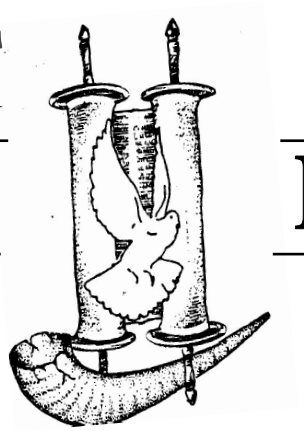
# GELOOF FAITH

## 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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# Woorde van Troos en Hoop

### Hernu jou Geloof in Moeilike Tye

Jesus het lering aan 'n groot menigte gegee, toe die mense honger begin raak het. Hy het Sy dissipel Filippus eenkant geneem en aan hom 'n belangrike vraag gestel: **"Waarvandaan sal ons brood koop, sodat hierdie mense kan eet?" Maar Hy het dit gesê om hom op die proef te stel, want Hy het self geweet wat Hy wou doen (Joh.6:5-6).**

Jesus het gesê: " Filippus hierdie duisende mense is honger. Sê vir my, hoe gaan ons hulle kos gee? Wat dink jy moet ons doen? Hoe ongelooflik liefdevol van Christus. Hy het al die tyd geweet wat Hy sou doen; die vers sê dit vir ons. Tog het Hy probeer om iets belangriks vir Filippus te leer. Die les wat Hy wou gee is van groot belang vir ons vandag.

Op die oomblik steier die wêreld op 'n afgrond soos geen ander tyd in die geskiedenis nie. Die huidige oproerigheid kom in 'n tyd waar Christene oral beproewinge, soos nooit tevore, in die gesig staar. Menigtes sit amper die hele nag om hul probleme te probeer uitsorteer: " Miskien sal dit werk – nee, nee. Miskien sal daardie dit oplos – nee, nee dit sal ook nie werk nie. Wat gaan ek doen?"

Toe Jesus hierdie vraag aan Filippus gerig het, het die dissipel nie net 'n brood probleem gehad nie. Hulle het 'n bakkery probleem, 'n geld probleem, 'n verspreidings probleem, 'n vervoer probleem en 'n tyds probleem gehad. Tel dit bymekaar en hulle het probleme wat hulle hulle nie kon voorstel nie. Hul toestand was totaal onmoontlik.

Geliefde bedink dit; In die middel van jou onmoontlike situasie, kom Jesus na jou en vra: " Wat gaan ons omtrent dit doen?" Hy weet presies wat Hy gaan doen. Hy het 'n plan. Nogtans wil Hy ook weet hoe jy, Sy dienaar, jou moeilikhede in die gesig gaan staar.

Die regte antwoord van Filippus sou wees: " Jesus, U is God. Niks is onmoontlik vir U nie. Dus gee ek hierdie probleem nou vir U. Dit is nie langer myne nie, maar U s'n."

Meer as enigiets, wou Jesus gehad het dat Filippus die woorde sou onthou wat Hy reeds met hom gespreek het oor God se getrouheid. Ek glo dat Christus dieselfde vir Sy mense vandag wil hê. Hy het aan ons kragtige woorde van vertroosting en hoop gegee vir net so 'n tyd van krisis. Ons moet onsself aan hierdie waarhede herinner soos ons, ons tyd van groot behoefte in die gesig staar.

**God herinner ons: " Ek is krag en Ek is ook vertroosting."**

**" Ek voel innig jammer vir die skare, omdat hulle al drie dae by My bly en niks het om te eet nie; en Ek wil hulle nie graag honger wegstuur nie, sodat hulle nie miskien op die pad beswyk nie" (Matt. 15:32).** Jesus maak hier 'n stelling aan gelowiges in elke geslag. Hy sê vir ons: "Ek sal meer vir my mense doen as om hulle te genees. Ek gaan seker maak dat hulle genoeg brood het om te eet. Ek is besorg oor alles aangaande hul lewens. "

"Ek wil hê dat julle moet besef dat Ek meer as net krag is. Ek is ook meegevoel. As jy My net as 'n Geneser of Wonder werker sien, sal jy My net vrees. As jy My egter ook as medelydend, 'n Gewer van goeie geskenke sien, sal jy my liefhê en My Woord vertrou."

Ek skryf hierdie boodskap aan elke Christen wat op die punt van uitputting is, op die punt is om flou te val, oorweldig is deur jou teenwoordige situasie. Jy was 'n getroue dienskneg, ander kos gegee, oortuig dat God die onmoontlike vir Sy mense kan doen. Tog het jy aanhoudende twyfel oor God se gewilligheid om in te tree in jou teenwoordige gesukkel.

