**SALTS COURSE**

**The School of the Spirit**

It is the prerogative of every one of us to prepare for service, and to be thoroughly equipped in every way to be effective for the Lord.

1. God does not need man to be involved, but has chosen to use man in His great plan. Amos 3:7

2. It is our responsibility, choice and privilege to discover His ways and mysteries, and begin to live in them. Prov. 25:2, Deut. 29:29

3. There is a company of ‘called out ones’ who will arise with the power and anointing of God —undefiled men and women who have kept themselves for the Lord to do and complete His work on earth. Psalm 94:12-16.

The ways of God in choosing His servants and their roles is beyond human understanding—our responsibility is to enthusiastically fulfil the call that is on our lives. Whilst we can seek to emulate the greatness of other men of God in the outworking of godly character it is unwise to endeavour to copy them.

Let’s consider Joshua. Why Joshua? —Why not Caleb or someone else? Caleb had a good testimony.

Joshua 14:6-12—God had chosen Joshua, which did not mean He rejected Caleb. It is imperative for us to recognise God’s authority and its distribution. In significant measure we are judged according to our response to God-ordained authority. Obedience alone gives the right to command.

Joshua’s journey

a) The preparation Exod. 33:7-11

b) The impartation Num. 27:18-23

 Deut. 34:9

c) The initiation Joshua 1:1-9

a. Time to arise - v2

b. Time to stand - v5

c. Time to take courage - v6

d. Time for obedience - v7A

e. Time for steadfastness of vision v7B

f. Time to be men and women of spiritual faith, motivated by God’s law, and not the precepts of men v8-9

Throughout the history of the church God has had His men whom He raised up for His own purposes. We are the men and women of God in our day—the challenge is not to question the call, but to prepare to fulfil the call.

Deut. 30:11, 14-15, 19-20

There is no greater privilege in life than to know the call of God and to respond in full obedience. We are bearers of the only message of hope for this world.

Let’s reflect on: Isaiah. 30:1-3; Isaiah. 31:1-3

**Graduating in the School of the Spirit**

Consider God’s principles of entering and graduating in His school of The Spirit found in Ezekiel 1-3, which teach us the basic principles in the School of Learning. I call it God’s School of The Spirit. It will cost you all that you have. This journey will require your obedience, submission, confidence, determination, assurance, steadfastness of faith, persistence and unwavering commitment.

From Isaiah 50:4-7

Verse 5: The Lord has opened my ear - obedience,

Verse 6: I gave you my back to the smiter - submission.

Verse 7: For The Lord God will help me - confidence.

Verse 7: I have set my face like flint - determination

Verse 7: I know I will not be ashamed - assurance.

Verse 5: I have not drawn back - steadfast faith.

Verse 4: And sustains the weary - persistence

Ezekiel. It is approximately 580 years B.C. Israel was captive in Babylon. Examine Psalm 137:1-6.

1. God reveals Himself: Ezekiel 1:1

“The Heavens were opened and I saw visions of God”. God begins to reveal Himself. A New Testament example is Paul on the road to Damascus - Acts 9, 1-6, 17-20.

2. God Calls us: Ezekiel 1:3

God begins to reveal His ways and purposes. “The Word of The Lord came expressly to Ezekiel, The Priest”. The Word that God gives to us through our waiting upon Him is not a borrowed revelation. He gives those who wait for Him a prophetic message.

3. God puts His hand on us; v.3b

“‘Ihere the Hand of The Lord was upon him”. The Holding Power of God. God gives protection and covering, direction and leading.

4. God speaks to us; Ezekiel 2:1

“And He said to me, ‘Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you”’. God’s great desire is to speak to His servants.

Amos 3:7 - “God wants to reveal His plans and His purposes to His servants first”.

Consider 1 Corinthians 2, verses 9 and 10 ­”However, as it is written, no eye has seen nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed it to us by His Spirit for the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God”: We need to be listening.

5. Fresh Empowerment; Ezekiel 2:2

.. As He spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet”.

He will endue us with His Power, with His Divine Ability.

One man once said concerning the Baptim of The Holy Spirit, “God has not given us His Holy Spirit for our enjoyment, but rather for our employment”. Of ourselves can do nothing. Consider 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 and Romans 15:17-19.

6. God Launches us; Ezekiel 2:3-4

“Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites…The people to whom I sending you are obstinate and stubborn. say to them, This is what the Sovereign Lord says…” He now commissions us and will equip us for whatever field ?He intends for us to serve Him.

