:17**

That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

- As God is faithful, we too must be faithful if we want to enter into the everlasting Glory. Faithfulness comes from a place of trust and loyalty. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is a confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
- As a Christian, it is important to be faithful to God. It is one thing to simply believe in Him, but another to be faithful to Him. When we are truly faithful to God, this shapes the way we live. For example, we are able to be loyal in our relationships here on Earth and truly love others.
- Faithfulness requires us to submit our ways to God. It comes from a place of realizing that we are in need of a Savior and that He is in control of our lives.
- Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." We are to be faithful to God, because He is faithful to us.
- In the Bible, the story of Abraham demonstrates the importance of faithfulness. Abraham and his wife Sarah struggled to trust God, but learned the value of faithfulness when they submitted to Him.

## **how do we grow in our faithfulness?**

- By having a personal relationship with Christ. If we are truly faithful to Him and obey His commands, this will be evident in our lives.

## **Reflections**

- Are you faithful before God?
- Do you faithfully serve God
- Are you consistent in your worship?
- Are you faithful in your giving?

## **Prayer points**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to arrest the spirit of deceit in every area of your life
- Let us pray for faithfulness in serving God and others (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- Let us pray for faithfulness during times of trial and temptations (Deuteronomy 31:6).
- Let us pray for faithful stewardship with the resources given to us (Luke 16:10).
- Let us be faithful in prayer, praying consistently (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Let us pray for faithfulness in our thought life, our thoughts must remain pure and focused on God's truth (Philippians 4:8).
- Pray that the Lord fills our hearts with love that is faithful, just as God's love for us is unwavering (1 Corinthians 13:6-8).



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**Day 9: 10 January 2024**

## **TOTAL SURRENDER**

**Definition:** Submitting to God

Surrender is all throughout Scripture. We see Abraham step out in faith to surrender his son just as God surrendered Jesus Christ for us. We see John the Baptist surrender and commit to becoming less as Jesus now becomes more.

What does it mean to Surrender our lives to God?

- ➤ Firstly we surrender to God by giving Him our hearts in salvation
- *That if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. -Romans 10:9*
- ➤ to truly believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and to confess that with your mouth is a great act of surrender.
- ➤ In surrendering our lives and hearts to Christ, we gain freedom from sin, freedom from fear and so much more (Galatians 5:1).
- ➤ Total surrender to God is a process and sometimes it easier said than done. However, this is possible with the help of the Holy Spirit.

## **Scriptures:**

### **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

### **Matthew 26:39**

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

### **Proverbs 23:26**

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe[a] my ways.

### **Romans 12:1**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship

### **Proverbs 3:5**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

### **Luke 9:23-24**

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.



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## **John 4:10**

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

## **Matthew 11:28**

“Come to me, all you who labour and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.”

## **John 3:30**

He must increase, but I must decrease.

## **What we surrender to God**

- **We surrender our Will**
- Proverbs 16:3 says “commit your deeds to the Lord, and your plans shall succeed”. When we surrender our will, we commit all our ways to God. There is nothing we do outside of Him.
- **We surrender our things/possessions/money. Sometimes there is a temptation to hold too tightly to our possessions or things. We can get hung up on things and become selfish. Sometimes we cannot even give because we have not totally surrendered our things to God. We become self-sufficient and forget that God is our source. Whatever we have acquired is because He gave us the ability to do so (Deuteronomy 8:18).**

## **Examples of biblical characters who surrendered to God**

- The Lord Jesus lived a life of total surrender to His Father. Jesus says “*I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is righteous; because I don’t seek my own will, but the will of my Father who sent me*”. -John 5:30.
- *Jesus surrendered to God even in the things He did not want to face. Matthew 26:39 says “He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire.” Jesus totally surrendered His life to God. He committed His spirit to God as he died on the cross (Luke 23:46)*
- Abraham obeyed God when He was instructed to sacrifice His one and only son (Genesis 22:12).
- John had disciples. People listened to him, respected him and followed him. But when Jesus came, John’s followers questioned the impact it would have on John’s ministry. And John’s answer can be summed up in this verse:

*He must increase, but I must decrease. -John 3:30*

*John submitted to the true authority of Christ. John knew His purpose was to point to Christ.*

- As children of God who are designed and destined for glory, we are called to cast all our cares on the Lord (1 Peter 5:7). God wants us to be care free and trust Him to handle our issues or circumstances.

