

God is waiting for your fruits!

Bible Verse: Luke13:6-9. ***He spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came and sought fruit thereon and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard; behold these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none; why cumbered it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord let it alone this year also till I shall dig about it and dung it. And if it bear fruit, well; and if not then after that thou shall cut it down".***

We all live in time and space, the time ticks with an unperturbed continuity. Days pass by with such a speed, adding another anniversary to our birthdays. Working seasons and vacation alternate year after year. People celebrate their achievements, their victories and some even observe religious feasts most often in ways that please themselves and not even the professed deity. While some are getting married others borne new babies, and on the other extreme that should have been given much attention and ponderings many pass away on a daily basis. They cross over embarking on a journey to a new space; an eternal home that unfortunately, very few bother to prepare for. Yet it is a journey on which no man has the power to disembark.

How old are you? How many calendar years have you already fulfilled in your sojourn in this world that passes with such a velocity that no man has the power to moderate? Have you given time to understand the code of your Maker for your life? Have you taken time to meditate on what will happen today if you cross over to the other side in the journey of no return? Have you spent time to consider the type of life you will have to embrace in eternity? Are these not wise questions that you should ask yourself while there is still time? Is eternity not worth preparing for? Is it not unwise to be preoccupied in beautifying our short stay on earth at the expense of eternity? Is there any wisdom that surpasses that which seeks for genuine answers to the above questions?

We thank our maker, the almighty God who in his infinite mercy has not left us without a daily message, to admonish and show us the only way of *eternal salvation* (John3:16). When God talks of *salvation* it obviously means there is a pending danger from which you and I need to escape. The scripture says ***"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the entire world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come"*** (Mathew 24:14). Why would God want the entire world to hear the gospel before bringing an end? What end is God talking about here? How is it going to be? These certainly are also pertinent questions we should be asking ourselves if we care about eternity.

This brings us to the topic of this discourse entitled *"God is waiting for your fruits"*. In the above Bible passage the vineyard owner earnestly desired to get some fruits from the fig tree. He comes with expectation, season after season, year after year to harvest from this fig tree he had purposely planted only to be disappointed each time. And when he eventually got wearied because the tree could not fulfill its purpose, he had to decide on the fate of the tree. But the vineyard dresser timely pleaded on the behalf of the tree that its life be extended to give it another chance to fulfill its role. Fortunately for the tree this request was granted. And more importantly we notice that in his intercession the vineyard dresser added that *"I shall dig about it and dung it."* The dung is a fertilizer

or manure to help it bear the required fruits the following year to escape the wrath and judgment of the master.

How does this parable apply to you and me? The vineyard owner here is the almighty God, the vineyard is the world, and the vineyard dresser who interceded for the fig tree is JESUS Christ our Lord and Savior. The fig trees are the people living in the world. God created us for a well define purpose which is to bear fruits of righteousness in his kingdom through our words, thoughts and actions for his glory. And the capacity to do this was inherently put into us on the day of our creation including a free will, but we unfortunately lost it when, the first man our father Adam sinned against God in disobedience to his commandment in the Garden of Eden (*Genesis3:1-11*).

Though God loves us so much yet his attributes of *justice* and *holiness* that make him unique cannot be compromised because of us. We fall short of God's righteousness so frequently because of the inherited sinful nature in us, attracting his judgment and condemnation. In fact even the fallen man as imperfect as he is has derived a means to curb the sinful actions of others by condemning them into man-made dungeons calling them prisoners. The righteousness of God is his Word. This Word was made flesh and came to save us from God's judgment and condemnation. In fact in his love for us, he has restored in Christ, the last Adam, (*1st Corinthians15:45*) everything we lost in the first man, Adam and all that is left for us to do is just to be reconciled to him willingly through JESUS Christ who was made the propitiation for our sins (*2nd Corinthians 5:20*). He does not only save us from the condemnation of sin but more importantly he is able to give us God's life now and forever. (*John5:24*).

