

EXPERIENCE GOD...

Turning Bitterness to Sweetness

@ DEEPER LIFE NATIONAL DECEMBER RETREAT 2020

Venue: DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH
MIDLANDS REGION
BACCHUS RD, BIRMINGHAM B18 4QP

PASTOR **W.F. KUMUYI**
Ministering

CONNECT VIA ZOOM
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25-28 DEC., 2020
9:30AM DAILY
25TH 6:00PM

Come Believing, Go Rejoicing

LIFE IN THE CAMP

“...The Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy CAMP, to deliver thee... THEREFORE SHALL THY CAMP BE HOLY: that He see no unclean thing in thee” (Deuteronomy 23:14).

Family Life:

1. Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in LOVE (Ephesians 4:3,2).
2. Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing (Philippians 3:16).
3. He that saith he abideth in Christ ought himself also so to walk, even as Christ walked. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. Christ also... leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps (1 John 2:6; 2 John 9; 1 Peter 2:21).
4. Be thou an example of the believers

in word
 in conversation
 in charity
 in spirit
 in faith
 in PURITY.

Walk worthy unto all pleasing. Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. Walk worthy of God (1 Timothy 4:12; Colossians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:12).

5. Let no filthiness, foolish talking, nor JESTING be once named among you, as becometh saints. Walk worthy (Ephesians 5:3,4).
6. Men ought always to PRAY, and not to faint. Follow His steps (Luke 18:1; 1 Peter 2:21).
7. Let not thy nakedness be discovered. Thou shalt make them... to cover their nakedness. The woman ought to cover her head because of the angels. Let the women adorn themselves in MODEST APPAREL with shamefacedness and sobriety, NOT with broided hair or gold, or pearls, or costly array. He that saith he abideth in Christ ought to walk, EVEN as Christ walked (Exodus 20:26; 28:42; 1 Corinthians 11:4-10; 1 Timothy 2:9; 1 John 2:6).
8. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25).
9. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders... and let them pray over him... in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith shall save the sick (James 5:14,15).
10. Every word of God is pure: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not. Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, AND AVOID THEM. He that biddeth such God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (Proverbs 30:5; Deuteronomy 12:32; 2 John 10; Romans 16:17; 2 John 11).

“IF YE KNOW THESE THINGS, HAPPY [BLESSED] ARE YE IF YE DO THEM” (John 13:17).

RETREAT SONGS

JESUS ONLY IS OUR MESSAGE

1. Jesus only is our Message,
Jesus all our theme shall be,
We will lift up Jesus ever,
Jesus only will we see.

*Jesus only, Jesus ever,
Jesus all in all we sing;
Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer,
Baptizer and coming King.*

2. Jesus only is our Saviour,
All our guilt He bore away,
All our righteousness He gives us,
All our strength from day to day.
3. Jesus is our Sanctifier,
Cleansing us from self and sin,
And with all His Spirit's fulness,
Filling all our hearts within.
4. Jesus only is our Healer,
All our sicknesses He bare,
And His risen life and fulness,
All His members still may share.
5. Jesus only is our Power,
His the gift of Pentecost,
Jesus, breathe Thy Power upon us,
Fill us with the Holy Ghost.
6. And for Jesus we are waiting
Listening for the trumpet's sound
Then it will be us and Jesus,
Living ever with our God.

REJOICE IN THE LORD

1. Rejoice in the Lord! oh, let His mercy cheer;
He sunders the bands that enthrall;
Redeem'd by His blood why should we ever fear
Since Jesus is our "all in all"?

*"If God be for us, if God be for us,
If God be for us, who can be against us?
Who? Who? Who?
Who can be against us, against us?"*

2. Be strong in the Lord! rejoicing in His might,
Be loyal and true day by day;
When evils assail, be valiant for the right,
And He will be our strength and stay.
3. Confide in His word – His promises so sure; In
Christ they are "yea and amen,"
Though earth pass away, they ever shall endure, '
Tis written o'er and o'er again.
4. Abide in the Lord: secure in His control,
'Tis life everlasting begun;
To pluck from His hand the weakest, trembling soul –
It never, never can be done!

