Week 27: July 7th, 2019

Topic: Beware not to be removed - Part 1

Bible Reading: Proverbs 10:23-30

Introduction

Remove means to take something away or take it off from the presently occupied position. It can be described as dismissing someone from a position or displacing an object. Remove is to be evicted, ejected or expelled. Therefore, we can say to be removed is to be replaced, discarded or eliminated. In the Biblical context, God alone has the power to remove humans from one position and replace such with another. God is the only Supreme Being who can retire any living or non-living thing, while He Himself can never be retired. He has the power to remove you from your unsatisfactory situation if you do what pleases Him, and He can also remove the wicked from their comfortable positions and replaced them with the righteous people. The Bible says, the righteous will neither be shaken nor uprooted; however, the wicked will not survive to live in the land because they will be eliminated; according to the scripture which says, "The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth" Proverbs 10:30. Therefore, beware so that you will neither be removed nor replaced because if anyone is removed, his/her life will be inverted and the journey of such person will be ruined.

It must be noted that what God has created is what is in existence, nothing can be added or deducted from it, so, there is nothing new in the world; as it is written "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" Ecclesiastes 1:9. However, we will give accounts of what we have done in the past, and those deeds/conducts will prompt the Lord to transform our lives by taking us away from our hopeless situations or remove us from our comfortable positions by replacing us with better people. In accordance with the scripture which says "That which is has already been, and what is to be has already been; and God requires an account of what is past" Ecclesiastes 3:15. If it is clear that God will require the account of our past, why is it that the wicked are

disrespecting and condemning God? Why are they despising and rejecting God? The Bible says "Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, 'You will not require an account.'" Psalm 10:13. Do not be deceived that God will not punish you, He will call you to account in manners that can adversely affect your life. For this reason, worship God whole heartedly and not with lip service so that you will not be replaced; as it is written "Therefore the Lord said: 'Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men" Isaiah 29:13. If you do not want to be replaced, make sure that your heart is not far from God like many Christians in the world today. The more the number of Churches and Christians multiply, the more the level of iniquity increases. As it is written "The more they increased, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame" Hosea 4:7. Stop all your misconducts else, God will turn your honor to disgrace by removing you from your exalted position and replacing you with your neighbor who is better than you.

There are countless hypocrites in the world, who will be looking at other people's minor mistake, but they will neither notice or consider their own gigantic mistakes. Jesus rebuked them by saying "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye" Luke 6:41-42. Enough is enough, you leaders of Christianity who are exploiting and indirectly robbing your congregations, it is time to stop all your nefarious activities, else you will be replaced. "Thus says the Lord God: 'Enough, O princes of Israel! Remove violence and plundering, execute justice and righteousness, and stop dispossessing My people,' says the Lord God" Ezekiel 45:9. If our leaders do not depart from these vices, they will be removed. The young people can be happy and enjoy their youth, but they must not forget that God will judge them for whatever they do; according to the Bible passage which says "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment" Ecclesiastes 11:9.

Both the elders and the youngsters need to do what is right and acceptable before the Lord, else they will be replaced. Hence, we need to pray to God to bring us back to Himself and give us a fresh start. The time has come for us to normalize and improve our relationship with our Creator; according to the Bible passage which says, "Turn us back to You, O Lord, and we will be restored; renew our days as of old" Lamentations 5:21. For you not to be removed, you must do what pleases the Lord. If you want God to give you back the joy that you once had and restore your past glory, you must do what is right.

You must be considered to be righteous, before God will lift the burden off your shoulders and free your hands from heavy tasks. The scripture says, "I removed his shoulder from the burden; his hands were freed from the baskets" Psalm81:6. If you forsake Satan and his works, God will take the load from your shoulders and give you relief. In addition, He will also remove your spiritual sorrowful garment and clothe you with a graceful cloth. As it is written "Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying 'Take away the filthy garments from him.' And to him He said, 'See I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes" Zechariah 3:4. If you are upright, your filthy spiritual garment will be replaced. If you want your sins to be forgiven and overlooked, do not betray the covenant of God. For this reason, "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent" Revelation 2:5. Repent, turn back to God, and make amendments, else you will walk in spiritual darkness.

Our God is very powerful; He can turn mountains to lowlands, or turn lowlands to mountains through volcanic activities and sinkholes. God can move mountains without warning, and topple them to become lowlands. The Bible testified to this fact by saying "He removes the mountains, and they do not know when He overturns them in His anger" Job 9:5. It is evident that God can remove or replace both living and non-living things because He is their Maker. The Book of Daniel corroborated this fact by saying "He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding" Daniel 2:21. We can deduce that God alone is capable of controlling human event and He

controls the course of world events. He also installs and deposes rulers according to His divine plan. Since God is the one who changes times and eras, then it is correct to say that God alone can remove, change, discard and replace anything. Which means, the whole universe and the heavens are under His sway.

The unchangeable God

"I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob" Malachi 3:6. Since our God is unchangeable, but remain faithful to His covenant with us the Christians, that was the reason why we have not perished. We need to realize that the living beings that cannot change are our God and Jesus Christ His Son; all other beings/things are subject to change. The Bible says "Jesus Christ is the same vesterday, today and forever" Hebrews 13:8. Our Lord Jesus Christ never changes and He is eternally changeless because He was the Word that God utilized to create the heaven and the earth. The scripture says "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail" Hebrews 1:10-12. The passages verified that everything will be changed and/or replaced by others. But God alone will remain the same and His years will never end because He will live forever and ever. The Book of Psalm also authenticated this fact by saying "Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish but You will endure; yes, they will grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end" Psalm 102:25-27. Will your deeds permit you to be among those who will be transformed to live eternally? Are you sure that you will not be among those who will be replace and sent to eternal condemnation?

God will endure forever: Our Lord is a famous King and He is enthroned forever. The Lord will sits on the throne forever and His fame will endure to every generation; as it is written that "But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your name to all generations <u>Psalm 102:12.</u> "But the

Lord shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment" Psalm 9:7. Our Lord reigns forever, executing judgment from His heavenly throne. Since the Lord is King eternally, He has prepared and established His throne for judgement, where we will be judged; according to the scripture which says, "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books" Revelation 20:11-12. Will your name be found in the Book of Life or not? Hence, it is indisputable that the name of Jesus Christ, the King of kings will neve be forgotten and it will last forever; as it is written, "His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed" Psalm 72:17. You must be virtuous in order to be blessed through Christ and be established, instead of being removed or replaced by others.

