

GOD KEEPS HIS WORD

Rev. Dr. Hildred L. Reynolds

The purpose of this teaching is to encourage people to place their faith in the Lord God Almighty. It is intended to encourage those who are facing trials, sufferings, and various other negative experiences in life to place their hope and trust in God. Love Him, and serve Him; He is worthy of honour and praise. By sharing with you some examples indicating that God can be trusted, it is my prayer that all of us would draw closer to Him. May the good news about the Lord God contained here be used as a tool for bringing people into a right relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, and as a reminder to born-again Christians that **God keeps His Word**; He keeps His promises.

In every situation, let us trust God, pray to Him, believe that He will do what He says, and believe that He will keep His promise to be with us at all times. **God says what He means and means what He says.** He has said that he will never leave or forsake us; we must accept this by faith, be fully convinced that He is who He says He is. God is not a man, that he should be untruthful (Numbers 23:19) or change his mind (1 Samuel 15:29). God cannot lie; it is impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). God is faithful; God's promises are "yes" and "amen" in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). No matter how many promises God has made, they are "yes" in Jesus Christ; the promises are answered in the affirmative through Christ.

God is the Creator of the universe (Genesis 1:1); God sees and knows everything. He is present everywhere at the same time. God is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent. Accept this by faith, and believe. ***The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is! God speaks about things that are not, as though they are.*** Things that do not exist are brought into reality by God through the Words that He says. Like the written Word of God, God's spoken Words have authority and power. In support of this, let us look at and discuss some passages of scripture in the both parts of the Holy Bible - in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

SOME EXAMPLES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

I. **CREATION:** Eight times in the first chapter of Genesis, we read these words: **GOD SAID.** God said certain things and they happened; they came into existence. God can do anything; nothing is too difficult for Him to do. God spoke with authority; His Word will not return to Him void. Everything God said in verses 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24 and 26 of the first chapter of Genesis happened exactly as He said. He brought into existence what was not there before. God's Words are powerful because He is powerful. Whatever God says **always** brings forth the desired result. For example: (a) God said, "Let there be light"; and light came into existence (verse 3, King James Version, KJV). Here are some other examples: (b) God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." It happened exactly as God said,

and He called the firmament Heaven (verses 6-8 KJV). (c) God said, "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear;" it happened just as He said. He called the gathering of the waters Seas, and the dry land He called Earth (Verses 9-10 KJV). His Words produced the desired results. (d) God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind;" and God made the livestock, creeping things and wild animals in accordance with what he said (verses 24-25 KJV). **God fulfills His Word.** There is nothing that is too hard for God to do; with Him all things are possible. God has the ability to make something out of nothing. ***The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!*** Open your Bible and read the whole first chapter of Genesis for yourself. God's Word will accomplish whatever it intends to accomplish. **God keeps His Word.**

II. ABRAHAM AND SARAH HAVING A CHILD IN THEIR OLD AGE: Abraham was unhappy because he was childless; Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were very old, and it was naturally impossible for them to have a child so late in life. **GOD SAID** something very important to Abraham; God promised him that he would have many descendants (Genesis 15:5). To have descendants, God would have to give him at least one child. Abraham did not understand how God would make this happen.

Sarah devised a plan for Abraham to have a child. Instead of waiting upon God to fulfill that promise in His time and in the manner He wished to do so, Sarah felt that the promise could only be fulfilled by a younger woman bearing Abraham's child. Sarah encouraged her husband to take a much younger woman, her maid Hagar, as a second wife. God did **not** say to do that. However, Abraham agreed to do what Sarah said, and when he was 86 years old, Hagar had a son whom they named Ishmael (Genesis 16:1-5, 15-16). This was NOT the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.

God's promise was for Sarah, who had passed child-bearing years, to have a son for her husband, Abraham. God told Abraham that he still intended to fulfill His promise and that Sarah would, indeed, bear him a son. At first Abraham laughed with disbelief because he was now 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old (Genesis 17:15-17). Sarah, too, laughed sarcastically when she heard what God had said. With human beings, this seems ridiculous, but with God all things are possible. The Lord questioned Abraham about Sarah's laughter and comments about having a child at such an old age. The conversation between God and Abraham ended with God repeating His promise and stating the time when that promise would be fulfilled. **GOD SAID:** "Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." (Genesis 18:13-14, New American Standard Bible, NASB). God said it, and He caused it to happen. So Sarah conceived in her old age and bore a son to Abraham in his old age at the time that God had said it would happen; they named him Isaac (Genesis 21:1-3). **God keeps His Word.** God can do what human beings cannot do. ***The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!*** Trust God; His thoughts and ways are much higher than ours. He is a miracle-working God; He can make the impossible possible; His power is infinite. God is trustworthy; believe that He will do what He says.

