

CONTENTS

Preface

Acknowledgement

Dedication

Concept of Love

Secret of Giving & Serving

Store Your Wealth in Heaven

Children of God Revealed.

AN EVERLASTING GOSPEL DELIVERED BY GOD
ALMIGHTY
THE VOICE OF GOD

THE SECRET OF GIVING AND SHARING

FIRST LESSON: MATTHEW 6:3-4

"But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly".

SECOND LESSON: I PETER 2:20-21

"For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps".

GOLDEN TEXT: II TIMOTHY 2:24-25

"And the servant of the lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth".

Beloved, I have told you that my big bag is not yet opened. The contents of the bag are marvelous. You can have a lot of money and yet the money is not prudently invested, because of the spirit operating

in you and leading you. In the same vain, you may be beautiful but your beauty is not useful to you. Again, this is caused by the spirit in you. You may equally have a lot of food, but if the spirit leading you is evil then no person will accept to eat your food and you will consequently derive no blessings from your food. The spirit in you should teach everything. There is a proper method for everything. If you were to learn it, you would do the right thing always. To be generous is easy but the question is how do you go about it properly? Generosity should not be a public declaration but a cheerful, joyous, quiet action.

SECRECY THE RIGHT METHOD

Do you have to stand in the village square and make presentation of gifts to your community? There is a rational way of giving things to people. Everything has its proper approach. That is the perfect wisdom which I have brought for all who care to listen to me. If you do not follow this perfect method you will gain nothing. Do not show your benevolence grudgingly or boastfully neither should you command someone to accept your gift. You may hear a person say: 'Madam, come and take the money so that I will rest', unquote. If you disgrace someone because you have to give him something, it means you are disgracing God and you will suffer rather than get blessing.

It is not correct to divulge to your wife or husband what kindness you want to show to another person. Similarly, you may not tell anyone about any act of generosity you have done. Do everything in secret.

Do not let anyone know when you give a gift to the poor. Do not want him to explain all his problems before you offer him assistance. When you want to help the poor, do not even let him know or feel he is a poor person. Do it from your heart and with all humility and reverence to God. Let him thank God the Father whom he believes knows his

needs. By so doing, we shall behold love, wisdom and power of God for the process by which God promotes and provides for you is not known to man.

You do not tell God your needs yet He knows and supplies them. God Himself does not announce to people His kindness to you, so you are not to tell people when you help others. It must be a secret between you, the beneficiary and God alone.

If you commit sin and suffer for it, do not complain to anyone because you are suffering for your sin. When you committed the sin you did not tell people so if you suffer for being a rogue, wife or husband snatcher, liar or trouble maker, what is the glory in it? If you suffer for any sinful act of yours, do not console yourself that you are suffering for or as Christ because it is not true. You are merely reaping the reward of your sinful acts. If you suffer for your sins, then it is not on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ. But when you suffer in the course of doing good to humanity such as helping the poor, the needy and less privileged ones with humility and truth, then it is for Christ. For instance, if you suffer to provide for the poor and the needy secretly and humbly, not allowing your beneficiary to know and expect something or making him to feel inferior or poor, then you have suffered for Christ's sake. Remember that you should not let him or any member of his family know that you have done anything. You may simply address the thing to him as an anonymous letter and send to his residence. Do everything to tolerate him and accommodate him. No matter how provoking, abusive or irritating he may be, over look his weak points and continue to help him with all humility and love. Do not help anyone so that you can lord anything over him. Do not do anything as though you are helping a servant or slave. You have to do it as though you are doing it to Christ. You have to do it whole heartedly, with humility, cheerfulness,

meekness and love. You should not allow him to suffer before receiving your benevolence and your deed should not reflect in any of your discussions with people. Let him have the impression that it is God that has done it for him.

Do not behave as if you have suffered on his or her behalf for that is one of the aspects of giving which mankind does not know. Always remember that you are serving God and not the person. Let it not ever occur to you that you are helping or being generous to any person. Therefore, do all things as though unto Christ. Do not complain that you are suffering for the church or the community, neither should you ever let people know that you are suffering for your family or for yourself. Do you not know that God is the one doing all things? Use the utmost love, patience, tolerance and endurance in dealing with those you are helping. Whatsoever he or she does, do not tell any other person. You have to apply this same method when you want to forgive the sins and offences of others. Seeing the level of humility and other virtues of righteousness in you, the offender may repent and turn to God in spirit and in truth.

Let us hear our first lesson.

FIRST LESSON: MATTHEW 6:3-4

"But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly".

SERVICE DEVOID OF LOVE IS UNPROFITABLE

You would now realize what is stated in I Corinthians chapter 13 verse 3, thus "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though

I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing”.

You must hate evil and embrace love and hold fast unto good. Material possessions are not the ultimate in the sight of God. Food and even the human self is nothing before God. God desires every person to be spirited; the spirit will direct you to practice love, truth, righteousness, peace, patience, humility, tolerance, meekness, lowliness, joy, cheerfulness and obedience. Remember that whatever you do is done to God. Therefore, if you do anything with anger, pride, boastfulness or grudgingly, God will not accept it because it means you have disgraced God. In many cases you arrogantly give something to somebody in such a way that makes him sad and so he begins to lament in his heart that if he had his own he would not have accepted yours. Your approach in such case spoils your good intention and your gift is therefore not accepted by God. That is why many poor people will tell you that they are wealthy (even though they have nothing), so that you may not disgrace them. You boast that you do not respect any person. If you do not respect or humble yourself before any person then you cannot humble yourself before God.

What have being taught here is the correct manner of approach. Since what you are doing is for God you have to do it with humility and sincerity. You have to apply love, righteousness, joy, peace and patience and it is only then that God can reward you abundantly for your work. Brethren, that is only one step in being generous to the poor.

Some people even snatch people's wives in the course of showing generosity to them. They also take their children and other things and demean them just because they are benevolent to them. They so

disgrace and torture their beneficiaries that they regret ever being born on earth. Those who do these to the poor suffer severely at the end; therefore, do not boast or become pompous because of your benevolence to someone. Do not let another know of the help which you have given to the poor. Do not be weary of good works for you are doing all that to God the Father. See the second lesson below.

SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 2:20-21

"For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps".

DO NOT BE WEARY TO DO GOOD:

You should know that there is no honour in evil or immoral actions. For instance, if you are caught stealing and are beaten, deformed and dispossessed of your property, you have nothing to gain. You cannot say you are suffering for God. You are reaping what you have sowed. If you endure when you are being tortured for your sinful acts then you have no honour from God. You are merely suffering for your evil practises. But if you suffer because you saw someone in trouble and helped him then you will be glorified by God. If you behold a poor person who has no food and help him only to be accused falsely, imprisoned or subjected to other forms of ill-treatment, then do not worry yourself or complain to any person but endure them patiently. Do not even become sad or weary of good works for Christ suffered the same and that is when you can claim that you are suffering for the sake of God. If you do good to someone and he pays you back with evil, continue to do good and do not tell anyone about your good

works. This is what you have being called to do even as Christ did. In this way you would be glorified. If you go out to help people based on your knowledge of love and power of our God, and you are paid in bad coins, do not complain for you would be honoured and glorified.