The confession of King Darius

When God saved Daniel in the lion's den, king Darius was amazed because the plot against Daniel failed to yield the result expected by the governors and the satraps. The king witnessed the greatness of the power of God, because what happened to Daniel in the lion's den is beyond the comprehension of humans. So, the king feared God and honored Him by making this statement "I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end" Daniel 6:26. Henceforth, our God, "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations" Psalm 145:13. It is irrefutable that the rule of our Lord is eternal, and He is King forever. The kingdom of our Lord is an everlasting kingship and His reign continues throughout all generations. Therefore, "Your name, O Lord, endures forever, Your fame O Lord, throughout all generations" Psalm 135:13. We need to confess openly that the name of our Lord lasts forever and His popularity throughout all ages. If you do not want to be removed or replaced, you must proclaim to the world that our Lord is God eternally, and all generations

must remember and praise Him. So, "One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts" <u>Psalm 145:4.</u> Are you praising God on daily basis for His remarkable acts? Are you declaring His powerful deeds among the Gentiles? It is your duty to commend/laud and proclaim the wonderful deeds of the Lord in order to win souls into His kingdom, else you will be removed/replaced.

Topic: Beware not to be removed - Part 2

We shall continue our discussions by mentioning that God always bring warnings before judgment which means, you will receive several warnings from the Lord before your removal or replacement.

God always bring warnings before removal

Our God is not human; therefore, He is very patient with mankind. He will not always chide or contend with us by accusing us of our wrongdoings. However, He will neither keep His anger nor hold a grudge forever. As it is written "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever" Psalm 103: 8-9. Because He will not always scold us or keep on rebuking us, therefore, humans usually misinterpret His patience as slackness, forgetting that "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:9. God is patient with us by sending warnings before pointing out our sins which lead to our removal/replacement. As it is written "And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy" 2 **Chronicles 36:15-16.**

Are you among the people who refused to heed the warnings of the Lord? Are you one of those who are ignoring the words of the Lord by insulting His messengers? Do you belong to the class of people who always call the

messengers of God scornful names? Will your deeds allow you to escape the wrath of God which will lead to removal or replacement? Are you one of the people who have false confidence and remain adamant? According to the scripture which says "And they said, 'That is hopeless! So, we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart" Jeremiah 18:12. Are you among those who are saying 'Spare your breath and do not waste your time' to the messengers of God? Are you one of those who are saying it is our lives and we will live the way we want? Do you belong to the category of people who stubbornly stick to their plans despite the warnings from the Lord? Are you among those blindfolded by the devil who are saying 'We do not care' about the warnings sent from the Lord? Now is the time for you to yield and heed the warnings of the Lord, else you will be removed or replaced.

Joseph heeded the warnings from the Lord, according to the Bible passages which says "Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.' When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt" Matthew 2:13-14. The heeding of the warnings from the Lord led to the establishment of the eternal covenant of God in Joseph's lineage. If Joseph can heed the warnings from an angel sent from the Lord, it is inevitable for you to heed the warnings from the Lord, else you will be replaced. Those of us who are the messengers of God must not relent because of the attitudes of the people, but discharge our duties without any prejudice. As it is written "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth and give them warning from Me:...." Ezekiel 3:16-19. The only way for those who are messengers not to share in the guilt/punishment of the people is to warn them according to the instructions of the Lord. Everyone must realize that if God destroyed the ancient world with flood because they ignored His warnings, then He will not spare this present world unless we heed His warnings; according to the scripture which says "And did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly" 2 Peter 2:5. It is time for you to heed the warnings of the Lord so that you will be saved and not be

destroyed with the world. Emulate and learn from the story of Noah so that you will neither be removed nor replaced.

God has been sending messengers with warnings to the world since ages and He continues to send them till this moment. For several years, this ministry/church through Apostle Dr. Paul Okikijesu has been sending the warnings from the Lord to the world and we will continue to do so until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul apostle said to the elders of the church in Ephesus "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men" Acts 20:26. In addition, he said "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears" Acts 20:31. Similarly this church is innocent of the blood of all people because for years we did not cease to warn everyone through our free publications. Whatever that we have written was not to embarrass people, but to warn and counsel them so that they will stick to the righteous path. According to the statement of Paul to the Corinthians "I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you" 1 Corinthians 4:14. The purpose of our publications is to warn and rebuke people according to the instructions of the Lord. So, we urge you to admonish those who are disorderly, encourage the timid, comfort the discouraged, assist the weak and be patient with everyone. As it is written "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all" 1 Thessalonians 5:14. Never forget that it is your duty to warn the disruptive, the loafers and the undisciplined who are out of line, else you will be held responsible for their blood.

Conducts which bring removal or replacement

The scripture says, there are several conducts that the Lord abhors and He can neither condone nor tolerate them. In fact, those conducts are repulsive and detestable to Him. It is written that "These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devices wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren" Proverbs 6:16-19. Since you know those behaviors that the Lord hates, flee from them in order not to be replaced.

The proud, the arrogant and the boastful: The scripture says evil people are proud and arrogant, however, sin is the only crop they produce. Anyone that is proud lacks knowledge because a conceited look, an arrogant attitude and evil actions are sin before the Lord. As it is written "A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin" Proverbs 21:4. Therefore, if you observe the proud people, they always trust in themselves instead of God, and their lives are crooked. If you look at any proud person he/she is inwardly not upright, and such person will neither please the Lord nor be acceptable to Him; according to the Bible passage which says "Behold the proud, His souls is not upright in him; but the just shall live by faith" Habakkuk 2:4. Hence, we need to understand that we are in the last days, which means dangerous times of great stress, difficulty and violent period. When humans will be selfish, greedy, boastful and conceited. As it is written "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come; for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers..." 2 Timothy 3:1-2. Therefore, "I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of terrible." Says the Lord Isaiah 13:11. Inasmuch as God will crush the arrogance of the proud and humiliate the insolence of tyrants, beware so that you will not be removed.

