

# Christ Apostolic Miracle Ministry Sunday School

## Topic: Return to God, you prisoners of hope – Part 1

### Bible Reading: Zechariah 9:12-17

#### Introduction

Prisoner is a person deprived of liberty, and kept under involuntary restraint, or confinement, or custody; while hope is to cherish a desire with anticipation: hope is to want something to happen or to be true. This means the **prisoners of hope must return to God for their desires to be realized or become a reality. In the world today numerous people are deprived of freedom and held against their will in spiritual prisons, in a manner that makes their situation seem hopeless. Many Christians are in spiritual bondage thereby making them to be disappointed. Nowadays, the situation is so dire to the extent that it is eroding the faith of countless Christians.**

**Satan and the forces of darkness are making the lives of many Beloved unbearable to the extent that they do not foresee productive results concerning the circumstances in their lives. Many people, who have optimistic state of mind based on expectations, did not have positive outcomes: instead they are disappointed because of the difficult situation that is prevalent in the world. What is rampant in the world today is disappointment instead of hope.**

**The only way to counter these spiritual forces and the hosts of hell is to return to God. Therefore return to God, your stronghold who will set you free from any form of spiritual captivity and restore your hope. In as much as God has power over all His creations and none of His creation has power over Him, then He is abundantly able to give you liberty from the spiritual bondage that is destabilizing your journey. Do not succumb but resist Satan and his agents, because the determination of Lucifer is to make you to deny God and betray His eternal covenant.**

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**Many people find themselves in a hopeless situation because they do not acknowledge God in their ways and they have rejected His teachings. Several people including the Christians like to utilize their own wisdom, and do things their own way, instead of following the instructions of the Lord and rely on the wisdom of God. They have forgotten that anyone who ignores the law of God lacks knowledge, and such person will certainly perish:** the book of Hosea testified to this fact by saying "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" **Hosea 4:6**. **Do not blame God for your hopeless situation, because it is your lack of knowledge and disobedience that put you in that precarious state. No finger pointing; because your condition is due to your desire for material things of this world. The craving of numerous people for worldliness has put them in spiritual bondage. Countless people are experiencing instability and disappointment due to their selfish desires. Greediness and evil desires have given the devil the opportunity to imprison them spiritually:** according to the Book of James which says "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?" **James 4:1**. **Think deeply and identify the things that Satan is using to wage war against you, and abstain from them, so that God will restore your hope.**

**The captives of the mighty:** Uncountable people in the world including the priests/pastors had been enslaved spiritually, though many of them do not realize that they are in spiritual captivity because of their celebrity status and financial independence. The mere fact that you are comfortable does not mean that you are not a prisoner of hope most importantly the hope of inheriting the eternal kingdom of God. Though it may seem like an impossible task to humans to rescue victims from the throne of the darkness and the contrary spirits, but with God nothing is impossible. If you return to God you will have the assurance that you will be delivered: according to the words of the Lord which says "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of the righteous be delivered? But thus says the

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Lord: 'Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children'" **Isaiah 49:24-25**. **The only condition that will make God to rescue you from the unseen spirits is to return to Him.** God will fight for you and save your household from your physical and spiritual enemies, if you fear Him and humble yourself before Him. If you want God to restore your captivity and hope you must be obedient. **It is then that the promise of God which will make you to prosper and restore your fortunes will come to pass in your life:** according to the Bible passage which says "Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name'" **Ezekiel 39:25**. **The choice is yours; it is either you return to God and have liberty, or continue in perpetual captivity. If you want God to restore your physical and spiritual captivity reconcile and return to Him today.**

**Do not return to bondage, instead return to God; in as much as Jesus Christ our Lord due to His generosity had captured the terrestrial powers and principalities our enemies who are taking us captives.** As it is written "Therefore He says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.'" **Ephesians 4:8**. **Do not allow the ascension of Christ to be in vain but meaningful in your life. What gift of Holy Spirit did you receive from Jesus Christ? How are you using your gifts? Are you using your gifts to work for God or you bury them? Do you know that if you return to God, your gifts are potent enough to liberate you from your spiritual bondage and clutches of Satan? The Christendom must realize that there will be a harvest of divine judgment when the Lord restores the captivity and fortunes of the believers: then He will judge the enemies who enslaved them, and the Christians who conspired/participated in selling their brothers and sisters in the Lord to the throne of the darkness.** God will severely judge those who obstructed or delayed His work in their lives by putting them in hopeless situation: according to the scripture which says "Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed to you, when I return the captives of My people" **Hosea 6:11**. **You must never encourage, participate or conspire to put anyone in spiritual bondage.**

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**Do not be a wicked tool of Satan, but be a good weapon in the hand of the Lord.**

**Your hope will not be dashed:** You must change and turn to God if you don't want your hope to be dashed. **Many people in the world are trying to find rest and satisfaction in alliances apart from the true God. Countless people never get tired of seeking assistance of the herbalists, palm readers and stargazers. Several people are not ready to sever their association with the idols and contrary spirits. Numerous Christians are pursuing the vanities of this world instead of seeking God. These people need to realize that without Jesus Christ there is nothing tangible they can achieve.** The book of John corroborated this fact by saying "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" **John 15:5**. **Unless you remain with Christ, you can neither be delivered from your spiritual bondage nor your hopeless situation. It is time for people to consider their journeys and admit that looking for other gods is hopeless, because the obscene idols cannot give them strength:** according to the scripture that says "You are wearied in the length of your way; yet you did not say, 'There is no hope'. You have found the life of your hand; therefore you were not grieved" **Isaiah 57:10**. For this reason, **abstain from idolatry and immorality seek wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the Lord, so that your hope will be kept alive. If you want your future to be bright and your hope not to fade, then seek the wisdom of the Lord:** according to the Book of Proverbs which says "So shall the knowledge of wisdom be soul; if you have found it, there is a prospect. And your hope will not be cut off" **Proverbs 24:14**. **Seek the wisdom of God if you don't want your hope to be cut short; because the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Time has come for people to realize that the wisdom of this world is absurdity and stupidity before God. As it is written, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness'" 1 Corinthians 3:19. Do not forget that whatever the earthlings consider to be wisdom is nonsense in the sight of God.**

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**The conditionality for your hope to be alive is to fear the Lord and do not emulate those who live godless lives. For you to have a bright future, so that your hope will not be cut off; it is inevitable for you to return to God.** If you are obedient to the Lord, then you will have hope for the future and your expectation will not be ruined. As it is written "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; for surely there is a hereafter and your hope will not be cut off" **Proverbs 23:17-18**. **Whatever your situation, you need to seek God so that your hope will not be disappointed. By returning to God alone will make your hope to be restored, even if your condition seems humanly hopeless.**

**Topic: Return to God, you prisoners of hope – Part 2**

**Bible Reading: Zechariah 9:12-17**

We shall continue our discussion by mentioning some of the reasons why humans are prone to spiritual captivity. We will also explain how the captives will be helpless without the intervention of God.