For instance, it was announced over the radio that about three thousand people are stranded in the sea. If due to your knowledge of our God you opt to assist them, you will receive bountiful blessings from God. But you must do this in the spirit of humility and without sounding any trumpet. Go to the refugee camps and help them with food, money, clothes and accommodation in the spirit of love, humility, peace and secrecy. If you do this you would be blessed and honoured by God. It is better for us to suffer for doing good works even if means going naked. whatever is done against you in the course of your good works should not debar you from continuing.

Your effort may not be appreciated, loved or returned yet you have to continue in good works. That is why God called you and equipped you for the job. Let it be known to you that you gain more spiritually for suffering because of good works done to others. Since God is happy with good works done with the spirit of joy, humility, love and righteousness, He would reward you. Do not seek reward from someone before you can help such a person. Do not seek gratification for past services before you can help another. Do not expect people to thank you for good works. If you do then do not expect any blessings from God. God alone can bless and glorify you for your good works. Do not think that no one has seen your good works otherwise you would be announcing and telling people what you have done. Do all good works in silence and in secrecy so that He who sees in secret would bless you. Do not go to media houses, radio, television or

newspapers to announce your good works for this tantamount to unnecessary publicity.

Do not allow people to announce you as a philanthropist but let God alone know what you are doing. Let us now use an earthly event to illustrate a heavenly situation. Many of you always think that it is foolishness to suffer for the sake of helping another person. Be it known to you that you are foolish if you refuse to help another person gratis. He that helps others and continues to do so in the face of odds is wise.

ILLUSTRATION

I have told you this story before about two ladies. One was a blacksmith's wife. The two met on their way to fetch water in the stream. On their way back the other woman pleaded the blacksmith's wife to accompany her to her house to see how the husband is faring. She obliged and went with her but on getting there, the blacksmith's wife saw that the other woman's husband was so sick that he could not adjust himself from his position. The blacksmith's wife went home and informed her husband. The blacksmith immediately requested to be taken to the man. He went there with his wife and saw the man still lying down helpless. He greeted the man but he could not respond.

At this juncture, the blacksmith told the sick man's wife to follow him to his own house, that there was a cure for her husband in his house. The blacksmith knew that the man was sick because of poverty, hence he gave her a big box filled with money. That was the blacksmith's life savings. He told the sick man's wife to wait for him to write out the directions for use. The sick man's wife was convinced that it was a box of drugs for her husband. She did not know that what was given to her

was money. The blacksmith wrote that what was in the box was his life saving and should be used carefully by the sick man. That was all the direction he wrote down. So the woman went home with the money to her husband. When she got home, she placed the box near her husband and opened it. Her sick husband looked from the pillow and saw currency notes protruding from the box and jumped up and his sickness vanished instantly. The blacksmith did that because he believed in God.

That is exactly what Brotherhood of the Cross and Star has come to do for the world.

You have to be ready to suffer anything in order to save other people for that is what is pleasing unto God. He rejoices over such actions taken by His children. Do not in the course of helping others insult, abuse or usurp their rights. If you do it correctly then you would be blessed. See the Golden Text below.

GOLDEN TEXT: II TIMOTHY 2:24-25

“ And the servant of the lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth”.

TEACH OTHERS WITH PATIENCE AND HUMILITY.

We are all aware of the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ did not commit any sin. He came to suffer so that our sins will be forgiven. In this way, we would be united with the Father and be saved. He did all things to show the love of God for mankind. He did not do anything for personal gains or to be enriched. Therefore, since we are His children, we should emulate the same lifestyle. We should not seek for gratification

for any work or act of benevolence rendered to people. We of the Brotherhood should not seek wealth or personal gains from the work of God. We are the source of help to the helpless, father to the fatherless and mother to the motherless. We are brethren to them that have none. We are not expected to be trouble makers, liars or quarrelsome; hence if a man of God is offended, he should endure all in humility and love. He should correct others in the spirit of meekness and truth and should not curse neither should he fight. He does not reject any person or impute sins on others. HIS GOAL IS TO CHANGE THE EVIL PERSON UNTO GOD TO BE GOOD. HE THEREFORE USES LOVE, HUMILITY, TRUTH AND GOOD WORKS TO CHANGE THE EVIL ONE.

If we do not practise truth in what is another's who shall give us ours? We use good works to reveal God. For it is the work of God to supply the needs of others gratis. Do not construct a road for a community so that they may give you gifts in return. You should do such good works as a child of God to reveal His presence. You do not have to count it as a debt to any person that you have helped. You do not have to count it as debt to a community which you have helped. There is no debt here, for what you have done is the work of God. What you have done shows that you know the truth. You are only showing that you know God. It is not a matter of an eye for an eye. Many who call themselves children of God have not started His work. You are called into this kingdom to serve humanity gratis and not to blow your trumpet for doing good to others. Whatever you do must be in secret.

BE PRACTICAL AND HUMBLE

Recall Noah and his era. He drank and was drunk with liquor. His first son saw him and laughed at him. His second son came and did not want to see his father's nakedness. He turned back, picked a wrapper and

walking backwards towards his father, covered his nakedness. When Noah regained his consciousness, he was told of the action of his first son so he cursed him and the effect extended to his offsprings- The twin cities of Sodom and Gomorra.

You can see the humility of Noah's second son. Therefore show good examples always. Do not be like Noah's first son. Do not laugh at people or call them evil. If you see that they lack love, then it is your work to give them love through practical examples. When you get to any community, you have to provide their needs. A man of God is not expected to utter any evil or foul word. If someone is not kind, generous or benevolent then you have to teach him practically and humbly. If you curse, accuse or laugh at the weakness of others then you are not a true Brotherhood. So, beloved brethren, we will not take you further. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. For a stroke of cane is sufficient for the wise. May God bless His holy words-Amen.

THE VOICE OF GOD (TUESDAY MORNING, 14/05/96)
PRODUCE BY: EVERLASTING GOSPEL CENTRE
34 AMBO STREET, CALABAR.

THANK YOU FATHER.

THE CONCEPTS OF LOVE

FIRST LESSON: HEBREWS 13:1-3

"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in body".

SECOND LESSON: JAMES 2:14-17

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; not withstanding you give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone".

GOLDEN TEXT: I JOHN 4:20-21

"If a man say, I love God, and he 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".

