EVERLASTING GOSPEL DELIVERED BY THE SOLE SPIRITUAL HEAD LEADER O. O. OBU SUNDAY 4TH NOVEMBER, 1990

THEME : - WHOEVER RECEIVES ANY MAN RECEIVES GOD

First Lesson: 1 John 4:20-21

"If any man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also".

Second Lesson St. Matthew 10:40-41

"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward'.

Golden Text: John 13:20

"Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me".

There is no need for a lengthy sermon any longer. At any point in time you open the Book of God (Holy Bible) and read you will see your nakedness. It is better for everybody to have at least a copy of the Holy Bible in his home. And if you open the Bible at the dawn of each day you will see clearly your offences. If you don't search the Holy Scriptures you will not understand that you have no life eternal.

Abel was killed and all others who came in the name of God were killed. So many were killed from the time of Abel till the days of the prophets and apostles of old, and yet those who killed them claimed to know God.

This explains why Elijah prayed to God to send down fire to consume the whole of Israel because "they have scattered and destroyed thy places of sacrifice and I am the only one left, yet they are seeking to take my life". But since God is the God of love, mercy, and grace, he spoke to Elijah saying, 'I have seven (7) thousand people who did not worship Baal in Israel'. This has revealed to you that you may not be the only man of God in your locality or family. Do not think that you are the only man of God where you belong. Do not think that somebody else is the only man of God. There are many children of God in the world.

That is why when John said to Christ, "we have found somebody casting out demons in your name and we forbade him because he is not with us". What was Christ's reply? He said: "forbid him not for whoever is not against you is with you". That time of foolishness is long past. You will also recall when the disciples of John went to John and said, 'we have seen somebody whom you baptised', and his disciples are baptising people. What was his reply to them? He said: 'I have told you that no man can have anything except it is given him from above". This shows that you have to leave somebody to his ways, but remember to keep God's injunctions.

IF YOU RECEIVE ANY MAN YOU ARE RECEIVING GOD

If you say you know God receive whoever you see and do good to whoever comes to you; love and worship whoever you see and do all what you can for him. A great many people uphold that they know God, and simultaneously they will direct you to beat up somebody because (according to them) he is not a man of God. But I ask, how do you know that that person is not a man of God? Others argue that you are worshiping man. They claim that you have received a man, woman, minor, adult and others. But I ask, what do you think God should send to you (man)? Others question:" Why do you worship and honour the pastors, elders, men of God, women etc? But I ask you to tell me whom you think should be honoured, loved and respected apart from these persons?

It is a pathetic thing indeed that even here in Brotherhood where you receive the word of God in the morning, afternoon, evening and at night, and most importantly you claim to see God face to face but your actions deny Him. If we claim to know God but are ignorant of what this time, and week, and what other weeks and days ahead have for us; if we are ignorant of the importance of these days and weeks set aside like this, then we have denied our claims.

I have told you time without number that whether it is day, hour, second, month, week, year or season etc. belongs to God. He owns the tree, man and other things. Therefore if you worship any "man" you are worshipping God; if you worship the moon you are worshipping God. Whatever you do to any man you are doing same to God. Since it is impossible for us to see God the way we want, we should not forget that when we see man we have seen God. You have to receive whoever comes to you, serve him, and by so doing you have received God.

We are calling upon our Lord Jesus Christ every day. But realise that we are calling on God, and if you serve Jesus the Christ you are serving God. He said: "the Father sent me". That should make you realise that if you serve Jesus the Christ you are serving God directly. If we call on John the Baptist, realise that if you receive and minister unto him it is that same God you are receiving. If we call Peter, John, James and Paul; if you receive them you have received God. If you call upon the name of churches realise that whichever church you accept and call its name, believe in God and minister unto that church diligently, whatever service you put in there is for God.

IF YOU REJOICE WITH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SILVER 'JUBILEE YOU ARE REJOICING WITH GOD.

If we were to have this wisdom this house would have been filled to capacity, but now you realise that people have not responded as expected. I have been saying time without number that the Holy Queen Mother's week is for the entire world. I have said that it involves the children and adults irrespective of sex. But now people believe it to be an all-women affair. At times somebody will exclaim that it is Women's affair!

This ceremony is tagged: "The Silver Jubilee" (25th Anniversary of the International Women's Fellowship); if you receive this Anniversary it means you have received God. It does not mean that by so doing you haved received or rejoiced with men, women, children or what have you, but you have received God. If you reject this anniversary you have by so doing rejected God.