Dink aan hulle in die liggaam van Christus aan wie jy woorde van geloof en hoop gegee het, mense wat skynbaar hopelose situasies beleef het. Jy het hulle aangemoedig: "Hou vas! God is 'n wonder werker en Sy beloftes is waar. Moenie moed verloor nie, want Hy gaan jou uitroep beantwoord. "

Ek het soveel keer aanmoediging geoffer. Tog het die Heilige Gees vir my kort gelede gevra: "Glo jy werklik aan wonderwerke?" My antwoord was: "Ja, Here natuurlik glo ek. Ek glo in elke wonderwerk wat ek in die Skrif gelees het." Tog is hierdie antwoord nie goed genoeg nie. God se vraag aan Sy mense vandag is: " Glo jy dat Ek 'n wonderwerk vir jou kan doen?" Nie net een won-

*(Vervolg op Bl. 2)*

*(Vervolg vanaf Bl. 1 - Woorde van troos en hoop…)*
derwerk nie, maar 'n wonderwerk vir elke krisis, elke situasie wat ons in die gesig staar.

Ons het baie meer nodig as wonderwerke waarvan ons in die geskiedenis gelees het. Ons het splinternuwe, persoonlike wonderwerke, ontwerp vir ons huidige krisis wat ons nog nooit gehad het nie nodig. As jy na jou huidige probleem kyk, glo jy werklik dat die Here dit sal uitwerk? Vertrou jy dat Hy 'n wonderwerk vir jou sal doen op 'n manier wat jy nie kan begryp nie?

Dit was die vraag wat Jesus vir Filippus gevra het. Dit is 'n vraag wat ware geloof eis – die soort geloof wat die hart kalmeer en veroorsaak dat "oorloë ophou ". Slegs daardie soort geloof sal verseker dat ons kan rus in die Vader se sorg, Hom vertrou om deur te kom vir ons op Sy manier en in Sy tyd.

**Ons geloof in moeilike tye verkry vir ons die getuienis van "'n goeie verslag".**

**" (Deur hulle geloof het) die mense van die ou tyd getuienis ontvang' (Heb. 11:2).** Die Griekse woorde vir "verkry" beteken hier " om te getuig, om 'n getuienis te word." Ons voorouers in die Here het 'n vas geankerde geloof gehad. Hul onwankelbare geloof het 'n getuienis vir die wêreld geword van God se getrouheid te midde van moeilike tye.

Dink wat ons voorouers deurgemaak het: vloede, bespotting, skuldbriewe, tronkstraf, vuur, marteling, oorlogvoering, leeu kuile. Deur dit alles het hulle vertroue in die Here nooit gewankel nie. Hoe? Hulle het 'n innerlike getuie gehad dat God tevrede met hulle was. Ons voorvaders het geweet dat God vir hulle geglimlag en gesê het: "Goed gedaan!" "Julle het geglo en My vertrou."

**"En sonder geloof is dit onmoontlik om God te behaag; want hy wat tot God gaan, moet glo dat Hy is en 'n beloner is van die wat Hom soek" (Heb. 11:6).** Wanneer ons aan ons geloofsposisie vashou deur moeilike tye , ontvang ons dieselfde bevestiging van die Heilige Gees: "Wel gedaan. Julle is God se geliefde getuienis."

As jy in Hom rus deur storms, vashou aan jou geloofsposisie, verkry jy 'n "'n goeie verslag ".

Verder dien jy as 'n baken van hoop vir die rondom jou. Die wat jou lewe dophou – by die huis, by die werk- leer dat hoop vir hulle beskikbaar is. Wanneer hulle jou dophou in jou uur van krisis, besef hulle: "Daar staan iemand wat nie sy geloof in God verloor het nie. Hy het hoegenaamd geen vrees nie. Wat maak dit vir hom moontlik om deur so 'n herroeping te vertrou?"

Ons God het ons voorsien met alles wat ons nodig het om ons geloof te steun, selfs as ellende vermeerder. Aan ons is die getuie van die Heilige Gees gegee, wie in ons bly en God se volle openbaarde Woord in die Skrifte. Dit sal ons ondersteun, vir ons die getuienis verkry van 'n goeie verslag selfs wanneer die wêreld skud.

**Aan ons is 'n puik wapen teen vrees gegee.**

Wanneer vrees oorweldigend raak, moet ons onsself herinner aan hoe groot ons God is. Ons moet al Sy groot verlossings onthou vir die wat Hom vertrou het en dieselfde majestueuse mag eis vir ons huidige beproewing. Vrees kan geen wurggreep kry op enige dienskneg wat 'n visie van God se grootheid en majesteit het nie.

Nehemia het dit goed verstaan. Hy het heen –enweer geloop toe Jerusalem omring was deur 'n geweldige bondgenootskap van nasies, reg om aan te val. Uitgeputte oorgeblewenes het onophoudelik gewerk om Jerusalem se mure te herstel teen die vyande. Hierdie gedane werkers moes met 'n hamer in die een hand en 'n swaard in die ander hand werk. Soos die ure verby getik het, het vrees begin inskop. Hoe sou dit vir hulle moontlik wees om weerstand te bied teen vrees? Nehemia het hulle herinner aan hoe groot en magtig hul God is: **"En ek het dit gesien en my opgerig en aan die edeles en die leiers en die ander mense gesê: Julle moet nie bang wees vir hulle nie; dink aan die grote en gedugte Here, en veg" (Neh. 4:14).**