CAUSE OF DAILY PREDICAMENTS:

Beloved, the gospel to be imparted to you has been predestined even before the foundation of the world. It is a pathetic situation to hear people attribute their predicaments to witches, wizards, necromancers, mermaids, ghosts and apparitions. I want to let you know that these

things do not exist at all. Beloved, our predicament in the entire world today is due to lack of love. Right from the era of Adam man has had no love for himself not to talk about others. I want to let you realize that this is the problem of the entire world. Beloved, without love for one another all your acts are deceitful. Be thou a bishop, a church goer, whatever nomenclature you acclaim to yourself, without love, you are deceiving yourself; you are empty and void. I have proven all these situations and you have seen that mankind has no love, even an iota of love to express to one another. When you claim you have love, why then can you not express this love to your very closest brethren? You claim to love God when you cannot love your fellow human being. It is a misconception because if you do not love your fellow men, you cannot love God. There is nothing that has set the world ablaze other than lack of love amongst its inhabitant. That is what has kept the world in such a terrible state. Even individually, we do not have love for ourselves. Do you love yourself? Individually you do not express love to your very children, husband, wife; how then will you claim to love God? That is why day by day I preach nothing other than love to you because with love you are saved.

TO LOVE MAN IS TO LOVE GOD

God is love; love is peace, truth, gospel, blessing, everlasting word of life amongst other virtues. Therefore, be not deceived by anybody or your very self that you can exhibit love when you lack love for your own self. There is no sign of recognition of God in you when you go about killing, beheading and enslaving fellow human beings. You have being told that if you love God and hate your sisters and brothers you are a liar. That is why I have come with these teaching on the concept of love to impart to the whole world and everybody must embrace it and express love to one another. By so doing you shall come to realize that God is love, mercy and all the good virtues we can think of.

When people come pulling your leg that you are worshipping man, what does that mean? When you worship man, you are expressing love to that man and by so doing you are equally worshipping God. If you can not love a fellow man, (not to make mention of God), it means your claims are meaningless; they do not hold water. In as much as you cannot love your fellow man, you cannot love God. Therefore when you say that you are worshipping the true God and fail to show love to your fellow man, you have failed in your mission. Some people may embark on fasting for about one week but fail to express love to one another. Of what use is your fasting? When you offer serious prayer without love, it cannot meet the target. Whether you continue rendering melodious tunes for one week without expressing love to your fellow beings, your tunes will avail you nothing. When you preach the word of God from morning till night without expressing an iota of love, it avails you nothing. Beloved, you may have given vision to all and sundry, but without love it amounts to nothing. If you decide to inherit so many children, without love the inheritance is of no use. When you keep on shouting "Jesus" "Jesus", I want to let you know that it does not avail you anything until you can express love.

Beloved, you all are living witnesses of what I am talking about. If there were to be love among the Roman Catholic and the Protestants, there would have been no problems. However, since they fail to express love, you find they are at loggerheads and will continue to war against each other. Millions are killed because of lack of love. Another example are the Christians and the Muslims. There is no iota of love amongst them. You realize that the whole world put together are just going about with the Bible for nothing. It is of no benefit to them. Rather, you have now allowed deceit to engulf the earth and this deceit does not yield us anything good. That is the problem plaguing many church denominations today. You will find out that after preachment,

the teacher will echo a slogan, “do as I say and not as I do”. This slogan has caused serious misconceptions amongst man.

It is a high time mankind sought love for their own good. The world is endowed with so many riches and wealth and mundane things but it is lacking in one very precious virtue and that is love. Therefore, it is time mankind seeks for love. A maxim has it that, if a tree is not hewn down, the axe does not rest. So it is with expressing love. You can see that this lack of love for one another can be seen among us in the Brotherhood fold; among the choristers, among the pastors and other groups. There is no iota of love between one and the other.

THE GREATEST INJUNCTION:

Beloved, it is stated that you should owe nobody anything other than loving such a person; for whoever loves another has fulfilled the promise of God. All the commandments that you should not steal, kill and the rest is based on one main route which is love. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to love one another even as He has loved us, That is why we are also enjoined to abide by the injunction of God. It is the commandment of God that we should express love to one another. Therefore when you come here testifying of having hated and backbited, it shows that you lack love. This love has been expatiated on and it has been a regular anthem by the Bian Aneyen Evai Choir. The Father in them has been rendering these songs to show us that it is more important to express love to one another. If at all you understand what they have been singing you will realize that love is an important factor to exhibit and above all is a commandment of God.

Brethren, let our First Lesson be revisited.

FIRST LESSON: HEBREWS 13:1-3

"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in body".

EXPRESSING BROTHERLY LOVE:

Brethren, you have heard what has been read out to you? Our text has stated clearly to us that brotherly love should prevail and the question is, where is the brotherly love? Moreover, you have been enjoined that you should not fail to entertain strangers. Where is the love for strangers; not to mention the love amongst ourselves, the brotherly love? That Bible portion has it that we should remember them that are in bonds as bound with them and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. That is exactly what you have been enjoined to do; but the reverse is the case with you. There are so many brethren who are down, in adverse conditions and in bonds. It is your responsibility to come to the aid of these brethren, but because you do not have these brotherly love you cannot exhibit it and as such you contravene God's commandment. Right from the beginning of this week, how many times have you been to see those in the prison yard, those who are in bonds and them which suffer adversity? Let us look at the choral group. If a brother or a sister in that same choir does not show up for two Consecutive times or more, nobody cares to go and find out exactly what has befallen such brethren. Then where is the love being talked about? It is our sole responsibility to demonstrate love to our fellow brethren. A situation where a fellow brother is sick say in the bethel and nobody cares to go and see him is unbecoming and contrary to God's injunction because it does not portray the qualities of love as we have been enjoined to practice. That is why I have told you

that you have no problem other than loving one another, because the Spirit of love has been on this plane since 1918. Our brother Paul has also told us about the importance of love as stated in I Corinthians 13:1-3.

VIRTUE: MOST PREDOMINANT:

Brethren, if you observe most critically you will notice that the paramount thing for us to exhibit is love to one another. The Bian Aneyen Evai as I have earlier told you, centres all its anthems on love. This is so because they have come to realize that the greatest of all commandments is love. It is the wire of life. With love amongst us, ill's like gossiping, jealousy and backbiting will be eliminated and our predicaments will cease.

It is a misconception for one to attribute his misfortune to witchcraft, mermaid and so on. What has brought about your ill luck is lack of love. When once you can exhibit love in all its ramifications, you will realize that we are all one and one in the lord and above all, your predicament will cease. When you want to exhibit love it has to be in its fullest dimension. Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous nor boastful. Love does not rejoice in wrong but in the right. Love never fails and it endures forever. How come you that claim to exhibit love are found wanting in these qualities. Are you then sure you are on the right tract? Where is the love you brag about? Search through the governments, associations, denominations, families, countries and states whether you will find any iota of love or the understanding of the accurate meaning of the concept of love. I am not telling you tales but daily observations. It is very hard for one to wake up and be at peace with a fellow man. You find some sulking while others are furious. They soon burst out with anger when they are greeted in the process of expressing love to them.