We have decided to call it Women's Fellowship celebrations because we have only recognised the women instead of God. Don't you realise that if you receive the Women's Fellowship Anniversary that you are directly receiving God?

Forget about somebody's name; leave people to themselves but serve God diligently. You have read in Revelation of John the divine chapter 22 of a tree which stands on either side of the river and bears twelve manners of fruits every month; who does the tree symbolises? That is our Lord Jesus Christ. If you worship that tree it means you are worshipping God. But if you start to hew down that tree it is God you are trying to cut down.

GOD IS THE TRUNK, WE ARE ALL BRANCHES

I have told you that that ram which Abel sacrificed unto God, he (Abel) did not know that that was himself. And that was the source of his death. All the animals you see are human beings and man is God.

I am telling you these things so that your eyes may-be opened and that you may be wise. All the fellowships here (BCS) are branches but the main trunk is God. Whatever name anybody answers whether Deaconess, prophet, pastor, crusader etc, if you receive, rejoice with him and serve him, you will not fail to receive the reward.

Accordingly, if you have one naira (N1) with you while you were coming here, eventually you happen to meet a beggar along the way. You intended using the one naira to thank God here (Hall) but should you give out the one naira to the beggar you are giving it to God directly.

In the same token if your neighbours (husband and wife) are fighting to the point of killing themselves but you pay deaf ears to such thing and put on your soutane leaving for service; what type of service are you going to attend when people are almost dead in the place you live? First of all go and settle peace for them and by so doing you are serving God.

Our work is to do righteousness. Our duty in this new kingdom is to receive and rejoice with God. That time when somebody goes to Jerusalem to worship what he does not know had past.

The samaritan woman said to Christ: 'our fathers worshipped

in this mount but ye say there is a place in Jerusalem where men ought to worship God. What was Christ's reply? Christ said: "woman, believe me that a time is coming when it shall neither be on this mount nor yet at Jerusalem for ye worship what ye do not know; but we worship what we know because salvation is of the jews". He further said: 'believe me that a time is coming and now is, when the true worshippers will worship God in spirit and in truth, for God seeketh such to worship him".

DON'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST PERSONS

If we continue to discriminate by saying 'O! I don't know this person; the other person is a man of God and the other is of satan, will you not, by so doing, be heading towards Jerusalem which he said it shall not be there that men will worship God? If you declare that you are going to 34 Ambo Hall, yet there is a Duke town presbyterian church and other churches around you, but you don't give them gifts, does that not imply your seeking to go to Jerusalem which Christ said: "it shall neither be in Jerusalem nor on the mount".

We are those who worship God in spirit. Whoever you do any good thing to, don't be bothered about his sex, status, language or country of origin. Whether he is a man or woman you are expected to do good to him. It is expected of all of us to do good to each and every person that comes to us. By so doing you are serving God. That is what the New Kingdom which news you have heard is all about.

Receive any man of God or any other human being who comes to you because all of us are children of God. As long as he has told us 'love ye one another as I have loved you'. It behoves on us therefore not to discriminate against persons. Nobody should say 'I don't know this or that man; I don't belong there; this is a woman, or the other person is a man'. Once you say this you have erred. But if you love every person and serve every person that comes to you it means you have done it to God. You cannot see God's face. God dwells in us. God dwells in all of us. Even though you kowtow for a small child, you are doing that not unto that child but unto God.

This explains why when the disciples discovered that the wheat that was planted germinated as wheat and tares. The disciples asked our Lord Jesus Christ: 'did you not plant wheat here'? But Christ told them that that was done by the evil one. They asked Christ whether to remove the tares from the wheat but Christ forbade them not to do so, in order not to remove the wheat with the tares. And further told them 'let the wheat and the tares grow together till the time of harvest is come'.

I want you to tell me how you will hate man without hating God. Tell me how it will be possible for you to disgrace man without disgracing God. I want you to tell me how you will give food to God when you have refused man that food. This explains why the first lesson says 'if any man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar;" If we don't rejoice, feel happy and receive man whom we see with our eyes it means we don't receive God. God says: 'blessed is he who does not see but yet believes'.

These things are used in testing our faith. If it is said that today is for Women's Fellowship activities, get up and join the rest of the people for it is God's day: and which ever way you are able to dance and express your joy do so for you are doing it unto God and you shall be accordingly rewarded. If for instance it is said that today is specifically set aside for the children, get up and do whatever you are capable of doing for it is God's day. He has many names. If it is said that today is set aside for the poor and the needy, get up and join the train for it is the day of God.