III. DELIVERING THE ISRAELITES FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT: God saw the affliction of the Israelites when they were in Egypt. They suffered severely because of their taskmaster, and cried out to God for help, for deliverance from their sufferings. God spoke to Moses; **GOD SAID** that He would use him to bring the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10). There were many problems and trials before Pharaoh decided to allow them to leave Egypt, but God made it possible for them to leave. **God keeps His Word.** Under the leadership of Moses, the Lord God brought the Israelites out of Egypt with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm, and with many signs and wonders (Deuteronomy 26:8). *The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!* He is worthy of honour and praise. God makes a way when and where there seems to be no way of escape; God keeps His promises.

IV. GOD'S CARE AND PROTECTION OF THE ISRAELITES: God was with the Israelites: He led them in a pillar of cloud by day and by a pillar of fire by night to give them light, thereby enabling them to travel both by day and by night (Exodus 13:21-22). During their journey, they encountered many difficulties because of their rebellion against God and their grumblings against Moses. God tested them to see what was really in their hearts. If God was capable of delivering them from their afflictions in Egypt, the same God was also capable of providing for all their needs. If they trusted God to deliver them from the hands of their oppressors, they should be able to trust God in other areas of their lives, too. They constantly complained—lack of confidence in Moses' leadership, not being able to get some types of food to which they were accustomed in Egypt, not enough water, and so on. God was displeased with them, but He is gracious, merciful and forgiving. Once, when they complained about lack of water for them and for their livestock, God spoke to Moses and gave him some instructions for meeting their needs. Among other things, **GOD SAID** that Moses should take in his hand the same staff with which he struck the River Nile and use it to hit the rock. God assured Moses that He would stand before him on the rock at Herob and that water would come out of the rock in sufficient quantity to satisfy the needs of the people. Moses obeyed what God said, and God's words were fulfilled; there was enough water to exceed the Israelites' needs! God did what He said He would do. Take one day at a time, and thank God for each day. *The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!* God will give us the ability to do whatever He directs to do; trust Him and obey His commands.

V. TAKING THE ISRAELITES TO THE PROMISED LAND: The Israelites needed a new place to live. Not only did God promise to set them free from slavery in Egypt, but **HE ALSO SAID** that He would give them their own homeland (Exodus 13:16). There were times, however, when it seemed that God's promise to take the Israelites to a land of their own would not materialize. The journey to their promised land should only have taken them eleven days (Deuteronomy 1:2). Because of their negative attitude, rebellion against God, opposition against those whom God had placed in authority over them, constant complaining, and so on, their journey took them forty

years (Deuteronomy 8:2). They suffered for their ungrateful, bad behaviour and had to repent about their disbelief and rebellion several times. However, God still kept His promise to take them to Canaan, a land “flowing with milk and honey” (Deuteronomy 26:9). Never doubt God; **He keeps His Word. *The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!*** We should do exactly what God tells us to do, and He will do His part; God says what He means. Disobedience to God prevents us from receiving the best of what God has in store for us. Obeying God always results in great blessings, blessings of one type or another—physical, spiritual, or material blessings.

EXAMPLES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT:

VI. THE CURING OF A LEPER: At one time, Jesus was very popular on earth. Large crowds of people often followed Him to hear Him teach, to seek healing of the body and deliverance from demonic spirits. Lepers were not allowed to mingle with the general population. On a hillside close to Galilee, Jesus preached a message commonly referred to as “The Sermon on the Mount”. When He came down from the mountain, big crowds pursued Him. A leper, who believed that Jesus had the power to cure him, broke the law by going to Jesus for help. This leper lived a life of rejection and affliction; in his desperation he went to Jesus, bowed down before Him in honour, and asked Jesus to cleanse him from leprosy. The leper indicated to Jesus that he knew that if He were willing to heal him, He had the ability to do so. **JESUS** stretched out His hand and touching him **SAID**, “I am willing; be cleansed.” (Matthew 8:2-3 NASB) Instantly, the leper was cured of his leprosy. **Jesus keeps His Word.** Deliverance from leprosy occurred as soon as Jesus commanded him to be cleansed from this horrific disease. A touch from the hand of Jesus makes a tremendous difference in a person’s life. It is also exciting to realize the power in God’s Word. There is power and anointing in every Word that emanates from the mouth of God. ***The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!*** God’s Word produces action; it puts things into motion and produces the desired result.

