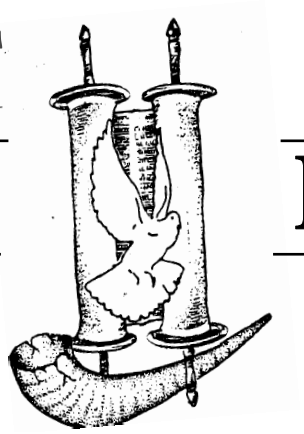
GELOOF FAITH

In Die Woord In The Word



Geloof is uit die gehoor en die gehoor is deur die Woord van God Rom. 10:17

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Rom. 10:17

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DAAR IS KRAG IN DIE BLOED

Gedurende die Paasseremonie, was die bloed van die lam in skottels opgevang. Die oomblik toe die bloed na die Israeliete se verblyfplekke oorgeplaas is, was hulle veilig, met een voorwaarde egter: hulle moes binne-in hul huise wees.

Hierdie waarheid is baie belangrik: die bloed beskerm slegs die gehoorsame. Jy is veilig terwyl jy gehoorsaam is. Laat ons na **1Pet.1:2** kyk. Petrus groet die **"vreemdelinge van die verstrooiing** *(in Grieks, diaspora)"* **(v1)**. Hy het spesifiek die Jode buite Israel aangespreek wie **"uitverkore was volgens die voorkennis van God die Vader, in die heiligmaking van die Gees, tot gehoorsaamheid en besprenkeling met die bloed van Jesus Christus."**
Let daarop dat *gehoorsaamheid* voor *besprenkeling* kom. Die bloed is nie oor die ongehoorsame gesprinkel nie. Die bloed beskerm nie die wat uit die huis gaan nie. Dit beskerm slegs diegene wat onder of deur die bloed bedek is. Onthou, alhoewel daar volkome beskerming in die bloed is, is dit slegs vir die gehoorsame alleen.

Deur weereens na die Paasseremonie van Israel te kyk, is daar 'n belangrike vraag: Hoe kom ons by die gestorte bloed – na die voltooiing van die offer – na die plek waar ons bly? Solank die bloed in die skottel bly, kan dit niks goeds doen nie. Dit is beskikbaar, maar beteken niks nie. Die Israeliete moes die eenvoudige plant, nl. hissop neem, dit in die bloed druk en dit aan die deurkosyne en bokant die deure smeer. Slegs dan was hulle beskerm. Tog in die Paasseremonie, het iets anders die aanwending van die bloed vooraf gegaan.
Laat ons na **1 Kor.** kyk, waar Paulus die lering van Paasfees en die Fees van Ongesuurde Brood toepas op die Christene. Elke Joodse familie moes alles wat suurdeeg bevat het vir sewe dae uit hulle huise verwyder het. Die Ortodokse Jode doen dit nog steeds.

Suiwer dan die ou suurdeeg uit, sodat julle 'n nuwe deeg kan wees — soos julle inderdaad ongesuurd is — want ook ons paaslam is vir ons geslag, naamlik Christus. Laat ons dan feesvier, nie met die ou suurdeeg of met die suurdeeg van ondeug en boosheid nie, maar met die ongesuurde brode van reinheid en waarheid (1Kor.5:7-8).

Ons moet ook die ou suurdeeg -sonde- uit ons lewens verwyder, sodat ons 'n lewe van gehoorsaamheid aan God kan leef. Dit stel die bloed in staat om elke area in ons lewens te beskerm.

In **1 Kor. 5:7** verbind Paulus die Paasfees van die Ou Testament met die kruisiging van Jesus: **Want ook ons Paaslam is vir ons geslag, naamlik Christus** (die Messias).
Daar is 'n baie duidelike toepassing van die Paasfees na die offer van Jesus aan die kruis. Ons kan sê dat die Paaslam feitlik twintig eeue gelede gedood is en dat Sy bloed in die skottel is. Sy bloed is gestort, maar die bloed kan ons nie beskerm terwyl dit in die skottel bly nie. Ons moet die bloed

(Vervolg op bls. 2)

(Vervolg vanaf bls. 1)
verskuif van die skottel na die plek waar ons bly.
Onder die ou verbond is hissop gebruik, maar wat gebruik ons onder die nuwe verbond? Die antwoord is ons getuienis. Ons persoonlike getuienisse neem die bloed uit die skottel en wend dit aan ons "huise" – ons lewens, ons omstandighede en ons families. Ons oorwin Satan wanneer ons persoonlik getuig oor wat die Woord sê dat die bloed van Jesus vir ons doen.
Die belangrikste dag in die godsdienstige jaar van die Joodse volk was die Versoendag, vandag bekend as Yom Kippur. Net op daardie dag het die hoëpriester in die Allerheiligste gegaan met die bloed van die offer, wat die sondes van Israel vir nog 'n jaar sou bedek.