EVERY FUNCTION ATTRACTS BLESSINGS

Even though it is a function staged by your village or

community, though people may uphold that it belongs to the worldly people and has nothing to do with God get up and join them. And I ask, if it is not God's thing whose thing is it? Go and participate because whatever you are able to put in is for God. If it is said that it is the government's function, 'Government' is just a name, but the function is God's. Go and share in whatever the people do and be blessed. Even though you are told that the witch doctors, juju doctors, necromancers and sorcerers are congregating to carry out a function, go there and participate because you are doing such for God. Go there and minister unto those native doctors because it will not be possible for you to see God face to face; and since you are restricted to seeing these persons whatever you do to them is for God.

Forget about the colour, status, height, weight, race, creed, language or sex for this is the time we have to serve God. After the creation process, God gave Adam the authority to name all things. All the things you find around us are named by us. It is man who gives names to other creations. In God we are all one. whether it is man, animal, fish, air, wind, angel etc. are all one. All of us are one and God is a spirit.

By loving and receiving whoever we come across we don't lose anything. And by so doing we are serving God and therefore shall be rewarded. You have deduced from today's gospel that 'God is all things and in all things'. Also realise that the variations which is brought about by names of things do not matter. Whatsoever you want to do, do it as unto God and not to man. Forget about whatever name anybody answers; forget about colour, creed, language, sex, and identity of any person, but whatsoever you do realise that you are doing same to God.

BROTHERHOOD EMBRACES ALL MANNERS OF PERSONS

Sometimes you are always surprised because a lot of people maintain that Brotherhood is belzeelbub, juju, diabology,

apparition, witch or wizard, mermaid, fetish, etc. So many things have been said and inspite of these calumnies, many people on the other hand declare unequivocally that Brotherhood is of God who created heaven and earth; others say Brotherhood is Jesus the Christ; some say Brotherhood is spirit: others give it many names and descriptions. And if you put the two arguments together you will get what the people of the world are looking for.

Some people say that Brotherhood drink blood, kills people, impoverish people and does all kinds of havoc to humanity; others say: if you want children go to Brotherhood: People are for these two things. If it was only said that Brotherhood gives life; there are people who do not wish that others should live, therefore they will not come in here. Such persons will rather look for where death prevails so that they can kill people. On the other hand, if it is only said that Brotherhood kills, some people who don't cherish killing will not come here. If it is only chorused that Brotherhood is God, then realise that it will not work out well because those who hate God out-number those who love Him (God). They are so numerous. At times you hear them declare openly that they want apparition, belzeebub, satan, and not God.

Simultaneously if you say that Brotherhood is satan, devil, apparition etc, there are a great many who don't want such things; and at times you may hear them say that they want God. This game is both sided. One side of the society maintains that it is the Almighty God; others say it is Jesus Christ. By their declarations those who want Jesus the Christ will flock in; those who seek for the prophet, God, apparition, mermaid, fetish and other transitory things will equally come in.

Have you ever had this wisdom before? Everybody is free to serve in Brotherhood. All those who want to kill people embrace Brotherhood so that their plans could be easily hatched with the support of Brotherhood.

Those who are looking for God come to Brotherhood. Those

who do not want God come to Brotherhood and in that manner God engulfs the entire world. In the past you use to be angry when people blaspheme against BCS but will you be sad about it any longer? If it was said only that it is God and indeed the truth which prevails in Brotherhood then millions would have vowed never to come in here unless they finish eliminating their enemies. They would beat their chest and stamp their feet on the ground and declare their intention to kill their foes first, before anything else.

A great many people came here with intentions to incise the power of belzeebub into themselves; others came in here with murderous intentions but finally they cannot go back nor are they able to do evil any more. If it were not so they would not come.

Recall that person who had a demonic spirit in him. When the roving jews rebuked the devilish spirit in that man in the name of Jesus Christ which Paul preached; the man possessed of the devilish spirit yelled out: Jesus Christ I know, Paul I know, who art thou? The person with the devilish spirit told those jews that he knew Christ and Paul but that they should prove their identity. Imagine what the devilish spirit can do; you think the trees, witches, wizards etc. do not know God? All things know God, and if you minister unto any person you are serving God directly. Has that time of foolishness not past? Are your eyes not opened today?