VII. THE HEALING OF THE CENTURION’S PARALYTIC SERVANT: In Matthew 8:8-13, a centurion needed God’s intervention in a certain predicament. The centurion went to Jesus, entreating him to heal his paralytic servant who was in great pain at home. The centurion exercised his faith in Jesus by making this request, but the extent and depth of his faith in Jesus is indicated by his expressed belief that Jesus could heal his servant from a distance--that is, without going to the centurion’s home. The centurion felt unworthy for Jesus to go to his house, but that **Jesus’ Words** are also powerful. The centurion believed that a **Word spoken by Jesus** had the power to heal his servant; he said to Jesus: “..... just say the word and my servant will be healed.” (Matthew 8: 8 NAS) **JESUS responded to his request and SAID**, “Go your way; let it be done to you as you have believed.” (Matthew 8:13 NAS) The servant was healed at that same moment. Our faith in God is put to the test when we are faced with distressful situations. Have faith in God’ we should put our faith into action.. ***The Lord God is great! What a***

Mighty God He is! Pray to Him; tell Him all about your problems and make your supplications to Him, in faith believing that you can take Him at His Word.

VIII. THE HEALING OF PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW: One day, Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. In the evening, people took the sick and the demon-possessed to Jesus for healing and deliverance. We are told in Matthew 8:16 that, **WITH A WORD, JESUS cast out the spirits**, and healed all who were ill. Absolutely nothing is too hard for God; His Words are full of power. *The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!* His Word goes forth to accomplish what it is sent to do; it will not return void.

IX. THE CLEANSING OF TEN LEPERS: When Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, He passed through Samaria and Galilee. As He entered a certain village, from a distance ten lepers raised their voices in a request to Jesus. "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" (Luke 17:13). Jesus looked at them and gave them some instructions; He instructed them to go and show themselves to the priests. They did not question Jesus; they simply followed His orders, and on their way to the priests they were cleansed from leprosy. They had faith in Jesus and in His ability to heal them. JESUS SPOKE and they obeyed. They did what Jesus commanded them to do. They did what **JESUS SAID** and they were healed, set free from their affliction, delivered from the bondage and stigma of leprosy. *The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!*

We can learn a few things from this miracle: This example demonstrates that we should not question what God tells us to do, neither should we challenge the manner in which He tells us to do something. In Luke 17:11-19, we read about ten lepers who Jesus cured, but the manner in which He did so was different to the way He cured the leper in Matthew 8:2-3. Jesus had compassion for these ten lepers also, but He did not heal them in a manner that the onlookers might have been expecting. Jesus did not touch any of the ten lepers. Jesus did not tell the leper referred to in Matthew 8:2-3 to go and show himself to the priests. God knows best. We cannot put God "in a box". God's thoughts and ways are much higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8). Let God be God! He does what He wants to do and in a manner that He chooses.

As they walked in faith believing that by the time they reached the priests they would be miraculously cleansed, their miracle happened. Why did Jesus not cure the ten lepers at the time of their request for cleansing? He postponed their healing probably to find out if they had enduring faith and not fleeting faith. He chose to cure them as they exercised further their faith in Him. Jesus knew that, if they obeyed Him, they would be healed before they reached the priests. Why did Jesus send them to the priests? It was customary for anyone who was cured from infectious skin diseases to be examined and be given approval by the priests to mingle with the population (Leviticus 14). By going and showing themselves to the priests, the healing of these ten lepers would be confirmed and would prevent them from thinking that their leprosy was simply in remission. They believed that Jesus would not tell them to go to the priests if He did not intend to cleanse them before arriving there. They believed Jesus; they trusted Him, and they obeyed Him.

Take Jesus at His Word; we should not question His instructions to us. Obey God. Why? Obey Him because He sees everything, and knows everything. God know the best way in which to deal with every situation.