7. In Depth Training; Ezekiel 2:6

“And you , Son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all about you, and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say, or terrified by them”. The real training starts and we are getting involved, that is when the heat is turned on. There are three areas of training here:

a) He says in verse 6, “And you son of man, neither fear them nor fear their words, though thistles and thorns are with you…” God sends to us in our School of Training to thistles and thorns. These in the Scripture are people representing those who have the ability to pull you down. The thorns and thistles help us to be shaped and formed and made and moulded so that we can grow exceedingly in Grace.

b) “. . . and you sit on scorpions. . . “. These represent the direct attacks of the devil and his demonhosts. Yes, scorpions come our way. Paul said that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers. We do not fear the devil or his demons, but recognise him, appreciating the fact that he is around.

c) “Now, you, son of man, listen to what I amspeaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I’m giving you”. Do not receive the influence of the world. Do not be tempted with the tantalising delicacies of this world.

8. He Feeds and Nourishes us

God knows what is best for us and will measure to us the appropriate measure to enlarge us. Consider Chapter 2:10, 3:1-3.

9. Ordination or Graduation

Having come through His School of the Spirit, we come to the grand finale, the Graduation Service. Chaper 3:10, “Son of man, I have appointed you, a watchman to the House of Israel. And whenever you hear a word from Mv mouth warn them from Me”.

**EMPLOYING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**AND MINISTERING DIVINE HEALING**

Jesus stated that the works He did, we should also do - even greater works than He did, because in going to the Father He would send us the Holy Spirit to help us.

1 John 2:20 & 27 The anointing falls into 4 areas:

Know the anointing

Know how the anointing works,

Know you have the anointing

Being prepared to operate in that anointing

We must realise, recognise and be assured that ‘I am anointed’. Jesus knew He was God’s anointed; Isaiah 61; Luke 4.

So you too are anointed; a chosen vessel; and have the power of the Holy Spirit.

There is a false spirit of humility that often negatively affects a Christian’s thinking. We hear so many times, comments like “I am nothing”, “I am a spiritual nobody”, which is true without Christ, but we ae not withour Christ and His resurrection power.

God wants us to be what He has created us to be. We are God’s answer and power in and for this world.

Fundamentals to move and function in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1. Jesus is the living Word. John 1:1 & 14.

2. We become that living word. - 11 Cor. 3: 2-3.

3. Learn how to draw on the anointing, as God’s resource centre in you.

4. Our faith in the presence of God’s anointing in us propels us to action.

5. 1 John 2:20 “I know all things” The anointing is in us to reveal to us the things of God that are hidden to the natural man. Do not pray for the anointing, but release that anointing which you have. Consider 1 John 2: 27 in detail.

6. Be open and desirous to minister in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit Consider 1 Peter 4 :10 & 11.

**Five Essentials TO Using THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is revealed as a dove. He is not rude, arrogant, does not embarrass, is sensitive and gentle.

Be sensitive to people, to the way the Holy Spirit is moving, to the way the previous leader has been operating.

2. Developing Faith to use the Gifts

We need to learn how to move in faith. This involves risk as it is the nature of faith. Without faith you will not be used in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

3. Experience

Have a go, recognising you will make mistakes, but you will only become proficient as you practise. Criticism comes from a minority, who seldom actually **do** anything in God.

4. Understand the Spiritual Gifts

1 Cor. 12:1, “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant”. We are to eamestly desire the spiritual gifts - 1 Cor. 14:1, coming to the place of boldness that Peter did at the Gate Beautiful ­Acts 3. Consider Matt. 18:18.

5. Speaking in the First Person

You are God’s oracle speaking on His behalf. Be confident that God is speaking to the people through you. In the prophetic utterances it is appropriate to speak in the first person.

when using the gifts, speak with authority. Guidelines to help.

a) Speak the first thing that comes into your mind.

b) Sometimes you may feel the physical symptoms of a person’s condition.

c) Sometimes you may receive a revelation or vision.

**MINISTERING DIVINE HEALING**

Luke writing to Theophilus wrote, “In my former book , I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and TEACH until the day He was taken up to Heaven, after giving INSTRUCTION through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles He had chosen.

Much of Jesus’ ministry was taken up in doing rather than preaching. If the Church has failed in any area it is in this very thing - “To do the Will of the Father who has sent me”.

It takes less faith to teach than to demonstrate the power of God.

1. Three keys to the demonstration of God’s Power.

a) Faith, in God,in your self, ministry and the Word.

b) Boldness.

c) Understanding the anointing.

2. JESUS DELEGATES HIS AUTHORITY

a) Authority given Matt. 10:1; Luke 9:1.

b) Authority given to heal and deliver; Matt 10:1&7-8; Luke 10:1, 17:20; 9:1-2.

c) This ministry continues after the Ascension; Acts 8:4-17

Jesus said it was for us to do these works and even Greater works than He did. - John 14:12-14.

3. Believe and See

Believe in your God given role, your God given gifts, your God given character, your God given insight, your God given background.

We are all unique to God. We have been gifted with God’s charismata to work the works of Him who has called us, that He might be glorified and men set free.