Realise that if somebody who is given up to drinking establishes Brotherhood in any locality, all others who drink will flock in there, but whoever does not drink will not go there. If you are a fornicator and you establish another bethel; all the male and female fornicators will come and belong there. There is no thief who will come there because he does not fall into that group. But if a thief establishes a bethel, all the thieves will gather there. They will always chorus that it is so hot! Some will maintain that the work of God is going on well. In that manner God works and through such channels He calls those He wants. If you are an honest person, and you preach that if somebody does not tell the truth, refrain from fornication, etc. he should not come in there. If you make that type of statement it is only a handful of you who will remain in that bethel.

There is no liar or thief who will surface in that bethel, they will all vow never to come there. But if somebody should come out and declare to them that a new bethel has been put up and all manners of persons are accepted, then all the people will declare immediately for Brotherhood.

NOBODY LEAVES BROTHERHOOD

The house where people go to gather does not matter. When people argue that somebody has backslided from Brotherhood to Roman; and I ask, did he not come from Roman Catholic to Brotherhood?

These names do not matter. When it is said that somebody has backslided from Duke town presbyterian church and is now worshipping mermaid, is God not the owner of mermaid? To where will you go and escape from the hands of God? Therefore, what is your concern when somebody backslides? Others would make noise that that person has left Brotherhood; but I ask, to where is he going if he leaves Brotherhood? Is he not owned by God? There is no problem whether somebody leaves or remains.

Who sent John the baptist and Jesus the Christ? Is it not God? John neither ate nor drank. But our Lord Jesus Christ ate and drank satisfactorily. Does that mean that he is no longer the son of God? In the case of John, because he neither eat nor drink they were afraid of him and some said he had demon; but in the case of Christ he was always feasting the people and they followed him because of the feast. Are your eyes opened today?

God honours himself and would not forget Himself. He feeds all creations. At times you are sick and it is revealed to you that you should pluck this or that leaf, grind, apply it to your affected part of the body; on the other hand you may also be advised to cook the leaves and eat so that your sickness could be cured. But surprisingly you argue that such advice is from satan. But I ask, is satan the one who created the leaves? When you apply the leaves as you were directed you will be healed but failure to do it you may pray unceasingly and God will not answer your prayers.

Another person may also fall sick and take all types of medication ranging from injection, syrup, tablet and ointment; incisions are made on his body; he has talismans over his neck and do all kinds of things yet there is no cure. But eventually he is advised to desist from taking medication. Such a person will begin to argue, 'O! if I took medication previously and things did not work well, do you want me to die when I desist from taking drugs? Alright, continue taking drugs if you so wish. But were you to comply with that instruction would you not be well?

You will surely be well. God has designed all these things to glorify himself alone. He has done that because He owns the 'left' and 'right'. He is an impartial God. Let our first lesson be read.

First Lesson: 1 John 4:20-21

"If any man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also".

WE HAVE A MONOLITHIC GOD

Have you heard that? Who is a man of God and who is a child of satan? This is a matter of language. The mother who puts to bed a prophet of truth, is she not the one who gives birth to a false prophet. Brethren have you not seen the way God does His works? Who was Adam and Eve? Adam and Eve were the children. They were our first father and our first mother. Who is the second Adam and the Eve? It is Jesus the Christ who is the second Adam; while virgin Mary is the second Eve.

It therefore means where you ended your work there will you start again. That is why as it was through the sin of one person punishments came upon all and even those who did not offend; so it is through one person's righteousness the gift of grace has come unto all and even unto those who have not done righteousness. It is the same God doing all these things. Adam was the son of God. Jesus the Christ was equally the son of God. Nobody was greater than the other because it was the same monolithic God who worked in them. We have one God. But he has decided to create his things with variations. Don't you see how he has created us with different faces; behaviours, characters and actions. That is the way He wants. Do not allow God's style of doing things to push you into believing that a certain person is a man of satan, and because of that you beat the person up. When you beat up that person you are doing that to God; and that will be a shame on you for disgracing God whom you claim to know and by so doing it means you don't know God.

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If you don't receive man how will you receive God? If you don't honour and respect man which you have seen with your eyes, tell me how you will worship God which you will not see. The scripture says: 'be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for many have by so doing taken angels into their homes unawares'.