### **Do not become a prisoner of the mighty**

The mindset of people across the world is changing; lesser people are relying on God instead of their skills, intelligence and prowess. Mankind now believes solely in their capabilities and power, instead of trusting God and putting their hope in Him: this behavior makes it easy for Satan and the hosts of hell to put them in spiritual captivity and hopeless situation. Nowadays people focus on realizing their ambitions, while turning a blind eye to everything else. The desire and determination to achieve success at all costs is making people to disregard the instructions of the Lord. The willingness to strive to attain distinction without consideration for righteousness is widespread throughout the world. It is a common occurrence for people to compromise their faith because of their aspirations. The rate at which people are being taken captive by Lucifer is alarming, due to their desire for wealth, fame and power. It is an open

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secret that even the Christians are trading their hope of inheriting the Kingdom of God for hope of achieving earthly things.

At this end time, Satan is waging war against Believers by using their earthly aspirations to cause their downfall before the Lord, and put them in bondage. Obsession and addiction is rampant among the Beloved, and they are the weapons of choice that Satan is using to lure people away from the righteous path. It is time to raise awareness among the Christendom so that Believers will not preoccupy or fill their minds continually with vanities of this world. They must show interest in the work of God, instead of the materialistic thoughts that continually preoccupies and intrudes on their minds. They must not exhibit any dependency on any contrary thing or activity, but rely solely on God. They must discard any craving that is against the commandments of God. They must not be addicted to anything, or allow anything in this world to enslave them: according to the scripture which says "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any" **1 Corinthians 6:12**. Do not be addicted to anything, may it be your phone, or your computer, or your work, or food, or medications. You must flee from everything that is neither spiritually helpful nor beneficial. Never allow anything to gain control or have power over you. So, refrain from anything that can permit Satan to put you in perpetual prison/bondage.

The way of thinking of humans and their opinions is that they can achieve anything inasmuch as they have the resources. They have forgotten that whoever fails to acknowledge God, is a fool, and anyone who thinks he/she does not need the Lord to exist and function properly is a nonentity. The Book of Psalm stated that "The fool has said in his heart, 'there is no God.' They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; there is none who does good" **Psalm 53:1,14:1**. Are you one of the people whose inclination is against the instructions of the Lord? Are your assumptions, methods, or notations negatively impacting the people around you? Is your attitude creating a powerful incentive within the Christendom in a manner that is making Believers to criticize God or turn their

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backs on Him? Is your disposition not leading those who adopted/accepted it astray? Abstain from your nefarious behaviors, and return to God before it is too late.

Though many people confess to recognize God but by their actions they deny and disown Him. Many Christians are claiming to know God, but their actions deny it. The Believers are renouncing God through their detestable and disobedient conducts in a manner that empowers Lucifer to enslave them. The Bible testified to this fact by saying "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient and disqualified for every good work" **Titus 1:16**. Are you one of those who are deceiving themselves by professing to know God while your actions speak otherwise? Will your conducts not make it easy for Satan to put you in a spiritual prison? Do you think that your acts can make you to escape the captivity of the darkness? Are you sure that it will be difficult for the hosts of hell to make you their prey? Think deeply and make amendments.

**God alone can set the prisoner free**: Our God is a just God, who will always vindicate the oppressed and upholds their cause. He will never fail to give justice to the oppressed and release the prisoners of hope. The scripture stated that "Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners" **Psalms 146:7**. Seek God who is abundantly able to free you from your captivity and restore your hope. God alone listens to the cry of the needy and He will neither forget nor look down on the captives. Almighty God will never abandon His people in physical or spiritual prison: according to the Bible passage which says "For the Lord hears the poor and does not despise His prisoners" **Psalms 69:33**. At this junction we need to realize that being a Christian is not immunity against spiritual bondage, the only antidote is to do the will of God. If the chosen people of the Lord can be taken prisoners, because of their disobedience, then anyone who does not follow the directive of the Lord can be imprisoned: as it is written "The King of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South, heard that Israel was coming on the road to

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Atharim. Then he fought against Israel and took some of them prisoners" **Numbers 21:1**. Do not disobey God so that you will not be held in perpetual bondage.

It is important to note that anyone who is not careful and watchful may be in captivity till death comes, whereby death will be a temporary succor for such person: according to the Book of Job which says "There the prisoners rest together; they do not hear the voice of the oppressor" **Job 3:18**. Even though captives enjoy temporary peace and they are at ease in death, but make haste while you are still alive to be delivered from captivity; since God will never neglect the sigh of the people in prison for righteousness sake. He is ready to set free those condemned to death if they repent. Do not procrastinate because your Maker will listen to your painful cries today, and liberate you from your spiritual captivity: as it is written "To hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death" **Psalms 102:20**. Almighty God who released Paul and Silas from prison in a miraculous way will eradicate every form of physical and spiritual imprisonment from your life today in Jesus name **Acts 16:25-28**.

### **Duties of the ministers of God**

The primary duty of the ministers of God is to stir people towards God. The leaders of Christianity are supposed to inspire people to love the Lord their God and obey His instructions. They must be prepared to suffer physically including but not limited to imprisonment for righteousness sake. They must never compromise but hold on firmly to the truth till the end; just like Apostle Paul who was imprisoned for speaking the truth. Paul became a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus the Messiah. The scripture confirmed this fact by saying "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer" **Philemon 1:1**. How many pastors are ready to become prisoners for preaching the Good News? How many shepherds are ready to go to jail for serving Christ or because of their members? The ministers of God must realize that it is their obligation to stand in the gap. God is looking for competent pastors/priests who will build a wall and stand in the place where the walls have crumbled on behalf of the Beloved, in order to plead with God when