We must know that the Lord detests the proud. Everyone who is proud and arrogant in heart is disgusting and offensive to the Lord, such person will surely be punished; according to the scripture which says "Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though they join forces, none will go unpunished" Proverbs 16:5 So, God rebuked the proud and arrogant, the accursed ones, who err and wander from His commandments; as it is written "You rebuke the proud—the cursed, who stray from Your commandments" Psalm 119:21. For you not to be replaced or become accursed, you must neither be proud nor arrogant. In addition, God will tear down the house of the proud and arrogant people. As it is written "The Lord will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow" Proverbs 15:25. Therefore, "Talk no more so proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, for the Lord is the God of knowledge; and by Him actions are weighed" 1 Samuel 2:3. Hence, never forget that God opposes the proud, but gives grace to

the humble. The Lord is against the proud and haughty; as it is written "....God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" <u>James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5.</u> It is clear from the passages that, it is inevitable for you to humble yourself, else you will be removed.

We need to realize that pride leads to destruction and arrogance leads to downfall. Pride always precedes a disaster, and an arrogant attitude brings ruin. The Bible says, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" Proverbs 16:18. Never forget that excessive pride will destroy you and you will be replaced. Hence, the scripture warned by saying "Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty and before honor is humility" Proverbs 18:12. So, do not be proud, because God will neither tolerate nor sustain anyone with a conceited look or arrogant heart; as it is written "Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy, the one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, him I will not endure" **Psalm 101:5.** Therefore, the eyes of the Lord is upon the arrogant to disgrace them, He has set His eves against the proud to humiliate them; according to the scripture which says "You will save the humble people, but Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down" 2 Samuel 22:28. You must neither be proud nor arrogant if you do not want to be put to shame because the Lord will certainly humiliate the arrogant people with haughty eyes, but rescue the afflicted. As it is written "For You will save the humble people, but will bring down haughty looks" Psalm 18:27. For this reason, the elders of the church must instruct the wealthy people among them not to be conceited and arrogant or put their confidence in their riches. As it is written "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy" 1 Timothy 6:17. We are warning the rich people of this world not to be proud or put their hope in wealth, else they will be replaced.

Since everything belong to God, so let no one boast in men about their wisdom or gifts. No one should brag about human beings who are dust; according to the Bible passage which says "Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours" 1 Corinthians 3:21. Hence, stop bragging about your leaders even if they possess immense qualities. Also, you must not boast about the future because anything can happen. Do not brag about

tomorrow because each day brings its own surprises. As it is written "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth"

Proverbs 27:1. You must never brag about anything or boast in humans because God can neither stand the sight of the proud, and boasters can never stand in His presence; according to the scripture which says "The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity" Psalm 5:5. Heed the warning that you must neither be proud nor boast, else you will be replaced.

Topic: Beware not to be removed - Part 3

We shall continue our discussions with the continuation of the conducts that are leading to removal or replacement.

The false witnesses: Nowadays, people are using various schemes to incriminate others; they are utilizing different tricks to deceive those who are not vigilant. The corrupt people are deliberately tricking the gullible to put them in a bad position, or make them to do something which will make them to look guilty. It is a common occurrence throughout the world for the false witnesses to produce evidence against innocent people so that they will appear guilty. These false witnesses have forgotten the commandment of the Lord that we must not withhold or manipulate the truth against our neighbors. We must neither tell lies about other people nor accuse anyone falsely, says the Bible. As it is written "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20. The Bible passage is clear enough: speak plainly, truthfully, frankly and directly without avoiding unpleasant or embarrassing issues. Do not give false testimony against anyone else, you will be removed. Furthermore, you must neither spread false rumors nor help a criminal by giving false evidence. You must not give a false report or join hands with the wicked to be a malicious witness that is promoting wrong and violence. As it is written "You shall not circulate a false report. Do no put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness" Exodus 23:1. Do not help a guilty person by giving false testimony. "If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. And the judges shall make careful inquiry

and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil among you" <u>Deuteronomy 19:16-19.</u> Do not give false testimony against anyone, else it will boomerang and you will be replaced.

King David prayed to God by saying, "Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breath out violence" Psalm 27:12. How many people are languishing in incarceration throughout the world due to false testimony? Make sure you do not defile your heart, so that Satan will not hijack it for his own purpose, by making you to bear false testimony. Jesus Christ confirmed that all vices originated from human's heart; as it is written "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" Matthew 15:19. Since you know that lying and false witnessing begin from your mind, it is time for you to pray to the Lord to cleanse your heart by saying, "Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches—feed me with the food allotted to me" Proverbs 30:8. If you do not want to be replaced, you must pray to God to keep fraud and lies far from you. Tell Him to make you to be absolutely honest, so as to be a good citizen of your country and a potent instrument to propagate the Gospel.

We need to realize that an honest witness will not lie but tell the truth. A reliable witness always tells the truth, but an unreliable one tells nothing but lies; according to the scripture which says "A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness will utter lies" Proverbs 14:5. We must understand that dishonest witnesses and liars won't escape punishment; as it is written "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape" Proverbs 19:5. In addition, the judgment of God will come upon them and they will perish; according to the Bible passage which says, "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish" Proverbs 19:9. If you do not want to be punished or destroyed, do not bear false witness. The only way for you to escape destruction is to give no false testimony; according to the scripture which says "A false witness shall perish, but the man who hears him will speak endlessly" Proverbs 21:28. Strive to be a credible and reliable witness who will be allowed to speak or testify successfully. If you do not

want to be doomed or perish with the world, you must refrain from giving false testimony. For you not to be replaced or cut off from the congregation of the Lord, you must abstain from telling lies.

Those who sow discord: We need to admit that it is hatred that stirs up discord and conflicts. It is hatred that is causing disputes and strife. The Bible testified to this fact by saying "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins" Proverbs 10:12. Since hatred fuels dissension and quarrels, do not hate but love everyone. If you do not want to be removed, you must not hate, or exhibit partiality or discriminate. Christians must neither hate nor be biased since we are the spiritual books that the world is reading. As long as there is jealousy, strife and discord among the Christendom, it proves that we are not walking in Spirit, but we are walking in flesh like ordinary people, and we are still controlled by impulses and sinful capacity. If churches continue to envy, jealous, quarrel and argue with each other, this proves that we are not in Spirit, but we are acting like the carnal entities of this world. As it is written "For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?" 1 Corinthians 3:3. It is time for the churches to realize that we are working towards the same goal which is "the kingdom of God." Hence, they should stop all their wrangling, else they will be replaced. We must know that those who are making the churches to turn against one another are controlled by their natural desires, they only think about the enjoyment of this life and such people do not have the Spirit of God. Those who are causing rancor and divisions among the Christendom are the carnally minded people who are devoid of the Spirit and destitute of any higher spiritual life. As it is written "These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit" Jude 1:19. Beware of the agitators who are following their natural instincts instead of following the directives of the Lord, else you will be removed.