Dit is presies hoe Moses opgetree het teen vrees in Israel: Hy het die volk beveel: **"As jy in jou hart dink: Hierdie nasies is meer as ek, hoe sou ek hulle kan verdrywe? — wees dan nie bevrees vir hulle nie; dink gedurig aan wat die Here jou God aan Farao en die hele Egipte gedoen het … Skrik nie vir hulle nie, want die Here jou God is by jou, 'n groot en gedugte God" ( Deut. 7:17-18,21).**

Moses het gesê: "Julle gaan baie groot vyande ontmoet wat magtiger as julle is. Julle sal wonder hoe julle ooit oorwinning gaan behaal teen so 'n oormag. Maar julle moet die ontsagwekkende mag van julle God onthou. Herinner julleself wat Hy in die verlede met julle vyande gedoen het, en hoe getrou Hy was om julle te verlos." **"Hy is jou lof … wat hierdie groot en vreeslike dinge wat jou oë gesien het gedoen het" ( Deut. 10:21).**

As jou geloof geskud is, herinner jouself hoe magtig jou God is. Tel Sy baie bevrydings in jou lewe. Jy sal vind dat enige greep van vrees gebreek is deur 'n visioen van Sy majesteit.

**Ons het 'n wapen teen elke aanhoudende stem van vertwyfeling.**

Midde in die oproere, is menigtes beroof van hulle geloof deur persoonlike beproewings wat lyk asof dit nooit gaan eindig nie. Eens vurige geloof het verander na gevoelens van hulpeloosheid en wanhoop. Baie wonder in hul pyn: "Waarom antwoord God nie my gebede nie? Het ek iets verkeerds gedoen? Ek kan nie verstaan waarom my beproewings aan- en-aan gaan nie. Is die Here vir my kwaad?

Ander het ons bediening gekontak en gesê: " Ek het niemand om mee te praat nie, niemand om my las met my te dra nie. Ek het iemand nodig teen wie ek my hart kan uitstort." Dit is in ons natuur om 'n ander mens te hê, met 'n gesig, oë en ore, om na ons te luister en advies te gee.

Toe Job oorweldig was deur sy beproewings, het hy in smart uitgeroep: **"Ag, as iemand my maar wou aanhoor! (Job 31:35)** Hy het dit gesê terwyl hy omring was deur sy sogenaamde vriende, mans wat geen simpatie gehad het vir sy probleme nie. In werklikheid was hierdie mans boodskappers van wanhoop. Dus het Job na die Here alleen gedraai: **"Selfs nou, kyk, in die hemel is my Getuie; en Hy wat saam met my getuig, is in die hoogtes. My vriende spot met my; uit my oog drup trane tot God" (Job. 16: 1920).**

Koning Dawid was altyd omring deur mense met 'n groot familie en baie kamerade by hom. Tog hoor ons dieselfde uitroep van hom: " Na wie sal ek gaan?" Dawid dring by God se volk aan om te doen soos Job gedoen het: **"Vertrou op Hom altyd, o volk! Stort julle hart uit voor sy aangesig! God**

*(Vervolg op Bl. 3)*

*(Vervolg vanaf Bl. 2 - Woorde van troos en hoop…..)*
**is 'n toevlug vir ons" ( Ps. 62:8).**

Geliefdes, hierdie voorbeelde is 'n uitnodiging aan jou van die Here. Hy dring by jou aan om 'n privaat plek te kry waar jy aan Hom die probleme van jou siel kan uitstort. Beide Job en Dawid "het hulle klagtes" aan Hom uitgestort, midde in hul krisisse, en so kan jy ook. Jy kan met Jesus praat oor jou huidige beproewing, vertel Hom hoe oorweldigend en selfs moedeloos jy is.

Vir eeue het God die uitroepe van almal wie Sy beloftes vertrou het, beantwoord. Hy sal jou uitroep ook hoor, met liefde en simpatie, moet nooit jou uitroep versmaai nie. Hy sal jou krag vir elke geveg vernuwe.

**Ons moet onsself aan God se sorg oorgee in alles.**

Jesus het gewaarsku van haglike tye, soos die teenwoordige: **" Op die aarde benoudheid van nasies in hulle radeloosheid, … en mense se harte beswyk van vrees en verwagting van die dinge wat oor die wêreld kom. Want die kragte van die hemele sal geskud word" (Luk. 21: 25-26).** Christus sê vir ons : " Sonder hoop in My, sal menigtes letterlik van vrees sterf."

Tog vir die wat op God se beloftes vertrou om Sy mense te bewaar, is daar heerlike vryheid van alle vrees. Hoe is dit moontlik? Ware vryheid is totale oorgawe van een se lewe in die hande van die Here.

Oorgawe van onsself in God se sorg is 'n daad van geloof. Dit beteken om onsself volkome onder Sy mag, wysheid en genade te plaas. Dit beteken om gelei te word volgens Sy wil. As ons hierdie dinge wil doen, belowe God om volkome verantwoordelik vir ons te wees – ons te voed, klee en ons te beskerm, en ons harte te beskerm van alle boosheid.

