

## **Expose 64 K28**

### **Worldliness in the place of Prayer**

Hello world, this is Expose 247 and what we do in 247 is to reveal Christ through the pages of the scriptures starting from the Old Testament to the New Testament. And so this is a new day, a new time to... a fresh opportunity to examine our beliefs, both popular and the unpopular beliefs, principles and practices in the light of the New Covenant in the New Testament. And we've been doing this, and we are on the Knock Out Season. You know what the Knock Out Season are about. We are trying to uproot everything that is encroaching into the Word, into the ground, the fertile ground and that is mitigating with our faith. And so the Knock Out season is about uprooting so that the Word of God can be planted afresh.

And since we started a while back, fourteen episodes on prayer, we have other episodes on Thanksgiving, on Giving, on knocking all those topics on season and time. So we've been on the long season on prayer, this is fourteen or fifteen episode.

So you will do well to go to these pages, to our Expose 247 pages and see all these episodes in case you missed one, in case you need to be reminded of one, in case you really need to refresh. Because the other time we had this episode, we are talking about this unbelief type 1 and some people don't even know that kind, maybe you forgotten about it, you need to do a quick refresher course into it, a crash course, go back into this episode.

And you really need to follow and understand how it is being led. And we could see one of the two last episodes, we are thinking the book of James was actually linking this thing for us, just like we are following that trend for us. So you can see there is system about it, there is a way it goes, there is a method to this. So you really need... you don't want to miss out in any of these episodes.

So we will enjoin you to go and take time to read this. And is not about just watch this, and studying it yourself to prove if these things are so. Be the Bereans, just don't take it line and sink. Be the Bereans and find out if it is so. And then share the same truth. Spread the Word around, with what you know about. Be the social medial evangelist. And then you can share this page to all your contacts so that people can be blessed as well.

So we are going to start off from where we stopped. You know, we had a good session in that 1 Timothy 6, if you remember the last episode. So do you have anything to add to that?

Yeah, from what we did talk about in the last episode. Before we actually went to 1 Timothy 6, viewers, we actually did go to 1 Timothy 6 from Matthew Chapter 4. That was the parable of the sower. One thing Jesus said there was, is not about the cares of this world, it's not just about the deceitfulness of riches or the lust of other things. Christ told us is the encroaching in, that is the problem.

So we are simply saying what actually makes prayer ineffective is not having faith according to what Jesus said in Luke 18. And not having faith, this shouldn't be the portion of a Christian because every Christian is supposed to have faith, Ephesians Chapter 2 tells us that. Of course then the issue like she said that came up there is, if every Christians does have faith where it is impossible for you to be a Christian without faith, for by grace are you saved through faith. In that means, we then came to the conclusion that something else is actually in a way making the faith of Christian ineffective, and that led us to unbelief.

And then we've been talking about the types of unbelief. Then Jesus then told us in Mark Chapter 9, in Matthew Chapter 17, Jesus said, well, is time to drive out unbelief, if we want to be effective in the place of prayer. Then he mentioned two tools, he said the tool of fasting or denial and the tools of prayer. Those are the two tools that will drive it out.

And we've been looking at one of them majorly from the past few episodes which is the tool of fasting. And we took fasting beyond just the issue of taking control over our sense of taste or feeling. We said is all encompassing, we saw that in last transmission on 1 Timothy 6.

So in a nutshell, as we progress today, what we want you to know is, he said those things that actually bring unbelief into our life, there is nothing we can do to drive them away, but what we can do is to stop the encroaching into our lives, by taking charge of our senses through the tool of denial or training our senses not to take them in, even though they are all over the place in our lives. So that is where we stopped in Matthew Chapter 4.

So again we are still on this train of driving out unbelief. And we are looking at different insights that the scriptures has to give. So we are going to make progress to James Chapter 4 today. Don't forget we are still on the train of driving out this

unbelief. That is what we are all about. And the reason we are driving it out is because, its work actually make faith of no effect in our lives.

James Chapter 4 from verse 1, let's see the insight of the Holy Spirit again into this driving out unbelief. If you read from verse 1,

Now read James Chapter 4 from verse 1 please,

### **James 4:1**

**1. From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?**

**2. Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.**

Now, again you can see that this actually did start in verse 1 like is not about prayer. Actually verse 2 exposes that this is actually about prayer.

So he's simply saying instead of you trying to struggle to possess or to have something in your life. James is trying to say to us in verse 1 of Chapter 4 that you should know how powerful prayer is. There are some things that we are thinking, Oh I hope I have that, Oh I hope I am able to work in that dimension. James is saying well, instead of you trying to use lots of technics and methodologies of this world to walk in some dimensions of things. Why don't you employ the weapon of prayer? He said why don't you just pray about it and ask? He said maybe the reason you don't even having is because you've not actually maximize the potency of prayer, what prayer can offer.

This means we have to emphasize that in most cases, Christians don't maximize what prayer has to offer. And we try to struggle to gain access to something or walk in some dimensions just like unbelievers will do. So he is simply telling them here that if you don't have, it could be because you've not been asking in the place of prayer. So this is about praying now. But let's see the insight he has to give to us about driving out this unbelief.

So verse 1 was about ask so that you can get. That is verse 2.

Now look at the switch in verse 3.

What does verse 3 says there?

**3. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

Now stop there... I thought he was saying in verse 2 that we should ask we will receive. But he is simply saying here, if you are not ignorant, see verse 1 actually was to clear unbelief type 1. Because verse 1 was about the fact that well, the reason you are not having it is because you are not asking. If you know what God has given you as an inheritance in Christ Jesus, why didn't you just ask? Stop being ignorant about what is yours. Ask for it. So that is verse 1. It deals with unbelief type 1. The unbelief that just because of ignorance, but verse 2 brings a whole different twist to this asking. He says in verse 2 you can actually be asking, you can actually believe God.

See verse 1 people didn't believe God because they didn't know they are supposed to ask. Verse 2 says even though you asked and you believe. See! Then he says what? It is possible not to receive.