Brethren, taking all the qualities of love into consideration, you can see that it is in a state of perfection. When you are able to live up to such expectations you will see how perfect you will be. You will see that quarreling when one comes to exchange pleasantries with you is bad. The concept of love has it that love tells no lies and does no evil to his neighbour and is not pompous. Do not shun people for it shows that you do not have love. When people approach you, do not lend deaf ears to them rather listen and appreciate their feelings and assist as much as you can. When you continue ignoring people it means there is no love within you.

MAN'S INGRATITUDE OVER GOD'S WORK:

Beloved, despite God's work to humanity, none has ever praised Him. Nobody has been able to commend God's work, rather people are still complaining of witchcraft, attributing their predicament to ghosts, wizards, mermaid and so on. It is high time you refrained from your misconception about your predicaments and sought the spirit of God. Pray the Father to give you the spirit of love and it shall be accorded you. Without love, you are empty and of no use. PEOPLE HAVE FORMED THE HABIT OF SELF-RECOGNITION. THEY CLAIM TO BE THE ONLY COCK TO CROW. What has given birth to this, is lack of love but as soon as we are in the fold acquire this divine love, everything will be streamlined. It is not my intention to compel you or coerce you for wherever you may be you shall answer the call. I am telling you these things through what I have seen here in this fold. Many are still in the habit of ignoring fellow brethren. At times their behaviour portrays some kind of feud and misunderstanding. Whenever they are greeted, they answer halfheartedly and will not even stop to exchange pleasantries to the fullest. This is simply because there is no love amongst us. The qualities and concept of love are lacking in each and every member. I have tried my very best and the ball is in your

court, it is now left for you to play. Love is not money, clothing nor any mundane thing of this world. Love is God, peace, mercy, truth, it embraces everything. Even the way you look at a fellow human with a lovely eye portrays love. If you give all you have to the needy, without love, it is nothing. Even if you deliver your body to be burnt but have not love it avails you nothing. Love is nothing other than all the virtues associated with it. Therefore, when you have this love you will shun segregation and will not hate your fellow human being.

Beloved, love is priceless, it is not sold in the market. It is godly and can only come from Him. The fruit of love is peace, mercy, righteousness, perfection and all the godly virtues. That is why the scripture has clearly told you that no matter the stress and strain you may decide to put yourself through, without love, it avails you nothing. When our Lord Jesus Christ came on earth, he built no house for anybody, neither did he buy a car, clothes nor any of these mundane things for anybody. He used love to entertain all and sundry and everyone was able to testify of his love unto them. You can see then for yourself that love is God and God is love. Wherever love penetrates there is peace and joy. Even if penetrates your heart, you will have peace of mind and joy that will never depart. However, when you are lacking in love, no matter how rich you are, you are empty.

Brethren, remember Nicodemus, a friend of Jesus who went to him at night and enquired what he could do to enter the kingdom of God. In reply our Lord Jesus Christ answered and said, "except a man be born again he cannot enter the kingdom of God". Ignorantly, Nicodemus came up with another question by asking how he could be born again, when he was old already? In reply our Lord Jesus Christ answered and said, "If you are not born of water and spirit you cannot enter into the kingdom of God". As you are here in this kingdom what do I give you

to sustain your membership? Is it shoes, clothings or any of this mundane things? Once you come in here, instantly you see the glory of God. Money has not affected any changes in you that is worth mentioning. All you have seen, the betterment of your life and success are as a result of loving one another. You may even sit back and ponder over your success in life. It emanates from love. Therefore, in a situation where you frown at your fellow brethren and lend deaf ears to their problems, it means you have no love. If you give away all that you can give but have not love, it is meaningless. Love is the watch dog here in this kingdom. In as much as it is not sold to you but freely bestowed, you have to demonstrate it wholeheartedly; by so doing all your sicknesses, problems, predicaments shall be taken away. Let our Second Lesson be read again.

SECOND LESSON: JAMES 2:14-17

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; not withstanding you give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone”.

SPIRITUAL CHORUS:

FAITH WITHOUT WORK IS DEAD.

LOVE AS THE ROUTE TO SALVATION

Beloved, having heard that spiritual chorus, “faith without work is dead”, do you not know that hating your fellow man and not doing

good works profits you nothing? Without love you have no root and all your works are meaningless. Love is patient and kind, it is neither arrogant nor boastful. I am sure you remember the question the worldly people ask:- “What does that man give to you?” In your ignorance you tell them you are given nothing. Now I am asking, has love not been given to you?.

You may go to somebody's house and the way you are received, even if food is offered to you, you will reject that food. This is so because there is no love. Such food will not be palatable because there is not even an iota of love in the person's behaviour. You will not even want to eat that food, or you may just taste it and claim you are satisfied. You may equally pay a visit to somebody who welcomes you very well with expressions of love. You find out that even if you are given food or not, in as much as there is that love, you will be satisfied because you have seen exactly what you have been looking for which is love.

Therefore, there is nothing to compare to love. Love is God and God is love and they work tremendously. When you are told to walk in spirit, it is love that you have to use as an instrument. When you walk in spirit you will see all the virtues of God manifesting. The scripture states clearly that “these people worship me with their lips, but their character does not portray it”. **THEREFORE ONE MAY CLAIM TO LOVE YOU BUT IN SPIRIT THE PERSON IS PLOTTING ALL SORTS OF EVIL PLOTS AGAINST YOU.** True love evidenced by the person who loves you when once you get to the giving you all that you want namely peace, endurance, mercy, joy and other heavenly virtues. Love cannot be found in any place other than in God. God is spirit and if you do not have the spirit of God, you are lacking in love. This is the main reason why everybody must be in spirit so as to acquire love and be

able to express it. I have told you that if you have this love which is the Holy Spirit, you shall have no problem wherever you may be. Even if you are in America or any part of the world, this love will still abide with you and never depart from you. It is in view of this that our Lord Jesus Christ said, "it is expedient that I go, so that the promised comforter shall come and lead you unto the accurate knowledge of truth". Here, whatever we do, the comforter is in our midst to control and direct us. He pilots our affairs and caters for our needs. Therefore, you can see clearly that this concept of love has nothing to do with mundane things; for God is love.

A local adage has it that, "whatever a poor man has, that will he hand over to his child". So it is with what Peter, James and John did at the beautiful gate. When they came over to the beautiful gate, the beggar demanded alms from them. In reply Peter told the crippled beggar thus, "silver and gold have I none, but in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise and walk". Instantaneously, this man stood up and started walking. From here you can see how the heavenly virtues work more than mundane things. Even if the man was given more than twenty thousand, it would not have healed him. But what they had was what they transferred unto the man. That is why I keep telling you to be fully aware of what is your mission in this kingdom. You have to desist from the things of this world. The love of money, wealth, fleet of cars, women, men and other mundane things should be a taboo in your life. Love is the order of the day and as such you have to embrace love and exhibit its qualities to all and sundry.