Jesus voorsien die uiterste voorbeeld van heilige oorgawe toe Hy na die kruis gegaan het. Net voor Hy Sy gees oorgegee het, het Hy hardop uitgeroep: **"Vader, in u hande gee Ek my gees oor!" (Luk. 23: 46)** Christus het letterlik die bewaring van Sy lewe en ewige toekoms in die voogdyskap van Sy Vader geplaas. Deur dit te doen, het Hy die siele van elkeen van Sy skape in die Vader se hande geplaas.

As ons gevra word om ons lewens aan iemand toe te vertrou, moet ons weet dat die iemand mag het om ons van alle gevaar, bedreiging en geweld te behoed. Paulus getuig: **"ek weet in wie ek geglo het, en ek is oortuig dat Hy mag het om my pand te bewaar tot dié dag toe" (2Tim. 1:12).**

**Ons moet aanhoudend in die vrees en ontsag van die Here leef.**

Die profete waarsku dat wanneer God die nasies skud, ons grootliks beproef sal word om te vrees.

Esegiël het gevra: **"Sal jou hart standhou of jou hande sterk wees in die dae as Ek met jou handel? (Esegiël 22:14)**

Toe God Noag gewaarsku het van Sy komende oordele en gesê het dat hy 'n ark moes bou was hy **"met eerbiedige vrees"** gevul **(Heb. 11: 7).**

Selfs dapper Dawid het erken: **"My vlees sidder van skrik vir U, en ek vrees vir u oordele" (Ps. 119: 120).**

Toe Habakuk rampspoedige dae vorentoe gesien het, het hy uitgeroep: **"Toe ek dit hoor, het my ingewande gebewe; my lippe het getril by die geluid, bederf het gekom in my gebeente, ja, ek het gebewe waar ek staan, omdat ek rustig moes wag op die dag van benoudheid" (Hab. 3:16).**

Let op dat die vrees in elkeen van die goddelike manne nie 'n vleeslike vrees was nie, maar 'n openbarings ontsag van die Here. Hierdie heiliges was nie bang vir die vyand van hul siele nie, maar hulle het God se regverdige oordele gevrees. Dit is omdat hulle die ontsagwekkende mag agter die aankomende ellende verstaan het. Hulle het nie die uitkoms van die storm gevrees nie, maar eerder God se Heiligheid.

Elkeen van ons sal oorweldigende vrees in die komende tye van oproer ondervind. Ons vrees moet egter kom van 'n heilige ontsag vir God, nooit van 'n vleeslike angs oor ons lot nie. Reg oor die wêreld, is mense vervul met 'n vleeslike vrees, soos hulle sien hoe hulle land se ekonomie versleg. Hulle is bang dat 'n ekonomiese vloed alles waarvoor hulle gewerk het sal weg vee. Dit is die uitroep van ongelowiges wat geen hoop het nie. Dit behoort nie die uitroep van die goddelike te wees nie.

As jy 'n kind van God is, sal jou hemelse Vader nie sulke ongeloof in jou verduur nie. Jesaja het gewaarsku: **" Wie is jy, dat jy bevrees is vir die mens wat moet sterwe, en vir die mensekind wat oorgegee word soos gras? — dat jy vergeet die Here wat jou gemaak het, … dat jy gedurigdeur die hele dag bewe vir die grimmigheid van die verdrukker" (Jes.51:12-13). "Die HERE van die leërskare — Hom moet julle heilig, en laat Hy julle vrees en Hy julle verskrikking wees!" (Jes. 8:13)**

Ons moet dat God ons vrees en verskrikking wees. Daardie soort vrees lei nie na die dood nie, maar die lewe.

**Ons moet onsself in die Here verheug.**

Ons blywende vrede sal altyd afhang van ons oorgawe in God se hande, ongeag ons omstandighede. Die Psalmis beveel: **"verlustig jou in die HERE; dan sal Hy jou gee die begeertes van jou hart" (Ps. 37: 4).**

As jy jouself ten volle in God se hande oorgegee het, sal Hy jou in staat stel om enige moeilikheid te verduur. Sy begeerte is dat jy met jou daaglikse besigheid sal aangaan sonder vrees of angs, vertroue in Sy sorg. Jou oorgawe aan Hom sal 'n baie praktiese uitwerking in jou lewe hê. Hoe meer oorgegewe jy is aan God se sorg, hoe meer onverskillig sal jy wees oor die toestande rondom jou.

As jy oorgegee is aan Sy bewarings krag, sal jy nie bang wees vir enige angswekkende nuus nie. Jy sal nie aanhoudend probeer om die volgende stap uit te werk nie. Dit is omdat jy jou lewe, familie en toekoms in Sy veilige en liefdevolle hande toevertrou het. Ons groot Herder weet presies hoe om ons te beskerm en Sy trop te bewaar, omdat Hy ons in liefde lei.

Ten slotte keer ek terug na die vraag van Jesus aan Filippus : " Wat dink jy moet ons doen?" Mag ons reaksie dit wees: " Here U is die wonderwerker. Ek gee al my twyfel en vrese aan U. Ek gee hierdie hele situasie, my hele lewe, in U sorg oor. Ek weet dat U nie sal toelaat dat ek sal tou opgooi nie. Ek besef dat U alreeds weet wat U omtrent my probleem gaan doen. My vertroue is in U mag. " Amen!

# WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF THE FAMILY

Malachi 4:5: **Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.....**

When we read this scripture, we should be excited about the fact that God has promised to manifest His almighty power in this way and restore family relationships, particularly the relationships between fathers and their children. I praise the Lord when I see greater emphasis being given to the importance of family life, especially in Christian families.

The father is the head of the home, and therefore it is important that he knows what God says about His responsibilities towards his family. If a father's heart is not turned towards his family, it makes it hard for a mother to realise her full potential as wife and mother, and the children will soon become rebellious. It is only the Holy Spirit Who can turn the heart of a father to his family. You may ask where the fathers' hearts are, that they have to be brought back to the right place! Often it is materialism, sport, T.V., money, work or one or more of many other things, that have drawn a man away from his responsibility towards his wife and children.

Being part of a family should be one of our greatest joys, in fact we should have the best times of our lives when we are together! It is wonderful to see a family away on holiday, just enjoying spending quality time together!

*It should also be a time of great joy when the spiritual family comes together as the Body of Christ. There should be a wonderful expectancy at such a time, when we are gathered together to worship God. Is this true in your case, or do you just go to church because it is expected of you? Remember the Word of God tells us in Heb. 10:25 that we must* ***"not forsake the assembling of ourselves together"****. We should examine ourselves to see if our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus, is vibrant and growing. This applies to our family lives as well – we should enjoy being together, each member as a unique individual being important and having his own special place and function in the family, the way God has told us in His Word.*

Psalm 127:1: **"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it."** We should see ourselves as co-workers with God (1 Cor. 3:9) in the building of our house (family). If the Lord does not build the house (family), ie. if we do not build according to the Lord's instructions, we are building in vain – He is the Great Architect and His plans are perfect.

Proverbs 14:1 says**: Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands.** It is thus possible for you to tear down your own house (family). You can destroy your own family by doing nothing….through neglect or lack of interest.

Proverbs 24:30 and 31 says: **"I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down.**

A family can be compared to the vineyard spoken of in these verses – it takes hard work and commitment to raise a family properly – and I don't mean only feeding, clothing and educating them! Don't think that you can just let your children grow up regardless of any input, and that they will turn out to be the way you want them to be! Oh no, just the opposite is true! Each one of us has to give our best in the family; each parent needs to build with wisdom and discipline, love and enthusiasm, according to the plan that God has given for Christian families, then we will know that the promise that God has given us for our children, ie. "if we bring them up in His ways they will not depart from them", will be true for our children!

According to the Bible, each family should have someone in authority. The children must be obedient to their parents (who are in authority over them), with the mother being in submission to her husband, who God has placed over her. (I suggest that you read our book "A Successful Marriage" for an indepth study of the role of husband and wife.)

**Ephesians 6:1- 4 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. And you, Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

Please study 1 Peter 2:13 – 17 attentively, and you will see that here, once again, the Lord emphasizes submission to

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*(Continued from page 4 - The power of Forgiveness…)*

authority, for our own sakes. We must not listen to the devil who will try anything to undermine this principle, wanting to lead us into rebellion, chaos and confusion. I cannot stress this truth enough.

The same principle of submission to authority applies in our homes. God has appointed the father to be in authority in the home and the "high priest" of his family. It will be to our advantage to obey God concerning this important fact. We must not listen to anyone who tries to convince us otherwise, because in so doing, we will be out of the will of God, and encouraging disobedience in, and disrespect for, authority in our children. We will be answerable to God for this. We need to make a concerted effort to prevent rebellion or strife, which leads to destruction, from having any place in our families.

It is God's Will for each of us to be involved in a family but He says in His Word that the rebellious will live in unpleasant conditions! Psalm 68:6 says**: "God sets the solitary in families …. But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.**

God has ordained a certain order, and this order applies to both the physical and the spiritual family.

1 Cor. 11:3: **But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.**

*Colossians 1:18: **"And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all things He may have preeminence.***

*According to 1 Cor. 11:3, God's divine order is as follows:- God, Christ, man, woman and child. If you fit somewhere into this structure, and we all do, and you try to override or ignore the authority that God has placed over you, you will be guaranteed problems in your life, because when man alters that which God has ordained, according to his own "wisdom", he's only asking for trouble! God's order and plan is ALWAYS THE BEST – IT WORKS, EVERY TIME! The Bible is after all the Manufacturers Handbook and the Manufacturer surely knows best.*

I want to encourage you, fathers, to show your children your respect for the authority that God has placed you under – it is very important that they see that you are obedient to authority! By doing this you will show them, by your example, that you are not just telling them what the right thing is for them to do, but that you, yourself, are determined to be obedient to your Heavenly Father who is in authority over you!

In the church, as in the family, we have a chain of command. In our spiritual family (the church), we have God as Head over all, then Christ Who is Head of the church, and Who functions through the church leadership appointed by God. (Ephesians 4:11 & 12).