Please if you've been with us on this Knock Out series on prayer, you will notice, we've established the fact that it is very possible for a man to believe, have faith and be asking and not receiving, it doesn't make sense as it were. Because James 1 did say to us that actually if you ask in faith, you will receive. But the same James says let him not waver, but if he wavers, let that man not think he will receive anything from the Lord. Am quoting James Chapter 1.

It will mean then the reason why these people ask and receive not was because when they were asking, unbelief was encroaching in, and they were actually wavering and they were double minded and unstable in their ways because that is what we said before in James Chapter 1.

It will mean, the only way you can ask, which means you ask because you believe God can do it, or God has done it in Christ Jesus. If you still not receive all that scriptures has told us, it's because the person is wavering, the person is unstable in all his ways. So here we see where it is possible to have faith to ask God and yet not receive. And if that is why we are simply saying that the missing ingredient in the place of prayer, it is faith but we Christians have faith but something is mitigating against our faith.

So again we see unbelief type 2 is what you can see in verse 3 as it were. It's different from the case of verse 2. So verse 3 is an unbelief type 2 which he said there is so much unbelief there nullifying the person's faith, because the person wouldn't ask if he didn't believe that he was healed. Don't say he doesn't have faith. He does have faith. But something is cancelling out that faith. We need to investigate that and see what insight is giving us in this place to drive out this unbelief.

### **3. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

You see people talk about asking amiss a lot and atimes there are lots of interpretation for people trying to relate why we ask amiss. But let's see what the scripture has to say on why somebody can ask amiss.

Now go on please,

### **3. Ye ask, and receive that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

Now, let's clarify this. See the word amiss there, it means, is simply saying as you are asking, the asking you are doing is missing the point. It's not hitting the target. That is it! And it is not hitting the target. He gives us the reason why it's not hitting the target. He said, you ask so that you may consume it on your lust.

So it will means then there is something that has already encroach in. Don't forget the fact that Matthew Chapter 4 that we read in our last transmission simply says well, when it comes to the issue of receiving the Word of God into your life, he says it is very possible to receive the Word and have faith as it were, and he says is very possible that some things can encroach in and make the Word unfruitful. It means that even the faith is being nullified.

Here he says that these people something already encroach in, can you see? They were asking but as they were asking... you know this is what people think. Because the reason I said people think this way is because we are going to look at verse 4 and 5 and get more clarify. But before we go there, let us say that people end up thinking that this verse is saying if you have some inordinate desires, if your desire are not perfect, and if you ask God and because the reason why you are asking God is not a very clear motive, because of that, God will not give you because your motive is not clean.

Now, let's see if that is what he is really saying or saying something deeper than that. What is pretty obvious in this verse 3 is that, there were some lusts, there are some thing that have encroach in anyway before the person even went to the place of prayer. And he says as the person began to pray, what happens is, the faith he is trying to exercise to receive answers to prayer, the thing is coming upon something that was there before. He says upon. There is something already that has encroach in. So everything is now mix together. That means, faith in God's Word, faith to believe to receive from God and at the same time he says something encroach in and that thing that is encroaching in, is actually stifling the life out of the person's capacity to receive. What is that thing? How do we drive it out?

So this is not just about motives and motivation. What we have established, there are some things that were there in the person's heart. And these things, if you wonder what are those lusts is talking about?

Well, Jesus told us in Matthew Chapter 4, he said they are three things. The cares of this world, I mean some people wouldn't think about the cares of this world as being something. They said I thought this things talking about motivation of the person with a clean motive, well, whatever was there before, Christ told us what it is. The things that choke the Word and makes it unfruitful.

Christ said they are three things, he said **lust of other things, he said the deceitfulness of riches. And let's say predominantly he said, the cares of this world.** That is the one that drives home to so many people. He said if those things are there in our heart. He said even if you are asking, he said your asking comes upon those things and as you are asking lands upon those things. They just fissile it, they just dissolve the whole thing. Now, that means is more than motivation in the place of prayer.

It means if we are people that allow the things that we see, the things that we hear, and the things that we feel about this world, he said if those things have sank in into our heart in the place of prayer, even though we have faith to ask, we might not be receiving. Not because God is watching your motivation, but because your asking is coming upon those things. And those things are just dissolving your asking and nullifying the effect. And that is what he is simply saying here.

We can see that the verse 3, we can see the parable of the sower being embedded here. Because he was talking about the cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches and other lusts of other things. And we see verse 3 was talking that consuming their lust here, the parable was able to cover all possibilities and probability of any lusts and we can see how the lust make that Word of God unfruitful. That turning ground. So that is the thing.

So if you have this lust here, there is no fruitfulness. The person is asking and he is not receiving. That is missing it. See the amiss there, let's say this, amiss there is just like somebody who is shooting an arrow. And if you shoot an arrow as a target and it doesn't, and Oh it miss the target. The amiss there is a word that has been basterdize a lot when people trying to interpret James Chapter 4.

James is not simply saying that as you are asking, God is watching your motives, that is what people think it is. He is saying, well, as you are asking, your asking should be achieving the aim of receiving. But he said, your asking is missing the point. Your

asking is missing the point. And the reason is, something has encroached in, and he said, those things were there before you ask.

So that is why we said in our previous transmission that as much as the church is focused on teaching people faith. The church does need to focus about how people should drive out unbelief. The person should have driven out those things before they began to ask, because he said, as they are asking, they are consuming... it means the faith in the place of prayer, is coming upon something and the thing is there already.

So it means then we can't just teach people how to have faith. We need to teach people how to drive something out. And that is why we are here on this transmission today.

Let's go on again to the next verse 4. He begins to clarify then, because James will give us insight again into what these things are and how to drive them out.

Watch this, he said,

Verse 4

**4. Ye adulterers and adulteress, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

Now, James is talking about something that looks like a distraction or you think what is the consistency of what James is talking about in verse 4 to the issues of praying, asking, receiving and unbelief? What is he talking about? What is this thing about enmity with the God? Well, you will see the connection and correlation, just follow through with us.