EARNEST LOVE AND SINCERE SERVICE:

Beloved, if love had not been in existence even before the foundations of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ would not have posed this question to Peter: "Do you love me more than any other thing?" If Peter had

replied negatively, our Lord Jesus Christ would not have entrusted the sheep of God to his care. But since his reply was, "I love you more than any other thing". Our Lord Jesus Christ decided to surrender the sheep of God to his care.

LOVE IS A STAGE OF STEADFASTNESS IN GOD'S SERVICE:

Brethren, many here in this kingdom are boastful of the Father; but for the past years their feet have not stepped into these premises. Where then is your faith? When you do not come here why claim and shout oh my Father: and all what not. Your claim are empty and hold no water. Its all claims and no love and avails you nothing. I have already told you that if Peter did not have love, the sheep would not have been entrusted into his care. Therefore, when you go about chanting, oh! Holy Father and wonderful Father; it means nothing without love, the Holy Spirit directs everything you do. God loves all those who love Him and this has nothing to do with wealth or material possession. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "whoever loves me shall keep my commandments". Now that you are making claims here and there that you love the Father, have you been able to keep his commandments? All those who love the Father keep the Father's commandment and wherever they go they are recognized as people who love and honour the Father because it is through their deeds that they are known not by words. What our Lord Jesus Christ used while here on earth was nothing but love which he had for mankind. Since He did not want the world to perish, He volunteered to come and die for the remittance of the sins of the world. The world disgraced, ridiculed, mocked and humiliated him and nailed him to the cross yet He prayed the Father to forgive them for they knew not what they did. These are true qualities of love and it does no harm to its neighbour. For humanity's sake our Lord Jesus Christ suffered tremendously and, yet, still, none is ready to abide by His injunctions: rather the world is trying to crucify Him again.

I show you love by preaching the gospel to you everyday but instead of coming to listen to the teachings you remain in your houses. The question is,

is it there in your house that you are practising the word of God? Your attitude towards the word of God is not encouraging at all. If you were outside Calabar or even Nigeria, you would have a little excuse; but people even come from America and other parts of the world to this place to worship the Father. Majority claim that if they were to be in existence in the time of our Lord Jesus Christ, they would have followed Him wherever He went; the puzzle now is that the Father is here, but we cannot find faith? what have you been able to do? You do nothing other than engage yourselves in fighting, quarreling, struggling, segregating, sowing seeds of discord and other vices. Where then is the love in you?

The problem you are facing is that when you have been called up by the Father into this kingdom, you go back to your former vices. I want to let you know that since Peter was called by our Lord Jesus Christ, he never one day went back to fishing rather he followed Him because he loved the Father, just like the scripture has stated. Love is what is to be focused upon and not seeking for money to go and pay tithe and so on; love is basically the belief in and obedience to the injunctions of the Father. Many are here because they have love for the Father, and you can identify them through their qualities but those who have no love for the Father never come here. Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered tremendously because of our sins. He was spat on, called Beelzebub and finally nailed on the cross; but the world has refused to recognize Him as the saviour of the world and heed His injunctions. They instead use the name of Jesus in politics. You see them establishing churches, calling on the name Jesus! Jesus!! When you trivialize His name, do you remember His sufferings, agony and torments? Do you remember all He went through? It is because of this kind of people who are still crucifying our Lord Jesus Christ that the name of God is being blasphemed. If you claim to love one another, how then do you take a fellow human being to court or police station? Why take arms and weapons against your fellow man? Why do you not

demonstrate love? You will find that if you are endowed with love, you will not engage in any ungodly acts.

MAN'S INSENSITIVITY

Our Lord Jesus Christ lived an exemplary life. He did not marry, eat meat and fish, neither was He involved in the high life of this earth. For man's sake, He bore persecution, abuses and tribulations in silence just because of the love He had for mankind.

That is why I have told you that on that fateful day He thought and deemed it wise to die as an end to all sorrows and in preference to whatever Pilate offered Him. If He had accepted any favours, the scripture would not have fulfilled and His mission would have failed. You can then see that He bore all the suffering, pain, shame and disgrace for our salvation yet we take Him for granted. The world has forgotten so soon His tribulations and death. They have forgotten so soon the merciless beatings, the torture and cruelty meted out to Him. They instead trivialize His death and make a mockery of His suffering. Churches now abound in all nooks and corners, but instead of being used to glorify God they are turned to commercial and political grounds for acquiring wealth. The same thing you are doing here is applicable to what is going on in other churches. You call yourself a member of Brotherhood and yet you go about fornicating, hating one another, stealing and engaging in vices. What do you people think? Does your character portray godliness? You can see then that it is because of your actions, words and deeds that people have been blaspheming God. This is therefore the time to repent, portray love and abide by the injunctions of the Father. If you love God you will keep His commandment. In Brotherhood we are not interested in numbers but in those, be they many or few, who are able to love one another

and keep God's commandment. These are the categories of people that are required in the kingdom. Let us now listen to our Golden Text.

GOLDEN TEXT: I JOHN 4:20-21

"If a man say, I love God, and he 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".

LOVE FOR MAN IS TANTAMOUNT TO LOVE FOR GOD:

Beloved, you have heard what has been read out unto you. But majority gathered here, when they are queried by the worldly people why they are worshipping man they become ashamed. It should not be so. Recall what our Lord Jesus Christ did when He called His twelve disciples and washed their feet. This showed the importance of man. Even if you are ashamed when such confrontations come to you, I am not ashamed to be your Father. I appreciate you and give you love. You have to love one another and whoever loves man, loves God. That is the reason I always implore you to love man and minister unto man because whatever you do to man, is done to God. Whatever you do, whether worshipping or giving alms you are doing it to God. Whenever, therefore you are confronted with questions about worshipping man, be confident and firm and tell them that worshipping man godly, because God created man in His own image. God is man and man is God and as such I encourage you to do whatever good you can to man because it is done unto God.

God is not ashamed of us neither should we be ashamed of Him. Just believe in Him, practice His injunctions and separate yourself from evil and He will be your Father and you will become His children. The scripture has it that

when you rejoice with any servant of God, you are equally rejoicing with God. You must therefore do good to all servants of God, whether they are children or adults. You must respect them and be generous to them for whatever you do to them is done to God.