Hebrews 13:17 says: **"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.**

In the church, we have elders exercising authority, just as parents do in the home. In a country we have ministers and mayors (see Rom. 13:1-2). It is important that every father takes up his God-given position in his family with his whole heart, being head of the family, <u>but definitely not being a tyrant who merely lays down the law and does not practice what he preaches</u>; not in competition to his wife, but supporting and leading her, and also leading, protecting and inspiring his children to follow the Lord and to be obedient to His commands, MORE BY HIS ACTIONS THAN BY HIS WORDS! FOR AUTHORITY TO BE EFFECTIVE, A FATHER MUST LEAD BY EXAMPLE – this Godly example and training of his children will not only influence his own children for good, but will also lay the right foundation for generations to come! This is glorifying to God, our Heavenly Father!

Some men think that being the leader of the family means that they have the right to be over-bearing and domineering – in other words they see themselves as better than their wives and children and become dictators. True leadership does not mean treating others as inferior or as servants. Everyone is equal in God's eyes – we may have different functions in the family and in the church, but we are all equal, just as God the Father and God the Son are equal. Because God ordained men to be leaders, does not mean that women are inferior to men, but that everyone should function according to God's blueprint for the family and the church.

What are the responsibilities of the husband as head of the family?

1. To recognize and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of every area of his life.

2. To accept the fact that God has appointed him as the head or leader.

3. To realize that he stands under authority, because it is only when a man recognizes that he himself is accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is in authority over him, that he can effectively practise his God-given authority.

*(Continued on page 6)*

The husband must also remember the following points:

1. Do I love her as my own body (Eph 5: 28-29) and do I always make her aware of this fact?

2. Do I respect her, treating her at all times as my equal in Christ, or do I do so only when it suits me?

Genesis 2:24 says: **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

Husbands remember: NEVER COMPARE YOUR WIFE TO YOUR MOTHER! The same applies to you wives: NEVER COMPARE YOUR HUSBAND TO YOUR FATHER! Be careful not to allow your parents to interfere in your marriage – this applies to both husband and wife.

Remember that God put you two together as a couple – your parents are not part of your relationship with one another – whatever you do, don't try and re-mould your spouse into your parent's image, as this is sure to lead to conflict, maybe even a broken marriage!

If a man has a very domineering attitude towards his wife, he could find that her personality will gradually change because she is unable to be herself, the lovely young woman that he once married. He may find that he no longer loves her as she is now, but it is actually his over-bearing attitude that has warped her personality!

A tyrant of a husband can do so much damage to his wife, children and marriage. Husbands, you must realise that you and your wife are one, as Christ is one with His Bride, the church (Eph. 5:25). The Bible says you and your wife are one flesh, and that even as Christ gave Himself for His Bride, so should you, for your wife! Godly love (agape) is love that says "What can I give" rather than the selfish, fleshly love (eros) that says "what's in it for me?" Your love for her should be unselfish, agape love – the kind of love that shows that you are willing to die for her.

Make a decision to really love your wife as God would have you do, and your wife will respond to your love by being willingly submissive.

A wife's responsibilities in the family are as follows:-

1. To recognise her husband's position of authority and responsibility. Although she is equal to her husband, HE IS THE HEAD OF THE HOME, and responsibility for the family forms part of his God-given authority. So wives, you can stop trying to sort out the family finances and material needs, it is up to your husband to control these matters!

2. To honour and obey her husband.

3. To develop her inner self, rather than place too much emphasis on outer beauty.

Psalm 127: 3-5a Behold children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them…..

**It is unfortunately true that many children are unloved and unwelcome – even in some Christian families! Many couples only want the physical pleasure of a marriage and not the responsibility of raising children - this is not in line with the Word of God!**

Children are a heritage and blessing from the Lord and not a curse or a nuisance! The world has strayed so far from the truth of God's Word, that many couples today do not want children, and if they do have a child by accident, it upsets their plans. This is the reason for so many abortions! The very opposite is true according to God's Word – childlessness is regarded as a curse in Deut. 28. We read of many women in the Old Testament who cried out to the Lord in desperation to deliver them from the curse of barrenness! See your children as being an INHERITANCE, a BLESSING from the Hand of God!

The Lord describes children as "arrows in the hand of a warrior". Arrows have to be sharpened, polished and prepared, carefully aimed – or they will miss the target!

This is all relevant to a child's upbringing – parent's should carefully prepare, discipline, teach and encourage their children, so that they will not miss the goal, or wander off onto a wrong path! It is on these side paths, that sin abounds. As parents we should continually be learning from the Lord as to how we may SHARPEN and PREPARE our children! Ask the Lord to give you the family He knows you should have, so that none of them will feel that they are unwanted! Remember that an unborn baby can already sense if he is unwelcome.

Psalm 128:3 & 4: **"Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.**

**The olive tree is symbolic of the Lord's presence – oil symbolises the Holy Spirit. Your children must grow up aware of the Lord's Presence, in your own home, and in the congregation of Believers – where you meet in fellowship. Thus, you should never leave your children at home when you go to your place of worship.**

Proverbs 17:6 says, **"Children's children are a crown of old men,….."** One of the greatest privileges that God has given to mankind is to bear

children, and it is in this light, that the Bible considers children! We see in the Bible how very precious children are in the sight of God.