God finishes what He begins. God had a plan, but He decided to test their patience and enduring faith in Him by requiring their cooperation with Him for bringing that plan to fruition. If Jesus did not intend to cure them, He would not have sent them to show themselves to the priests. There were no cars in those days; they would have to walk or use an animal to transport them to their destinations. They could have decided to ignore the Words of Jesus, thereby missing the opportunity to be cured. Avoid making a decision that you will regret later on. They heeded His Word because they trusted Him and trusted in His Word. In faith and by their faith in Jesus, they went on their journey to the priests, believing that obedience to Jesus' directives would achieve their desire for healing and deliverance from the scars and stigma of leprosy. It took time for these ten lepers to get to the priests; the distance and time it would take to reach the priests did not deter them from achieving their goals. Jesus began a good work in them—the curing process which was invisible to the naked eye; the process, their patience and their enduring faith were perfected when they reached the priests. Let us stay in faith, the enduring type of faith, and put our faith in God into action.

Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). The lepers had faith in Jesus; they had confidence in Him. What is faith in God? Faith in God is being **firmly convinced** that God is who He says He is—holy, infinite in wisdom and power; faith in God includes believing that He keeps His promises, that He will do what He says. The ten lepers asked Jesus to cleanse them because they were firmly convinced that he had the ability, the power to do so. Their faith was unwavering; they asked in faith believing that He was the answer and that He had the answer to their problem.

The ten lepers, after their request to Jesus, waited for His response. They not only waited for an answer, but they attuned their ears to hear Jesus' response, and they heard His reply to their request; it was a two-way communication. Jesus spoke and they obeyed. They hoped for their healing. When we cry out in prayer to God for help, we should not do all the talking; wait upon Him, and attune our spiritual ears to hear His response.

The ten lepers probably did not expect the kind of response Jesus gave to their plea for curing. They had presumably heard about Jesus healing the sick or senses that Jesus had the power and ability to meet their need for healing instantly. However, they willingly cooperated with Jesus and started on their journey to show themselves to the priests. They had no evidence that they were being healed when they began their journey, but they were fully convinced of Jesus' ability to meet their need for cleansing from leprosy. They were not instantly healed; they were not healed at the beginning of their journey. The lepers had to exercise patience and put their faith into action; they cooperated with Jesus and followed His directives. Jesus instructions to the ten lepers indicated that He intended to cure them of their leprosy. **Jesus keeps His promises, and He always has good intentions towards us.**

Our faith in God is put to the test when we go through physical suffering, emotional pain, and other negative circumstances in life. Our faith in God is put to the test when we are in the “valley of despair”, when we are confronted by the “rough seas and high waves of life”. Sometimes, it may appear as though our problems are never-ending. God uses the testing of our faith for good—to produce patience in us and for us to develop a closer relationship with Him. When we cry out to God in prayer for help, let us not waver in our faith in God, but **firmly believe** that He will work things out for us. When we pray, we should give God time to respond to our requests and should listen keenly to His Voice. Let us open our spiritual ears, listen to Him, and do **exactly** what He tells us to do. When He gives us instructions, let us be like the lepers by exercising our faith in Him and obeying Him. God wants us to cooperate with Him, to hope and to trust in Him. He has promised to be with us at all times, never leaving nor forsaking us. He cares about each and every person. He wants us to place our hope and trust in Him even when there seems to be no improvement in our negative situation; when there seems to be “no light at the end of the tunnel”. We accept His promises by faith, knowing that He loves us and that He will work things out for good.

The Words that go forth from God’s mouth **will** bear fruit. Whatever God says—His Word will accomplish what He wishes. His Word will succeed in what it was sent forth to do (Isaiah 55:10-11). Have faith in God; believe Him, trust Him as He goes with you through your pain, suffering, trials and tribulations. Even when there is no tangible evidence that God is answering our prayers, let us continue to believe that God is working things out for us in accordance with His plans for our lives.