Those in the orphanage home, the aged, the oppressed and prisoners are helpless and in need. It is your duty to go and see them, extend love to them and see what you can do for them. When you do all these good things, you may not realize but you are doing them to God. If you leave ministering to the needy and say you want to deal with God direct you are a liar and are wasting your time. Your take-home package is the Golden Text and it clearly says: *"If a man say, I love God, and he 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"* (1 John 4:20-21)

The above passage stresses brotherly love. I have told you that whoever loves his fellow human loves God equally. You have to know that when you come here, it is not a prayer ground, sacrificial ground, nor the kingdom of the world, for the kingdoms of this world have become the throne of God. Therefore, we are not talking about churches or prayer house but the kingdom of God. We are required to live up to the expectations of the kingdom and be supremely confident in the knowledge the Father is always with you in your houses, offices, market places and everywhere. Do not say I have to go to Calabar to worship the Father because there are humans all over the world. Whatever you do to them that is good, the same is done unto God. Seek love and express love to its fullest. Brother Paul had stated that you should not build anything on any other foundation than love. You have been taught that the foundation of this kingdom is love and you have seen that whatever we do in this kingdom is on the platform of

love. Consequently there is nothing like drumming, clapping of hands alongside with songs, lighting of candles and burning of incense. There is no ceremony, no rituals and no conditions set for anything other than love. The paramount requirement in this kingdom is love. Therefore you must love all mankind and all creation for to love them is to love God.

BACK YOUR FAITH WITH WORK:

Brethren, it is advisable and profitable for you to come and hear from the Father. You have to come and pay homage to the Father. It is sad to note that you who are around here do not turn out as expected but people from Umuahia and other parts of the world come in here to pay homage to the Father. This is because of the love they have for the Father. I now implore you to walk circumspectly and minister to the children of God. Do not come here and pretend before me and go outside and be another thing. Whatever you do to the Father, let it be to the fullest. This week is a wonderful week. The universal workers fellowship is on top. This week will be used to identify the children of God who have love one to another. Love personified is in our midst and love is the order of the day among the children of God.

Beloved, I do not intend to take you any further. Let those who have ears hear. May God bless His Holy words-Amen.

THE VOICE OF GOD (SATURDAY MORNING 4/3/95)
PRODUCED BY: EVERLASTING GOSPEL CENTRE
34 AMBO STREET, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE.
NIGERIA.

THANK YOU FATHER.

STORE YOUR WEALTH IN HEAVEN

FIRST LESSON: MATTHEW 19:18-21

He saith unto him, which? Jesus said, thou shalt do no murder, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness. Honour thy father and thy mother: and, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, all these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, if thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me”.

SECOND LESSON: MATTHEW 6:19-21

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”.

GOLDEN TEXT: I TIMOTHY 6: 17-19

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life”.

THE ANTIDOTE TO MAN’S PROBLEMS:

Brethren, this sermon is the answer to the sermon imparted unto you yesterday and it is the antidote to everything

SPIRITUAL CHORUS:

LAY UP YOUR TREASURES IN THE KINGDOM, FOR
THE WORLDLY TREASURES ARE UNPROFITABLE

BE CHARITABLE TO THE LESS PRIVILEGED ONES:

Brethren, that is what I have to impart unto you. No one can just materialize in the sky. Rather one must start from the earth and then project to the sky. The teachings imparted to you daily are teachings that have never been imparted to anybody. A lot of you would have gone home empty handed but because of His grace, He has decided that you are worthy of this kingdom and so in this last dispensation He is imparting to you these teachings so that you may have a share in the kingdom of God. All those who are not charitable and do not render service unto God shall go home empty handed. However, once you give all your treasures and riches to the poor and render services unto God, you shall be blessed abundantly, God owns everything in the world. He owns the heaven as well as the earth. You should, therefore, surrender all things to Him as our Lord Jesus Christ did by giving out everything He had to the poor. He was consequently blessed and He inherited heaven and earth.

Brethren, God uses the mundane things of this world to test us. He asked Cain and Abel to make a sacrifice unto Him as a test. Cain took a very small tuber of yam and sacrificed to God with the belief that God does not need material things. Abel on the other hand used the fattest of his rams as sacrifice unto God. You will bear me witness that till date references are still made to the sacrifice offered by Abel because he offered the most acceptable sacrifice unto God. Invariably, this means that those who render services to God have their names written

in the book of life in heaven. Their treasures are also in heaven. Therefore brethren, the mundane things of this world such as money, man and clothes are not evil but to lust after them is evil. In the same vain, if we are not carnally minded but surrender completely and serve God diligently, we shall have treasures in heaven. When the sermon of yesterday was imparted unto you, many that were here were disturbed and began asking why God introduced money into the world. The reason why each and everyone is being blessed with money is that we may use the money in rendering services unto God daily by being charitable to people and giving alms to the poor, the widows and the needy. By so doing we are laying treasures for ourselves in the kingdom of God. You are therefore enjoined to surrender everything completely to God for whatever you give out unto God shall be given back to you a hundred-fold.

Brethren, if you take a critical look at things you will realize that the money, the children and houses are not used by us for the services of God at all and so things turn out badly for us in the end. We have been advised today to surrender everything we have completely unto God and if we hearken to this injunction, we shall have treasures in heaven. Our Lord Jesus Christ never charged nor collected a mite from anybody. Instead He gave everything He had as service unto God and today He is the richest of all human beings.

SPIRITUAL CHORUS:

**SELL ALL THAT YOU HAVE
AND FOLLOW GOD.**

THE WAY IS NOW OPEN:

Brethren, if any of you perish your blood will be upon you because I have opened the way for you. A GREAT MANY ARE OF THE VIEW THAT BROTHERHOOD REQUESTS AND DEMANDS THINGS FROM PEOPLE. IT IS NOT TRUE. The monkey, for instance, has this concept that (the food) which is in his belly belongs to him while that in his (mouth) cheek belongs to the bullet because if shot by a hunter he will lose the food in his mouth. All those things you have and use in the service of God constitute your treasure in the kingdom, while all the money you have that is not used in the service of God is vanity because should you cease to live you lose both the money and your share in the kingdom. The alms you give out to the poor and the needy and the good services you render unto God are the treasures you shall inherit on the last day.