Look at the word in the next verse,

Now he says,

**5. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, the spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?**

**6. But he giveth more grace, wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

Now, the insight he gives us in that verse 4 is to tell us that the major reason why a Christian will operate in these things called unbelief that is embedded in their heart is because this particular Christian has a friendship with the world.

And then when we talk about worldliness, people don't think about worldliness in this regard. We think worldliness is about somebody who is actually dressing or talking or has some kind of appearances that looks like the appearance of sinners, or somebody going to party, or somebody dancing in clubs. Well, those things actually they are signs of somebody operating in unbelief. We are not saying they are not signs. But we are saying it is actually deeper than that. It's closer to home that we think.

What he is simply saying is, if we as Christians live our lives purely on the merit of the things that we see, the things that we hear, or the things that we actually feel in our body, if that is predominantly what drives our prayer life, he said that is a worldly mentality.

So worldliness is deeper than just dancing and partying. **It's actually saying by what faculty, by what senses are we informed in the place of prayer?** And that is what he is connected to. So he says those things encroach in according to Matthew Chapter 4. If there is anything that encroach in into your heart that dictate to you, your faith for things in the place of prayer.

Like we said before, you know James 1 give us an insight into the fact that if you are a brother of low degree, and you are believing and praying to God and as you are praying and believing God to walk in the dimension of what Christ paid for, you still come back and look at yourself and say well, who am I? What do I have? Am nothing. That is how the world thinks.

The world predominantly think about the fact that what do you have? What are the things that we can see around you? The Bible says if that is your mentality, if you allow those things to encroach in into your heart. Even if you are asking, it will be landing on those things, and you will not receive what you are praying for not because God wants to punish you but you have lost the capacity to receive. And he said that is predominantly worldliness. And that is what he calls it.

So did you hear that that he was saying that there could be worldliness in the place of prayer? Even when you are engaging in the heart of prayer. Even if the prayer points what is informing it, your emotions are just driven by these things, by this lusts of all these things and is not centered, rooted of who Christ says you are, and so you have the world, all the natural senses informing, you have all these information that is putting the pressure on you, and so you are praying based on those, is pressure driven, is societal driven expectation. Your expectation of this is what you should have be, this is what you should have become, so you are engaging prayer in that way, and you have that attitude in the place of prayer. So that is worldliness.



Before people have to look for worldliness that say until you go to the club, you go to the bar, that is when you see worldliness on the street. So we are saying that the issue of sin and worldliness is bigger than that.

Anything that is against the principle of God's Word, and if you are looking at things, engaging things and seeing things with the perception of looking at the natural senses, using the natural senses to inform, societal expectation to inform what you pray for, what you need to receive, even in the places of prayer, even using prayer point and emotions, you are being driven by the natural senses. You are driven by information from these places, then that shows that, that is worldliness. So you need to really understand what worldliness is.

Thank you for that.

Now, let's say this so that we can see how this thing is so closer to us that we think. Even there are many things we are in the place of prayer, how prayer points are being led, if somebody is leading prayer points in the front of the congregation. Atimes they make a lot of recourses to this mentality.

For example, they say well, look at yourself, look at how far your mates have gone. Look at how far people are progressing, people that were your mates. And they now say well, you what you need to pray. I mean, you ask them why are you asking me to pray? Well we are asking you to look at your circumstances and look at things around you and see the fact that your life is actually nothing and you have to cry out to God for God to bless you. And people say that and when they takes things like that, they rubbish the work of redemption.

If you notice in that James Chapter 4, If you notice from verse 2, he said you lusts and you have not, you kill and desire. You are acting like you are a destitute, and that is what he says. If you watch this, this man sounds a bit strange but please receive this Word with humility.

See what he says in James 4:2. He said you lust and have not, you kill and desire, you are acting like you are an orphan. You are acting like a destitute. He said when you come with such mentality in the place of prayer, he said common! that is worldliness. And he said, that is why you are asking and you are not receiving because as you are asking, something has encroach in that is just nullifying your faith.

And this is what James is talking about, that, these people why are you talking, acting? He said you are desiring, you are trying to have. Now, the very thing you are trying to have is what God made available for you in redemption. He said, if you are acting and talking this way, James says it is obvious that something has encroach in

into your heart already. And he said that thing is worldliness. And that thing will just be wasting away, it will be nullifying and mitigating your faith in the place of prayer.

Yes, I might need to add in this place of prayer, worldliness in the place of prayer citing some examples which our people can really relate to. So we see some prayer points that gender into strive, that gender into... that appeals to greed, to envy. You see prayer points that set people against each other, you see family, you see siblings rivalry, you see family problem that settling you, you must do something above everybody else in your family. Be the first person to do this, pray that God will make you the first person in this family to do this.

So we see prayer point that promote the fleshly lusts. We see prayer points that tells you, pray so that when people come, people have to form an orderly to see you. or fill the form to see you. Pray like that. You pray to have that kind of results that things doesn't have eternal significance. So that is prayer that is driving you into more of the worldliness, to exercise worldliness.

You see prayer points that even make you to be at war with your fellow brother even in that place of worship, where people have to slug at you. You see people they provoke people and say, the person that could shout the loudest, or the one that could pray the loudest and so there is a competition, there is a bidding on this in the place of prayer, you see all these worldliness, worldly driven by world principles. They will have to slug it out. The one that get here faster, you know that kind of it. The more that can scream the most. The one that sacrifice it. The one that can do this and this. And so is a battle even among the so called brethren, you know that kind of pitching brethren against each other. Somebody did this, you need to outdo this. That I was in a meeting, somebody did this, so if you want to do, you need to do this and this.

So we can see worldliness even in the place of prayer. Because people thought that in the place of prayer, worldliness should be far away. But we are just trying to open your eyes to see this, that you need to really watch out, those are the things that can make you not to hit that target, the target of receiving and so wasting the time in the place of prayer.