As previously discussed, pride causes contention and strife. Arrogance leads to nothing but dispute and discord; as it is written "By pride comes nothing but strife, but the well-advised is wisdom" Proverbs 13:10. Since pride produces quarreling and arguments, do not be proud, else you will be replaced. Inasmuch as a pompous person causes conflict and dissension, then you must neither boast nor be puffed up in order to be enriched and blessed by the

Lord; according to the scripture which says, "He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered" <u>Proverbs 28:25.</u> The only way for you not to be removed but prosper is for you not to be arrogant but trust in the Lord. It is only those who love iniquity that will love discord, since strife and transgression go hand in hand. As it is written "He who loves transgression loves strife and he who exalts his gate seek destruction" <u>Proverbs 17:19.</u> To prove that you do not love division, quarrels and disputes, you must hate lustful and sinful lifestyles.

A hot-tempered person stirs conflict and losing your temper will only cause series of troubles. Anyone who is furious can only generate dissension and argument; according to the Bible passage which says "A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention" Proverbs 15:18. For this reason, do not be angry because an angry person causes fight and discord; as it is written "An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression" Proverbs 29:22. Therefore, it is a froward person that spreads conflict. Only a deceitful person will gossip, because gossip is not good, it will cause hard feelings and alienate close friends; according to the scripture which says "A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separate the best of friends" Proverbs 16:28. To prove that you are neither devious nor twisted, do not spread dissension or quarrels, else you will be removed or replaced.

Those who are shedding blood: Bloodshed is very severe in the world; the blood of the innocent people is being shed on daily basis throughout the globe. People do not know that they do not have to physically kill a person before they are responsible for the death of that person; inasmuch as you are part of the conspiracy to kill an innocent person or partake in the decision to kill the innocent or have knowledge of the plot to kill the innocent and you take no action to prevent it. Then, you are indirectly liable for the death of the innocent. The Bible says "Whoever shed man's blood, by man is blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man" Genesis 9:6. Hence, "You shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it" Numbers 35:33. The passage clarify that no sacrifice except the execution of those murderers who kill the innocent can purify the land. Are the people in positions of authority who

are killing the innocent ready to die to purify their lands? Stop all the secret assassinations and extrajudicial killings, else your administrations will be replaced. Meticulous investigations must be carried out and justice must not be delayed, in order to prevent the death of innocent people; so that you will neither be guilty of bloodshed nor be held responsible for the death of innocent people. As it is written "Lest innocent blood be shed in the midst of your land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and thus guilt of bloodshed be upon you" <u>Deuteronomy 19:10</u>. How many nations can say they do not have draconian laws? What percentage of the regimes in the world follow the rule of law? These governments of the nations need to change and stop the shedding of innocent blood in their countries, else they will be replaced.

Countless people in the world are in a hurry to do wrong or murder innocent victims; and all they think about is sin or crime. Numerous people are always planning something evil and they can hardly wait to do it; they will never hesitate to murder innocent people; according to the scripture which says, "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, wasting and destruction are in their paths" Isaiah 59:7. Are you among those whose eves are only for greed and dishonesty? Is your mind set on nothing but fraudulent profits? Can your eyes behold other things except selfish interests? Did you set your heart on unjust gain? It is time to change; as it is written "Yet your eyes and your heart are for nothing but your covetousness, for shedding innocent blood, and practicing oppression and violence" Jeremiah 22:17. If all you are thinking about is how to cheat or abuse or murder innocent victims; change immediately, else you will be replaced. For this reason, "Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, who establishes a city by iniquity!" Habakkuk 2:12. Those who built their churches or business empire through corruption and blood-stained money must beware and quickly change, else they will be doomed.

Many leaders trust in their own strength and commit murder. Several of the leaders are bent on eliminating whoever that is obstructing their aspirations through nefarious ways. The Bible testified to this fact by saying "Look, the princes of Israel: each one has used his power to shed blood in you" <u>Ezekiel</u>

22:6. Our leaders must not be drunk with power, but fear the Lord in all their dealings, else they will be removed. In addition, numerous leaders are like wolves who tear apart their victims, they are destroying people's lives for money. Countless of them are committing murder in order to get rich and make excessive profits; as it is written "Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people and to get dishonest gain"

Ezekiel 22:27. Are you one of those who are destroying souls in order to benefit unjustly? Are you making a dishonest living by injuring and killing people? Do you destroy souls for your covetous lucre? Repent and pray to God by saying "Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness" Psalm 51:14.

Do not shed innocent blood anymore, else you will be replaced.

Topic: Beware not to be removed - Part 4

We shall continue our discussions with the commandments of the Lord that will make us neither to be removed nor replaced, but endure forever in the presence of our Creator.

The conducts that God requires of you

There are conducts that are considered essential and indispensable for anyone who does not want to be removed. These behaviors are compulsory and necessary conditionality for humans not to be removed or replaced but endure forever. The Bible declares what God wants from mankind. He demands that we fear Him and live in a way that pleases Him. He requires that we love and serve Him with all our hearts and souls. As it is written "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God requires of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul" <u>Deuteronomy 10:12</u>. Do you fear the Lord? Are you walking by faith and in Spirit? Are you serving the Lord or the materialistic things? The time to change has come, else you will be replaced.

You must fear the Lord: It is essential for humans to fear the Lord because it is the fear of God that is preserving and sustaining human existence. Therefore, we need to heed the commandment of the Lord to fear Him; else

we will regret our acts. The scripture says that the Lord is great and deserves our greatest praise, because He is the only God that is worthy of our worship. Great is our Lord and He is worthy of our praises. He is to be honored and revered above all gods. As it is written "For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods" Psalm 96:4. Therefore, "Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him" Psalm 33:8. So, everyone in this world should worship and honor the Lord. Hence, it is inevitable for us to worship the Lord, obey and honor Him, and always be faithful to Him; according to the Bible passage which says "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, put away the gods which your father served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!" Joshua 24:14. We need to wake up from our spiritual slumber to fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly. For this reason, we need to show respect for older people, and obey the Lord with fear and trembling; according to the scripture which says "You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God. I am the Lord" Leviticus 19:32. Whoever that neither honor nor respect the elderly people that surrounds us, how can such person honor God who cannot be seen?