Let me give a word of caution. In my view, seeking help for health issues from health care professionals is not contradictory to one’s faith in God; you decide for yourself. God is concerned with all aspects of our lives. One’s talents and abilities come from God, the Creator of everyone. We (which include health care professionals) should always use our God-given talents and abilities to help others and to bring glory to God, our Creator. Jesus is no longer on earth to speak in person to people or to heal the sick, but His presence is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe that God heals through prayer also and that He still speaks to people today, but I do not believe that He will tell us to do anything to harm ourselves. Some people refuse to seek medical attention, erroneously thinking, I believe, that they are following the directives of the Lord. Do not get caught in that trap or blame God for any foolish decisions we make. God expects us to use common sense. A person’s intelligence and abilities emanate from Almighty God. God gives good gifts--talents and abilities to people; these gifts vary and He gives them to whoever He wants. He has given some people the ability to take care of and to heal the sick through medicine, surgery, various forms of therapy, and so on. The professionals will do their best, and God will do the rest; He still performs miracles. Health professionals and other health care workers are conduits of God’s love and mercy. I believe that we should use what God has provided for us through the medical and health care professions, pray for those involved in these professions, and also pray for God to give them the wisdom and understanding necessary for healing and taking care of the sick. Believe that God is willing and able to work through them; God works through

prayer to Him and through people. Allow God to be God; pray and He will respond by using whatever means He chooses. Nothing is too difficult for God; He can do anything.

X. THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS: Another example of the powerful nature of the spoken word of Jesus is found in the account of the death and resurrection of Lazarus, which is recorded in John 11:1-6 and 17-46. Lazarus was ill; his sisters, Mary and Martha were very worried about his sickness and sent a message to that effect to Jesus. Because of the close relationship all three of them had with Jesus, they were expecting Jesus to come to their aid in Bethany as quickly as possible.

Jesus was not in a hurry to go to Bethany. Jesus stayed where He was two days longer because, as He said when He heard the news, Lazarus' was not going to die. Jesus further stated that Lazarus' sickness was for the glory of God and Himself. **JESUS SAID**, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified by it." (John 11:4 NAS) Later, **JESUS** sensed that Lazarus had died and **SAID** to His disciples, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep." (John 11:11 NAS) The disciples thought that **JESUS** was speaking literally; however, He was emphatic about what He meant and clearly **SAID** "Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; so let us go to him." (John 11:14 NAS) Bethany was two miles from where Jesus and his disciples were, and by the time they reached the home of Mary and Martha, Lazarus was already dead and His body had been in a tomb for four days. Many Jews were with Mary and Martha, consoling them. These two women were very disappointed that Jesus had not come sooner; they felt that Jesus' presence would have prevented their brother's death. Martha went to meet Jesus before He arrived into the village, and in response to her statements, **JESUS SAID** to her, "Your brother shall rise again." (John 11:23) At first, Martha incorrectly assumed that Jesus was talking about rising again in the resurrection on the last day.

Mary and Martha took Jesus to the tomb where they had placed Lazarus' body four days before. Jesus requested that the stone which closed the entrance to the tomb be rolled away, but at first Martha was reluctant to do so because of the stench that would be prevalent from Lazarus' dead body. When the stone was removed, Jesus raised His eyes and prayed to Father God. After praying, with a loud voice **JESUS SAID**, "Lazarus, come forth." Lazarus emerged from the tomb, with his hands and feet bound with wrappings and his face wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus gave more instructions; **JESUS SAID**, "Unbind him, and let him go." (John 11:39-46) Many of the Jews saw what transpired and believed in Jesus.

Because Jesus is the Creator of Life (John 14:6), He has the ability to restore life. The Creator has the power to speak things into existence; He has the power to replace darkness and death with light and life for He is the Light of the World and the Giver of Life. Jesus has power over life and death, and His words have power also. Everything that Jesus said would happen actually happened. Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness would be used to give glory to God the Father and Himself, God the Son. Yes, God was

glorified through this situation and some of the Jews believed in Him. Jesus said that Lazarus would be dead before He arrived in Bethany, and this proved to be true. Jesus said that He would literally raise Lazarus from the dead, and He fulfilled that promise. Although it might have appeared to some people that it was too late for Jesus to heal Lazarus, Jesus proved that it was not too late for Him to show compassion and to restore Lazarus' life. When Jesus spoke to Lazarus' dead body, life was restored that body; he was resurrected from the dead. **God keeps His Word.** Lazarus' body responded positively to the Voice of Jesus; the dead bones received strength and life, and sickness left his body. It is never too late for God to intervene and to rectify a bad situation; God is never, never late. ***The Lord God is great! What a Mighty God He is!*** There is power and life in whatever God verbalizes. God does what He says; He keeps His promises. There is a time for everything, and God acts in His own timing; He is not bound by time.