We don't want our prayer time to be ineffective, asking and still not receiving. So what is the point of wasting time to ask? Ask and not receiving because unbelief is nullifying the faith in the place of prayer. So it makes no difference from somebody who never asked. Because if you ask and you do not receive, so the target is for you to hit target, to prosper in the place of prayer. And so that is why we are bringing this Word to you. I hope with humility you will be able to receive it and profit with it.

Before we go on to other verses. Let us highlight one thing when we said asking and not receiving, I presume you know that James 4 from verse 1 to verse 6 says nothing about God not giving it. Because God says well, because your motive is not clean, I will never give you.

All James said is, as you are asking, the reason you are not receiving is because is coming upon something. That thing is just... you know is just like... a very good illustration will be, for example, think about you are trying to set up a fire, and as much as you are setting up the fire, what happens is water fights, I mean water will always keep fight waterlogged, it will just keep putting out the fire.

So James says the reason why you are asking and you are not receiving is because, as you are asking, what happens is, there is something there, a worldly mentality, the very same thing they use to drive the prayer point so that you can pray, he said that very thing is the one just dissolving the whole thing. It's not because God is saying am going to punish you for not having a clean motive. No! Let's take God out of this equation. If you notice in our previous transmission, James Chapter 1, he warned us, he said if anybody is being tempted or he is being dragged into unbelief, let the person never say God is the one supervising this. He said don't say that!

The same way we will say we are not indicting God in this case, we are not saying the reason you are not receiving is because your motive is not clean, so God says I will not give you because your motives is not clean, that is what some people teach in some quarter. That is not true.

He is simply saying there is something that we need to get rid off, that mentality, that encroaching mentality that is actually the one mitigating against the faith. That is what we actually see there.

It is good that you mention that for our viewers to note that it was not God that was supervising and staying on the back and the door of receiving and saying No! am not going to give you because I notice lust in you, I notice that those are other things inside of you. Though definitely those things were there, but it was not God duty that he was the one supervising and saying am melting out punishment because you have this am not giving you, because people have actually receive and try to explain away, there ability of not receiving, putting it on the door step of God, that it was God that was actually supervise.

Some of them were able to get the explanation about the lusts, that you have the lusts of this and this, this inside of you. But in actually they now put the blame, that God saw this and because of this, that he saw in you, so he make sure he was testing you,

he know you will not be able to do it well. So he is not giving it to you. But we see is not all about God. God was not watching out and melting out punishment, you take, you not take. It is you that decide. It is your capacity. That is it. The capacity! Something inside there.

You have allow lusts to encroach in, into the faith. If you have allow that to that Word of God inside of you. So you have no capacity to receive. So it's not God's responsibility anymore and the responsibility is on us, so reminding us of what happen in the book of James 2 that nobody should say, nobody! If you have been saying this before, stop saying that. It is not the Lord! It is not the Lord. Because most people have put all the blame of their unanswered prayer, the burden on God. God says yes or no or God says wait. That is what some people says.

So some people felt like God will answer in his own time. They've done all those things. So people have approach prayer, they've come to the place of prayer with that mentality. I have done all, is just am waiting on God on the days he is going to answer. And if you've been following this Knock Out season from the time we are talking about God's timing and season, you know the place of prayer to know the responsibility why can we not cast it out, we see that all the responsibility and the burden of receiving is on us. On the part of God, he's done everything, it's completed.

And I hope you will realize this today and you no longer be saying that it is God that is stopping you. Who is trying to measure out if your motive is perfect. It is not him. It is something there, that is just...as soon as your reception comes in the place of prayer, the things it lands upon the lusts. Bible says it consumes upon, see the word upon. It just come there and just mess the whole thing up. And that is what James want us to take note in that James 4.

Now, let's see other testimonies in the scripture. And don't forget again, you might be wondering where is the fasting coming in this place? Of course what James is telling us, is in a way, let's see what the Bible talks about in this case of where this fasting come in, because Jesus said this kind will not come out but by fasting and prayer.

Let's see what John Chapter 2 has to say about this James Chapter 4. And we see how we are supposed to drive out this, because you see, James Chapter 4 from verse 1 to verse 4 only told us about the fact that this is actually worldliness at work. But let's see the insight 1John Chapter 2 has to give us about how then to be able to drive out this unbelief.

Let's look at 1John Chapter 2 and let's look at that. I want to take a kind of... look to see the correlation between 1John 2 and that James 4.

1John Chapter 2 we look at from verse 14

### **1John 2:14**

**14. I have written unto you fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.**

Now, can you see that? That is really really great! That is a great insight into what we are as a Christians. He say you have the Word of God. That is what he says... I wrote to you because I know you are strong and you have the Word. So which means this is an encouragement to you as a Christians and if you believe in the gospel that you have the Word of God, and not just the written Word, you have the logos which is the Christ in you, the hope of glory. The Bible tells us that, the one that is in you, the living Word that is in you, is greater than the one that is in the world.

So when it comes to the place of prayer, there is so much potency in there. There is so much power in the place of prayer, because you are praying not in your name, not in your own capacity, you are praying in the capacity of the ones that dwells in us.

The Apostle is writing by the Holy Ghost to the brethren I know what is in you, I know how much power you have, I know the capacity of God that you have in you. There is no doubt about that. There is faith there... you have receive the Word. There is faith there. But look at what he says there, even though he says there is faith there, even though he says there is the Word of God in you.

The reason I keep going over this verse 14 again and again is to let every child of God who is listening to this transmission that we have not come here to tell you that you need more power in the place of prayer to get things to move.

And that is why when they asked Jesus the question, why could we not cast out the devil? Jesus did not say, Oh you need more faith. Oh, you need more power in you. Because the Bible say he gave them the power already in Luke 9:1, in Matthew 10:1, in Luke 10:19, they had the power already. But Christ said, you know what? It's your unbelief, let's drive something out of your life.

So 1John Chapter 2 verse 14 just says, I know what you are. I know that you have received the Word. You are strong because of the Word. I know what you are, but let's talk about the problem.