HIS LOVE CAN NEVER FAIL

1. I do not ask to see the way
My feet will have to tread;
But only that my soul may feed Upon
the living Bread.
Tis better far that I should walk
By faith close to His side -
I may not know the way I go,
But oh, I know my Guide.

*His love can never fail,
His love can never fail;
My soul is satisfied to know
His love can never fail.*

2. And if my feet would go astray,
They cannot, for I know,
That Jesus guides my falt'ring steps. As
joyfully I go,
And tho' I may not see His face,
My faith is strong and clear,
That in each hour of sore distress My
Saviour will be near.
3. I will not fear, tho' darkness come
Abroad o'er all the land,
If I may only feel the touch Of
His own loving hand.
And tho' I tremble when I think
How weak I am, how frail,
My soul is satisfied to know His
love can never fail.

I AM READY FOR SERVICE

1. Listen to the Master's pleadings,
There is urgent work for all, Heed
the Spirit's interceding, Give this
answer to the call:

*I am ready for service for Thee, dear Lord, Here
am I - send me,
I am willing to be what You'd have me be, I
will go to where You want me to go.
I am ready for Service for Thee, dear Lord, Here
am I, send me,
Tho' the pathway seems dark
For Thee I'll do or die, I am ready for service Lord.*

2. There's a voice to you now calling,
Will you heed the earnest word, On
the ear it's gently calling,
Give this answer to your Lord:
3. Many souls in sins are dying, Haste
to help them while you may, For the
time is swiftly flying,
Will you now to Jesus say:



CHRIST, OUR MIGHTY CAPTAIN

1. Christ, our mighty Captain, leads against the foe;
We will never falter when He bids us go;
Tho' His righteous purpose we may never know,
Yet we'll follow all the way.

*Forward! forward! 'tis the Lord's command,
Forward! forward! to the promised land;
Forward! forward! let the chorus ring:
We are sure to win with Christ our King!*

2. Satan's fearful onslaughts cannot make us yield,
While we trust in Christ, our Buckler and our Shield;
Pressing ever on - the Spirit's sword we wield,
And we follow all the way.
3. Let our glorious banner ever be unfurled- From
its mighty stronghold evil shall be hurled; Christ,
our mighty Captain, overcomes the world, And we
follow all the way.
4. Fierce the battle rages, but 'twill not be long,
Then triumphant - shall we join the blessed throng,
Joyfully uniting in the victor's song-
If we follow all the way.

PEACE! BE STILL

1. Master, the tempest is raging!
The billows are tossing high!
The sky is o'er-shadowed with blackness, No
shelter or help is nigh:
"Carest Thou not that we perish?"
How canst Thou lie asleep,
When each moment so madly is threatening
A grave in the angry deep?

*"The winds and the waves shall obey My will,
Peace, be still!"
Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea,
Or demons, or men, or whatever it be,
No water can swallow the ship where lies
The Master of ocean and earth and skies;
They all shall sweetly obey My will;
Peace be still! peace, be still !
They all shall sweetly obey My will:
Peace, Peace, be still!*

2. Master, with anguish of spirit I
bow in my grief today;
The depths of my sad heart are troubled;
O waken and save, I pray!
Torrents of sin and of anguish
Sweep o'er my sinking soul !
And I perish! I perish, dear Master;
O hasten, and take control !
3. Master, the terror is over,
The elements sweetly rest;
Earth's sun in the calm lake is mirrored, And
heaven's within my breast.
Linger, O blessed Redeemer, Leave
me alone no more;
And with joy I shall make the blest harbour,
And rest on the blissful shore.



BIBLE STUDY 1

PROFITING FROM THE WORD

James 1:19-27

The previous verse (James 1:18) speaks on the ministry and effect of “the word of Truth” and the following verses teach us on how to benefit from the Word. We are to “be swift to hear”, to “receive with meekness the engrafted word”. We must be “doers of the word, and not hearers only”. Looking “into the perfect law”, none should be “a forgetful hearer”. What is our benefit or profit as we allow the Word to do its work in us? We are brought into new life with the Word of Truth (verse 18). The engrafted, implanted Word “is able to save your souls” (verse 21). The man who believes and lives by the Word, “shall be blessed in his deed” (verse 25). A proper study of God’s Word is eternally profitable.