Hy (die hoëpriester) **moet daarna van die bloed van die bul met sy vinger sprinkel op die deksel se voorkant en dan ook nog sewe maal op die grond voor die deksel (Lev.16:14).**
Die bloed kon net versoening bied vir die sondes van God se volk en dit moes in die teenwoordigheid van Almagtige God in die Allerheiligste gebring word. Die bloed moes *sewe* keer gesprinkel moes word. Hierdie getal was nie toevallig nie, want in die Bybel dui die getal sewe die werk van die Heilige Gees aan. Sewe is ook die getal van volkomenheid of perfektheid. Hierdie voorskrif is presies vervul op die manier hoe Jesus Sy bloed gestort het. Sy bloed was presies sewe keer gestort voordat die offer voltooi was.

Op Versoendag is die bloed van die offer sewe keer voor God die Vader gesprinkel **(sien Lev. 16:14).** Ons sien hierdie voorskrif presies vervul in die offer van Jesus aan die kruis in die Nuwe Testament.
Eerste: Sy sweet het bloed geword. Tweede: Die Romeinse soldate Hom met hul vuiste en stokke in die gesig geslaan. Derde: Hulle het Hom met 'n Romeinse sweep gegesel. Vierde: Sy baard is uigepluk. Vyfde: Dorings is diep in Sy kopvel gedruk. Sesde:Sy hande en voete is met spykers deurboor. Sewe: 'n Spies is in Sy sy gesteek.
Dit is die maat van Christus se liefde. Dit het letterlik alles wat Hy gehad het gekos. Hy het eenvoudig nie net Sy heerlikheid, Sy troon en Sy majesteit as God opgegee nie. Hy het eenvoudig nie net Sy paar aardse besittings as mens op aarde opgegee nie. Hy het Homself opgegee. Dit was Sy eie lewe wat Hy in Sy bloed uitgegiet het as die verlossings prys. Dink oor die geweldige werklikheid en weet dat dit die maat is van God se liefde. Dit is om die minste te sê oorweldigend.
Ons is verlos of terug gebring uit ons ou bose, goddelose leefwyse, uit die greep van Satan, uit die veroordeling van sonde en om oop te wees vir die aanvalle van die verslinder en die vernietiger. Maar: *Hoe* is ons terug gebring?
Omdat julle weet dat julle nie deur verganklike dinge, silwer of goud, losgekoop is uit julle ydele lewenswandel wat deur die vaders oorgelewer is nie, maar deur die kosbare bloed van Christus, soos van 'n lam sonder gebrek en vlekkeloos (1Pet.1:18-19).
Ons is verlos deur die kosbare bloed van Jesus Christus-sonder vlek, sonder oorspronklike sonde; sonder besoedeling, sonder persoonlike sonde-die sondelose Lam van God wat die sondes van die wêreld weggeneem het. Dit is slegs deur Sy bloed dat ons verlos is. Daar was geen ander bedrag wat die prys kon betaal om ons verlossing te verkry nie.
Psalm 91 is genoem die "atoom tydperk psalm." Dit is 'n Psalm van volmaakte beskerming van enige soort boosheid, gevaar en skade-hoe dit ook mag kom, op watter manier en watter tyd ook al. Baie Christene ken hierdie Psalm goed. Maar kom ons kyk na die eerste twee verse: **HY wat in die skuilplek van die Allerhoogste sit, sal vernag in die skaduwee van die Almagtige (v.1).**

Die woord *vernag* word gebruik om die aktiwiteit te beskryf van *om die nag deur te bring*. Dit sê vir ons dat gedurende die ure van donkerte, sal die ware gelowige onder die skaduwee of beskerming van die Almagtige wees.
Let op die tweede vers: **Ek sal tot die Here sê: My toevlug en my bergvesting, my God op wie ek vertrou.**

Dit is die voorkamer, die ingang na die volkome beskereming van die oorblywende verse van die Psalm. Dit is jou belydenis: "*Ek sal sê.*" As jy dit nie sê nie, sal jy dit nie verkry nie. Dit het egter moed nodig om te sê wat in Ps.91 volg. Maar dit is slegs hulle wat dit sê, wat die skriftuurlike reg het om daarin te leef. Dit is die woord van ons belydenis wat dit effektief maak.