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His anger is about to destroy the Christendom; but there is none. The Bible attested to this fact by saying "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one" **Ezekiel 22:30**. Can we find prophet/priest who is ready to rebuild the wall of righteousness that is guarding the Christians? Today, most pastors are concern about how to enrich themselves more than the salvation of souls. The minister of God should emulate Paul apostle who became a prisoner for the sake of the Gentiles: according to the Book of Ephesians which says "For this reason I, Paul the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles" **Ephesians 3:1**. Can you think of any priest who is willing to become a prisoner for the benefit of the Beloved? How many shepherds can endure imprisonment on behalf of the Christians? Is there any minister of God who is ready to face jail time for the salvation of the Gentiles? Are the leaders of Christianity setting the prisoners free from confinement? Are the pastors not conspiring with the hosts of hell to put the people in perpetual bondage? How many ministers of God are liberating people from the power of the darkness? Did the leaders realize that it is their responsibility to free the captives from their spiritual captivity? As it is written "To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house" **Isaiah 42:7**. For this reason, it is the duty of the pastors to say to the prisoners to come out in freedom, and to those in the darkness to show themselves, by coming into the light of the Savior. The leaders of Christianity must not fail to set prisoners free from spiritual dark dungeons to see the light of the day: according to the Bible passage which says "That you may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness 'Show yourselves.' 'They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights'" **Isaiah 49:9**. Anyone who is not assisting and encouraging those who are in spiritual darkness to come into the light of righteousness is not a true servant of God.

**Pastors have caused many to stray:** Majority of the pastors are not speaking the truth because of gain or benefits; instead they are twisting the word of God to suit their own purposes. What is rampant in the world are charismatic preachers/teachers and motivational speakers. Most servants of God are preaching/teaching what people desire to hear rather than the

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truth written in the Holy Bible. Countless priests/shepherds contributed directly or indirectly to the spiritual imprisonment of the members of their churches. Many overseers have compromised and defiled the Holy name of the Lord before the throne of darkness, because of their ambitions/aspirations. Nowadays the prophets are deceiving people with false visions and lying messages instead of warning them to leave their sins and be saved from captivity. Most servants of God have nothing to tell people except lies and their preaching will never expose the guilty of the people. Countless church founders are saying foolish things which are false to the core. They will not save people from spiritual bondage by telling them to repent; instead they will fill people with false hope. The Bible warned concerning this trend by saying "Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not uncovered your iniquity, to bring back your captives, but have envisioned for you false prophecies and delusions" **Lamentations 2:14**. Beware of any false message which can put you in spiritual captivity. Beware of the pastors who are wolves in sheep clothing. Beware of the deception of the agents of the darkness who are calling themselves Ministers of God. Though many of these pastors have been trapped by the devil, and he makes them to obey him, however God will help them to escape their spiritual imprisonment if they start speaking the truth. It is time for the leaders of Christianity to wake up and recover themselves from the snare of Satan who had taken them captives: according to the Book of Timothy which says "And that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will" **2 Timothy 2:26**. Is the pastor of your church leading people into captivity or liberating people from captivity? Honesty and repentance are the antidotes to spiritual imprisonment. Therefore, pastors/priests must not be partial but tell the truth at all time immaterial of the consequences, in order to set their congregations free from spiritual bondage.

**Topic: Return to God, you prisoners of hope – Part 3**

**Bible Reading: Zechariah 9:12-17**

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We shall continue our discussions by mentioning that lack of the knowledge of God is the primary reason that empowers Satan and the darkness to put people in spiritual prisons.

### Lack of Knowledge

**Nowadays many people are destitute of the knowledge of God in a manner that is making the Devil to take advantage of them.** Since the earthlings are not seeking God wholeheartedly, then there is a scarcity of the word of God. Though the word of God is everywhere on the internet and it can be heard on the radio and the television stations, with countless publications in circulation. However, **most of the publications and the postings on the internet are incorrect; and majority of the preaching on the Radio and Television stations are twisted to suit the purpose and the aspirations of the preachers.** It means the word of God came to pass that 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord God. "That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." **Amos 8:11**. **Since most of the word of God that is being taught or preached or publicized was erroneous, it means people lack the knowledge of God and Lucifer is exploiting this avenue to put people in bondage. Countless people who are reading the Holy Bible think that they have the knowledge of God, however that is not correct, because they are reading the Bible like a newspaper or a story book without any inspiration of the Holy Spirit. So, such people lack the knowledge of God;** and the word of our Lord Jesus Christ is fulfilled in their lives; which says "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." **John 5:39**. **Stop deceiving yourself: start seeking knowledge of the Lord and gifts of the Holy Spirit to escape spiritual captivity.**

**Numerous Christians are so sure of themselves, because they always attend every church service and activity** but they have forgotten the scripture which says "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." **Matthew 7:21**. For this reason, until you seek the knowledge of God and gifts of the Holy Spirit that you can evade spiritual bondage, and

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inherit the kingdom of God. Therefore, do not be among the Beloved who go into spiritual captivity due to their lack of knowledge of God. **Seek the knowledge of God and stop being a prisoner of hope. Today is the day that you must cease to be a statistic of captivity and hopelessness:** according to the Book of Isaiah which says "Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst." **Isaiah 5:13. Are you among those that are spiritually imprisoned because they do not know God? Do you consider yourself wise despite the fact that you lack knowledge? This is a wake up call for all Christians to seek the knowledge of God and fear Him.**

**Christians are like lost sheep, led astray, and deserted by their pastors at the seductive places on earth. Their shepherds are guiding them to the wrong ways which they think are the favorite places, then abandoned the sheep;** so the sheep have lost their way and can't remember how to get back to the sheepfold. **The sheep are attacked by the darkness and their enemies said we are not guilty rather it is their fault,** because they have sinned against the Lord, their true place of rest and the hope of their ancestors. As it is written "My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; they have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; they have forgotten their resting place. All who found them have devoured them; and their adversaries said, 'We have not offended, because they have sinned against the Lord, the habitation of justice, the Lord, the hope of their fathers.'" **Jeremiah 50:6-7. Are you one of the lost sheep who have lost track of the location of their home? Are you going from one sin to another instead of seeking the knowledge of God? Are your conducts making the gracious eye of the Lord to be bitter towards you? The time has come for you to rectify whatever that is making Satan and his agents to justify themselves over your spiritual imprisonment.**

### **Return to God**

Christians must come back to the Lord, since sin has made them to fall. The Believers must return to God, because they have stumbled and fallen:

