

From The General Superintendent

I praise the Lord for your decision to give your life to Christ. My heart brims with joy because this is one of the greatest decisions you can take in life; it's the beginning of great things to come. Even the angels of God in heaven are rejoicing now that you are a child of God (Luke 15:7).

But this beautiful journey has just begun. There are things you need to know and learn so you can make the best of your salvation experience and be able to keep it until you see your Saviour face to face.

Every believer needs "the sincere milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2) to be able to grow in grace. This is especially true of a new believer like you. Therefore, I have prepared a series of studies which your counsellor discuss with you on a regular basis so that you can be established in Christ.

I am persuaded that you will be available and eager to share these studies with your teacher. Make sure you join any of our District churches closer to your residence for further fellowship with the brethren.

May the grace of God be multiplied in your life in Jesus' precious Name! Amen.

Your Pastor,

W.F. Kumuyi

Study One

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

MEMORY VERSE: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 51).

TEXT: Romans 5:1-21

Justification is an act of God which declares a sinner guiltless of all sins. Justification makes one righteous. This act is based upon the meritorious work of Christ's vicarious atonement. In other words, it is a declarative act by which the sinner is pronounced free from guilt and the consequences of sin (Romans 4:6- 8;5:18,19 8:33,34; 2 Corinthians 519-21; Acts 1338,39; Romans 3:24-26; 4:5-8).

Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3: 4). Any one who falls victim to it is under an unchanging policy of God to face its consequences except he repents.

FACTS ABOUT THE LAW

Sin is punishable by death (Romans 6:23. Ezekiel 18:14; Romans 5:12). It automatically separates one from God (Isaiah 59:2; 64:6; Psalm 66:18). Every sinner is sure to be punished (Amos 9:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:3; Hebrews 2:3). Under the law, it is an aspect of God's faithfulness to punish sin as He rewards righteousness. A sinner is cut off from God's favour. He is alienated.

FACTS ABOUT APPEASEMENT AND REMISSION

Before a sinner can be declared free from the penalty of sin, he needs one who can fulfil the whole law on his behalf (Romans 3:26; 8:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Matthew 10:41; 2 Timothy 1:9).

FACTS OF JUSTIFICATION

I. Promise of Justification

One is justified only upon the inherent righteousness of Christ (Romans 3:24; 5:19; 8:1; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 6:11; Philippians 3:9). It is received by faith, 'The response of the soul to God's redeeming grace' (Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8,9).

2. Remission of Punishment

This is the declaration of the believer as free from the demands of the law The demands have been satisfied in Christ (Romans 45). The sinner is no longer exposed to the penalty of the law (Romans 6:7). It is more than just being pardoned. It is making a guilty sinner guiltless in Christ.

3. Righteousness of God is Imputed

The believer has God's imputed righteousness. Christ is the Justifier (Romans 325,26; 1 Corinthians 130: Romans 322; Philippians 3:9). The believer is regarded judicially as having righteousness because the actual effect of righteousness has indeed come to him through Christ's own righteousness.

4. Restoration to Favour

To merely acquit or make a sinner guiltless is to describe hoe as a discharged criminal. Therefore, justification goes further to see the sinner as being personally righteous (Galatians 36). The sinner is approved. He is not only favoured, he is promoted.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What is the position of an unrepentant sinner before God?
- 2. In your own words, describe justification by faith.
- 3. What is the basis of our justification by faith?
- 4. Mention three things that take place at justification.

Study Two

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

MEMORY VERSE: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal lift, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).

TEXT: Ephesians 2:1-8; 1 John 3:1-10; Romans 8:10-17

The moment you genuinely repent of your 1 sins and accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you begin a new life.

Three things happen to you when you make this important decision. Firstly, you are quickened or made alive. Secondly, you are raised up together with Christ. Thirdly, you are made to sit with Him in the heavenly places. All these happen by faith.

One of the tricks of the devil is to make believers, especially young converts, doubt their salvation. If any doubt arises in your heart as to whether you are saved, you will have to decide to choose between standing on the promises of God or yielding to doubt.

There is nowhere in the Bible where we are told that we are not saved unless our emotions feel so. Salvation is by faith and not by feelings. How do we know that we have eternal life? We can know that we have eternal life on the basis of the word of God. The Christian life is a life of faith. It cannot be lived according to our feelings. Feelings come and go but God's word stands forever. Do not try to feel saved; do not depend on your feelings or emotions for assurance of salvation. Get assurance from the Spirit of God and by standing on and believing the unfailing word of God.

QUESTIONS:

1. Explain briefly what happens when someone genuinely repents from sin and receives the Lord into his life (Romans 5: 11; 8: 1).

2. List three things that happen to someone who has decided for Christ during repentance and faith (Ephesians 2:1-8).

(a)

(b)

(c)

3. Which of the following will make you to be sure you are saved? (a) The Spirit of God (b) Your pastor (c) Your friends (d) Your feelings (e) The word of God.