JESUS Christ is the only one and the only name that can give us redemption and eternal life (*Acts4:12*). He is the only one who can quicken us to bear fruits pleasing to God. This is because he is the one whose blood was sacrificially shed on the cross to take away our sins that separates us from God (*Romans3:23-24*). And God almighty approved him and his sacrifice before and after his death on the cross. God almighty openly declared that JESUS was a pleasing propitiation for the sins of mankind (*Mathew 3:16-17*) and after His death He confirmed it by bringing Him back to life after three days, overcoming the power of death that came to mankind as a result of the first Adam's sin (*Mathew 28:5-6*). After showing himself to those who were with him before his crucifixion JESUS Christ ascended into heaven to prepare an eternal home for all those who will believe in him (*John14:1-3*).

JESUS Christ is the vineyard dresser, the last Adam whom God has given to the world to enable the fruitless, sinful man bear fruits of righteousness pleasing to God. He is the one that has been pleading your cause before God's judgment seat, vindicating you from the righteous judgment of God all these years in which you have been living on earth in your own ways. His mercy and patience towards you does not mean he approves of your lifestyle, neither do the achievements He has graciously granted you in this life mean you are saved. As the dung was added to fertilize the tree to help it bear fruits for the owner, so JESUS has been adding something new into your life each day to enable you realize and change your ways so that you can please God with the fruits you bear in this life and prepare for your eternity. JESUS Christ has been coming to fertilize you daily through diverse means since the day you had the knowledge of good and evil. He uses the television, the radio, the internet, dreams, visions, flyers, parents, friends and preachers of His word to add a new word each day into your life, but the decision to bear fruits solely depends on you. The word of God is the

fertilizer that is given to you to bear fruits for God your Maker who has promised to bring an end to this sinful and perverse world.

Today through the reading of this message, the Almighty God is personally making available to you the fullness of his Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us, in the person of JESUS Christ, His Son, (*John 1:1-14*) so that you can receive the following packages through Him: the forgiveness of all your sins, deliverance from the power of sin, healing from the consequences of sin and above all eternal life with God. You can decide today to be eternally saved by accepting JESUS Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and you will start bearing fruits of righteousness in God's vineyard. God has made the way of salvation so easy because of His love towards us and because of His earnest desire according to the counsel of His will to spend eternity with us. But it all depends on you. JESUS' hands are stretched towards you now as you read this message waiting for your decision to open your heart and let him into your life as your personal Lord and Savior. It is not at all by chance that you happen to be reading this message. (*Revelation 3:20*).

God has spoken to you in this message. Decide to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior to receive and enjoy His salvation and eternal life. How can you do this? Sincerely, confess the prayer below from the depth of your heart to God. And God who sees and searches the heart is going to forgive you and grant you salvation instantly, writing your name in the Book of Life in Heaven. (*Romans 10:9-10*).

If you are a backslider or an uncommitted Christian this prayer too is for you and God will renew you and help you to serve Him faithfully till the end.

▪ Prayer of salvation:

“LORD JESUS CHRIST I AM A SINNER. I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN SINS THROUGH MY THOUGHTS, MY WORDS AND MY ACTIONS. I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN SAVE ME FROM SINS AND CONDEMNATION. I BELIEVE THAT YOU DIED ON THE CROSS AND SHED YOUR BLOOD FOR MY SINS THAT I MAY BE SAVED AND YOU WERE RAISED FROM THE DEAD FOR MY JUSTIFICATION.

OH LORD, FORGIVE ME OF ALL MY SINS. WASH ME IN YOUR BLOOD AND COME INTO MY HEART NOW. GIVE ME YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AND LEAD ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE. THANK YOU LORD.

IN YOUR NAME I HAVE PRAYED.....AMEN”.

▪ Important Remarks

You are now in Christ Jesus for God has forgiven you of all your sins and saved you from condemnation and hell through your faith in the prayer you just made through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. You are now born again into God's royal family. Now that you have joined God's family to bear righteous fruits pleasing to Him, you have duties in the Kingdom to:

- (1) Get a personal Christian Bible immediately.
- (2) Fellowship with God through daily Bible reading. Praise Him with songs and worship Him in prayer.
- (3) Fellowship with other brethren in the same holy faith for mutual help and strength.
- (4) Tell others of your faith in Jesus Christ, what He has done for you and what He can do for them.

You have to continue in these to preserve your salvation to the end. God bless you.

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!