FREE FROM FEAR

We are living in tumultuous times, in a world system that fluctuates from day to day, and these changes bring forth insecurity and confusion in the lives of many people, resulting in fear and anxiety. Many prayer requests come into the Centre daily, and we aware of the fact that a growing number, are for people who desire to be set free from fear.

Fear is gripping the lives of so many people of all ages, from all walks of life, and throughout the world. It is a tormenting spirit that engulfs its victim, taking advantage of situations and circumstances that are taking place in these present times in which we are living. Fear attacks the mind, and those who suffer from it will tell you that they feel hopeless and helpless. If not dealt with, it becomes an uncontrollable, never-ending cycle, one that is activated by Satan himself. Fear manifests itself in many different forms, such as panic attacks, extreme states of anxiety and various phobias. The good news is that there IS a cure for those experiencing fear, and, if you are one of them, we need to assure you of this in order that you have the hope that is necessary to believe that there is a solution to the desperate situation you may be facing right now. The Lord declares in: **Jer. 29:11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope .**

You can take heart, right at the start, because Jesus assures us in **Matthew 19:26.... With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**

The place to begin, is by establishing what God, our Creator, has to say about fear, because He alone is our Deliverer. The good news is that He not only WANTS to deliver you from all fear, but that He is WELL ABLE to do so, therefore trust Him because He made you, breathed His life into you, and is the only One who totally understands what you are going through and how you can get the victory. His Word says that He knows what we have need of long before we ask Him (Matt.6:8). He is a caring and compassionate **Heavenly Father** who loves His children and desires that they should live free from all anxiety and torment – just as any loving earthly father would want for his child. To this end, God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to die the most agonizing death so that whoever receives Him might have Eternal life and abundant life here on Earth (John 3:16 and John 10:10).

The first and most important truth we should know about fear is that it is a **spiritual** problem, and that it originates from Satan and NOT from God. The Word tells us in **2 Tim. 1:7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** In other words, we have been given power, love AND A SOUND MIND by the One Who created us! **The Word also tells us that, not only is fear a "spirit", but that it is a tormenting spirit, and Satan is the one who torments, NOT God.** Jesus told His disciples: **The thief** (the **devil) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I (Jesus) am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly (John 10:10).**

When you realise how much your Heavenly Father really loves you, you will learn that you can trust Him in all situations and circumstances, knowing that He desires only what is best for you – just as all loving parents do for their children.

The Word of God says that: There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love (1John 4:18). We suggest that you read 1 John chapters 4 and 5 to see how much God really loves you. Your Heavenly Father wants you to have deeply embedded in your heart, this certainty of His perfect, unconditional love for you, and His ability to take care of you in every circumstance. To know that you know, that you know! He wants you to be able to trust Him in every area of your life and in every situation, because He is able to undertake for you in ways that only an Almighty God can – if you give each burden and problem to Him and trust Him to do so! TRUSTING HIM IS SIMPLY HAVING FAITH IN HIM! And to be able to trust Him, you must know that He is always faithful ! This knowledge comes by knowing His revealed will in His Word, and His Word is just as reliable as God is Himself. He declared that He and His Word are ONE. (John 1:1)

The spirit of fear manifests itself whenever there is an absence of faith. We read in **Heb. 11:6: But without faith it is impossible to please *Him:* for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.**

Fear is a spirit with the sole purpose of destroying our trust in Father God, Jesus Christ and

the Word of God.

Prov. 29:25: The Fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso puteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Psalm 118:6: The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Heb. 13:6: So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

When we walk in fear, we become restricted and timid, lacking the boldness that should be one of our attributes as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. The lack of courage which is usually displayed in the fearful, results in lives filled with excuses and apologies, lives that fall far, far short of the abundance and liberty available to us in Christ, and many who suffer with fear, are genuinely sincere children of God. However, Praise God, it is written in **Dan. 11:32. ... the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits* ,** and that includes you and me.