BE NOT FORGETFUL TO ENTERTAIN STRANGERS

Remember when Abraham met three strangers (two of them were angels, and the third person was God), did he know who they were? Abraham did not know, that he was hosting two angels and God. God sent two angels to the two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of sins. God advised them to go and confirm whether they were so sinful and if so they (Sodom and Gomorrah) should be destroyed.

They came to Abraham's house. Abraham hosted them. He gave them food. After they must have eaten their mission was made known to Abraham. Abraham asked whether the city shall be destroyed if one hundred righteous people are found? They told him that they shall not destroy. Did he know he was talking to God? He asked of eighty, sixty and forty righteous people. He did not ask about one person. And they dispersed after a while. Finally the angels went and destroyed the two cities as directed by God.

When the angel told Sarah that she will be with child and she shall put to bed a male child; Sarah was embittered about such a prophecy because she knew she was old. She wanted to be angry. Did two of them know that that prophecy was from God? Did the spirit tell them? God is a spirit. He may cause you to be blind if He wishes. He rules over all things. The more you look at God the less you see Him. Do not study God any longer. Let us follow him sheepishly. Do not say 'O! I don't know that person, I know the other person because he is in my church. He owns all prayer houses and churches; He owns all juju and witch doctors; He owns all things. Serve him with diligence and you shall receive your due reward.

The scriptures warn that you should not be forgetful to entertain strangers. Did Abraham know that one amongst the three strangers was God? Did he know that others were angels? He did not know this. If we continue to discriminate against persons then we have perished and we lack the knowledge of God.

When the two strangers (angels) reached the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah did the inhabitants know that those strangers were angels of God? The preliminary stage of things in this kingdom is entertaining strangers. If you don't receive and entertain strangers put yourself into fervent prayers, because you are a wanted person. That would mean that God, our Lord Jesus Christ has come to your house and you starve him by not entertaining him. Our Lord Jesus Christ, God and, angel is man, and man is spirit, what do you think will be done so that you could understand and practise these things.

It was said: "let us make man in our own image, and after our likeness". God made man in His own image. Man is God. You have to serve him (man), receive him, love him and neither discriminate nor speak ill of any person. Be foolish in the ways of God so that you will receive blessings from God.

PILGRIMAGE TO BIAKPAN ATTRACTS GREAT BLESSINGS

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Whatever you do to a prophet you shall receive a prophet's reward; whatever good thing you are able to do to a righteous man you shall receive the reward of a righteous man. A local adage says that a miser does not know that gift is a loan. If all the inhabitants of the world were to know what going to Biakpan means, then the minor and adults, men and women the world over will go there. You are only going there to cart away blessings and irrespective of the church you attend, on going there you will come back home with peace, children, joy, good health, power and with these goodies what do you lose?

If all of us were to comprehend the importance of this celebrations then this Hall will not be enough to accommodate people. This is true because all of us are coming to God and not man. And so whatever you can do is to God, and not to Women's Fellowship Anniversary or Queen Mother etc, but you are doing same directly to God who will reward you accordingly.

He is called Omniscient God. Amongst the animals he becomes an animal. Amongst the trees He becomes one of them. When God is amongst the fishes he becomes a fish. And when he is amongst man he becomes one among us. Are you aware of this truth. He is so knowledgeable. Let our second lesson be read. Listen attentively in order to take note and call a stop to that your foolishness.

When Mercy Fellowship has a meeting or function you argue that you are not a member there. If you are not a member of Mercy Fellowship, who owns Mercy Fellowship? Who owns the New World-Wide Missionary Fellowship? Who owns the sabbath children Fellowship? Who owns all the Fellowships? Is the Father not the one? Who owns heaven and earth? Who owns the government? That foolishness should stop.

Second Lesson: St. Matthew 10:40-41

"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward".

FUNCTIONS ENCOURAGE ATTENDANCE

If the Duke town Presbyterian Church has a function and you go to attend will you not be blessed? If the juju doctors, native doctors or armed robbers stage a function or ceremony, if you can participate will you not be blessed? If you are unable to attend the blessings will you not receive. But I cannot stop attending their functions. The names those groups answer do not matter but you have to attend their functions.

Ordinarily, nobody would have gone to Biakpan on his own without a cause. This function (Women International Fellowship Anniversary) has aroused a lot of interest and concern from all quarters. Those who would not go to Biakpan have decided to be here because of this particular celebration. Celebrations and functions are the vehicles through which people are gathered to give thanks to God. If there is no function you will not find people in the churches and bethels. God has decided to change his own things the way He pleases.