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many calamities have happened to them due to their iniquity. **Their sins have brought them down and opportune the contrary spirits to put them in bondage.** The Bible testified to this fact by saying "O Israel, return to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity" **Hosea 14:1**. So, **Christians return to God in order to avoid spiritual imprisonment. They must abstain from worldliness and shun the vanities of this world. They must dedicate themselves to the Lord, and banish immorality from their hearts; they must direct their hearts to the Lord and serve Him alone, it is then that God will rescue them from spiritual captivity:** according to the Book of Samuel which says "Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, 'If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.'" **1 Samuel 7:23**. **Are you ready to get rid of your nauseous and abominable conducts? Are you ready to commit your ways into the hand of the Lord who can save you from spiritual captivity?** For this reason, **give up your crooked ways and your evil thoughts:** return to God who will be merciful to you and forgive your sins. **People should abandon their wicked way of life and change their way of thinking, and return to God who will pity their situation and forgive their sins:** according to the Bible passage which says "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." **Isaiah 55:7**. **Return quickly to God who will rescue you from the darkness and your enemies who are making your life unbearable.**

Christians announce these words at locations where the Beloved have been taken as captives and encourage them to return to God who will set them free from captivity. **Believers deliver his message to the unfaithful and disobedient** people; tell them to come back to God because He is merciful. **It is the duty of the Christians to preach to the faithless people to return to God who will overlook their sins and restore their hope:** according to the scripture which says "Go and proclaim these words towards the north, and say: 'Return, backsliding Israel,' says the Lord; 'I will not cause my anger to fall on you. For I am merciful', says the Lord; 'I will

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not remain angry forever." **Jeremiah 3:12**. The message has been delivered to you today to return to God, so you have no excuse not to return. Come back to God who is ready to forgive your sins and restore your hope: according to the Book of Joel which says "'Now, therefore,' says the Lord, 'Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.' So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm." **Joel 2: 12-13**. **Are you prepared to rip your heart instead of your clothes? Are you ready to return to God with a broken heart?** Since God is always ready to forgive and not punish, Christians must not hesitate to return to Him. **If Christians return to the Lord, then they will not be moved but endure forever. They will neither stray nor waiver again, instead they will abide in the presence of God; and the nations of the world will be blessed and glorified through their God.** As it is written "'If you will return, O Israel,' says the Lord, 'Return to Me; and if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, then you shall not be moved. And you shall swear, "The Lord lives," In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; the nations shall bless themselves in Him, and in Him they shall glory.'" **Jeremiah 4:1-2**. For this reason, **Christians must be honest in all their ways, in order to be a blessing to the nations of the world, so that all people will come and praise the name of their God.**

Since the word of the Lord will not return without result, but accomplishes what He desire and succeed in the matter for which He sent it; **then all the promises mentioned today will come to pass in your life, if you return to God:** according to the scripture which says "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." **Isaiah 55:11**. **The word of God that you have heard today will not be fruitless in your life instead it will produce fruits worthy of repentance and rectification. The word of God will achieve unforgettable and eternal effects in your life in Jesus name. You will be among the ransomed of the Lord that will wear happiness as a crown: you will celebrate and shout praises to the name of the Lord, because all your sorrows and worries will turn to history in Jesus**

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**name. Today you will be crowned with everlasting joy, heartache and mourning will disappear from your life, and your journey will be filled with jubilation and gladness:** according to the Book of Isaiah which says "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy, on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." **Isaiah 35:10, 51:11**. **You will forget your miseries today, grief and sadness will be eradicated completely from your life; and shout of joy and celebration will never depart from your home forever, if you return to God. The word of our Lord Jesus Christ seals the promises in your life today;** if you come back to God before the repentance period passes away. The seal is; "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." **Luke 21:33, Mark 13:31**. **Whether Satan likes or not the promises of God will come to pass in your life before the end of this year. Amen.**

**Topic: Return to God, you prisoners of hope – Part 4**

**Bible Reading: Zechariah 9:12-17**

We shall continue our discussion by mentioning the common circumstances that are causing hopelessness in many people's lives.

### **God is beyond the circumstances causing hopelessness**

There are several circumstances that are causing hopelessness among mankind; however **none of these circumstances is beyond God**. There is no circumstance that God cannot resolve, if we return to Him and keep our hope alive in Him. The Lord is the God of all living and non-living things, therefore there is no situation that is difficult for Him to resolve. **Since our God is ruling the world, and He can do anything and everything: why not put your hope in Him to solve your problems?** The scripture testified to this fact by saying "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?" **Jeremiah 32:27**. **Why do you permit Satan to use your situation to cause hopelessness in your life? Why are you underrating the capability of God?** Since the Lord is the God of

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all humanity and nothing is impossible for Him to achieve then put your hope in Him. **Stop the exploitation of your situation by the darkness by returning to God and keeping your hope alive in Him. We pray that whatever that is causing hopelessness in your life will turn to history in Jesus Name.**

**Basic Necessities of Life:** The scripture cautioned us concerning the basic necessities of life, so that Satan will not use them to imprison us and cause hopelessness in our lives. Jesus Christ warned by saying, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on? Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 'So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?' Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." **Matthew 6: 25-33.** **Do not be depressed because of your situation but return to God and He will restore your hope.**

**God will give you daily bread:** You need to put your hope in God who instructed the ravens to bring bread and meat to Prophet Elijah during the famine period. Where the ravens got the bread and the meat that were brought to Elijah every morning and evening is the mystery of God. **1 Kings 17:1-6.** **Today God will resolve the issues of your life in a way that is beyond the comprehension of humans. Almighty God will erase every form of hopelessness from your life and He will restore your hope in Jesus Name.** The Messiah fed five thousand men, besides women and children with five loaves and two fish: **He will provide for your**



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**needs and satisfy you. Matthew 14:16-21.** He who fed four thousand men, besides women and children with seven loaves and a little fish is alive; **He will eradicate starvation from your life today. Matthew 15:32-39.** The authority that made seven baskets filled with leftover to be available; when the Lord fed four thousand men; will make savings and reserves not to cease in your journey. Whenever you dip your hand into your pocket it will not come out empty in Jesus Name.

**Do not worry about your survival:** If it is your survival that is causing hopelessness in your life, you have nothing to worry about because Almighty God will not forget you, if you put your hope in Him. **He will not neglect you and your hope will not be crushed but restored:** according to the Book of Psalm which says, "For the needy shall not always be forgotten; the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever." **Psalm 9:18.** We pray that poverty will expire today in your life, and God will create paths that will make your means of 'daily bread' to become easier. Throughout your lifetime starvation or hunger will not be your portion. You will not be ignored by the Lord, and your hope will not be lost, if you embrace your creator today; instead God will intervene in your situation and place you in safety. I am who I am will hear your groan, and set you free from the troubles that are making your life unbearable: according to the Bible passage which says "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now I will arise," says the Lord, 'I will set him in the safety for which he yearns.'" **Psalm 12:5.** You will be rescued today from your hopeless situation by the Lord, and He will give you financial and spiritual security.