To illustrate this, we are given a thought provoking account of "faith versus fear" and the resulting consequences, in the book of Numbers, chapter 13. The Israelites, led by Moses through the wilderness, came to the Land that God had promised to them and had instructed them to, "go in and possess", and had assured them that He would be with them in battle. Twelve scouts were sent by Moses to spy out the land of Canaan, and to bring back information concerning the terrain. Together they set off, but ten of the twelve returned in fear and trepidation, and gave a bad report saying **... We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. (Num. 13:31-33)**

The ten, completely ignored God's promise about the land they were to possess, and claimed that it was impossible to take possession of it, even though the Lord had told them that He would be with them to ensure their victory! These ten scouts had hearts filled with fear, negativism and lack of faith in God's word, thus declaring: **We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we**. However, there were two men with faith in their God, Joshua and Caleb, they believed the God of Israel and gave this report: **We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, LET US GO UP AT ONCE, AND POSSESS IT; FOR WE ARE WELL ABLE TO OVERCOME IT. (Num 13:27-30).**

Joshua and Caleb were not deceived , they had seen the exact same picture as the other ten scouts had seen, BUT INSPITE OF WHAT THEY SAW, THEY CHOSE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD SUCCEED AND BE VICTORIOUS IN TAKING THE LAND, BECAUSE GOD HAD PROMISED IT TO THEM AND THEY KNEW THAT HE WOULD BE WITH THEM TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE HAD ORDAINED! Their mindset was: **'Be strong and full of courage, be not afraid … the Lord our God is with us'.** Unfortunately the Israelites sided with those who were in unbelief, and consequently missed God's purpose for their lives. They wandered in the wilderness for forty years and died before the Promised Land was entered. Only Joshua and Caleb and their families experienced the joy of entering Canaan some forty years later. They had believed God and trusted His word, and He brought it to pass in their lives according to their faith and trust in His Word, which had made them fearless.

We all know the wonderful account of David, the young Shepherd boy who faced the giant Goliath, whom everyone feared. Goliath was a formidable enemy of Israel and mocked the God of Israel.

We read in **1 Samuel 17:4-8: And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span. And *he had* an helmet of brass upon his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of brass. And *he had* greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.**

Can you imagine the fear and unbelief that reigned in the hearts of the people as Goliath thundered his challenge. Yet we see how the victory was won in the face of all odds, by God, using a young shepherd boy, because of David's uncompromising faith and trust in his Lord – his boldness in defending the Name of the God of Israel. **1 Samuel 17:26: And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?**

1 Samuel 17:32-33: And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art but* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

1 Samuel 17:40, 44-47 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.... And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

1 Samuel 17:49-51 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang *it,* and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but *there was* no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

This great victory won for the Lord, which caused all the Philistines to flee, was made possible by one young man who trusted in his God, in His ability and in His faithfulness. He is still the same God whom we serve today, He assures us in **Mal. 3:6: For I *am* the LORD, I change not;** He delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego out of the fiery furnace when, commanded to worship the image, they refused to do so, and they came out of that fire unscathed, not even smelling of smoke! (Dan. 3:18,26). What the Lord did for Joshua and Caleb, for David the young shepherd boy, for Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego, and many others we read of in the Bible, He will do for you and for me, IF WE TRUST HIM AND ARE BOLD!

We have already established that God did not give us a spirit of fear and timidity, and this is in agreement with James 1:17, which says that God is the giver of all good gifts – fear is certainly not good, so we know that it cannot come from Him! **Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.** FEAR has its roots in lack of trust (unbelief), in the same way that FAITH has its roots in trust (belief). The Word of God declares that anything that is not of FAITH, is sin. **Rom 14:23b.... : for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin.**

We need to face the fact that to fear is to sin, and the last thing I want to do here, is to bring anyone under condemnation. Our Heavenly Father understands how we feel when we are fearful, He knows how we suffer because of it, but He wants us to realise that it is sin in His eyes, because it displays our lack of faith and trust in Him. Fear is the opposite of faith, and it is FAITH that moves the Hand of God. It is belief in His ability on our behalf that pleases Him and motivates Him to give us the victory in the areas of our greatest fears. It is only when you fully realise that fear, in essence, is the product of doubt and unbelief , that you will be determined to do what it takes to rid yourself of fear. In later chapters we deal with the practical issues of how to overcome fear.

If Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour, your desire will be to please Him and live your life as a testimony for His Glory. If you are not serious about being freed from fear, then our next question must be how great is your desire to please God?

You need to know at the outset, that there is no way to live fear-free without Jesus Christ being the Lord of your life. This is step number one to victory, because, on the cross of Calvary, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, triumphed over Satan and broke his power. **(Col. 2:15) *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, He** (Jesus) **made a show of them openly, triumphing over**

them in it. (the Cross). And we read in

1 John. 3:8: He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Jesus, overcame Satan's powers on the cross and triumphed over every one of them. That was why He came to earth, to destroy the works of the evil one – Satan or the devil- and to set us free from his slavery.

Since we have established that Fear is a spirit – a demonic spirit that takes instructions from the devil, you need Jesus in command of your life, because He overcame Satan at Calvary and is therefore the only One who can break this stronghold of fear in your life. If you have never accepted Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as your personal Saviour, and made Him Lord of your life, you need to do that right now. Recognise that you are a sinner and have need of a Saviour. Ask God for forgiveness of your sin and repent of them. Then pray a simple prayer acknowledging that Jesus died for your sins on the Cross of Calvary, shedding His precious blood to make atonement for you, thereby reconciling you to your Heavenly Father. Ask Him to take the reins of your life and to be your Saviour, Healer and Deliverer, your Lord and your God. Then begin to thank Him for hearing and answering your prayer and for coming into your life, making you a child of God and giving you Eternal life. **John 1:12** assures us**: But as many as received Him**, (Jesus) **to them gave He power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on His name:**

1 John 5:11-13: And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

You, child of God, are now on the winning side and have the Resurrected Jesus who overcame all fear indwelling you by His Holy Spirit, thereby enabling you to do likewise!

.. **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Php. 4:13).** God's promises are faithful and true. Hallelujah!

TWO LAWS AT WAR

The Bible teaches that there are two laws in operation in this life, and they are, the Law of Life and the Law of Sin and Death. Through the Blood sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we, who receive Him as Lord, have been freed from the Law of Sin and Death. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)**

In the Book of Genesis, we read of the creation of Man. **And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: So God created man in His *own* image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. (Gen 1:26-27) .** God made Adam and Eve perfect, He blessed them and gave them stewardship over His entire creation. **And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. (Gen 2:8).** The Lord walked and had fellowship with them in the garden each day. They had been given everything they could possibly desire to live a blessed and contented life, to be fruitful and multiply, as the Lord had requested, and to eat of every tree in the garden except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Gen.2:16-17). God told them that if they disobeyed Him and ate of it, they would die. Satan deceived them by tempting them with the promise that if they ate of the forbidden fruit, not only would they NOT die, but they would become like gods, knowing good and evil. So they chose to believe Satan's lie, and to disobey God's command. They ate of the fruit and their fellowship with God was broken. The Law of Sin and Death came into effect immediately they rebelled against the will of God. Death had never been part of God's plan for mankind, but through one man's sin, death with all its destructive, sinful influences, became part of man's lot. After Adam had sinned, the very first words he said to God were, "**I heard thy voice and I was AFRAID!" (Gen 3:1-10).** With sin, came death, and with death, came FEAR, - and the origin of death and fear is Satan himself.

Of course, God created man with a free will, so Adam and Eve had the choice of either obeying or disobeying God, and through rebelling against Him and disobeying His instructions, they were banished from the Garden of Eden. God's curse came upon the Earth and He cursed the serpent Satan, but man, through his disobedience, came under Satan's rule. The wonderful news is that God, at the same time, promised, that there would come a Seed from woman and that He would crush the head of the serpent (Satan), - and Jesus came in the fullness of time and did just that!

(Rom 5:19-21) For as by one man's disobedience (Adam) **many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One** (Jesus) **shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.** Those who believe in Him shall not die, but have eternal life. Jesus said: **And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:26)**

Satan cannot create something out of nothing, so

what he does, is to pervert, corrupt, destroy and contaminate that which God has already created. What God creates is always good, because that is His Nature**. (Gen 1:31) And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, *it was* very good.** The meaning of Satan's name on the other hand, is The Destroyer! This is in keeping with John 10:10 ; **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:** Satan, the Destroyer came to destroy the peace and relationship which existed between man and his Creator in the Garden of Eden, by causing man's downfall.