How we listen to, react to and obey the Word is an index or a test of the genuineness of our salvation experience. For the Word to work with power and produce new life in us, there must be willingness to receive it with submission. The believer who truly delights in God’s Word, will pattern his life according to the Word. And his “profiting may appear to all” (1 Timothy 4:15). “Take heed therefore how ye hear” (Luke 8:18), and “Take heed what ye hear” (Mark 4:24). Don’t let anything block your ears or harden your heart against the Word of God. Hear and be so transformed to be saved now. Be teachable, be obedient and let the Word work effectually in you (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

1. PROPER RECEPTION AND SUBMISSION TO THE WORD

James 1:19-21; Acts 10:33; 17:11; 1Thessalonians 2:13; Proverbs 27:7; 17:27; 16:32; 1 Peter 2:1,2; Mark 4:16-20; 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

Be swift, be slow! Be quick, be slow! There are things in which it is good to be quick and there are things in which it is well to be slow. Our text teaches: “be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”. There are four different kinds of learners: 1. Quick to hear, and quick to forget; his gain is cancelled by his loss. 2. Slow to hear and slow to forget; his loss is cancelled by his gain. 3. Slow to hear and quick to forget; he learns and knows nothing. 4. Quick to hear and slow to forget; his profit and progress will be pleasing to God.

“Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”. God created us with two ears but only one mouth, that we may hear more and speak less. Those who are slow to speak and slow to wrath will not fall. Many of us would do well to listen more and to speak less. We may be tempted to be angry with our teacher, parent or preacher, but we do well to listen attentively, meditate on the Word and refrain from anger, wrath and debate.

To get the best from what we hear, we must put off “all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness”. We must be stripped of all vice and filthiness. James bids us to get rid of all defilement as a man strips off soiled garments. The original word used for “filthiness” is a derivative of ‘wax in the ear’. When wax gathers in the ear, it can make a man deaf. Filthiness, defilement, vice, sin can make a man deaf to God. Get rid of everything that will stop your ears to the true Word of God. The teachable spirit receives the whole Word with meekness.

2. PROMPT REFLECTION AND OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD

James 1:22-25; Matthew 7:24-27; Romans 2:13; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9-11, Psalm 119:15,16,48,59,60,93,97,104,112; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Luke 11:28; Revelation 22:14.

The Word of God is the focal point of our new life in Christ. Hearing the Word is not enough, it is important to turn what is heard into action. The man who hears but does not live by what he has heard is like one who looks in a mirror, and then goes away and forgets what to correct, and so does nothing about it. He remains just as he was, all his hearing has gone for nothing. Many people are like that. They substitute the hearing for the doing. They do not put the Word to practice. It is foolish to have bread in our hands and yet to die of hunger. If that is the typical pattern of your life, you may continue in religion and self-deception and be forever lost.

James calls the Word of God “the perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25). It is perfect because it cannot be improved upon, it cannot be made better. And it is complete; there is nothing to add, neither can we take anything away from it. It is the law of liberty because it reveals how we can have true liberty through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, Lord and Liberator.

Having God's grace to live a life well- pleasing unto Him is true freedom and liberty indeed. The Word liberates perfectly; it is "the perfect law of liberty."

3. PURE RELIGION AND SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

James 1:26,27; Galatians 6:3; Psalms 34:12-15; 141:3,4; Colossians 4:6; Galatians 6:2,9,10; 1 John 3:17-19; 2:15-17; James 4:4; Romans 12:2.

"Pure and undefiled religion" in the text refers to pure worship. Real worship does not lie in magnificent music or in a carefully ordered service but in the purity of one's own personal life and practical love and service to the poor, orphans, widows and the needy. It is good to endeavour to offer the noblest and the most splendid worship within God's house but all such worship is empty and vain unless we love God, our fellow-men and keep ourselves from the ways of the world. There are many who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. Such people who are self-deluded, deceived, tread a very dangerous path. Like the foolish virgins they are associated with the wise virgins and still will miss the kingdom.