**Endless goodness will be your portion:** The word of the Lord for you is: your container of meal will not waste, and your bottle of drink will not fail throughout your existence. **Whether Satan likes or not, your bowl of flour will not be exhausted and your jar of oil will never be empty. The authority of the Lord that provided for the widow of Zarephath will provide for your needs. The words of Prophet Elijah to the widow will abide forever in your life. 1 Kings 17:8-16.** Since the widow of Zarephath was not the only widow alive during the time but God sent Elijah to her: **the grace of God will seek and find you in the wilderness of the earth; and**

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**the heavens will remember you with meaningful goodness. Good things will never cease in your pot of meal and your glory will never diminish in Jesus Name. The Ancient of days that provided water to quench the thirst of the people of Israel will satisfy your thirst for good things of life.** When the people of Israel complained to Moses that they needed water for themselves and their livestock; God brought water from the rock at Massah and Meribah. **Exodus 17:17. Jehovah that provided manna and quail to feed the people of Israel will cater for your needs. You will never lack, instead you will have abundance of blessings. Whatever that your peers are achieving with ease, will not be difficult for you to achieve in Jesus Name.** The Bible stated that, in the evening vast numbers of quail flew in and cover the camp, the next morning the area around the camp was covered with dew. When the dew evaporated, a flaky substance as fine as frost called manna blanketed the ground. **Exodus 16:11-31. The Rock of Ages will give you the dew of heaven, and heavenly glory will be revealed in your life before this year passes away.** The scripture stated that the Israelites ate the food of the angels. **Psalms 78:25. You too will be fed with manna before the end of this year, and the authority of the Lord that bring surplus will be entrenched in your journey. Your Maker will make provisions for you everywhere under the sky; He will satisfy you with abundance and transform your life before the spiritual sun of this month sets.**

**Your indebtedness will turn to history:** Majority of humans owe one debt or the other. Most especially in the developed nations of the world, these debts could be mortgage; or bank loan, or personal loan, or credit card etc. **If it is your indebtedness that is causing hopelessness in your life, then you need to cheer up, because you have the living God who will assist you to pay-off your debts with ease.** He had performed this feat when a widow came to Elisha because her creditor wanted to take her two sons as slaves due to her inability to pay her debt. Elisha instructed her to pour a jar of oil that she possessed into empty big vessels. All the vessels were fill with oil by the power of God, so the prophet directed her to sell the oil, and pay her debt; then she and her sons should live on the remaining profit **2 Kings 4:1-7. The Lord will assist you to pay the debts that are causing sleeplessness in your life. As from this moment**

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**there will be a continuous and uninterrupted flow of goodness in your journey. God will make you a lender and not a borrower: the promise of God stated in the Book of Deuteronomy will be fulfilled in your life**

"And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them."

**Deuteronomy 28:13. The only way to be a leader and not a follower is to return to God and put your hope in Him. If you want to be a pacesetter, and prosper during your lifetime seek God. You must desert Satan and his works, if you intend to be at the top and not the bottom. You must restore your expectation and confidence in the Lord, before you can be taken away from your hopeless situation.**

**Topic: Return to God, you prisoners of hope – Part 5**

**Bible Reading: Zechariah 9:12-17**

We shall proceed with our discussion with continuation of the common circumstances that are causing hopelessness in many people's lives.

**Health issues will cease in your life**

**Majority of people throughout the world have health issues, when their bodies failed to function properly or when their bodies are altered to perform abnormally:** which means countless people throughout the world have one disease or the other. These diseases cut across every age, race, gender and religion. Therefore, **it is inevitable for humans to seek Almighty God their Creator in order to have a good health and sound mind.** You need to return to God who will heal you of your disease(s); He will renew your health and restore your hope, if you make Him your Alpha and Omega. So, if your health problem(s) is the cause of your hopelessness, do not look far, what you need is the assistance of the Lord who is very near, to you, if you are obedient. Do not forget that your Maker is with you and He is nearer to you than your foes. As it is written "You are near, O Lord, and all Your commandments are truth." **Psalms 119:151. Do you put your trust and hope in Him?** If you

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put your trust and hope in Him, then His promise stated in the Book of Psalm will come to pass in your life. "No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling." **Psalm 91:10**. **You will be healthy and live in safety.**

**God will heal your infirmity:** If God can heal the spring that supplied the town of Jericho with water, **how much more will He not heal you that He loved so much and created in His own image.** The Bible testified to this fact by saying "Then the men of the city said to Elisha, 'Please notice, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad and the ground barren.' And he said, 'Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.' So they brought it to him. Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said 'Thus says the Lord: **"I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness."** So the water remains healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke." **2 Kings 2:19-22**. **God will heal the source of your life today, and erase untimely death from your journey in Jesus Name.** God who healed Naaman the commander of the Syrian army will heal you of your disease(s) without delay. **He will cure you of the disease that is disgracing you everywhere. Every visible disease like that of Naaman that is in your life will turn to history, and the hidden ones will be eradicated in Jesus Name. 2 Kings 5:1-15. You will be healed of the sickness that people are using to identify you. If God can heal Naaman who was an unbeliever, believe that you will be cured of your illness today. God who brought Hezekiah back from the point of death and added fifteen years to his days is alive; He will heal you of the ailment that is causing unbearable pains in your life, and add years to your lifespan. Even if you are at the point of death, God will heal you and restore your health for His name's sake. He will raise you from your sick bed in a marvelous way that is beyond the comprehension of the physicians. Those who predicted that you will not live beyond certain date based on their scientific knowledge will be disgraced publicly in Jesus Name. 2 Kings 20:1-11. Ancient of Days will cure you of the infections that are destabilizing your journey, and give you long life and prosperity.**

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**Jesus Christ the Great Healer: Jesus came into this world to steer people toward God by giving them a second chance through repentance; and healing them of their infirmities.** The Book of Luke demonstrated His mission on earth when He instructed and empowered His disciples to heal the sick: according to the scripture which says "And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you.'" **Luke 10:9**. The Bible also confirmed that Jesus Christ was whipped so that we could be healed and we are healed by the punishment he suffered: according to the Book of Isaiah which says "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; **the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.**" **Isaiah 53:5**. **Jesus Christ our Lord was concerned about our health during His time on earth to the extent that He healed a large number of people who were lame, blind, disabled, and dumb together with numerous other sick people.** The scripture corroborated this fact by saying "Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and **they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them.**" **Matthew 15:30**. **The Great Healer is the solution to your sickness. The power of God that healed countless people is not reduced; it will heal you today of your aged infirmity, and you will receive a clean bill of health.** If Lazarus who was dead for four days was awoken from his sleep, **whatever that is spiritually dead in your body will be revived today.** God who owns the water and the blood in your body will replace every malfunctioning organ in your system, and renew whatever that has decayed in your body in Jesus Name. **John 11:32-44**. **This is not the time to lose hope, instead return to God and keep your hope alive in Him and you will be healed:** according to the Bible passage which says "Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up." **Hosea 6:1**. **If you return to God, your health will be renewed and your hope will be restored. God will make you to forget the past miseries of your life and He will transform your life beyond your imagination.**