So I just hope that our present day Apostles and those that are listening to u, who are in the place of authority, in the places of worship will be able to write and talk like Apostle John. So people will have to come to affirm what is in them. These days we

don't see elders affirming the truth, what is in them, what is in those worshippers? Just they are coming to just talk and talk about what is missing and lacking in them

So we saw Apostle John here, in this place affirming what is in them... I know you have this, I know you have this, you have this, you know, strengthening what is inside, before bringing out what is missing.

So we see a place where nobody has a word of encouragement as if there was nothing, putting down and putting down and putting down on people. Some will even say you have no faith at all, even saying things that are negating the truth of the scripture because they know coming into the faith, you are coming into faith, you have a measure of faith. Because we see the affirmation, so we really need to affirm. We need to even sit down and affirm. Even Jude was talking about affirm all these things that are in us, the good things that is in Christ Jesus. It's there in Philemon, saying the communication of your faith now being effectual by the acknowledgment of every good thing you have in Christ Jesus. So there is an acknowledgment, you must really know what you have first. You must know that you have overcome the world.

Because some people don't even know, they've not heard that they have overcome the world. So they trying to overcome what they have overcome. So we need the place, there is a place for affirmation to know what he has accomplished in us. To know what we have in us, so you need to start from that. That is where you need to start from, that is where the beginning of the discussion.

So you don't need to approach any one without first of all affirming, if you fail to see that, you don't know that you have no business, so if you don't see that they have anything, you have no business talking with them. So you need to start from what they are. What they are from the beginning. What has been finished and completed in them, before you get to the one, what they need to strengthen, what is missing, what they need to give more attention to. But you must do the affirmation. You must do the acknowledgment, and in case you are in a place, nobody is doing the affirmation. You really need to go into yourself and look and sit down and go and affirm even that.

That is what Philemon is telling you, you must affirm yourself. So the affirmation you have to do it yourself, even David was encouraging himself in his time, in the Lord. So you need to encourage yourself and do those affirmation, and go and look for those things. We need but know that you have overcome the world. You know that faith is, the Father he talks about and every one of them, he say you are strong. So you need strengthen. You are not a victim of circumstance, you are not a victim in this world. He says you are strong because the Word of God is in you.

Enough of telling our youths and say they are just weak, they are just prone to temptation and everything. Those are what they see. So we need somebody to tell the youth, you are strong, you have all the strength not in yourself, because the Word is in you, the living word.

People need to tell them of this things, people even scare people away, because there are prophesy that say the young men shall see visions. They are not blind, they are not people that are in blindness, there are people that are vision, they are giving vision. So the young men are strong and so we hope that we are speaking to all our youths now, we are speaking and saying you are strong because you have the Holy Word inside of you. He says you are fully of faith. We are talking to the father, talking to everyone affirming that you have received this things. And so even before any correction and anything, let's come to the place of affirming that which is there.

And I think before we go to the next verse, this strategy that Apostle John is using is something that really actually demands our attention because if you notice most of the people who merchandize people in the body of Christ, in most cases, these merchandisers, they have to first dislodge people from the revelation of the finished work of the cross.

They have to first make you see that you are alone by yourself, and unless you scream and cry out to the Father he will not show up on your behalf. Unless you cling even to them or whatever, that is the very first thing they use and if you take time out, we are not going to go there, we just want to make reference to it, you can read it yourself in Philippian Chapter 3, when the Apostle Paul began to actually deal with some of these Judaizers who encroach in into the Philippians church. They began to tell the Philippians brethren, that you see, being born again in Christ Jesus or receiving a new life in Christ is not enough, you need to be circumcised and as they began to do that, they tilts many people away from that benefit of the cross. And then Paul came so hard on them, that is why he wrote most of the book of Philippians.

Paul said he wish that they were trouble that trouble the church. So when people want to trouble the church, when they want to trouble the body of Christ, what they simply have to do first, is to tell people and show people that you see, you are destitute, you are not strong, you don't have capacity, you are not able, you don't have the ability, those are the very first things... they might not say these in the very words am saying them. But the things that they are saying and things that they do, they try to pass this message to people about the fact that, you don't have what it takes, you don't have it.

Here was Apostle John simply telling men, I know what you have, you have the Word of God in you, and you are strong. You are able to go up and take the country. You

are able to go up and lay hold on what is yours. So here we are saying, that this is the reality of our life in Christ Jesus.

Now the reason why some people don't think what we are saying maybe applicable to them as Christian is because we are still looking at circumstances, and we've dealt with that, that is what he is talking about. A Christian life that is actually based on sense of sight, sense of hearing and sense of tastes and sense of feeling. If will build our Christian life on those, or build our prayer life on those, what happens is, those things encroach in, and as we are asking God in the place of prayer, our asking, our trying to receive comes upon those things and those things just diffuse our prayers.

So here he is saying that I know what you are. I know you are strong, I know you have the capacity to do it. He said that, and you probably wonder, even by the time John said this in 1John Chapter 2 verse 14, he says well, if that is case, then end of story. Thank God you said we have the capacity, thank God you said we have faith in the Word. Thank God you said you have the Word of God already sown into our lives. Ok, let's close the whole thing. John says No! there is something we are going to talk about. There is something, even though I said you have the Word, even though I said you have faith in the living Word, in verse 14 of 1John 2.

Well, there is something I have notice, or actually perceived and some are asking and they are still not receiving. Some that believe the Word as spoken in 1John 3 verse 14 are still not walking in the reality of answer payers. Let's talk about something that we need to drive out. And that is where verse 15 actually came in to be.

Now look at verse 15, he says let's talk about driving out something, that is unbelief type 2. Look at that, what does it say there?

**15. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him.**

Now, please are you seeing the connection that James Chapter 4 actually took the whole three from those things that were already inside. James said is all about friendship with the world.

James give us that insight that worldliness is when we allow those things to encroach in. And here is the Apostle John warning those people that have the Word. You see, this verse 15 is not applicable to those who have not receive the Word. It's applicable to those who have faith for things in the place of prayer,

See what he says, he said, well, I will tell you something, love not the world. Can you see that?