Study Three

BENEFITS OF THE NEW LIFE

MEMORY VERSE: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

TEXT: Romans 8:1-18

All the benefits of the new life in Christ cannot be mentioned in one study. There is profit both now and in eternity. The Bible says, "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened [made alive] together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses" (Colossians 2:13).

Christ has made peace through His blood on the cross. He has reconciled us unto Himself.

That means, we an., no longer strangers to God and Nis blessings. We are now sons and daughters of the heavenly King. This high position, bought for us through the blood of Christ, makes it possible to ask for anything from God with a definite assurance of receiving.

We have peace within and we are at rest from oppressions of the enemy. The life of faith which we cannot live by personal struggles becomes a normal may of living. There is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, temperance and a living hope in us.

We radiate God's love to others; we become approachable, dependable, caring and less burdensome to others. With God as our sufficiency, we lack nothing. When we pray to Him through Christ, heaven stands at attention, for they recognize that a beloved of God is praying. Only a few of these benefits can be mentioned in this discussion; it cannot be exhausted, for we draw from the inexhaustible storehouse of the almighty God. Our possibilities in Christ are manifold with our souls saved from sin and lives being ordered and directed by God. But do you know these benefits are better experienced than being told?

QUESTIONS:

1. Mention at least five blessings of the new life in Romans 8:1-6.

(a)
(b)
(c)
(d)
(e)
2. Complete the following biblical statements:
(a) Our body becomes dead to sin because _____ Christ (verse 10).
(b) We are Christ's because "...The Spirit ______ (verse 9).
(c) For ye have not received the spirit ______ but ye have ______ whereby we cry Abbe Father (verse 15).
(d) Our being children of God entitles us to be ".____. of God, and with Christ (verse 17).

3. What gives us the confidence of sonship with God? (verse 16).

4. What promise of God makes as joyful in all situations and circumstances of our lives? (verse 18)

ASSIGNMENT 1. Write down at least ten benefits of being saved from Romans 5:1-11. Bring your answers to the next meeting with your counsellor.

- (c)
- (d)
- (e)
- (f)
- (8)
- (h)
- (i)
- (1)
- 2. Commit Romans 5:1 into memory.

Study Four

TRUE FAMILY

MEMORY VERSE: "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every pan, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16).

TEXT: Ephesians 4:9-16

Every man desires to be identified with a respectable and dignified family. There is shame and pity when a family does not have i the marks that people can be proud of. People of different age groups, capacities and capabilities are usually found in the family.

There are gifts and properties in the family, which are meant to profit all (Ephesians 4: 11, 12).

Before a family can be regarded as true, must have all the qualities below:

1. The TRUE FAMILY is made up of people who feel that there is a common link binding them together. Therefore, they are usually at home when they are with one another. Then is radiating love and joy to see one another in good state of health and prosperity.

2. In the TRUE FAMILY, adequate cares given to each member particularly in times of need and difficulty. Each member of the family do everything possible to ensure that that member gets out of the situation quickly.

3. Each member of the TRUE FAMILY has the right to speak and be listened to. One is never tagged a critic for speaking the truth on a matter. Rather, his opinion is accepted and given adequate consideration. They have freedom to express themselves without the fear of being misinterpreted by other members. There is no fear mingled with their love.

4. Each member views the FAMILY as a refuge: a place of abode in times of loneliness, poor treatment from friends, business slump, unfavourable national condition, etc. The member is sure to have a resort from the ill-wind blowing outside.

5. If any member of a TRUE FAMILY is missing, the others search for him. No one is at peace until that member is found and reunited with the family

6. Each member of the TRUE FAMILY helps one another to live well on this earth and also live with God forever.

This unique opportunity to enjoy the richer life in a TRUE FAMILY abounds in the weekly meetings held at DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH nearest to you.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Do you desire to belong to a true and respectable family? YES/NO.
- 2. List below five qualities of a TRUE FAMILY
- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

3. Mention three qualities of a TRUE FAMILY which you have not enjoyed.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

4. How can you avail yourself of this opportunity?

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

Note: An opportunity to enjoy rich benefits of a TRUE FAMILY awaits all who identify with the Deeper Life Bible Church.

Study Five

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURE AND QUIET TIME

MEMORY VERSE: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal lift: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

TEXT: Deuteronomy 6:6-15; Acts 17:11,12; John 5:39; Mark 1:35; Joshua 1:8

Searching the Scripture is one of the hallmarks of a true disciple of Christ. It is roc only because Jesus Christ commanded it but it is a most rewarding duty for the believer. Jesus says, **"Search the scriptures; for in them Ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).** It is the means by which we have encounter with God and have spiritual growth. It os the source of the strength by which we are able to live victoriously day by day and the way to discovering God's truth by ourselves so that we can adapt the lessons thereof to our daily needs in times of sorrow, adversity, poverty defeat, sickness, joy, triumph or prosperity. In searching the Scripture, we can meditate on the many and unfailing promises of God in order to claim them for our blessing.