A FINAL COMMENT:

There is power in God's spoken Words as well as the written Word of God. In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). Jesus was in the beginning with God, and apart from Him nothing came into existence. The Holy Bible is the written Word of God and can be trusted; it has stood the test of time. What is recorded in the Bible is true. The Bible is God's love-letter to humanity. The New Testament confirms what God said in the Old Testament and continues to demonstrate God's love and forgiveness. An example of the connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament is this: In the New Testament, God fulfilled what **HE SAID** in the Old Testament--His promise to send a Saviour of the world. God spoke to the prophet Isaiah stating that this Saviour would come to earth as a baby through the womb of a virgin and that she would call Him Immanuel, which means *God with us* (Isaiah 7:14-16); He would grow up with enough wisdom to refuse evil and to choose good. God also indicated to Isaiah some other names by which the Saviour would be called—Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6-7). These names describe the Saviour; they reveal some of His attributes. **GOD SAID** it in the Old Testament, and it was fulfilled in the New Testament (Matthew 1:18-25). **God keeps His Word.**

For a period of time, God came to earth; He came in the form of the Saviour of mankind, Jesus, who dwelt among us for 33 years to complete His purpose on earth.. He came to earth to pay the price for our sins by dying in our stead and also to identify Himself with us, but unlike us, He never sinned. He is God and He cannot lie. He understands what we go through in life and wants to be fully involved in our lives. Jesus understands what it feels like to be hungry, thirsty, rejected, lonely, betrayed, and so on. By having a close relationship with Him, through His Holy Word, through prayer, and through our acceptance of Him as our Lord and Saviour, He will talk to us and walk with us through the negative circumstances of life. He has promised to be with us, never leaving nor forsaking us. **God keeps His Word—His spoken Word, and His written Word, the Bible.**

God's Word--the spoken and the written-- is very important for the life of every human being; it is our moral compass for life. God's Word heals, comforts, edifies, chastises, and guides. God's written Word is one way through which He communicates with us and it indicates that we **all** need a Saviour. God wants to be an integral part of your life and mine; He can be trusted. God says what He means and means what he says. **God keeps His Word.**

I would like to ask you two questions: Do you have a close relationship with God? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour? If you have never accepted God's invitation for placing your trust in Him and receiving Him as your Lord and Saviour, I encourage you to do so now. If you have taken this step previously but your relationship with Him has grown cold, I urge you to use this opportunity to renew your commitment to Him, to love and to serve Him sincerely. Acknowledge that you have sinned against God and ask for His forgiveness; He will forgive you. Express your desire to accept Him as your Lord and Saviour and to have a close relationship with Him. Accept His invitation and request your desire for Him to give you the spirit of wisdom and understanding as you read His Holy Word, the Bible, on a daily basis. We need natural food to sustain life; we need spiritual food, the Word of God to maintain our spiritual life.

I urge you to pray to God **now**; do not postpone doing so right now as tomorrow may be too late. Pray from your heart sincerely. The following prayer is only given as a guide to help you; use it if you wish to do so. You can pray this prayer, but it should not be mere words simply uttered. Be serious, sincere; mean whatever you say: *Father God, I thank You for Your love for me and for sending to earth Jesus, God the Son, to pay the price at Calvary for my sins. Thank You also for Your mercy and for the opportunity to come to you in prayer; You are never too busy to listen. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, that He rose from the dead and that He has returned to heaven. I repent of all my sins and ask for Your forgiveness. Cleanse me from all unrighteousness and help me to live for You. Thanks, heavenly Father, for forgiving me. You have invited all human beings to have a very close relationship with You through Jesus Christ, who is The Way to You, The Truth and The Life. You have given us the freedom of choosing to accept or reject your invitation. I choose to accept Your invitation, to place my hope and trust in You and to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of my life. I thank You that I am now saved, according to John 3, and Romans 10:9-13 of Your Holy Word of God, the Bible. Lord Jesus, I ask for wisdom and understanding as I read the Word of God daily, and for Your assistance in applying it to my life every day. Thank You, Lord God, for hearing my prayer; I am now a part of the family of God. I believe that You are merciful and faithful; I give you permission to direct my path through life. I have great confidence in You because You keep Your Word. Wonderful Saviour, I adore and praise You! Amen.*

March 2, 2010

[International Pastors and Leaders Forum](#), Ottawa, Canada