Satan is a tempter, a liar and a deceiver, and there is no truth in him (John 8:44), and because he is unable to create, as the enemy of God, he aims to destroy that which already exists.

Death destroys life, hate destroys love and fear destroys faith. The faith that God gave to Adam was supposed to preserve life, but when Satan intervened, this faith was corrupted and the spirit of FEAR manifested in man for the first time. Adam said; **'I was … afraid' (Gen.3:8).** The simple childlike trust in his Creator, had been all he had known previously, and now that he knew "good and evil", fear had become part of his life. Faith and fear work in the same way, BUT THEY BRING OPPOSITE RESULTS. Faith brings us closer to God whilst fear does just the opposite.

When Adam chose to obey Satan, rebellion in man was conceived, simultaneously the rule of Sin and Death came into operation. Adam had only known how to LIVE by the Word of God, up and until then. When he rebelled against God's Word, spiritual death came upon him. He was now ruled by sin and death under the headship of Satan whom he had chosen to obey, and was spiritually separated from God. When you separate yourself from God and His Word, you separate yourself from LIFE. Adam did this, and with his spiritual death came the process of physical death too.

The Law of Life on earth was perverted and became the Law of Sin and Death. In God's hands lies the Law of LIFE while in Satan's hands it became the Law of DEATH. The same end awaited both Adam and Jesus –eventual death – Adam through his disobedience, Jesus through His act of obedience.

And being found in fashion as a man, He (Jesus) **humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Phil. 2:8).**

We read of these two spiritual laws in **Rom.8:2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**

In the domain of Satan where DEATH (the curses) rules, we find fear, unbelief, sin and death, sickness, suffering, worry and anxiety. Where the Law of the Spirit of LIFE (the blessings) operates we find faith, life and righteousness, healing and Divine health, peace, love and joy, all attributes of Father God.

The price that Jesus paid as a living, human sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, was two-fold. He did not only come to destroy the works of Satan and offer us Eternal life, but also to free us from the power of darkness and bondage of sin and death. We read in **Hebrews 2:14-15: For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He** (Jesus) **also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them, who through FEAR OF DEATH WERE ALL THEIR LIFETIME SUBJECT TO BONDAGE.**

Here the actual phrase ***'fear of death'*** is used – the result of the Law of Sin and Death. **Jesus came to earth to destroy Satan who held the power of death, and to free those who are held in slavery to Satan.** Hallelujah!

We read in Col.1:12-14, of the wonderful inheritance we have in Jesus because of His great sacrifice made for our salvation: **Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:**

To break the power of death, Jesus had to take upon Himself the curse of the law in both the physical and spiritual realms. We read in **Gal 3:13-14: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

When that great price was paid by Jesus' death on the cross, He was buried, and after three days, God raised Him from the dead and, the Law of the Spirit of Life was once again restored and available to those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Jesus made it possible for you and me to be FREE from Satan's dominion. We can KNOW with certainty that the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has liberated us from the Law of Sin and Death, and since fear falls into the category of sin and death, we have been freed from its torment and dominion.

(Continued next month……..)

Uit ons Kantoor

Geliefdes in Jesus,

Een van die Skrifgeleerdes het vir Jesus gevra **"wat is die grootste gebod van almal** ?" en Jesus het hom geantwoord.....(Mark. 12: 28-31). Ek het altyd gesê om jou naaste soos jouself lief te hê, beteken eintlik om nie iets aan enigiemand te doen wat jy nie aan jouself gedoen wil hê nie, en die gevolg is dat as ons die Here met ons hele liggaam, siel en krag lief het ons begeerte sal wees om Hom in alles wat ons doen en sê te behaag.

Ons ontvang daagliks baie, emails, briewe en telefoon oproepe by die Sentrum van mense met desperate behoeftes en gebroke huwelike en aanvalle op huwelike is prominent tussen die gebedsversoeke! Satan sal altyd probeer om 'n huwelik op te breek deur elke moontlike manier tot sy beskikking en dit is omdat, volgens die skrif die huwelik van 'n man en 'n vrou 'n verbond is wat met God gemaak is en 'n belofte wat aan mekaar gemaak is en dui simbolies op die Here Jesus Christus (Bruidegom) en die Kerk (Sy Bruid). Efesiërs 5: 22-29 (misterie van Christus en Sy Kerk). Hierdie feit is die rede vir Satan se aanhoudende pogings om wrywing tussen 'n man en vrou te veroorsaak met die doel van algehele vernietiging (soos met Adam en Eva wat die eerste sonder was), en daarom moet ons, ons huwelik met al ons krag bewaak. Wanneer ons bewus is van Satan se einddoel kan ons, " so versigtig soos slange en so opreg soos duiwe" wees (Matt. 10:16) deur hom nie toegang in jou huwelik te gee nie, maak nie saak wat die provokasie mag wees nie, want dit is ons tweede belangrikste verhouding na ons verhouding met ons Here Jesus Christus.