Any true Christian will never joke with the Holy Bible, but such person will read the Bible on daily basis throughout his/her existence; in order to learn to fear the Lord, keep His commandments and worship Him with reverence. As it is written "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes" **Deuteronomy 17:19.** Since reading the scriptures is not limited to the rulers alone, are you reading your Bible on daily basis? Are you acting according to what you read in the scriptures? The way for things to go well with you is for your rulers/leaders and the entire populace to honor the Lord, serve Him and obey His commands. For tranquility to reign in your country, the rulers and the subjects must show that they recognize the Lord as their God. They must fear and worship the Lord and listen to His voice, and never rebel against the Lord's commands. As it is written "If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord your God" I Samuel 12:14. It is unavoidable for humans to fear the Lord so as not to be removed or

replaced, because fear of the Lord leads to eternal life; anyone who has this virtue will be satisfied with good things of life, no harm will befall such person and he/she will be unbothered by trouble. Fear of the Lord is one of the conducts that leads to life, bringing security and protection from harm.

According to the scripture which says "The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil" Proverbs
19:23. For this reason, do not be envious of the sinful people but let the reverence for the Lord be your primary concern. Do not jealous the sinners who are living godless lives and have no hope of salvation; instead, fear the Lord constantly. As it is written "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day" Proverbs 23:17. You must continue to fear the Lord during your lifetime, instead of envying the sinners who are thriving, else you will be replace.

The Bible clarified that only people that are God fearing, trustworthy and hate dishonest profit must be appointed into leadership positions among the Christendom. Nations across the globe must appoint into political posts, competent people who are honest and fear God, but hate corruption. As it is written "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them as rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties and rulers of tens" Exodus 18:21. Are the rulers in your country corrupt? Inform them that they need to change else they will be replaced. Tell the rulers of your nation to perform their duties in reverence for the Lord and faithfully obey him in everything they do. You must notify the church leaders to faithfully serve the Lord with an undivided heart. As it is written "And he commanded them, saying, 'Thus you shall act in fear of the Lord, faithfully and with a loyal heart" 2 Chronicles 19:9. This instruction of Jehoshaphat to the Levites, the priests and the leaders of Israel is for every leader or ruler immaterial of their post or position either in the church or the nation. "Therefore, you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; For I am the Lord your God" Leviticus 25:17. Rulers/leaders, stop cheating and taking advantage of the poor; let injustice and corruption stop in your domain.

Serve the Lord with your whole heart: It is the commandment of God that "You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him and keep His

commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him" **Deuteronomy 13:4.** Jesus also corroborated this fact by saying "Away with you, Satan! For it is written 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" Matthew 4:10, Luke 4:8. Therefore, it is clear that you cannot serve the living God and the contrary gods, as it is written "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13. Since you cannot serve God and Lucifer at the same time, it is better to serve God, else you will be removed. Nowadays, many people in the world are saying, there is no point in serving God and it is vain to serve God, because they think that they are preserved due to their smartness, and they achieve their goals by their might. Several people who are destitute of the Spirit of God are saying it is foolish to serve God, and they gain nothing for been sorry for their past wrongdoings. As it is written "You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before the Lord of hosts?" Malachi 3:14. Are you among those who lack knowledge that are saying these things? Do you belong to the class of those who gave up and traded the truth of God for falsehood? Are you serving the creature instead of the Creator? Do not provoke God, but change now; according to the scripture which says "Who exchange the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen" Romans 1:25. You need to realize that if you turn your back on the Lord and abandon Him to serve other gods, He will turn against you and permit terrible things to happen to you. If you leave God to serve strange gods, He will turn and punish you and cause disaster to come upon you, even though He has been good to you before. As it is written "If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good" Joshua 24:20. Hence, "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish" Deuteronomy 8:19. We are warning you that if you desert God to serve other gods, you will be removed and destroyed. Therefore, "Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you" Jeremiah 25:6. For you to neither be replaced nor harm, do not inflame the anger of God. For this

reason, "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" <u>Joshua 24:15.</u> For you not to be replaced but endure you must serve the Lord alone.

We need to learn from the stories of Solomon and Daniel. Solomon turned his back on God to serve foreign gods and he perished, while Daniel refused to worship the idol and he was saved from the lions. Hence, "So, you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from the midst of you" Exodus 23:25. Serve the Lord, if you want Him to bless you and protect you from illness. If you faithfully obey the instructions of this publication by loving the Lord and serving Him with your whole being, then He will bless the works of your hands and it shall be well with you. As it is written "And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul...." **Deuteronomy 11:13-**15. These discussions are for your own good and welfare; it is neither to limit your freedom nor put a restraint on you, but rather to promote effective and consistent service to the Lord. It is our way to assist you to live right, to love the Lord above everything and serve Him with undivided devotion. As it is written "And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put leash on you, but for what is proper and that you may serve the Lord without distraction" 1 Corinthians 7:35. This publication is for your benefit and not to place restrictions on you, instead it teaches you to do what is right and proper, so that you will give yourself completely to the Lord's service without any reservation.

Walk in the ways of God: The best thing is to walk in the way of the Lord, and the Bible testified to this fact by saying: "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him" Deuteronomy 8:6. We need to admit that the determination of the way of mankind is beyond our control. The way humans act is not under their sway and we are not able to plan our own course. None of us are in charge of our own destiny and none of us have power over our own life; according to the Bible passage which says "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in

himself, it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" Jeremiah 10:23. Since it is beyond our capability to determine our course or direct our own steps, why not walk in the ways of the Lord and allow Him to direct our steps by walking in Spirit? As it is written "I say then: walk in Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" Galatians 5:16. The only way not to gratify the selfish and sinful desires of the flesh is to walk in Spirit; also, since God is a Spirit, the only way to walk with Him is by walking in Spirit. Therefore, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" Galatians 5:25. Hence, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" Romans 8:1. One of the ways to escape eternal perdition and endure forever is to walk with God in Spirit.