Go on please,

**neither the things that are in the world.**

Now the things that are in the world, so what does the world has to offer? That's the question, so let's see what the world has to offer.

Go on please

**If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him.**

**16. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

Now, see this is the summary. He says all that is in the world. He says, well, of course there are so many things that are in the world. There are so many issues with the world. That is why James say friendship with the world. The reason why there is friendship with the world, is that we are actually liaising with the things that are in the world.

Now, he will tell us, he said all! I want to mark out the word **all**, that is very important. James says this is the summary. It doesn't matter whether there are one thousand and one things in the world, there are issues in the world. It doesn't matter if there are ten thousands issues in the world. James says we can categorize everything into this three headings, that is why he say all that is in the world. Everything that is in the world.

Now what are those things?

**the lust of the flesh**

Can you see the consistency now, the lust of the flesh ok now?

**and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

Well, you might be wondering is that all that is in the world? I though the world is having so many trouble about so many things? Of course you are right, there are a lots of things, lots of issues with the world. But John is saying, of course there are so many issues with the world, but we can put them under three headings and he says all that is in the world. That is it! It doesn't matter anything you can talk about. You can talk about any issue with the world, you can mention so many things but everything that is, will come under these three categories. We can put them under the headings.

And John is simply saying here, that you see even though I said, you are strong, even though I said you have the Word of God, even though I know you have faith in the Word, you see, when it comes to prayer, if these things are there, they will actually nullify the fact that you have strength by the Word. They will nullify. That is why we simply said, is not enough to teach people on how to receive the Word of God in faith, is also enough to teach them how to drive out this unbelief.

Now John says something about how to drive out this unbelief, and that is what we are going to zero in on. He tells us in this verse 15, he says is about the affection, the love for it.

Now, again that is a very deep insight in how to drive out this unbelief. John is simply saying by the Holy Ghost, I will tell you how to drive out this unbelief, how to drive out those things that are encroaching in and makes the Word of God unfruitful. He said, how do you do? Don't give in to affection. That is it, don't !

You see, and we know this in our every day to day life. It's a whole different thing when somebody hangs around you, is a whole different thing when you pass your affection unto them. Those are two different things. That is why we simply said, Matthew Chapter 4, Jesus said is those things encroaching in, that is the problem.

And James Chapter 1 says, it's the conception that is the problem. It is not about whether those things are around, is the conception and Jesus said in Matthew 4, they encroach in, so John said, it doesn't matter whether you as a Christian you have the Word of God, you are strong and then you are believing God and you are praying, he says it doesn't matter whether you see things and you look at things and you hear things and you actually feel things, he said as long as you are not passionately, your affection, is not or your focus or your estimation is not on those things. You can say well, I've prayed, I've believed God but I can see that, I can see what they said in the news it doesn't line up with I have prayed. But anyway, am not setting my affections on those anyway, am not actually drawing my senses, am not drawing any senses from them, I can hear them, I wouldn't set my affection on them.

John is saying that is how to deal with it. I mean it will be there, but don't set your affection on them and that is what he says there. That is what he is saying, he is saying well you can punish the world system. You can actually deal with the world system by setting your affection on them and that is what he is simply saying here on how to deal with this unbelief

That is why we did say about fasting, this is where fasting comes in. Every time you actually fast, it doesn't matter whether is the fast for food, whether is the fast for

public acclimation, or whether is the fast for... in terms of how you feel, or fasting for anything.

Every single fasting or denial that you do, is you making a proclamation to that thing to saying, you know what, you are not all I need for life. You are not all that matters to me in life, because love in this place, is a matter of setting your affection. Is a matter of you saying... you know there are so many love songs that people sings, I mean there are so many record labels that actually sing love songs and what you notice in those love songs, they will talk about, somebody saying, the singer might be singing and says hey! Oh my love, I love you, without you, I can't do nothing, without you, life is meaningless, or without you, I cannot make any progress. People says these things, you know this romantic songs just to tell us how important that person is to them

Now, he says in the same way a Christian can look at the things that he sees, or a Christian can look at the things that he hears or the thing that he feels and says you know what, you are the one that inform me about the state of my life. You are the one that tells me how my life is, without you I will have no information about who I am. He said we can do the same thing to these three things. We can tell them to inform us, we can depend on them. We can rely on what they say. We can say without them informing us, we don't know who we are. Now he says, if we have that kind of mindset, those things have encroach in into our life, and what happens is, they make the Word of God of no effect. The same Word he said they were strong in, in verse 14.

So what are we saying? What we are simply saying is, we don't give our affection to them. We tell them I can live without you, that is why I can deny you and I can pick you up when I want. I can deny you, you are not my life. You don't give me the identity that my life actually requires and that is what he is saying.

Yes, am going to hang on this statement that says, like in this analogy, that you can have things but those things not having you, because you are talking about you can have those things hanging around, that am not going to share my affection with you. It is a choice. Yes! You are not going to have me. That I can have those things but is not going to have me. That is it!

And again, it was so interesting to know that Apostle John was able to say that all these things that are in the world, that is a very bogus statement to say all. All the issues in the world is being classify under these three categories. And then we can see that the same issues is in consistency with what happened in the temptation of Jesus on those three points.

Now, so it means then, you will never understand where the tools of fasting then come into play. Fasting is you tell anything... you see there is something that we are hinting on, and we need to probably shed more light on it.

If you notice, there are times that Jesus want to heal someone or raise the dead or carry out a miracle. Jesus will then tell people, I don't want...is going to take people out. Can you see that? I wonder why Christ is doing that. Well, He did that majorly in a way to kill and put to death the fact that I don't need whether the praise of people, or whether the criticism of people. He said, at this point, is not the time to feed it. Can you see that? And he push those things out.

And you see when we say fasting again, we repeat is not just about food. It's about you saying, whether people praise or whether people criticize, I don't feed on that, I don't set my affection on that. He says unless we get to that point in the place of prayer, he says, common! It will actually nullify our faith.