**Your barrenness will turn to history**

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Anyone who does not have the necessary things to live comfortably and function properly is barren: which means people can be barren of money or barren of children, or barren of good health. We need to know that barrenness can have personal, social, or political significance in one's life: so, we pray that God will eradicate every form of barrenness from your life. The Bible stated that "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water?" **Job 8:11**. The answer is no, which means barrenness cannot be erased from your life without the assistance of God. You need God to thrive and be healthy. Therefore, all those who lean on, and have confidence in their riches will fall. **If you trust in your wealth, you will be a failure but the righteous will prosper like healthy plants.** As it is written "He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage." **Proverbs 11:28**. Trust and hope in God who can eliminate barrenness from your journey, because if you trust in your money you will go down. For this reason, know that "Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. **They shall bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.**" **Psalms 92:13-14**. If you want to grow in grace, prosper and be fruitful in your old age put your hope in the Lord. If you trust in God, you will be full of spiritual vitality, you will stay healthy throughout your lifetime, and you will be rich in verdure of love and contentment.

**The promise of fertility:** God promised the Christendom that neither childlessness nor infertility will be their portion: according to the scripture which says "You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock." **Deuteronomy 7:14**. You will not be sterile, but fruitful throughout your existence: this promise of God will be meaningful in your life; in a manner that will make you to shout for joy. God will erase the reproach of barrenness in your life without delay. As it is written "'Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman says the Lord'" **Isaiah 54:1**. We pray that you will never die without leaving child/children in this world; and you will have good child/children that will succeed

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**you in Jesus Name. Since nothing is too difficult for the Lord, your case will result in joy. By this time next year, people will hear the cry of newborn baby in the homes of those who are looking upon the Lord for fruit of the womb. If God can perform wonders in the life of Sarah our great mother that she gave birth to Isaac in her old age, then your own miracle is on the way:** according to the Bible passage which says "Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." **Genesis 18:14. It has been sealed today, in nine months you will have baby or babies in Jesus Name.**

**God will transform your life: Our God is a merciful God who transformed the lives of people mentioned in the Bible as barren women and gave them child or children. Hannah was mocked but God gave her children among who was **Samuel, one of the greatest prophets in Israel. 1 Samuel 1:1-20. Do not lose hope in the Lord because delay is not denial at the appropriate time you will bear children in Jesus Name.** God also sent an angel to Manoah's wife and she gave birth to **Samson the strongest man to ever walk the surface of the earth. Judges 13:2-21. God will open the book of remembrance to your name today and He will remember you with good children in Jesus Name.** Elizabeth was not forgotten, she gave birth to **John the Baptist, the forerunner of our Lord Jesus Christ Luke 1:5-36. Today, if you put your hope in the Lord, your tears will turn to laughter, your reproach will turn to glory and your sorrow will turn to joy in Jesus Name.****

**God will give you a peaceful and comfortable home and you will be a joyful and proud mother of children. As it is written "He grants the barren woman a home, like a joyful mother of children. Praise the Lord!" Psalms 113:9. Your stigma will turn to history and the story of your life will change positively. God will give you a family that will adore you in Jesus Name. God will treat you with kindness and He will be favorable to you. He will make you productive and establish His covenant in your life:** according to the Book of Leviticus which says "For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you" **Leviticus 26:9. God will bless you and give you**

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**many children. Then the blessings of Abraham will be revealed in your journey;** which says "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you" **Genesis 17:6**. **You will certainly inherit the blessings of Abraham, if you are not hopeless but hopeful in the Lord.**

### **Fear of the Unknown**

Fear is an instrument of Satan, so **do not let fear put you in a hopeless situation because God did not give us a spirit of timidity and cowardice but a spirit of sound judgment and self-control.** The Bible attested to this fact by saying "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" **2 Timothy 1:7**. **Do not entertain any fear because God is over all. Do not be like those who were held in slavery throughout their lives due to fear of death, because Jesus Christ will set you free today.** As it is written "And release those who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" **Hebrews 2:15**. **Are you living in fear of death? Are you afraid of anything in this world? Do not be afraid but put your trust in God, because nothing can happen to you without the foreknowledge of God. Humans can do nothing to you and mortals cannot harm you:** according to the Book of Psalm which says, "In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" **Psalm 56:11**. **Have unshaken hope and faith in the Lord and He will resolve your situation, because the Protector of Goshen is with you.**

### **God will resolve your problems**

**Do not allow whatever you are passing through to put you in a hopeless situation. The power of God that made the axe head which dropped in river Jordan to float will resolve the problems of your life today. 2 Kings 6:1-7. The spiritual river of the world will not drown your glory in Jesus name. Today God will take you to the spiritual junction where your goodness is waiting for you. The Rock of Ages that turned scarcity to abundance within a day in the land of Samaria will turn the scarcity of your life to abundance in Jesus Name. 2 Kings**



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**7:1-20. You will not wander in the presence of your goodness, and the aged promises of God will come to pass in your life before the end of this year in Jesus Name.**

**Topic: Return to God, you prisoners of hope – Part 6**

**Bible Reading: Zechariah 9:12-17**

We shall continue with our discussion by mentioning **the intention of our Creator to restore our captivities and give us liberty: then, He will avenge us by holding captive those who put us in spiritual imprisonment.**

**God will bring back your captivity**

**The love that God have for mankind makes Him to seek and return whatever that Satan has taken away from us physically and spiritually. If we are obedient, God will restore our captivity and transform our lives beyond our imagination.**

**Your captivity will be restored: It is inevitable for us to have faith in the Lord and hope in Him if we want our captivity to be restored. If we abstain from sin, God will be kind to us and restore the fortunes snatched away from us by the darkness. If we are hopeful in Him, He will be merciful to us by changing our circumstances for the better and make Believers to be prosperous again. By keeping our hope alive in the Lord is the way to make Him to be gracious with our churches and bring back the captives of the Christendom: according to the Scripture which says "Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob" **Psalm 85:1**. Since our Lord is faithful, He will strengthen us and set us on a firm foundation, and guard us from the invisible spirits who are bent on putting us in captivity. Our God can be trusted to make us strong, and protect us from harm and spiritual imprisonment: according to the Book of**