Regeneration is a profound miracle that changes a person's heart, will, desires, lifestyle, tongue. He who thinks he is converted but has an uncontrolled tongue is self-deceived. True Christianity is manifested by how we love people, how we keep ourselves pure, keep our tongues under control and keep ourselves undefiled by the world. Those who live by the world's philosophy are friends of the world and are enemies of God.

BIBLE STUDY 2

THE TRIUMPH OF PATIENCE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

James 5:7-11

The first six verses of the chapter were addressed to wicked wealthy men who oppressed and defrauded the poor. Such oppression and cheating brought trials to believers who would be expecting the Lord to change their circumstances without delay or return immediately to bring an end to their trials. When we face difficulties, disappointments or disaster, a day seems to be longer than usual and weeks seem to stretch out like months. Under persecution and oppression we are tempted to be impatient.

The text for study (James 5:7-11) mentions patient or patience 5 times. We are exhorted and encouraged to be patient. The text opens with: "**Be patient therefore, brethren.**" The word "**therefore**" links us with the first six verses. James now addresses the "**brethren**" who were being oppressed, defrauded, persecuted and denied their rights. We must realize that because of the present condition and state of the world under Satan's rule, troubles and trials are inevitable part of life. Both sinners and Christians suffer troubles in the world, no one is exempted! "**Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward**" (Job 5:7). "**Knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren (relatives) that are in the world**" (1 Peter 5:9). "**In the world ye shall have tribulation**" (John 16:33). Yet, "**our light affliction... is but for a moment**" (2 Corinthians 4:17), it will not be long, it will soon be over. While it lasts, we are called and commanded to be patient. We need patience, endurance and perseverance. And God's grace is available to supply all the patience we need. "**Be patient**". "**Let patience have her perfect work**" (James 5:7; 1:4).

1. PATIENCE WHILE WAITING FOR CHRIST'S COMING

James 5:7,8; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Romans 8:18,24,25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Peter 1:6,7; 4:7; Hebrews 10:25,37.

"**Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.**" Most of us are eager for all trials and problems to be over in a moment. We tend to be impatient with situations and circumstances that test and try our patience. In all trials of life, we shall find that God's grace is sufficient for us. By His grace, we can remain patient no matter how severe or relentless our problems and persecutors are.

The reason for patience is hinged on the nearness of the return of our Lord - the Second Coming of Christ. "**Unto the coming of the Lord.**" "**For the coming of the Lord draweth nigh**" (James 5:7,8). The realization that things will not always be as they are now, that Christ will soon come to take us home and that all trials will soon be over makes us wait and hope in the Lord.

The truth about the second coming of Christ appears in more than 500 verses throughout the Bible. It is certain that Christ is coming again. But almost 2000 years have passed since He promised that He will come again. Yes, He is coming! The first prophecy of Christ's first coming, was given in Genesis 3:15. Though it took about 4000 years after that prophecy before He came. All signs in the world and in the sky now point to the imminence or nearness of His second coming. It will not be long, He will certainly come, very soon.

James gives us an illustration of the farmer to impress on us the necessity of waiting patiently. **"Behold, the husbandman (the farmer) waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain"** (James 5:7). The farmer in Palestine had to wait for the early rain to soften the soil before planting his crops. The "early rain" in Palestine arrives at the time of the planting season around October and November. He also had to wait patiently for the "latter rain" to ripen the crops for harvesting. The latter rain comes just before harvest time in March and April. As the farmer has to wait patiently, so believers must wait patiently for the appointed time on God's timetable for Christ's return to take us home. **"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh"** (James 5:8).

2. PEACE WHILE NOT COMPLAINING OF OUR CROSS

James 5:9; Leviticus 19:18; Galatians 5:14,15,26; 1 Peter 4:7-9; Mark 9:50; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Corinthians 4:5.

"Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned" (James 5:9). The brethren were undergoing different trials and carrying different crosses. Some suffered more, some suffered less. Some were severely oppressed, some were only slightly afflicted. Some were very poor, others were not so poor. Those who had a heavy cross to carry might grudge or complain against others who they might accuse as not caring enough. We are therefore cautioned against grudging, murmuring or complaining against one another. We must maintain peace among ourselves whatever crosses we may be bearing.

To be at peace with one another, we ought to love one another, bear one another's burden, care one for another, be patient with one another, overlook one another's faults, forgive one another, be merciful to one another, grudge not against one another, complain not against one another, be tender with one another and be watchful that we do not deliberately offend one another.

"Lest ye be condemned." Grudging against one another, complaining against one another and deliberately offending one another will bring condemnation in our hearts and on our lives. Again he reminds us, **"behold, the Judge standeth before the door"** (James 5:9). The Lord who knows our hearts and motives, who watches and weighs all our actions, who will judge everyone according to his work is about to come - **"standing before the door."**

3. PERSEVERANCE DURING CRISIS AND CONFLICTS

James 5:10,11; 2 Chronicles 36:15,16; Jeremiah 38:6; Matthew 5:11,12; Acts 7:52; Job 1:20-22; 2:9,10; 13:15,16; 23:8-12; 19:25-27; 42:10-13; Romans 15:4.

James reminds us of the example of the prophets in the Old Testament, who suffered affliction but bore all things patiently. They **"spoke in the name of the Lord", "suffering affliction"**. We are to take them **"for an example of patience"**. The **"patience"** here is not passive resignation to what they had to suffer but perseverance and endurance. There was persecution, some had crisis and conflicts with Gentiles and backslidden or false brethren, yet continued in the purpose of God for them.

Prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos and many others were sorely tried and persecuted yet they endured and patiently waited on the Lord. We too can endure and be patient in all our trials because God has said, **"My grace is sufficient for thee"** (2 Corinthians 12:9). **"Behold we count them happy (blessed) which endure"** (James 5:11). Those who endure and are patient with God, people and in their circumstances are blessed and will be finally and eternally happy.

He concludes his challenge to us with the example of Job. The story of Job was real, otherwise he would not have quoted it here to encourage us to be patient and to endure till the end. Job endured his trials and kept his faith in God till the end. He said, **"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him: but I will maintain mine own ways before Him"** (Job 13:15). **"For I know that my Redeemer liveth ..."** (Job 19:25). **"In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly"** (Job 1:22). At the end, God blessed him (Job 42:10-13). If we persevere in all crises and conflicts, trusting the Lord and serving Him faithfully, we shall see **"the end of the Lord (the outcome of the Lord's dealings) that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy"** (James 5:11).



DECEMBER 2020 RETREAT PROGRAMME

Theme: Turning Bitterness to Sweetness

ADULT

Day & Date	Prayer 9:30-10:00am	Faith Clinic 10.00-11.15am	Morning Message 11.15-12.20am	Bible Teaching 12.30-1.30pm	Break 1.30-4.00pm	Bible Study 4.00-5.00pm	Evening Message 5.00-6.00pm	Revival Session. 6.00-7.30pm
Friday Dec. 25	Prayer changes things, all things							Heavenly breakthrough despite hard bondage
Saturday Dec. 26	I will not let thee go except thou bless me. Gen 37:26	Saints' preservation by the Almighty	Sounding an alarm to the unconverted	Free, full and final redemption	BREAK	Profiting from the Word James 1:19-27	Dressed in God's whole armour for continual victory	Divine Guidance through the world's wilderness
Sunday Dec. 27	Enlarge my coast. Keep me from evil 1Ch 4:10	Fear not, favoured flock	Worship and Offering	Perpetual covenant with God's people		The triumph of patience in all circumstances James 5:7-11	Royal Ambassadors for Christ	Angels' food for peculiar pilgrims
Monday Dec. 28	Have Faith in God	Sanctification with Christ enthroned on our heart	Drinking for life from the smitten Rock	Faith changes circumstances; can change yours, too				