Brethren, the true children of God are charitable; they give alms to the poor, the needy and destitute and those who believe in God who shall inherit this kingdom. Such people do not have lust for anything of this world rather they are here to be charitable and generous unto people, they sell all that they have for the sake of God. They have come to that realization that the things they give out for the services of God are their treasures. In the same vain, if you come across the people of the world who are not the children of God, such are misers and are not generous. They would rather accept death than for their money to enter another man's hand; these are children of the world and also children of perdition. They do not have any share in the kingdom of God for neither do they recognize God nor believe fervently in Him. Our Lord Jesus Christ declared that "it is better to give than to receive". The act of giving is very good because it is rendering services unto God by surrendering all that we have to people by being charitable and generous. Hence, it is more blessed to give than to receive. You can

likened it to two persons who had so much money. One gives out his money to another person for keeps, while the other decides to dig up a hole in his house and to hide the money. Suddenly a fire breaks out and sets the house ablaze. You will agree that the person who dug a hole and hid his money will lose everything while the other who gave out his money for keeps will go and collect his money intact. The same is applicable to whoever is rich and decides to surrender his wealth to God and render services unto Him. You will realize that even if thieves burgle your house or fire burns your house, nothing shall be lost because you had surrendered everything to God and that is eternal treasure.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BEING GENEROUS:

Brethren, the act of serving God by giving alms to the poor is of great significance because people who do so believe in the existence of God and also know that they are doing good unto themselves and laying their treasures in heaven. In addition to having treasure in heaven they are also saved. Those who do not use their wealth to serve God do not believe in God and the bible says:- “These people worship me with their lips but their hearts are very far from me”. Such persons neither love nor seek God and so have no share whatsoever in this kingdom.

The scripture has it that: “The lion lack food to eat but the children of God do not lack food to eat”. Whatever good you do unto people is directly done unto God and is all recorded for you that no matter where you live and no matter how difficult things may be in the world, you will never suffer hardship or lack because you have treasure in heaven and this treasure is available to you in whatever state or plane of existence you are. Let the First Lesson be read again.

FIRST LESSON: MATTHEW 19:18-21

“He saidth unto him, which? Jesus said, thou shalt do no murder, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness. Honour thy father and thy mother: and, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, all these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, if thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me”.

WISDOM OF GOD:

Brethren, how many of you assembled here have laid up treasures in heaven for yourselves? I am imploring you to lay up treasures in heaven to avoid a situation where you say you were not told. Recall the story of the rich man in the bible. All the treasures he had laid up for himself were unprofitable. Hence, the motor cars and other mundane things of the world are transitory and shall end here on earth. However, if one should render services unto God by surrendering to Him, giving out to the poor and needy and helping people, one is serving God and oneself as one's services will be returned to one in good measures and in due season.

Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is noted for charitable and humanitarian services to mankind. Wherever a Brotherhood child may sojourn, he has no problem because our treasures are laid up everywhere in the world. All those who render services unto God also lay up treasures for themselves in Brotherhood. Teaching of this nature had never existed in the world and this wisdom being revealed to you today had never been given to anyone other than our Lord Jesus Christ.



No church denomination has ever had this knowledge. Not even our father Abraham or Moses and the prophets of old had this knowledge. Only our Lord Jesus Christ was imbued with this wisdom. That was why He never charged nor collected money from people but surrendered all He had to the Father, knowing fully well that all He had given would come back to Him. He never wanted anyone to praise or greet Him, but rather praised and greeted people. All the good things He accomplished were repaid with great rewards. He therefore decided to come down to earth to teach mankind this wisdom. Most of us had spiritual bank accounts that were empty as we had stored no treasure in heaven. A lot of us never knew the meaning of heaven but everything has now been revealed to us. I use this medium to implore you that you be charitable and generous to the poor, the widows, and to do whatever is good service to God. Use all that you have for the services of God for all worldly treasures are unprofitable. If I had not delivered this sermon, a great many of you would not have known that whatever good you do is storing wealth for yourself in heaven. If you have everlasting treasure in heaven, you automatically have the kingdom of God.

I will not take you further. Let us hear our Second Lesson.

SECOND LESSON: MATTHEW 6:19-21

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”.

SURRENDER EVERYTHING:

Brethren, surrender all your children, sisters/brothers, parents, yourself and all that you have unto God for you shall inherit them in the kingdom. Our Lord Jesus Christ said “My kingdom is not of this world. It is expedient that I go unto my Father because if I go, the Father will send a comforter”. His heart was at all times with the Father because the Father is where His treasure is. All those who lay up treasures for themselves in the world stand to lose them. You remember that Onistha market was gutted by fire and everything in it was destroyed. Can anyone quantify what was lost in that fire? You have also been hearing of fire incidents in different places and of failed banks. All these material things are vanity. Had they been used in the services of God and humanity, nobody would have experienced loss.

SPIRITUAL CHORUS:

FAITH WITHOUT WORK IS DEAD.

Brethren, a great many of you claim you have surrendered your heart and that you have nothing else. What will your heart be used for? Such claims show that you don't believe in God and are not a child of God. All children of God lay their treasures in the hand of God because there is no safer place. Thus when a child of God prays for someone he does not charge or collect anything from that person.

A sister who came in here two days ago and donated generously to some persons. Brother “Eyo-Information” was one of the beneficiaries. That act exhibited by the said sister is service unto God. She has laid her treasures in heaven. Whatever each one of us sows, the same shall each reap. If you believe fervently that you are with the Father and that the Father owns you., you will realize that your heavenly treasure is

still yours and that it is safe in the hands of God because no thief will steal it and neither moth nor rust will corrupt it.

AN EXAMPLE WORTHY OF EMULATION:

The International Chairman of Elders Fellowship has shown me that he is a true child of God. The brother came from Port Harcourt on a personal business but when he heard about the Father he promised a donation of ten thousand naira. Have you seen that? That brother is indeed a true child of God. That is the identity of true children of God and I know a true child of God when I see one. That brother has laid up treasures for himself in heaven. Let each and everyone of us emulate him because I use such acts to show mercy on people. Do not come here empty handed if you are a true child of God. This place is a place where all hands must be on deck and all should contribute what he or she has for the service of God. A local adage states that, "It is good to look for a black goat while it is not yet dark". God does not lack money, food or houses. He requests these services from us as a test of our faith. We should therefore lay up all our treasures in heaven. Surrender all your dance steps, songs, prayers and everything to God.

Brethren, we are stewards of God; we are also God's treasury and storekeepers. We must surrender all that we have to Him because His treasures are stored in us. We must not keep those things to ourselves because whatever we give comes back to us. So instead of storing your money in holes or in different banks, store your money and wealth in God where they are safe. Any wealth stored in heaven will yield profit and interest to you and will be counted as righteousness for you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brethren, I do not want to belabour you. Let the Golden Text be re-examined.

GOLDEN TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 6: 17-19

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life”.

SPIRITUAL CHORUS:

SELL ALL THAT YOU HAVE AND
FOLLOW GOD.

THE NEED TO BE CHARITABLE:

Brethren, who amongst you has this knowledge? If you dump your money in the bank it shall perish. If you also use your money to buy houses, it shall also perish. Whatsoever you put your money into doing shall perish in the end. The only way to secure your money is to be charitable and generous.

SPIRITUAL CHORUS:

SPREAD THE GOODNESS, IT SHALL BEAR
FRUITS IN DUE SEASON.