Matt 19:13-15: **Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.**

Children should be brought to your place of worship to be dedicated to the Lord and blessed by the laying on of hands by the elders, in the presence of the family of God, as soon as possible after they are born. Please note though, that this is not "baptism" nor is it the same as "christening" of babies, which is not Scriptural at all. Nowhere in Scripture do we read of the "christening" of babies, but we do read about babies being dedicated to the Lord in the temple, being named in the Presence of the Lord and then making their own decision to walk in the ways of God, at the age of twelve. Make sure that your children attend the gathering of believers, send them to Sunday school, and teach them God's Word at home praying regularly with them and for them! Bear in mind that it will not help much if you send them off to Sunday School and you never put foot in a place of worship, or teach them about the Lord at home! Your child's spiritual training is YOUR responsibility, not that of the church! And always remember that your actions speak much, much louder than your words! Deut 6:7: **You shall teach them (**God's laws/ Word) **diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**

Teach your children to respect those who are in authority over them, be it their teacher at secular school, or at Sunday school, however, it is your responsibility as a parent to ensure that your child is taught only the truth about the Word of God, and not doctrines of man! Children who are taught the truth of God's Word and not man-made teachings, are far less susceptible to temptation and deception.

The question of discipline is most important and the Bible is very clear about this subject.

Proverbs 22:15: **Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him.**

Proverbs 23:13 &14: **Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.**

Proverbs 22:6: **Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.**

In order to train your child in obedience, and to develop the best qualities in him, you need to remember that PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE! The ideal attitude towards bringing up a child is one that shows him that you are disciplining and training him for his own good. When you approach discipline in this way, you will have a child who wants to obey you!

Don't ever hit a child in anger or rage, and when it becomes necessary to punish him, smack a naughty child on his bottom. A good hiding at the right time has never done a child any harm, and in fact shows that you care for him too much to let him get away with disobedience. God loves us just as we are, but He loves us too much to let us **stay** as we are! The same truth applies to us as parents regarding our children! Very often parents take the line of least resistance and because of passivity and for the sake of peace, neglect to discipline a child who is running rampant and being a real pest to those around them. We need to show more consideration as family members because we know that family ties cannot be broken and that we will always remain responsible for one another. We cannot do without the Lord in the building of our families, as we are fellow workers with Him (1 Cor. 3:9). If the Lord does not build the house (family), we labour in vain – He is the Divine Architect with the perfect plan for each of our families, and we must build according to His instructions.

1) The Lord your God; 2) Your spouse; 3) Your children; 4) Your work; 5) Your church activities. If your priorities are not in the right order, you will experience problems in your life in general, and in your marriage in particular. For example, if you put your career or work first, you will be out of line with God's order for your life, and you will reap what you have sown.

Unfortunately, people are often misled into thinking that they are justified in putting their service to the church, eg. attendance, tithes and participation in special meetings etc., above the needs of their husband or wife, because they mistakenly feel that in doing so they are putting God first in their lives!

This misconception can cause many problems in a marriage, because serving your church as number one priority and thus neglecting the needs of your spouse and children, is definitely not putting God first.

He is to be first in your life, then your spouse, then your children and work and then only your church activities! ·

# UIT ONS KANTOOR

## JY MAAK SAAK VIR GOD!

Liewe familie in Jesus,

Die tyd vlieg elke dag vinniger verby. Ons bevind ons self al in die tweedemaand van 2018 en die vakansie is nou weer iets van die verlede.

Al die kinders is terug op skool en studente is nou besig om beplanning vir 'n wonderlike jaar van studie. Ons bid vir aanpassing in hulle nuwe omgewing en klasse en dat hulle uitstekend hierdie jaar sal vaar, soos die Here in elke kosbare jong mens se lewe sal onderneem en in elkeen se behoefte sal voorsien.

Petrus het in 2 Pet. 1:19 verklaar dat alhoewel hy 'n getuie was van die Here Jesus en Sy bediening, die profetiese Woord van God, wat plaasvind, steeds 'n groter bewys is dat God se Woord die waarheid is. Ons sien die bevestiging van daardie profetiese Woord vandag rondom ons in die wêreld. Ons lees (in die Skrif) dit ... en ons hoef net oor ons grens na Zimbabwe te kyk om te sien dat daardie woord plaasgevind het. 'n Skrif waaraan ek altyd vasgehou het in tye van enige soort hangende vernietiging, en nie geweet het waarheen om te draai nie, is Ex. 14: 13-14, toe Israel, gelei deur Moses, die magtige Egiptiese weermag van agter af met strydwaens gehad het wat op hulle afpeil het en die vreeslike Rooi See voor hulle! Wat het Moses aan die mense in daardie skynbaar onmoontlike situasie gesê? Hierdie was toe God se geïnspireerde woorde aan hulle deur Moses en dit is Sy woorde aan ons waar ons onsself vandag in 'n skynbaar "geen uitkoms" situasie bevind.