Hou dit in gedagte, dieselfde geld vir ons omgang in die lewens van andere. Jesus het goed geweet dat die harte van baie gebreek sou word en dit is waarom Hy in Luk. 4:14 verklaar het dat Hy gestuur is om " die verbryseldis van hart te genees ". Laat ons strewe om waar moontlik lewe en nie dood in situasies te bring en om vredemakers te wees van wie Jesus in Matt. 5:9 gespreek het. Jesus het gesê dat hulle geseën sou word en seuns van die Here genoem sou word. Dit is so maklik om te praat voordat ons dink van hoe ons woorde andere sal affekteer, en wanneer die woorde gespreek is is dit onmoontlik om hulle terug te trek. Harde woorde en dade kan verwoestende gevolge in andere se lewens hê en die Woord sê vir ons dat ons verantwoordelik is vir elke ydel woord wat deur ons gespreek is en verseker ook vir elke harde en skadelike daad wat ons 'n ander aangedoen het. Laat ons dus bely, om vergifnis vra en aanbeweeg deur elke "bose" met die "goeie" te oorwin, om selfs genade te bewys aan die wat ons haat en ons nydig misbruik, omdat dit die natuur van ons genadige en liefdevolle Here is wat geduldig en goed met elkeen van ons is. Soos ons 'n seën vir almal word, beginnende by ons Here dan ons gade, familielede, vriende en selfs vyande sal ons die seëninge en belonings oes wat Jesus aan ons in Sy Woord beloof het.

Lente is in aantog en Lente bring die begin van 'n ander kringloop. Dit is 'n seisoen wat hoop en nuwe begin reflekteer, laat ons daarom opnuut ons verhouding met die Here en andere benader, in ons harte besluit om nie net die Here met ons hele liggaam, siel en krag lief te hê nie, om ons huwelik te lei en ons huweliksmaat soos nooit te vore lief te hê nie, maar om ook ons naaste lief te hê soos ons onsself lief het.

Ons wil elkeen van julle bedank vir jul liefde en ondersteuning deur gebed en finansies wat ons in staat stel om aan te hou uitreik na die verlorenes op die grootpaaie en sypaaie met die wonderlike en kragtige boodskap van die Evangelie van ons Here Jesus Christus.
Wees verseker van ons waardering, ons liefde en gebede.

Meg en die Gebedspan

Skatkis

Daarom sê Ek vir julle: Moenie julle kwel oor jul lewe – wat julle sal eet en wat julle sal drink nie; of oor jul liggaam – wat julle sal aantrek nie. Is die lewe nie meer as die voedsel en die liggaam as die klere nie?(Matt.6:25)

In werklikheid bly ons stresvlakke baie hoog, omdat die dinge van hierdie lewe op ons toesak en waarskynlik meeste van die tyd, die fokus is!

Die grootte van ons uitkyk op die wêreld beïnvloed dit waarop ons fokus. Met ander woorde, as ons uitkyk net strek tot by onsself en ons geliefdes. Jesus weet dit en moedig ons aan om ons uitkyk te verbreed. Indien ons besorg is oor verlore siele, hulle wat gebroke en behoeftes het dan verminder ons behoeftes in die lig hiervan en die feit is dat ons bekommernis saam met dit begin verdwyn. Neem Corrie ten Boom as voorbeeld, sy was in die slegste situasie denkbaar, in 'n konsentrasiekamp, tog het sy die liefde van Jesus aan die rondom haar, verkondig. Dit het daardie omgewing van 'n moeras na 'n kerk verander en het haar verlos van selfbejammering en angs aangaande haar aardse lot!

Soos ons saam met Jesus in Sy hemelse dimensie wandel, bokant die wêreldse en skynbaar belangrike dinge, sien ons sy woord lewend word soos ons voort beweeg in Sy beloftes en in lyn met Sy hart!