Searching the Scripture is profitable. Hence, we ought to do it diligently, with patience and persistence regularly and prayerfully, with an open mind and the decision to obey every revealed truth. God always rewards sincere seekers.

Quiet Time must be observed regularly. The practice of rising early to pray and searching the Scripture before the hustle and bustle of the day is known as 'quiet time'. In order to grow spiritually, the moment one is converted, this must be a daily business, morning and evening preferably. The whole body is calm and God often speaks to us at these quiet moments.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of searching the Scripture in these references?

(i) Deuteronomy 17:19

(ii) John 5:39

(iii) Acts 17:11

(iv) Romans 15:4

(v) 2 Timothy 3:15,16

(vi) 1 Peter 2:2

(vii) Romans 16:26

(viii) Revelation 1:3

2. In what manner must we search the Scripture?

3. Mention five blessings that we derive from searching the Scripture(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

Study Six

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

MEMORY VERSE: "Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but said: unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee" (Mark 5:19).

TEXT: Mark 5:18-20; John 1:44-51; Acts 8: 25-40

Every soul that has had a personal contact with the Lord Jesus has a testimony to share with those who are still lost in sin. The transformation that takes place in our lives at conversion, the new found love for God, the accompanied peace and joy are enough to excite us to spontaneously share with our friends what the Lord has done for us.

We sometimes feel that our friends, those who know us well may not listen to us as such prefer witnessing to strangers in distant places from our abode or place of employment. This is a great misconception and a deceitful ploy of the devil to cheat our friends and close relatives of the opportunity to hear and receive the message of life. For a number of reasons, our relationship with friends and loved ones makes our witnessing easier. For example, having lived or worked with them, our testimonies become more relevant and striking. They are witnesses of what we wen as sinners and what the grace of God has wrought in us. We also know them well enough to choose our method of approach and prayer points for their salvation. The established line of communication also puts us at an advantage over other believers in reaching out to then,

The Scripture gives an account of those who came to know the Lord through friends and relations. Testimonies also abound in the church of those who were brought to the Lord through their friends, wives, husbands and even children. If we allow the devil to intimidate us, our friends and relations may never know the Lord before they answer the call of death. If we fail to do it, no other person may do it.

Telling our friends what great things the Lord has done for us is a debt we owe Christ and mankind. We have the commission to preach the gospel to every creature. In presenting the gospel to our acquaintances and relations, we should be courteous and polite. They deserve to be respected as we do to those unknown to us. We should not make their evil acts or known sins our focus of attack and neither should we attack their personality. We are to present Christ and God's plan of redemption to them. If we testify to them in love and back this up with prayer, many of them will believe and be saved.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Give reasons we should tell our friends and relations about Christ.
- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)

2. flow were the people in the following passages brought to know God or behev; in Christ?

(i) 2 Kings 5:3,13

(ii) John 1:35,36

- (iv) John 1:40,41
- (v) John 1:44,48
- (vi) John 4:30

3 (a) Why is witnessing to our friends and relations easier than witnessing to strangers?

(i)

(ii) (iii)

(b) Discuss how we should present the gospel to our friends and relations and state what we should avoid.

Supplement HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. Believe the gospel and the entire word of God at all times, and walk in the light of His word (John 1:7). 2. Walk by faith in newness of life not by feelings or what your sight or environments suggest to you. "The just shall life by faith" (Hebrews 10:38,23).

3. Read the Bible daily. Meditate on it day and night to feed and nurture your spiritual life (Psalms 1:1-3; 119:105; 1 Peter 2:2).

4. Pray to God daily as your heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ, casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you (John 16:23-26; Philippians 4:5,6;1 Peter 5:7).

5. Keep your mind stayed upon God (Isaiah 26:3), and grow in grace, in all the virtues of grace and of God (Philippians 4:8; 2 Peter 1:4-11).

6. Recognise at all times your own weakness as well as God's strength and keeping power. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 Corinthians 10:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 5:1-4).

7. Avoid temptations and shun evil companions. Resist sin and Satan. Make frien6 with God's people who understand and also have this same experience of conversion. Endeavor to be a blessing to them and others (Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 1:10-16; James 4:7: 1 Peter 5:8,9; Romans 12:1,2; Colossians 3:5-10).

8. Join in fellowship with the people of God so that you can be helped to grow spiritually. Make sure you do not join just any church, but one that can assist you to live a victorious and holy life (Hebrews 10: 25; Matthew 28: 19, 20; Hebrews 13: 17, 7)

9. Confess the Lord Jesus Christ frequently and daily as your personal Saviour (Matthew 10:32,33). Be busy at winning souls for Christ as you have been won to Christ. Be occupied in "turning many to

righteousness" at every opportunity, any place you are (Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3; Mark 16:15).