**Maar Moses het aan die volk gesê: Wees nie bevrees nie, staan vas en aanskou die verlossing van die HERE wat Hy vandag vir julle sal bewerk; want soos julle die Egiptenaars** (die vyand se aanval) **vandag sien, sal julle hulle nie weer sien in ewigheid nie. Die HERE sal vir julle stry, en julle moet stil wees. (Ex. 14:13-14)**

Baie dankie vir die vriendelike boodskappe van liefde en ondersteuning wat ons gedurende Desember en Januarie ontvang het, wat altyd vir ons 'n bron van aanmoediging en opbouing is asook vir my pragtige verjaarsdag en seënwense vir die mooi gedagte en gebaar.

Ek wil ook elkeen van julle persoonlik bedank vir julle gebede, liefde, aanmoediging en ondersteuning in elke opsig. Ons kan julle nooit vergoed nie, maar ons vra ons Hemelse Vader om dit vir julle te doen!! Hy is die gewer van alle gawes en ons vra Hom om julle in oorvloed te seën met alle geestelike en fisiese seëninge.

Baie liefde groete

*Meg en die Gebedspan*

# SKATKIS VAN DIE HERE

'n Brief van die Here …

"Moenie oor enigiets bekommerd wees nie. Ek sal jou genadig wees en jou seën. Ek sal my gesig oor jou laat skyn. Daar is veiligheid deur in die teenwoordigheid van God te bly. EK IS jou Vesting en jou Skuilplek. EK IS, EL Shaddai, die God wat meer as genoeg is. EK IS wie EK IS, MY NAAM IS 'n Plek van Rus.

"EK IS, Jehovah Shammah, die Here wat daar is. Ek is ook El Roi, die God wat sien. Ek ken elke besonderheid oor jou en wat in jou lewe gebeur. Ek is altyd by jou, rus in my Naam. As jy op die vleuels van die môre vlieg na die verste horison, selfs dan is Ek altyd by jou. Ek sal daar wees wanneer jy my nodig het, wanneer jou hart gebreek is en jy 'n vriend nodig het. Ek sal daar wees om jou te troos en Ek sal jou krag wees. Ek sa jou beskerm en jou bewaar met my eindelose liefde. Dink aan goeie dinge, die pragtige en goeie tyding.

"Al jou dae is voor my. Ek het goeie planne vir jou, moenie bang wees nie. My planne is nie vir wat sleg is nie, maar vir die goeie. My gedagtes vir jou is pragtig, vly jou neer en rus in my. Gee jou bekommernis aan my en gooi jou sorge by my voete. Laat ek jou hart vul met vreugde en lag, jy is nooit uit my sig nie en EK IS Soewerein.

"Ek sal jou krag gee en jou weg volmaak maak. Ek sal jou voete maak soos die van herte en jou op hoë plekke plaas. Ek sal jou omhoog plaas omdat jy my naam ken. Jy sal hoog bokant jou vyande opgelig word, EK IS Jehovah Nissi, die Here is jou oorwinning. Ek sal jou verlos en jou eer. Moenie oor enigiets knies of bekommer nie. Laat toe dat my vrede jou hart en denke bewaar in Christus Jesus. Ek sal jou nooit verlaat nie. Vertrou in my liefde, selfs wanneer dit wil voorkom asof jou wêreld uitmekaar val. Ek IS die Getroue Een.

"Laat gaan en gee oor, vertrou my maniere. So sal die aarde my Naam aanbid van die weste en my Heerlikheid van die opkomende son. Wanneer die vyand soos 'n vloed inkom, sal ek 'n vaandel teen hom ophef. Jy sal oor die vyand se aanvalle gelig word om stralend en vol liefde te wees. Ek hef jou op. Die Kampioen van die Hemel het die oorwinnaarskroon. Die beste herstellings moet nog kom. My beloftes sal van krag wees oor al jou moeilike omstandighede.

"Ek sal jou oor dit oplig en my Heerlikheid sal in jou gesien word. Dan sal jy sien en stralend word en jou hart sal van vreugde swel. Onthou wie EK IS, die begin en die einde. Vertrou my, geliefde, en gee al jou kommer oor. Laat volkome gaan en val veilig in my liefde. My liefde sal jou dra en sal jou Skuiling wees. Anker jou siel in my, Hoop in my Naam. Elke goeie en volmaakte gawe kom van die Vader van die Ligte af. Onthou my Goedheid. Selfs tot op die laaste oomblik, sal ek dit alles omdraai. Vier saam met my, geliefde, dit is die dag wat die Here gemaak het, onthou wie die geveg wen. Ek gee aan jou RUS."

# KENNISGEWING

Ons het 'n lys beskikbaar van boeke en Cd's met hul pryse. Indien u meer inligting verlang oor wat beskikbaar is of 'n bestelling wil plaas, kontak ons asseblief sodat ons die lys na u kan faks of E-pos. Dit het ook volledige inligting hoe om 'n bestelling te plaas, bank inligting ens.

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