If you happen to see anybody in the bethel, he is sometimes sick or has a serious court case, and once such a person is healed or his case is squashed, he will go for good. If you find him along the road any day and ask why he doesn't come again he will tell you that he is going to look for money. If you argue any longer he will ask you what the argument is all about when initially he was of presbyterian church and has to go back there.

You hardly find any person who is not afflicted in the bethels. God uses the Fellowships' meetings, functions, and celebrations of this magnitude to draw people to himself; what is evil in His doing this? There are other functions still coming ahead. Interpreters have their own; the ABAS have their own, and each person has his group. If you are a trickster, and if you happen to be the head of a group, then all other cunny human beings will fall among that group; if you are a liar and as the leader other arch-liars will come in there. This explains why Christ said "ye know me not because ye are not my sheep; my sheep hear my voice, and follow me, and I know them by name".

About twenty five brothers (pastors) went on ministry to London and much was not heard of them there; London was not shaken. But for the Holy Queen Mother's visit to London scheduled for 1991, go and see how the whole of London and America is shaking with this news. Those in Africa are battle ready to make sure they join the train. Those who have never gone there will avail themselves with such opportunity to be there. Moreso, for the fact that 'the King of kings' did go to Imo State early this year, 1990; a lot of people who never attended functions in BCS were there and others have shown interest in attending subsequent celebrations. That is the method I am using now. Other fellowships are coming up. Have you seen the Royal Highnesses' Fellowship which came to lime light early this year. Whatever happens get up and join for that is God's. Whatever name is called, anything is God's name and we have to honour these things. Whatever thing you are able do, for you are doing same to God and he shall reward you accordingly.

The Apostles/Universal Youth Fellowship were given a key while on ministry to United States of America since 1982. They did not launch that key not until early this year when they brought it out for launching here in the Hall and at Aba, Imo State. People turned up and the hall was filled to capacity. It goes to confirm the saying that there are many ways to catch a rat without cutting the tail.

Realise that whatever you are doing is unto God. Whichever stranger you see in your house take care of him and entertain him. We have decided to call people by such a name but actually names do not hold as far as God is concerned. By receiving the stranger you have received God.

WHOEVER RECEIVES A POOR MAN RECEIVES GOD

A great many people conjecture that God cannot be poor, is not sick, is not naked nor can he be imprisoned. But why does he say I was in prison and ye visited me; I was sick and ye came to me; I was naked and ye clothed me; I was hungry and ye gave me food; when did those things happen? The People you meet along the street, going hungry, naked, sick, and others imprisoned are Christ. But rather than attend to them you always say: "it is your sins that cause you to suffer". Are you not saying that to God?

If you receive a man of God, or a servant of God you will receive God. Whatever you do to any prophet of God you are doing same to God. Whatever you do to an orphan, poor person, stranger, sick person, you are doing same to God. Settle it therefore in your heart that whatever you do now is to receive and rejoice in God.

I know that a great many people do argue that they cannot worship any person; others will ask carelessly: after all is she the real Queen Mother? Is she not her relation, daughter, sister or friend? When you say that you have erred. That was exactly what the Israelites did to their son (our Lord Jesus Christ), They said He was the son of a carpenter, and because of their thoughts they stumble and fall. If you nurse such a thought you will stumble and fall. I'm I a man or woman?

We have a lot of chairmen, presidents or other officers who must have performed their duties creditably well while they were at the helm of affairs of certain fellowships, but when they were no longer there you don't fete them. In remembrance of their efforts and commitments to the Father's service. At times others will argue why such a thing should at all be done.

APPRECIATE GOOD WORKS

But are you not aware that by doing so to him you are serving God and that he shall reward you? Don't you know that that is gratefulness to God? I am watching you carefully. What about our senior mothers (some aged Deaconesses), they are not received and nobody fetes them. If you don't receive them it means you don't receive God.

When have you rejoiced and received those who have devoted their services, human, and material resources to the services of God? Many people have done these things for the upliftment of the glory of God. But have you rejoiced and received them as appreciation to God. Are you not aware that by receiving them you are receiving God? Now the international president of women's fellowship (Deaconess G. B. Clarke) has gone abroad to make proper arrangement for subsequent celebrations; since last week she has been here with her secretary and other executive members working tirelessly to see that this week's activities meet with huge success. Instead of receiving them you begin to nurse grudges that because she and other well-to-do do not recognise anybody. By so doing have you not erred?