## **How do we get to the place of surrender?**

- **Prayer- Petition God for a heart of surrender**
- **Spend time in worship**



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- **Study and meditate on the word**

**Notice:** Romans. 10:9-10 says "Because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved: for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Notice this carefully that if one confesses the Lordship of Jesus. At that moment, he or she has nothing to surrender, as he or she comes to recognize the fact that they do not belong to themselves because they were bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:20), and you can- not surrender something that doesn't belong to you, or lay something on God's altar that is not yours to give.

## Reflections

- Is your life totally surrendered to God?
- Do you trust God to take care when you find your- self in the valley
- The bible says we were bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20) that means we do not belong to ourselves, how then, do we surrender something that does not belong to us or lay something on God's altar that is not yours to give.

## Prayer Points

- Let us ask the Lord that we may live surrendered lives
- Let us ask the Holy Spirit for total not partial surrender just as Jesus wholly surrendered to God (Matthew 26;39).



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**Day 10: 11 January 2024**

## REVELATION

### Definition:

- The divine or supernatural disclosure to humans of something relating to human existence.
- the disclosing of some form of truth or knowledge through communication with a deity (God) or other supernatural entity or entities.

The apostle Paul prays that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might (Ephesians 1:17-19).

The revelation of God is important because it determines the outcome of our lives. The enemy wants nothing more than for you to miss it. He wants to keep everything hidden so you are stumbling around in darkness. He doesn't want you to ever come to revelation of who you are and what is available to you in Christ. The enemy can sometimes put road blocks or obstacles in our paths to trip us up or cause us to give up in frustration right before our breakthrough happens.

### Scriptures

#### **Matthew 5:8** ESV

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

#### **Matthew 16:17** ESV

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

#### **Revelation 10:1-11** ESV

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down." And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven.



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### **John 14:6** ESV /

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

### **Daniel 2:22** (NKJV)

"He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him."

- **God has revealed Himself to us through His word. In this revelation, He has given to us revelation of our redemption in Christ .** He has also given a Revelation of the New Creation in Christ. This Revelation is not only a witness of Himself, but also a witness of the New Creation, his privileges, authority, and responsibility. This revelation also shows us our final destiny.
- **We are designed, and destined for eternal glory. But we only know this by revelation. The Father is unveiling to the Church what we really are in Christ.** NO ONE KNEW the Father until Jesus introduced Him; no one knew Jesus until the Father had introduced Him. This introduction is given to us in Paul's revelation.
- Galatians 1:6-12 carefully. Paul here declares he was not taught of man; so his message did not come from Peter nor from John, but came fresh from the Father.
- Paul did not know about the Substitutionary Sacrifice until it was revealed to him.
- The revelation of who or what we are in Christ is important. For some of us, what we were before we were born again still dominates our minds and rules us that we forget what we are now in Him. We are destined for glory; we are supposed to live above. We are not to be dominated by circumstance or situations. We are created to live in power, to dominate.
- Psalm 8:4-6 says "what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"
- <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings<sup>l</sup> and crowned him with glory and honour.
- <sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet"
- 1 Corinthians 15:50 says Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.



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- > The Apostle writes in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
- We shall be changed and we shall live this world in style. We shall defy gravity and get caught up in the clouds to meet our Lord. This is who we are in Christ. We are assured of a glorious future.
- Jesus taught the disciples to pray saying “your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10).
- Our responsibility is to bring heaven down to earth. We are ambassadors of the Kingdom; hence we are to show case the wonders of the Kingdom.
- We don't talk defeat; we always speak words that bring grace to those who hear (Colossians 4:6).
- We know that the greater one lives inside of us, we know

## Reflections

- Do you have a revelation of who you are in Christ
- Do you know your purpose in this world
- Has God ever given you a revelation patterning to your personal circumstances?
- Do you think revelation is Important?
- How does revelation come?

## Prayer Points

- Pray for revelation about hidden things in your life (Daniel 2:22).
- Pray for the revelation of who you are in Christ (Daniel (Jeremiah 33:3).