And then is so sad then, the reason why some people go to God in the place of prayer and say Father please answer me, Father please show up in my situation. If we look at the foundation of that prayer, it all boils down with frolicking with the world system. Even the very prayer point he said, and if you ask them why are praying that prayer or why are you actually saying those things, they will say well, Father am praying that prayer, because why you can't just look at me like I said, you can't just look at me, my mates have gone. Why are you saying such things? on what basis? On what basis is that? So can you live life in the identity of what Christ has put on you? And you are simply saying I will take my identity from nothing else.

So here is John saying look at things, look around you, look at circumstances and simply says well they are good, I have that, I don't have this, but that is not all about it. Am not going to actually set my affection, am not going to share my affection with anything,

And he says unless we get to that point, he says what is going to happen is, those things will nullify the strength of the Word that we have in verse 14 and that is what he is simply saying there.

So we see that insight there in regard to what fasting actually does. It tells us that yes, we are in charge of whatever our senses have to say.

So let's move on quickly to see how Jesus himself employed this tool in the place of prayer. And we are going to look at Matthew Chapter 4. That is what we are going to look at.

Mathew Chapter 4, we are going to look from verse 1. Again, don't forget is about driving out this type of unbelief.

### **Matthew 4:1**

#### **1. Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil...**

Now, if you watch that, to be tempted of the devil.

Now please, we said something about unbelief. We said there are so many stakeholders in this issue of unbelief. God is a stakeholder because he doesn't want us to walk in unbelief, so that we can ask and receive. And also Satan is a stakeholder in unbelief, and 1Peter 5:7 tells us that Satan wants us to drive us, there is a temptation to drag us into unbelief. He said we should resist him, standing firm in the faith.

And now we see that the Bible says Jesus was led by the Spirit to be tempted of the devil. So we know, that the devil is the one interested. And then if you want to ask what is this temptation all about? Well, is simple, you can put enough... is a drag to walk in unbelief. Satan is interested in this.

In fact, to actually put a cap on this, 1Corinthians 7:5 says we should fast, and says why? Less you be tempted by Satan. He is one of the stakeholders in the issue of unbelief. So here he tells us that Christ was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. So don't forget it's a temptation to fall into unbelief. That is what it's all about.

Verse 2,

#### **2. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.**

Now, it means if Jesus then fasted, then the question you want to ask is why fast? Well, we have to use the very words of Jesus himself in Mark Chapter 9 and Matthew Chapter 17. Because Jesus said well, the predominant function of fasting as a tool is to drive out this type of unbelief, of course New Covenant fasting.

So we know the reason then. It means we are not in the dark anymore of why he actually fasted. Now we know why he fasted. So Christ himself was going to deal with unbelief. He is going to have a very great ministry very soon and he knows that unbelief type 2 can nullify the Word of God that he actually, he has been receiving. So we know why he fasted now.

Go on please.

### **3. And when the tempter came to him, he said, if thou be the son of God, command that these stones be made bread.**

Now can you see that? If you notice, now I think this is something that we need to actually look at critically and I want to call your attention to this verse 3. If you look at this verse 3, please we don't want to rush this, so we can all get the insight into this, I hope we can finish this today.

Now, Satan was asking Jesus to pray. He was asking him to raise a prayer point. If you notice, we've been saying this for quite some time, that the very things we are talking about, they are not far fetch from us. They are things that happen in prayer meetings. How can you go to the place of prayer, and the person raising the prayer point or even you praying is all just exhuming unbelief? And then he says you can ask and not receive if you are asking on top of unbelief, James Chapter 4.

So here was Satan saying who cares? Jesus pray! Pray!

Now I mean, how can Satan be asking Christ to pray? It will means then, just the volume of prayer is not the issue. People think well, if I pray long enough, and I actually put so much pressure on God then God must show up in my situation. Well, of course Satan wouldn't bothered about your prayer, if he knows it's all done in unbelief, he knows unbelief nullify faith.

Let me quickly add this that is very surprising to see here that Satan could raise prayer points. He is asking Jesus to pray! So he could raise prayer points and he could call out for prayer points because people have actually believe that prayer is the most spiritual act, you really have to be spiritual to raise prayer point, or to be talking about prayer. So we can see that Satan himself was the one raising prayer point, suggesting prayer points for Jesus now.

Most of the times, so if it can happen to Jesus, how much more us. So some places of worship now, it might be the devil himself and devil agents are the ones raising the prayer points, calling out for prayer. So we really don't have to just rush into every prayer point and pray any prayer point or run into any prayer gathering.

Now we see devil was suggesting, raising prayer points for Jesus. So it happens for Jesus, so it's happening now. So you really have to watch it. So you can just look at prayer in a blanket way of looking at it that ok, just have to be spiritual, you just have to be right. What could go wrong with prayer? A lot could wrong with prayer. Even from what the praying is about, apart from talking about the lusts and everything, praying amiss, praying because of lusts and the rest. Who is raising it first? Who is suggesting it first?

So we have agents, all those prayer contractors that are even working for the devil. So we can see that prayer partner, we can have devils agents working as that. We saw in the place of Jesus in that temptation that, it was even the devil suggesting the prayer point.

Now you see, before we go on, and I think at this junction, we might want to do some more clarification. Because you might think well, when she was talking about Satan raising a prayer point and you are wondering well, we don't have... how can my pastor, the prophet or the priest or the teacher or whatever who they are, on the pulpit, how can you say they are demonic, they are possess by devil or Satan is possessing them? What are you talking about? Or you might be saying how is that possible?

Please don't just shut the transmission now, because when we talk about Satan raising prayer point it might just be as much closer beyond what you think it is.

Now, let's look at an insight in the scriptures. In Mathew Chapter 16, I want you to read that. And I think this will really help when we talk about Satan raising prayer points.

In Matthew 16 if you notice, here was Peter, I think there is a verse there, where Peter declare Jesus as Christ.