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Thessalonians which says, "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." **2 Thessalonians 3:3.**

**God will certainly make us firm and He will keep us safe from the hosts of hell; however, the prerequisite for the Lord to pour out blessings on the Christians and restore the fortunes of the churches is to have hope in Him alone.** It is then that the promise of God will come to pass in our lives. The promise which says "I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them" **Amos 9:14.** **We pray that you will not labor in vain; instead you will enjoy the fruit of the labor of your hands, and prosper throughout your lifetime in Jesus Name.**

**Your life will be transformed:** **Whether Lucifer likes or not the proclamation of the Lord will be fulfilled in your life** which says, "Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tent, and have mercy on his dwelling places; the city shall be built upon its own mound, and the palace shall remain according to its own plan'" **Jeremiah 30:18.** **We pray that God will rebuild the ruins of your life, and you will abide forever in Jesus Name. You will be the favorite of the benefactors that have forsaken you, and they will stay with you in a manner that will make people to call you, the blessed of the Lord. Your home will be referred to as a home of goodness and abode of righteousness:** as it is written "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'They shall again use this speech in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I bring back their captivity: "The Lord bless you, O home of justice, and mountain of holiness!'"'" **Jeremiah 31:23.**

**Whatever that the hosts of hell have collected from you due to carelessness and ignorance will be restored today: and you will be called by a new name in Jesus Name. Hence, God will reverse your captivity and make you to transcend the expectation of your detractors. He will make you a name, and give you praise among the global communities.** The Bible testify to this fact by saying "At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame

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and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes, says the Lord" **Zephaniah 3:20**. **These words of the Lord will be established in your life; God will make you to be famous throughout the world, and you will prosper once again. If you obey the directives of the Lord, He will honor you, and you will be among the distinguished figures of the world.**

**Your expectations will be realized: You will realize all your expectations before this year pass away, and your dreams will come true in Jesus Name.** It is the promise of God that when He brings back your captivity, it will be like a dream. The Book of Psalm corroborated this fact by saying, "When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream" **Psalm 126:1**. **He who brought back the captivity of Zion will restore your fortunes and hope. He will make your good dreams to become reality in Jesus Name. Today God will reverse and restore your captivity.** As it is written "Bring back our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south" **Psalm 126:4**. **Ancient of Days will water your drought-stricken life today with goodness. He will turn your captivity to freedom, and restore your fortunes without delay. Your heavy heart will be replaced with laughing in Jesus Name.**

**The existence of God will be revealed in your journey: God will prove His existence in your life by eliminating those who are bent on taking you as a captive. Every contrary spirit that intends to put you in captivity will be held captive. In as much as our Lord Jesus Christ had led away captive a train of vanquished foes, whatever power that is plotting to imprison you spiritually will be eliminated from this world. The power of God that led captivity captive will lead your enemies into captivity in Jesus Name.** As it is written, "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men" **Ephesians 4:8; Psalm 68:18**. **Today Jesus Christ will grant you gifts of the Holy Spirit that will assist you in every aspect of your journey in this world. You will be set free from every form of spiritual confinement, and you will triumph over your adversaries. Spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit will be your portion instead of captivity in Jesus Name.**

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**The terrestrial powers that are determined to put you in spiritual prison will be imprisoned instead. Every covenant that is bent on steering you into captivity will be destroyed. If anyone is determined to lead you into captivity, such person will go into captivity; because you are the apple of the eye of the Lord.** The promise of God mentioned in the Book of Revelation will be fulfilled in your life today: which says "He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with sword must be killed with sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints"

**Revelation 13:10. Those who want you dead will die instead of you. Anyone who wants to harm you will be harmed instead; and whoever that is trying to capture you spiritually will be captured and imprisoned in Jesus Name. Whatever the circumstance, God will reverse your captivity and He will be merciful to you, for His Name's sake. Rock of Ages will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you in order to prove His faithfulness and holiness.**

**If you believe, God will start from this moment to bring back your physical and spiritual captivity, because He will be zealous for His holy name:** according to the Bible passage which says "Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My name'"

**Ezekiel 39:25. 'I AM WHO I AM' will jealously guard His reputation by ending your captivity without delay in Jesus Name. God will stand up for His holy name by making you to prosper again. He will protect His sacred name by transforming your life in a manner that is beyond the comprehension of humans in Jesus Name. Since faithful and absolutely trustworthy is the Lord who seek you from the wilderness of the earth; He will fulfill this promise in your life. God who chooses you and brought you into His vineyard can be trusted, so, He will perform according to his words in your journey. As it is written "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24. God will make this happen because of His faithfulness. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this quickly. Amen.**

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### Topic: Return to God, you prisoners of hope – Part 7

#### Bible Reading: Zechariah 9:12-17

We shall continue our discussion by mentioning that **God is determined to restore and renew our hope, if and only if we are obedient to Him.**

#### God will Restore and Renew Your Hope

Believers must have confidence that if they do not stray from the righteous path God will restore their hope. **God in His infinite mercy will fill the lives of those who keep their hope in Him alive with freshness and vigor; by renewing their hope. Today is the day that you must make a resolution so that your hope will be restored and renewed.**

**Reconcile with God:** The Bible stated that **when a tree is chopped down, there is always the hope that it will sprout again at the touch of water; but there is no such hope for humans, which means that even a tree has more hope than man, because when a human dies the person expires.** When people die, their strength is gone and they breathe their last breath. As it is written "...But man dies and is laid away, indeed he breathes his last and where is he?" **Job 14:7-10.** **Since humans are different from trees, because when we die, that is the end: why not put your hope in the Lord when you are still alive? Why not reconcile with your Maker so that He will restore your hope? Why are you procrastinating, if you want your hope to be renewed? We pray that you will not get to heaven before you know the truth.** Many Christians are like the Biblical bone which represents the people of Israel during the time of Prophet Ezekiel. They said "we have become old dry bones and all hope is gone". The people of Israel complained to God that they are dried up and they have no hope for the future: according to the scripture which says "Then He said to me 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, "Our bones are dry, our hope is lost and we ourselves are cut off!"" **Ezekiel 37:11.**