The Book of Deuteronomy stated that "... I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply: and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess" **Deuteronomy 30:16. If** you want prosperity in your land, walk in the ways of the Lord. Then, "The Lord will establish you as holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways" Deuteronomy 28:9. For you not to be changed, but established, walk in Spirit with God. Henceforth, you need to know that God will bless everyone who honors Him, walks in His ways and obey His laws. As it is written "Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways" Psalm 128:1. For you not to be replaced but blessed, do not stray from the ways of the Lord. So, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'If you will walk in my ways, and if you will keep my commands, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here" Zechariah 3:7. You must walk in the ways of the Lord if you want to mingle with the heavenly beings and inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Topic: Beware not to be removed - Part 5

We shall continue our discussions with the requirements of the Lord which will make us to abide forever in the presence of our Creator.

The requirements of the Lord

There are several things required by the Lord to make humans endure in this world and abide in His presence forever. We shall mention some of the prominent ones because of time constraint. The Bible stated that God demands that we must be just in all our dealings, we must diligently practice kindness and set aside any overblown sense of importance or self-righteousness. Our Creator has told us what is right and what He wants. He expects us to see that justice is done, for us to let mercy be our first concern and humbly obey Him. As it is written "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8. It is clear from this passage that God want us to do what is fair, be compassionate and walk in purity with Him. Are you living in humble fellowship with your God? Do you take yourself too seriously instead of God? Are you walking and serving your God with pride? Are you living obediently before your God? It is time to check yourself and rectify your ways before it is too late.

You must act justly: We must know that our God is a righteous God who is angered by injustice every day, and always condemn the wicked. God is fair; He makes sure that justice is done, and each day He takes revenge on the evil doers. The scripture says, "God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day" Psalm 7:11. Are you an honest judge? Are you conniving with the wicked people or you are rebuking them? You need to condemn every form of injustice so that the heavens will consider you to be a good leader/ruler. Therefore, the rulers must be upright and rule the people in the fear of God. Any ruler who obeys God and does right will be a shining example. Whoever rules rightly over people, whoever rules in the fear of God is like the sunrise on a cloudless day, the sun that make the grass sparkle after rain. As it is written "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" 2 Samuel 23:3. Since it is the directive of the Lord that only the righteous must be rulers: Are you ruling with justice in your domain? Are you ruling in obedience to God? It is time to change, else you will be removed. For this reason, "You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God is giving you" Deuteronomy 16:20. So, it is inevitable for you to be fair to everyone

and pursue justice without any compromise, else you will be replaced.

Several people in the world like to appear righteous in public and they are making themselves look good to others by declaring themselves just and upright, but God knows their hearts because what the earthling values and honors is detestable in the sight of God. As it is written "And He said to them, 'You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God" Luke 16:15. Are you among those who always justify their actions, even if it is glaringly bad? Hearken to the voice of the Lord and heed His directives, in order to be justified in His sight; according to the scripture which says "For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified" Romans 2:13. Reading the Bible and going to church without practicing what was written in the Bible will neither make you to be righteous nor justified. Start doing things that pleases the Lord so that it shall be well with you, and you will live a comfortable life. As it is written "But if a man is just and does what is lawful and right......If he has walked in My statutes and kept My judgments faithfully—He is just; He shall surely live!' Says the Lord God" Ezekiel 18:5-9. It is your duty to observe the conditionality mentioned in these passages so that you will neither be removed nor be replaced. Hence, "So you, by the help of your God, return; observe mercy and justice, and wait on your God continually" Hosea 12:6. Trust in the Lord and hold fast to mercy and justice, else you will be removed.

You must love mercy: Our Creator is a good God who always lead by example and the Bible testified to this fact by saying "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies" Psalm
25:10. In addition, "The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him" Psalm 103:17. Therefore, God delights in dutiful steadfast love and faithfulness in covenant relationship. He prefers compassion to sacrifice, and He wants us to be merciful to one another rather than offerings and donations. As it is written "For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" Hosea 6:6. Since the Lord desire kindness and not sacrifice, then He will accuse and penalize anyone who fail to have mercy on others. As it is written "Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the

inhabitants of the land. 'There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land'" <u>Hosea 4:1</u>. Believers, are we faithful to God? Are we applying the knowledge of God to our day-to-day activities? Are we teaching the congregations of our churches sound doctrine or they are embracing strange doctrine? We need to change so that the charges against us will be dismissed, and we will not be removed but endure.

We need to admit that justice, mercy and faith are essential to our Christianity journey and our success in the land of the living. It is because of their importance that made Jesus Christ to say "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: Justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone" Matthew 23:23. Do you belong to the class of the hypocrites who are neglecting justice, mercy, trust and fidelity? You need to realize that whoever neglects mercy or have no mercy on others will be judged mercilessly; according to the Bible passage which says "For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment" James 2:13. For you to neither be judged without mercy nor replaced, you must be merciful and pity the situations of other people. If you show mercy to others, then you will be blessed, according to the scripture which says "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" Matthew 5:7. For you to be blessed by the Lord you must neither be ruthless nor cruel. For you to abide forever, you must be merciful.

You must not pervert justice: Christians must never subvert or twist justice, but emulate our Creator who is just in all His ways. Our Creator is a faithful God without bias, He never does wrong and can be trusted to bring justice. Everything God does is right and fair because He is a just God without injustice; as it is written "He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" Deuteronomy 32:4. The Lord loves justice and fairness, His mercy fills the earth and He is kind to everyone; according to the scripture which says "He loves righteousness and justice, the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord" Psalm 33:5. Since you know that the earth is full of the grace and lovingkindness of the Lord, why not vindicate the weak? Don't you think

the time is ripe to provide justice for the needy? Do you know that if you fail to maintain justice for the poor and the afflicted, you will be penalized? According to Bible passage which says "Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy" Psalm 82:3. It is inevitable for you to uphold the rights of the helpless, the oppressed and the destitute. For this reason, always bear in mind that doing what is right and fair pleases the Lord more than an offering. So, acting with righteousness and justice is more valued by the Lord than sacrifice. As it is written "To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice" Proverbs 21:3. Hence, you must neither pervert nor distort justice but uphold it at all times throughout your existence, else you will be replaced.

