



THE CHURCH

GOD OF WONDERS WITHOUT NUMBERS

PART 13

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“Which doeth great things past finding out; Yea, and wonders without number.” (Job 9:10 KJV)

Who does not like good surprises? They lift our spirit and lighten our burdens—what's there not to like? Moreover, the world as we have experienced it in the last decade—and more specifically in the last two years—has displayed some terrible horrors with no promising relief from any man-made institution in sight. The events that consume our media are quite depressing, really. The war going on in Ukraine continue to claim a lot of innocent lives; massive inflation continues to drive up the cost of living around the world, thus destabilizing many businesses and homes; the more the amount of money pumped into circulation during COVID-19 pandemic, the more it became obvious that—like the days of old when Joseph ruled in Egypt—“money has failed.” The economic situation of even the big players on the global economy stage has become very alarming, to say the least. We continue to read in the news about hostile takeovers of companies which is becoming the new normal; COVID-19, in fact, is surging again with many countries in Europe staying on high alert. Most provinces in China and some countries in Asia have gone through multiple shutdowns again.

This world is highly unstable and on its edge, and this current reality cuts across every sphere of living. Suicide is on the rise due to high increase in mental health problems; many are simply deranged and this continues to affect many homes. Even children are not left out of these calamities as the mental health amongst children has now taken the center stage in many countries; combine this with some other factors and you will have a broken home. Workplaces, schools and even churches or other places of worship are not exempted from this horror. Many have permanently closed because of the burden and the pressure of what's going on in our world. Many African countries continue to suffer such criminal activities like robbery, kidnapping in broad daylight, terrorist attacks and so on. Political instability and uncertainties in the world has everyone on the edge, yet, nobody knows what's going to happen next. The million-dollar-question is, “what's the way out?” You know, from the look of things, it would seem that wonder has ceased to happen on the earth, but you need not look further than Job 9:10 to think otherwise —

“Which doeth great things past finding out; Yea, and wonders without number.” (Job 9:10)

The answer is God. He's the only One Who doesn't do evil; He only does GREAT THINGS which are beyond anyone's understanding. He does wonders without numbers! this brings us back to where we started—that we all love good surprises. Guess what? God specializes in just that! Why linger in the camp of woes when the camp of wonders without numbers is open to anyone? The next verse in Job 9 (verse 11) identifies for us why some people do not enjoy this God of wonders; it says,

“Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: He passeth on also, but I perceive him not.”

In other words, in spite of how close and accessible this God of wonders without numbers is, many still miss Him. The way to fully enjoy Him is to come into a relationship with Him by becoming born again. If you are born again but not seeing wonders without numbers yet, check your communication channel with Him. However, if you are not born again, you simply do not have any relationship with Him, and by implication, you are on your own! The good news is that you can change all that today by accepting Him as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do this right now by saying this prayer with me as you read on, ***“Lord Jesus, come into my life today. I accept You and confess You before men. I know that You died and rose up on the third day. I humbly ask you to take absolute control of my life and I promise to follow you from now on.”*** My friend, if you have made this declaration with me, you are now born again! Or if you are rededicating your life to Jesus again, welcome back! Please let me be the first person to welcome you to the kingdom of God. Your best years are still ahead of you.

THE CHURCH (Part 13)

I can't believe that we have now come to the end of this wonderful series. There is so much more about the church that we could unpack, but I believe that the Lord Himself will continue to reveal the mystery of His church to us. The church is a wonderful place of recovery and restoration; it is a place whose builder and maker is God. Here's a fascinating scripture that sets my heart on fire for the house of the Lord as recorded in Psalm 102:16,

“When the LORD shall build up Zion, He shall appear in his glory.”

When the Lord—this perfect builder—has built His church, the Lord Himself shall appear in His glory upon it! The church that God builds is a place of unlimited glory.

LEARNING FROM THE CHURCHES IN REVELATION

We have seen from the Book of Revelation different types of churches that exist on the earth today. A lot of them are not builded by God and it is quite evident what goes on in there. We have to be careful because these are the latter days and God is very much concerned about the church, after all, the spring for the last days will come from Zion. What type of church is God looking for? We see the picture of this church in Ephesians 5:27,

“that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

The church that Christ wants to present to Himself is a church **full of glory** (Psalm 102:16), **without a spot** (no faults, perfect), **without a wrinkle** or any such thing (a church that operates in wonders without numbers — Job 9:10), **a holy church** and **without blemish** (no infirmities, sickness and able bodied church — Psalm 92:12-14). Imagine yourself to be a part of a church like this, what would your life look like? I guarantee you that you will blossom and flourish just by abiding and becoming addicted to the house of God.

HOW POWERFUL IS THE CHURCH?

We have been considering King Solomon's profound insight into God's idea of His church. In **2 Chronicles 6:18** he asked, ***“But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!”*** When we think about this verse and Ephesians 5:27, we get the impression that if one is truly a part of the church of God, then one should be emanating wonders without numbers!

Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple provides some insight which we began to unpack a few weeks back. So far, we have considered the following indices of the power and relevance of the church even till today:

1. The eyes of God are always open upon the church
2. The power of restoration finds expression in the church.
3. The church is a place of deliverance.
4. The church is the place where God's power is real.
5. The church offers the guarantee of God fighting our battles for us.
6. The church is the solution to every captivity.
7. The church is a solution ground.
8. The church is where God's answer to prayers is guaranteed.
9. The church is God's resting place.

Let's look at one more reason why the church of God is still powerfully relevant today.

10. The church enjoys the sure mercies of David

“O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant.” (2 Chronicles 6:42 KJV)

Here, King Solomon reminded God about David's commitment to the house and the people of God (the church) as a basis for negotiating and guaranteeing God's attention to His house. Can that be said of you? Think on these things.

On that note, we should also reflect on what King David prayed regarding those who hate or speak against the church. I believe this is one of the mistakes many believers are still making, and these couple of verses should be an appropriate caution —

“Let them all be confounded and turned back That hate Zion. Let them be as the grass upon the housetops,

Which withereth afore it groweth up: Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; Nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom. Neither do they which go by say, the blessing of the LORD be upon you: We bless you in the name of the LORD.” (Psalm 129:5-8)

These are terrible pronouncements; let us abstain from horrible discussions that belittle or degrade the house of the Lord which is the church. The Lord is at hand!

ANCHOR TEXT

We have seen from our study in the past 13 weeks why Jesus is referred to as 'the Son of David.' David loved the Lord and His house beyond description! He was the same man who danced tirelessly and with reckless abandon in the presence of God. In fact, he took his love for the house of God to another level in **Psalm 137:5-6**, ***“If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; If I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.”***

Wow! Listen to him speak about the house of his God with such strong words! When someone shows this much love for you, won't you go the extra mile in reciprocating that love? That's what God did for David. You and I can replicate this bond by simply loving the church of God—as expressed in our various contexts—beyond description.

Hence, King David gave us the anchor text of our study:

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Our feet shall stand Within thy gates, O Jerusalem.” (Psalm 122:1-2 KJV)

PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH

David knew the importance of praying for the church so that the church can be there when we need her to meet our needs. Likewise, Jesus cared and prayed for the church and commanded us to do the same. So our prayer for the church this week is in 1 Corinthians 13:3 —

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

1. Pray for the Body of Christ—that the church will receive the fresh baptism of love so that the church can fulfill her end time agenda.
2. Pray for the Body of Christ to experience a fresh baptism of hope and faith so that she can become a place of refuge.
3. Pray for the church of Ukraine and Ukrainians today, that the healing of all kinds of wounds and injuries will begin quickly.

THE REASONS WHY THE CHURCH OF GOD IS THE SAFEST PLACE ON EARTH

We have been highlighting some reasons why the Church of God is the safest place on earth. We have considered these points so far:

1. THE CHURCH IS THE SECRET PLACE OF GOD
2. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNUSUAL POWER
3. THE CHURCH IS WHERE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM ARE DELIVERED TO US FOR FREE
4. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNUSUAL COMPANION
5. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNCOMMON WISDOM
6. THE CHURCH IS A DANGER-FREE ZONE
7. THE CHURCH IS THE GATEWAY OF HEAVEN—THE PLACE WHERE GIFTS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE SAINTS
8. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE WHERE JESUS IS IN FULL CONTROL, BRINGING TOTAL DELIVERANCE TO HIS BODY
9. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE WHERE WE GET TO SIT ON OUR THRONE FOREVER
10. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNUSUAL AND UNCOMMON REVELATION
11. THE CHURCH IS WHERE WE BRING OUR TITHE FOR OPEN HEAVEN

12. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE OF COMPLETE RESTORATION

We continue from there today.

13. THE CHURCH IS OUR FORETASTE OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.” (Revelation 21:1-5 KJV)

The closest we will get to know about what heaven will look like can be found in the church. The church is the prototype of what the real heaven is going to look like. Since you are going to spend eternity in heaven, shouldn't you practice by spending as much time as possible in the church now? That's God's agenda for the end time as Prophet Isaiah puts it:

“The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD 's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 2:1-3)

To say it all in a sum, **THE CHURCH IS EVERYTHING TO A TRUE BELIEVER!**

CALL TO ACTION

Is your life full of chaos now?
 When was the last time you were happy?
 Do you want wonders to be a common occurrence in your life?
 Do you know the wonder-working God?
 Do you love the church?
 Are you in a church or church home?
 Do you say bad things about the church?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “DON'T FORSAKE THE ASSEMBLY”

“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25 KJV)

Don't be a lone ranger; the church is the safest place on earth. If you are without a church home, you are prone to being an easy prey for the devil. Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, give me the grace to be a faithful member of Your church on this side of eternity in readiness for the hereafter in the name of Jesus.
2. Lord, continue to prosper Your Church across the world in the name of Jesus.

PS: Remember to reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom of God in your area. God bless you as you do so. Amen.