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**We pray that your hope will neither perish nor be destroyed. You will not be without hope or future anymore in Jesus Name. The Ancient of Days will open the spiritual grave where you are kept and set you free. Rock of Ages will rescue you from your spiritual captivity and make you to rise again. He that made the dry bones to become living souls will make His Spirit to give you breath and you will live again in Jesus Name. Ezekiel 37:12-14. You will live, your hope will be renewed and you will triumph against any odd in Jesus Name.**

**Hope in the Mercy of God:** You must neither be discouraged nor depressed, instead hope in the mercy of God. **Even if your situation is humanly hopeless you must not allow your inner self to be in despair or restless. Whatever your condition, hope in God instead of being dejected or disturbed.** The Book of Psalms stated this fact by saying "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God" Psalms 42:11; 43:5. **We pray that God will heal your sorrowful heart, and erase whatever sadness plus trouble that remains in your life.** Hence, whatever circumstance that you find yourself, hope in the mercy of God; because the eye of God is on those who hope in His compassion and kindness. **If you want the Lord to watch over you; honor Him and trust His kindness. For the merciful eye of God to be upon you; you must fear Him and rely on His unfailing love.** As it is written, "Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy" Psalms 33:18. **We pray that the eye of the Lord will be upon us for good, and He will watch over us throughout our existence. We plead that the mercy and loving-kindness of God will be upon us, in proportion to our waiting and hoping in Him. Inasmuch as we depend on Him, He will be kind and bless us in Jesus Name:** according to the Bible passage which says "Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, just as we hope in You" Psalms 33:22. **If you put your hope in God alone, His unfailing love will surround you and your hope will be renewed.**

**You must put your Hope in God:** Anyone who desires to be successful in this world and intends to inherit the kingdom of heaven must put his/her hope in God. Therefore, Christians must hope in the

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**Lord, because with the Lord there is mercy and loving-kindness:** according to the scripture which says "O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption" **Psalm 130:7**. **It is the duty of the Believers to trust God, because He is merciful and have power to save. For this reason, the Christendom must hope in the Lord from now till eternity. The Beloved must trust the Lord now and forever.** The Bible corroborated the fact by saying "O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever" **Psalm 131:3**. Hence, **put your hope in God now and throughout your lifetime, and make Him your inheritance throughout your journey in the land of the living. The only way to prove that your hope is in the Lord is to make Him your portion. It is time to let people know that God is all they need to survive and they can depend on Him:** according to the scripture which says "'The Lord is my portion' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him'" **Lamentations 3:24**. **Are you sure that the Lord is all that you have, and your lot in life? If so proclaim to the world that He is your destiny and future.**

**Wait for God to beautify you:** It is good for Christian to wait for the Lord to rebuild their lives and renew their hope. The best way to differentiate the Believers is by waiting eagerly and expectantly on the Lord. The Book of Psalms confirmed this fact by saying "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His words I hope" **Psalm 130:5**. **You must count on the Lord, because whoever relies on the Lord will not inherit emptiness.** For this reason, it is good to wait patiently for the Lord's deliverance. The scripture supported this claim by saying "It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord" **Lamentations 3:26**.

**Every Christian must be joyful because they have hope and confidence in Christ; they must be steadfast and not depressed during distress, and be devoted to prayer:** according to the Book of Romans which says "Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulations, continuing steadfast in prayer" **Romans 12:12**. **Do you pray persistently during your turbulent time? Are you among the good soldiers of Christ who always stand their ground when they are in trouble? Are you praying**

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at all times for God to resolve the issues of your life? When was the last time that you prayed? Are you seeking wisdom, guidance and strength from the Lord to weather the spiritual storm of this world? If not, change today.

**God's Plan of Welfare, Peace and Prosperity:** The time has come for Christians to declare to the world that the plan of God for the earthlings is that of well-being and not disaster. Believers must cry out that the plan of God for mankind is to give them a bright future and a hope; which means God will bless every obedient person with a future filled with hope and success instead of suffering: according to the Book of Jeremiah which says "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" **Jeremiah 29:11**. Hope in the Lord so that He will give you security and prosperity. Rely solely on the Lord and His plan of safety and blessings will materialize in your life without delay. It is then that you will rest safe and secure; you will be filled with hope and emptied of worry. You will live secure and full of hope because God will protect you and give you rest from your toil: according to the scripture which says "And you would be secure, because there is hope; yes you would dig around you, and take your rest in safety" **Job 11:18**.

Since God will give you a future filled with hope; having hope will give you courage and make you strong to achieve your aims. Therefore, let people know that you depend on the Lord alone and you have trusted Him since you were young. Proclaim the key to your success to the world, so that the Gentiles will come to the Lord. Tell people that your hope in the Lord, together with your trust in Him since childhood are the source of your confidence and prosperity; according to the Bible passage which says "For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth" **Psalms 71:5**. Continue to evangelize and win people into the Kingdom of God by telling them the secret of your success.



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**Benefits of putting your Hope in God:** There are several benefits that will accrue to those who put their hope in the Lord, and some of them are as follows:

- **Anyone who put his/her hope in the Lord will not be put to shame. If you put your hope in God, you will neither be disappointed nor deluded. What are you waiting for? Put your hope in the Lord today, so that you will not be dishonored:** according to the scripture which says "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" **Romans 5:5**. **If you don't want disappointment in you life and you don't want any letdown in your journey; put your hope in the Lord.**
- **The Lord is pleased with those who fear Him and hope in His steadfast love. If you want to be favored in all your ways put your hope in the Lord.** As it is written "The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy" **Psalms 147:11**. **If you want God to be delighted in you; fear Him and put your hope in His unfailing love.**
- **You can only be among the fortunate people, if you put your hope in God. Put your hope in the Lord and you will be greatly blessed and graciously favored.** Book of Psalms testified to this fact by saying "Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God" **Psalms 146:5**. **You will be joyful throughout your existence if you trust and depend on God alone.**
- **Those who trust and hope in the Lord will be blessed. You will be blessed with spiritual security, if you rely on and have confidence in the Lord:** according to the Bible passage which says "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord" **Jeremiah 17:7**. **God will prove that He can be trusted by blessing those who trust and have confidence in Him.**

Finally, we pray that God who gives hope will bless you with complete happiness and peace because of your faith. God the source of hope will fill you with joy and your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit. As it is written, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the

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Holy Spirit" **Romans 15:13**. We pray that your hope will never diminish but continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joy and peace will never depart from your journey throughout your existence in Jesus Name.

**The Seal: Zechariah 9:12:** "Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope. Even today I declare that I will restore double to you".