Listen to our message, you rulers of the nations! You who hate justice and twist the truth. Hear this you leaders of Christianity and rulers of States, who despise and reject justice, and distort all that is right; according to the Bible passage which says "Now hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity" Micah 3:9. Are you one of the leaders who are twisting everything that is right? Do you belong to the class of rulers who are turning right into wrong? Then, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow" Isaiah 1:17. Remember, it is the commandment of the Lord for you to learn to do what is good and live right, for you to treat people fairly and see that justice is done. And do not be wise in your own eyes because being a prominent person is no guarantee of wisdom and understanding. The distinguished people are not always wise and many of them lack understanding; as it is written "Great men are not always wise, nor do the aged always understand justice" Job 32:9. Because you are influential does not mean that you are wise; beware so that you will not destroy yourself by being cruel, violent and refusing to live right; according to the scripture which says, "The violence of the wicked will destroy them, because they refused to do justice" Proverbs 21:7. If you do not want to be destroyed or removed, begin to do what is just and right.

The Bible stated that, curse is anyone who obstructs the legal rights of immigrants, and whoever deprives orphans' justice will become accursed. The curse of the Lord will come upon anyone who interferes with justice for

the widow. As it is written "Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless and widows,' 'and all the people shall say 'Amen!"

Deuteronomy 27:19. Do not deny justice to the less privileged if you do not want to become accursed, instead observe justice and you will be blessed.

Because, blessed are those who defend and enforce justice. The people who live righteously and do what is right at all times are blessed; as it is written "Blessed are those who keep justice, and he who does righteousness at all times!" Psalm 106:3. Therefore, you must promote and uphold justice throughout your lifetime because it is better to be honest and poor than to be dishonest and rich. It is better to have little with godliness, than great profits with injustice. As it is written "Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice" Proverbs 16:8. Your income must not be derived from nefarious ways and you must live a life that is devoid of injustice, else you will be replaced.

You must be rich toward God: Our God is a just God who is neither partial nor bias. The scripture corroborated this fact by saying "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him" Romans 10:12. The Lord treats everyone equally and fairly, He blesses all who calls on Him richly and give generously to everyone who asks for His help. But most of the people that are blessed by the Lord are misusing their riches. This gives Satan the opportunity to use the wealth of these people to cause their downfall due to their nonchalant attitude. Jesus Christ warned us about this peril, by saying, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again, I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" Matthew 19: 23-24. So, be vigilant against the wiles of the devil, and use your riches to work for God. "As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor —this is the gift of God" Ecclesiastes 5:19. It is the grace of God that gives you the chance to enjoy the fruits of your labor, and not your might or power; so do not misuse this opportunity, else you will be replaced. Countless people in the world do not have this opportunity and the Bible described them by saying; "A man whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consume it. This is

vanity, and it is evil affliction" <u>Ecclesiastes 6:2.</u> We pray that we will never labor for another person to enjoy it, but we will enjoy the fruits of our labor in the land of the living. For this reason, learn from the parable of the rich fool that was stated in the book of Luke (<u>Luke 12:13-20</u>). Therefore, be rich in your relationship toward God instead of concentrating on hoarding possessions. People usually die prematurely when they pile up riches for themselves but poor in the sight of God. As it is written "So is he who lays up treasure of himself, and is not rich toward God" <u>Luke 12:21</u>. We pray that fate which is similar to the one of the rich fool will not befall you. Therefore, use your wealth to work for the Lord, and have a rich relationship with God, if you do not want to be removed or replaced.

Topic: Beware not to be removed - Part 6

We shall continue with the concluding part of our discussions by mentioning how lie is ruining the lives of humans and how the righteous need not to fear because they will not be removed but abide forever.

Peril of lies or falsehood

It is certain that people who tell lies will not endure, but they will be replaced because our God hates lies and deceit. Since lies, and falsehood are abomination to the Lord. He directed us not to act deceptively or lie to one another. It is the instruction of the Lord that we must not lie or defraud or cheat others. The commandment of God was "You shall not steal, nor deal falsely nor lie to one another" Leviticus 19:11. So, "How long, O you sons of men, will you turn My glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood?" says the Lord Psalm 4:2. When will you cease seeking falsehood? How long will it take you to start telling the truth that will make you to abide forever? This is a wake-up call for you to stop telling lies which the Lord abhors. It is for this reason that made John the Baptist to advise the soldiers who came to Him, by saying "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages" Luke 3:14. Do not extort money from anyone or wrongly accuse people else you will be removed. If you do not want to be replaced, you must never blackmail or harass anyone.

We need to realize that the ungodly are perversed from the womb, they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. Evildoers go wrong by telling lies from the day they are born; according to the scripture which says "The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies" Psalm 58:3. Are you one of those who are strangers to God? Do you belong to the class of those who started doing bad things from birth? If you are among those who erred from the belly of their mothers, then you need to change immediately, else you will be replaced. Since God does not condone lies, Jesus said that whoever that is speaking lies belongs to Satan. He confirmed this fact by saying "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" John 8:44. Anyone that is telling lies belong to Lucifer, even if the person confesses Jesus Christ as his/her Lord and Savior. Unless such person repents and stop telling lies, he/she will be removed. Telling the truth at all times is what will not make you to be replaced and not your confession or profession that you belong to Jesus Christ. Therefore, rectify your ways by telling the truth because God will destroy the liars. He will destroy those who tell lies; as it is written "You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; the Lord abhors the blood thirsty and deceitful man" Psalm 5:6. For this reason, "Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds" Colossians 3:9. Do not return into the spiritual bondage of Satan by telling lies, else you will be replaced.

Do not reject the Lord

Many people in the world are doing evil and sinful things which the Lord abhors; several people prefer to do ungodly and immoral things just to achieve their aims. In fact, the world is relishing in corruption and wrongful conducts. Countless people are like Ahab who devoted himself to do what was evil in the sight of God due to the influence of his wife. As it is written, "But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord because Jezebel his wife stirred him up" 1 Kings 21:25. Do not allow the pressure from your siblings, parents and friends incite you to do what is evil. Make sure you are neither inspire by the lifestyle of the wicked

nor encourage by the satanic fashion trend to turn your back on the Lord. Flee from whatever that can lead you to do evil or disobey the Lord. Therefore, "Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people—The fruits of their thoughts, because they have not heeded My words nor My law, but rejected it" <u>Jeremiah 6:19</u>. If you do not want to partake in the disaster that is coming on the world, you must neither ignore the Lord nor His teachings.