## **Matthew 16**

### **16. And Simon Peter answered and said, thou art the Christ, the son of the living God.**

Well, this is Simon who became Peter because of the revelation that he saw. So Simon wasn't possessed with a devil technically, he was possessed. He had a revelation and Christ say well, flesh and blood did not reveal that to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

So we know Peter saw the revelation of who Christ is, and that actually confer a new identity on Peter. So here Peter was a man of God, a disciple of Jesus Christ. Everything was perfectly fine.

Now look at verse 21.

Is the same Peter now, it's the same Pastor or the same Prophet, the same Apostles, yes so please look at this as the person raising the prayer or whatever it is. The person who is the leader whatever, the same person who is the one dishing out the Word about Christ.

Look at verse 21, what does it says?

**21. From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders, and chief priests and scribes and be killed, and be raised again the third day.**

Christ was saying what will happen to him before he goes to the cross. So automatically look at verse 22, Peter then took in all those these that Christ was talking about the circumstances, and based on that, Peter responded. But we know something must have encroaching into his mentality before he responded.

Look at verse 22,

**22. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.**

Ok that is a prayer, or that is a plead or that is a petition. It will not happen to you. That is a petition or prayer.

Let's see what Christ has to say about the prayer point,

Verse 23

**23. But he turned, and said unto Peter, get thee behind me Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**

Ok, so that is what she was saying. Not it doesn't mean Peter was demonically possessed, but Christ was simply saying you know what Peter, that very thing you are talking about, that is Satan inspiration. It was an inspiration from the pit of hell. Now this was Peter saying to Jesus this thing will not happen to you, or I pray thee, this thing will not happen to you.

Now, when we talk about the fact that Satan can raise prayer points, we are not saying there is a demonic manifestation that might be coming into the church, even though in some cases, that could be. But that is not even the one we are actually hinting at.

We are simply saying that even the very person who is the man of God, or is the leader or the person raising the prayer, who actually declare Jesus is Christ, people in some cases, because they are not worded in the spiritual grace can actually say things and do things in the place of prayer for an inspiration from the enemy. That is what we are talking about. Being inspired by the enemy. And following Satan's methodologies in actually raising prayer points and that is why it's very possible.

So we also saw in Matthew 16 that some prayer can be borne out of concern and out of sympathy because Peter was trying to respond out of concern for Jesus. He



wouldn't want Jesus to suffer all these in the hands, he doesn't want this one to befall Jesus, so out of concern, out of sympathy.

So this rings home for us too, because we see some prayer point is just borne out of concerns and people look at the situations in the country and look at what is happening and so we see prayer points. People generating prayer point out of concern, out of sympathy and just trying to be humanistic. Humanistic approach to it, which look logically sensible but we can see that it can be running contrary, every of those things that are running contrary to the purpose of God.

And we see the purpose of God was for Jesus to go to the cross, and so because of that and though the human concern of Peter was coming in the way. So we have some prayer points that is coming in the way of the purpose of God for our lives. And so people are trying to be helpful. They are trying to be there. And so they offer prayer support, so we see people come for prayer, this one, they are ready to pray with you, praying to take you out of God's will. Out of human they are seeing and feeling with the eyes, worldly eyes in the sense, perceiving and encroaching in...perceiving naturally, so and then they are beclouding the spiritual judgment of things, of situations, that you need to be in, they want to pray you out, pray out of it. And so this is working as the devil. So Jesus has to rebuke Satan.

So most of those things, you have to know and say Satan. May be you may not be able to call it out like Jesus did. You must really be bold about it to be able to call it out as it is. And say this is Satan, you must have a discerning spirit, or not walking in suspicion, but a discerning spirit to know this to shut the mouth when you need to shut up the mouth.

And funny enough don't be trapped to think that somebody could work as... if you have read the earlier part of that Chapter, we saw it was the same Apostle Peter that gave a revelation about the Christ nature of Jesus. He was the one that gave that identity out, you know that kind. That even Jesus was saying No! the flesh would have reveal this to you. Among when he was asking who do people think I am? You know that kind of revelation that it was not even reveal to anybody at that time to know that Jesus is Christ, he is the son of God.

So is the same Peter in some just few verses doing this. So sometimes, you might want to feel like some people have become helpful, God has use them in your life. They have spoken prophecy and what the things they have said in the past was in line with God's purpose for your life. In that same minutes, in the same breathe, they can be saying thing that's just out working like devil. So you really need discernment to know from which point. So you cannot take everything hook line and use the previous

episode or present episode to judge. So you need to judge that at every point in time using the Word of God and using the counsel of God.

So we are going to just stop you here, and I know you want to really come, that is why you have to come next time Saturday 7pm UK time to continue this. You know we just started scratching the surfaces especially on this temptation, there is a lot to it. Because our time is gone. I don't think we want to say anything about it now.

So you really need to be here. You really need to be here because we know is a common thing about driving out this unbelief. This temptation, we need...so because Jesus is actually employing the fasting that we are talking about, so we really want to see his pattern how he did it? What did he achieve with the fasting and see how it is? Did he get more of God's approval or did he get more of God's favour? Or what did he actually achieve with the fasting? What did he achieved?

And then like a taste that you've already seen that devil could raise a prayer point and everything that we are supported with the encounter of Peter with Jesus. So do come and join, you don't want to miss it. You don't want somebody to tell you about that.

You are coming again Saturday 7pm UK time, so we begin to dig in into this fasting thing. There is a lot to know about, maybe you have to fast your way out of some things, you know that is the thing about this fasting. So a lot is still really needed to be shared.

And then we want you to live this truth. We want you prayer live to be rich. We want you to put all these things into practice and just don't want you to fill your head, and we want you to get into your heart and then you work it out. You put these things in the place of prayer, and you are believing right. You are working against doubt.

You are letting your faith be strengthen and you are fasting aright.

So till we see you Saturday, 7pm UK time, what do you want to say to them?

Well, God bless you, make sure you join us as we drive out this unbelief.

So I say God bless you too.

Bye!!