Imagine the type of songs rendered by the sabbath choirs, have you appreciated God by receiving them? If you receive them don't you know you are receiving God? They can be received in many ways. The women or men collectively can do something for them; or individually, any person can receive them by doing something for them. And by so doing you are receiving God and shall be accordingly, rewarded. Here in Brotherhood we are expected to appreciate the good works put up by people and rejoice with them. And whoever receives you receives me; and whosever receives me receives him that sent me.

Whoever receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward, whoever receives "a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward".

YOUR SERVICE FOR FELLOWSHIPS IS FOR GOD

If you read 1st Thess. 5:12-15 you will see what I mean. Remember those who do good works. I am watching you carefully whether you will comply with the scriptural injunctions. Remember those who do good works; whether somebody is a messenger, cleaner etc. if you receive and rejoice with him you are doing same to God.

Do not think that whatever you do here is for the Holy Queen Mother, but realise that whatever you do here, whether dances, singing or donations etc, is all for the Father and it is more blessed to us for doing so. Whatever efforts or services you are putting in the Fellowship or Association that you are, realise that you are not doing such good services to the Fellowship or Association per se but to God directly. You are serving God who will accordingly reward you.

Whatever you are able to do, whether to visit the orphans and give them gifts, or to build orphanages, or do other things we are doing such a thing directly to God and you shall be rewarded accordingly. Let our Golden Text be read.

Golden Text John 13:20

"Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me".

YOUR STERLING QUALITIES GLORIFY GOD

Have you not seen how numerous the children of God are? Whomsoever you receive and minister unto amongst any group of brethren you are doing same to God and you shall be rewarded. At times you discriminate against persons. Maybe since somebody is not a deaconess, prophet or woman, you tell the person not to do one thing or the other. By so doing you have failed. Or you say that since somebody is not a member of Brotherhood, and because you don't know him, you can't do this or that for him. If you do that you have failed. You are told that Brotherhood subsumes the totality of created and uncreated things. If you receive it, it means you have received the Father.

The songs you render attract people into the Kingdom lovers of songs; the dances, recitations, bring in lovers of dances and recitations. The clothes you put on; your personal appearance, personality, the good and fluent English you speak, the Igbo language and other languages you can speak bring glory to God. Your good character, beauty, handsomeness and pride bring glory to the Father.

God is no respecter of persons. If you have received the Holy Spirit, then some other people in the rural areas also receive the Holy Spirit; both of you are one and there is no form of division whatsoever. Exactly the work of God He does in the towns and cities He does the same work in the rural areas, jungles, and other remote areas of the countryside.

And so brethren, whoever receives any person, do not bother about the church he goes, or what he looks like, forgo such things and let us approach other important matters for we are lucky children of God. Our joy is to uplift God's glory by living exemplary life which edifies mankind.

BROTHERHOOD IS FOR ALL

All these Fellowships are not established for the benefit of some individuals; Brotherhood is not for the benefit of mankind and whatever is done in Brotherhood is intended to glorify God alone. It therefore behoves on every person to be up and doing. We should do one thing or the other in order to reveal His glory to the world.

Right now the Brethren at U.S.A. and other places have applied for the Holy Queen Mother to visit their countries. But when I said this earlier years ago you laughed and thought it was a joke but now what is the situation. Whatever you want to do let it be perfectly done. Whatever you want to do, whether singing, let it be of glory to God. Whether you want to put on clothes mind what you wear in order not to disgrace God, by your odd dressing.

If you commit fornication or quarrel; if you don't attend functions, it means you have disgraced God. If you don't do good works it means you have disgraced God. At times the poor and needy will express their desire to attend a certain occasion or function; maybe they are always given gifts like clothes and other

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things, and these things will go along way to spur them next time to attend such functions. Let us glorify God because glory belongs to God alone.

Realise that God honours and worships Himself. It remained a little the Executives of the Women's Fellowship almost made an open request to the Father about the prevailing rain which continued till Thursday. But after that day, from Friday did you witness any rainfall? By this action does God not honour and respect himself? It was only a little opportunity that waited to provide itself for the executives to come and beg the Father to help his children but suddenly the rain gave way to sunshine and everything was alright. By so doing was he honouring you? He was honouring Himself. Let us honour and worship Him for He is worthy.

Brethren, I don't intend to take you any further. One stroke of the cane is sufficient to the wise. He that has ears let him hear. May God bless His holy words. Amen.