If you do not want to be changed, do not reject the law of the Lord, but pay attention to His word so that you will not be considered as someone who rejects the Lord. As it is written "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?" Numbers 14:11. You must never reject the Lord or abandon His law else you will not get to the promised land; according to the Bible passage which says "They certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it" Numbers 14:23. Do not forget that if you reject the Lord you will be replaced, just like how King Solomon removed and replaced Abiathar. As it is written "So Solomon removed Abiathar from being Priest to the Lord, that he might fulfill the word of the Lord which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh" 1 Kings 2:27. It is evident that you must beware and never reject the Lord so that you will neither be dismissed nor expelled. The only antidote for you not to be banished or deposed is to embrace the Lord your God and serve Him faithfully.

If you do not ignore the commandments of the Lord, then God will find no wrong in you and you will not be declared guilty in His sight; according to the scripture which says "He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them" Numbers 23:21. In addition, you will become the stone rejected by the builder which turn out to be the most important stone. As it is written "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone" Psalm 118:22. If you want those that have reproached you to bow down before you, do not reject the teachings of the Lord.

The righteous must not fear

Those who do not stray from the way of the Lord by doing what is righteous and fair must not fear, because they will neither be deposed nor replaced. As it is written "Do not turn to the right or to the left; remove your foot from evil"

Proverbs 4:27. Inasmuch as you do not deviate from the righteous path, but you turn your foot away from sin, you will not be removed. Furthermore, you must pray to God to take away your shame and scorn. Tell God to set you free from insults and mockery because you are observing His laws. As it is written "Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have kept Your testimonies" Psalm 119:22. Tell God that if He spare you from derision and humiliation, then you will be emboldened and have the confidence not to fear, even if the earth quakes or dissolves and the mountains tumble into the sea. According to the Bible passage which says "Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" Psalm 46:2. Do not fear if you are righteous because you will not be removed but endure forever.

God in His infinite mercy will forgive and overlook the sins of the righteous. He will also cleanse them from their transgression which can make them to be removed. As it is written "As far as the east from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" Psalm 103:12. Whatever happens, the love and the compassion of the Lord will remain with them; according to the scripture which says "For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,' says the Lord, who has mercy on you" Isaiah 54:10. Whatever the circumstance, God's covenant of peace will be established in the lives of the righteous and His mercy will be entrenched in their journeys. As it is written "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you" 2 Samuel 7:15. Be righteous, if you do not want God to withdraw His support for you and stop showing you His love. You must do things that pleases the Lord, else you will be replaced and His favor will depart from you.

The righteous must not fear because the Bible stated that "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abide forever" **Psalm**

125:1. We can deduce from this passage that the righteous will not be removed but they will be secured and endure forever. Even though this world is passing away, the righteous will remain and live forever; according to the scripture which says "And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" 1 John 2:17. It is clear that this world and its enticement will fade away and disappear, but the righteous who do what pleases God will live forever through the assistance and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. As it is written "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever" John 14:16. Do you have the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Are you prepared for the Helper to assist you? Do you think the Comforter will not depart from you due to misconducts? If you are righteous, you do not have to fear because you will abide forever.

Examples of those that were removed/replaced

There are many people mentioned in the Bible that were either removed or replaced, however, we will only talk about few of them because of time constraint.

Eli and his father's house were removed from priesthood: God made covenant with Aaron that his descendants will be priests forever: but during the time that Eli was the priest, his sons were wayward. Hophni and Phinehas the sons of Eli were base, dishonorable and unprincipled men. They were so corrupt to the extent that they neither regard the Lord nor fear Him. The sin of these men was very severe in the Lord's sight because they treated the offerings to the Lord with disrespect which prompted other people to hate the offering of the Lord 1 Samuel 2:12-17. When Eli was old, he heard about the atrocities committed by his sons which included but not limited to fornication or adultery. Though Eli rebuke them but he did not adopt a firm position about this issue 1 Samuel 2:22-25. God sent warning to Eli about the impending disaster that will befall him and his father's house: that people of his father's house will die in their prime, the priesthood will be taken away from his father's house and his two sons will die in one day 1 Samuel 2:27-36. Eventually the word of the Lord was fulfilled and after the demise of Eli and his sons he was replaced by Samuel 1 Samuel 4:10-18.

Saul replaced the children of Samuel: When Samuel was old and his sons who are judges were corrupt, then the elders of Israel demanded for a king. God instructed Samuel to comply with their demand by saying "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them" 1 Samuel 8:1-7. At the coronation ceremony of Saul, Samuel related the words of the Lord to the children of Israel by saying, the Lord brought you out of the land of Egypt but today you have rejected your God by demanding for a king 1 Samuel 10:17-19.

King Saul was replaced: When Saul was anointed by Samuel, he received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and he prophesied before his coronation as king 1 Samuel 10:9-13. King Saul trespassed by making offering to the Lord instead of waiting for Samuel. So, Samuel said to Saul "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you" 1 Samuel 13:8-14. Saul disobey God again because he spared Agag the king of Amalekites and the best of their possessions instead of destroying everything. Samuel rebuked Saul and said "I will not return to you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.' And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So, Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you" 1 Samuel 15:9-28. Saul also consulted a medium which is against the commandment of the Lord. When the spirit of Samuel was brought up, He said "So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy? And the Lord has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David" 1 Samuel 28:1-19. After the death of Saul, David became the king.

<u>Vashti was removed:</u> Queen Vashti was removed from her position because she refused to obey the command of king Ahasuerus <u>Esther 1:10-20</u>. Vashti was replaced by Esther who found grace and favor in the sight of the king more than her competitors, and Esther became the queen <u>Esther 2:8-17</u>.

Finally, learn from the mistakes of the afore-mentioned people and amend your ways so that you will neither be removed nor replaced. Fear God and obey His commands, for this is the duty of all mankind and the purpose we were created. The conclusion of our discussions is to acknowledge and worship God with reverence and keep His commandments for this is the object of God's providence, the root of character and the foundation of all happiness; since God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad <u>Ecclesiastes 12:13-14</u>. The most important thing anyone can do is to fear God and obey His commands, and this is the duty of mankind, so that we will not be removed or replaced but abide forever.

The Seal: Proverbs 10:30: The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth.