

# JOURNEY TO SPIRITUAL PROMISED LAND

*Ps. 8:4 What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?*

*Ps. 8:5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour.*

In the beginning, God placed man at a spiritual level that was a little lower than the spiritual level of heavenly beings (angels). Man was to occupy this spiritual level for a little while before being raised to the spiritual level of heavenly beings. Lucifer and one third of God's angels were not happy with this arrangement. They therefore decided to prevent man from rising to the spiritual level of heavenly beings.

*Ge. 2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

*Ge. 2:8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.*

There are seven spiritual levels. God operates at the seventh level (Re. 4:5). When God formed man, man was at zero spiritual level. Then God breathed into man the divine life and man was raised to spiritual level 1. Angels operate in levels 2 to 6. In order to rise to higher spiritual level, man had to do a spiritual journey. The journey began when God put man in the Garden of Eden. What is the spiritual journey about?

*Ge. 3:4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.*

*Ge. 3:5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

The spiritual journey is all about whether the person on the journey will choose to live by God's mighty arm of power or not. The word of God is the handle by which a person connects to God's mighty arm of power. So, when Satan got Eve to turn away from the word of God, she totally disconnected from God's mighty arm of power. Adam and Eve received Satan's fruit in a bid to become great like God.

## **A New Adam**

There is a lot of misunderstanding in the Church about what Jesus Christ really is. One understanding says that Jesus is the second person of the trinity that makes up God. One other popular understanding says that Jesus and the Almighty God are one and the same person; that the Almighty God came down to the world in the appearance of a humble and lowly human being. One thing to note is that these views of Jesus Christ were formulated by gentiles and not by Jews. The gentiles have serious spiritual limitation; and so, any doctrine they formulate must be taken with a pinch of salt.

God brought Jesus Christ into the world as a new Adam. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, God gave him the first measure of His Holy Spirit—spiritual level 1, just as He gave Adam in Ge. 2:7. Whereas God put Adam in the Garden of Eden after Adam received the first measure of the Holy Spirit (Ge. 2:8), God moved Jesus into the desert of Israel after Jesus received the first measure of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 4:1). Both Adam and Jesus were tempted by Satan in the very place where God put them. Because Adam and Eve fell, the measure of the Spirit they had was taken from them. Because Jesus triumphed, God increased the measure of the Holy Spirit in him.

*Lk. 4:14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.*

*Mt. 25:29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.*

Satan tempted Adam and Eve with being equal with God and they grasped for it following Satan's way. To the contrary, the same Satan also tempted Jesus with being great like God, but Jesus chose a path of lowliness and humility and obeyed God even to the extent of dying on the cross. (Ph. 2:5-11) Jesus always held on to the word of God. God promoted Jesus to equality with Himself—all the fullness of the deity (Col. 2:9). In Re. 4:5, we see God possessing sevenfold Spirit—the highest spiritual level. In Re. 5:6, we also see Jesus possessing sevenfold Spirit. What Jesus is today is what Adam would have been if not for the fall.

## **Journey in the Steps of Jesus**

*1Pe. 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

*Mt. 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.*

*Mt. 7:14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

The journey to spiritual Promised Land must follow the steps of Jesus Christ in order to be successful; otherwise, it will end up like the journey by Adam and Eve. The journey begins with a narrow gate and proceeds through a narrow road. Jesus' journey began with baptism in water, followed by receiving the Holy Spirit; that is the narrow gate.

The movement of Israelites from Egypt to their earthly Promised Land was a pattern of the journey to spiritual Promised Land (1Co. 10:1-11). They began their journey by passing through the Red Sea (a type of water baptism) and being covered by cloud—a type of baptism in the Holy Spirit. They drank water from the rock—divine life, and ate spiritual food—divine power. Yet, many of the Israelites were destroyed along the way because of four things: idolatry, sexual immorality, testing God and grumbling in difficult

times. Idolatry is not just worshiping demons; greed, which is making worldly possessions your idol, is also idolatry (Col. 3:5). The most common problem that destroyed the Israelites was grumbling and speaking against God and Moses, in times of difficulty.

## **Crucifixion followed by Resurrection**

*Col. 2:12 Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

*Ga. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

*1Th. 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Baptism into Jesus Christ is the beginning of a spiritual journey to the spiritual Promised Land, just like baptism into Moses (1Co. 10:2) was the real beginning of the Israelite's journey to their earthly Promised Land. The baptism joins the person to the crucifixion of Christ. The person is therefore crucified to the world and the world is crucified to her/him (Ga. 6:14). That is why Ro. 12:2 enjoins Christians to no longer conform to the pattern of this world. The most popular message in the churches today is about worldly prosperity or greed, which is idolatry. Why the hype on worldly possessions? Is it not because Christians trust in worldly possessions to save them from adversities? But that is trusting in the arm of the flesh, rather than in God's mighty arm of power.

If a Christian is crucified to the world and the world to her/him, according to Ga. 6:14, and because of this the person is not rich in worldly possessions, what happens when adversities come to the person? This is exactly the dilemma the Israelites faced in the desert as they journeyed to their Promised Land. The Israelites resorted to grumbling and speaking against God and Moses; they received terrible retributions for that. The right way for a child of God to handle adversities is through faith in the power of God. Col. 2:12 says that whereas baptism into Jesus Christ joins a person to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, it is faith in the power of God that joins the person to his resurrection. This means that faith in the power of God transforms a person to become like the resurrected Jesus. Ga. 2:20 says that having been crucified with Christ (through baptism), I live by faith in the Son of God, knowing that he loves me. That is how to get to and enter the spiritual Promised Land.

## **Faith in the Power of God**

How faith in the power of God or the Son of God works is that no matter what one is going through, s/he gives thanks to God because His divine power will always give everything that is needed for life and godliness (2Pe. 1:3). God is pleased by this kind of faith and this kind of faith is the handle by which a human being can move God's mighty arm of power to act in her/his favour. I personally learnt this principle during times of

tribulation. Indeed, it is through much tribulations that a person can enter the spiritual Promised Land. Seeking for shelter in worldly possessions only distances a person from the spiritual Promised Land. I have found myself in situations where some great needs existed in my family and I did not have the money to meet the needs. In addition, the chances that I would get enough money within the required time looked slim. I practiced faith in the power of God by giving thanks to God because I believed that He would not let me be put to shame (Ro. 9:33). God has always come to my rescue.

God said to the Israelites, “As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say.” The confessions of your mouth matter a lot. Always speak words that are in line with the word of God; especially in times of difficulty. The promises of God are spirit and they are life (Jn. 6:63). As you speak words in agreement with promises of God, you open the door for the Holy Spirit of God to bring life into your situation.

## **Conclusion**

The journey to the spiritual Promised Land begins with baptism into Jesus Christ, in water and in the Spirit. Note that baptism in water and the Spirit should go together. The minister of the gospel who performs the water baptism should also pray for God to give the Holy Spirit. Don't be bothered by whether you speak in tongues or not. Lk. 11:13 guarantees that God gives His Holy Spirit if we ask Him. Having been properly baptized into Jesus Christ, the child of God has been crucified to the world and the world to her/him. The child of God should no longer conform to the pattern of this world, which involves trusting in the arm of the flesh. Rather the child of God should live by faith in the power or Son of God. That is the narrow road that leads to the spiritual Promised Land. The spiritual Promised Land is to be raised with Jesus Christ; that is, to become like the resurrected Jesus. It is only people who become like the resurrected Jesus that will ascend to heaven like Jesus—the rapture!

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