Brethren, do you now realize the reason why I cry for you? The scripture states that when you sow sparingly you shall reap sparingly; but if sow bountifully, you shall reap bountifully. This is a golden privilege for you and I. The more you give out your money, the more you have succeeded in laying up your treasures in the kingdom. Nothing whatsoever can shake you because you become unshakable. Should the entire world be in lack of what to feed on, Brotherhood of

the Cross and Star will not be in lack of what to feed on. We do not lament here. Hence, you are enjoined to be charitable. Even if you have ten to twenty million naira, be generous with it for by so doing you lay up your treasures in the kingdom. The money will be kept well for you with added interest and you will never lack. You will have food to eat for eternity.

Brethren, have you heard a gospel of this nature before? Should you miss coming here for a day, you have missed something very important. A lot of you do complain that you are been told to bring something everyday. What really do you bring in here? Have you witnessed the way I carry out my own savings? I have never demanded anything but rather it is my duty to put whatsoever I have into my spiritual savings. Have you not witnessed how the kingdom came into existence? You so much desire the kingdom of God yet you have denied the kingdom by not conforming to the tenets of the kingdom. Have you not witnessed in Brotherhood, wherever you are, that there is wealth all over the world? Anywhere you may desire to go has open cheques waiting there for you. The reason being that what belongs to the Father belongs to us and what belongs to us belongs to the Father. We are one in the Father, hence, there is no division. Had you given God a mite, that one mite would increase and bring forth more mites to you. I believe that right from today a lot of you will become charitable. The children of God are good in that because they give out readily to people and go their way. Brethren, if you really intend to know what I am teaching, ask the children of God for they have received this word, experienced it and the kingdom of God has been revealed to them. Should someone who lacks a dress to wear approach them, they would happily without protocol give a dress to the person. But you would lament that you have nothing and would rather ask the person to go that God shall always provide for him. This shows that you are not ready and

prepared for the kingdom. The Golden Text states that *“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate”*.

Brethren, henceforth, inform all and sundry to be generous and charitable if they desire the kingdom of God, the Holy Spirit, love and peace. This is likened to a situation where you are in need of some products from oversea countries and thus must exchange some gifts and pleasantries with those there. You can not send down cash to them there but you must send some other product that will interest them. Should they also desire anything from here, they would in turn not send money from the sky to crash-land here but would rather want to exchange things like shoes and clothes. The same is applicable to us for whatever good thing we do unto others, we are doing the same unto God and He in return will reward us directly. That is the reason why our Lord Jesus Christ: “All power in heaven and on earth have being given unto me”. What then do you want; is it power? If you desire to have power, what have you done to have power? Do you desire peace and other good things of life? Then what have you done to give people peace and other good things of life? Brethren, all that has been given to you by God, is desired by Him from you. Hence, the more He gives you, the more He equally expects you to give to Him.

He is our only protector, our life and our everything. He is our rock of salvation and this rock is unshakable.

Brethren, yesterday I tried all ways possible for wealth to gain entrance into the kingdom of God. I am still striving hard to accomplish that today. You are told to lay up your treasures in heaven by being

charitable so that you may be able to pass through and enter God's kingdom.

FIRST WITNESS: PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ".

GIVE ALL THINGS FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF KNOWING CHRIST:

I am still striving hard today in order that the wealthy men of the world be able to gain entrance into the kingdom of God. You should surrender yourself unto God by giving out as little as a penny to God for then your treasures would be laid up in heaven for you. But you have bluntly refused to comply. Instead you lament that you do not have. But those who really understand this thing like Paul Ugochukwu and the rest of them in Brotherhood are using all their resources in the kingdom by erecting mansions etc. By so doing they have succeeded in laying treasures for themselves in heaven and have also secured their passport into the kingdom of God. A lot of people have gained entrance into the kingdom because they have complied with God's injunction. Great blessing and reward awaits those who come here daily to render services to God by surrendering all they have to God and for seeking for the treasures of heaven. I beseech you to seek for the heavenly treasures while it yet is noon.

BELIEVE AND OBEY

Brethren, I believe you have all fully understood this sermon and that you are happy. I have told you to surrender your motor cars, houses, money to God for those things are immaterial and shall profit you . . .

nothing. I have told you to surrender all and come into the kingdom for you shall have those things in heaven; A lot of you have refused to surrender but instead hold firm to them and claim that you are a millionaire. What type of millionaire are you?

Many times a lot of people in different church denominations do pray yet God never answers them. And they do question why God does not answer their prayers. But if a Brotherhood member should pronounce "Let" everything would "Let".

Recall the incident of the seven sons of one sceva, a Jew and the Chief Priest as recorded in Acts 19:13-16 thus:

"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, we adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was, leaped on them and overcome them and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of the house naked and wounded".

If any Brotherhood member should pronounce "Let", all will be well. But if a worldly person should say the same "Let" nothing will happen because they are not recognized. A great many out there in the world, as a result of this, desire to know the secret in Brotherhood because should a sick person be brought in here despite being taken to different churches without cure, upon coming to Brotherhood the sick person becomes instantly healed. The reason behind this is that you are recognized as a true child of God and a child of this kingdom. Moreso, you are being saved because of your charitable acts. love and mercy

unto others, hence this is your treasure and house. Whatsoever you may be in need of are stocked here.

SECOND WITNESS: JOHN 17:10

"And all mine are thine, and all thine are mine; and I am glorified in them".

SPIRITUAL CHORUS:

WE ARE ONE, WE ARE ONE
WE ARE ONE BRETHREN, ONE IN THE LORD.
NO MORE DIVISION AMONG THE PASTORS,
PREACHERS, CHORISTERS, AMONG THE
CHILDREN OF GOD FOR WE ARE ONE.

THE POWER IN B.C.S.:

Brethren, I have finished. Do you now see the power in Brotherhood? We operate one account, hence, all that we have are thine and all that are thine are mine. Thus, at any time we embark on evangelical ministry outside without a penny, He is there to provide for us because His account is everywhere in the world operating round the clock.

Brethren, I do not wish to burden you. It is said that a stroke of cane is sufficient for the wise. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. May God bless His Holy words-Amen.

THE VOICE OF GOD (WED. MORNING 4/6/97)
PRODUCED BY: EVERLASTING GOSPEL CENTRE
34 AMBO STREET, CALABAR. CROSS RIVER STATE.
NIGERIA.

THANK YOU FATHER.

CHILDREN OF GOD REVEALED

FIRST LESSON: JOHN 3:6

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit".

SECOND LESSON: JOHN 1:33-34

"And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptise with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the son of God".

GOLDEN TEXT: MATTHEW 3:13-17

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptised of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptised of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptised, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".

INTRODUCTORY SPIRITUAL CHORUS:

I HAVE COME BY MYSELF SENDING NO ONE, I WILL REVEAL MYSELF UNTO THE WORLD. I HAVE COME TO DIE NO MORE AS THE PEOPLE THINK, MY PEOPLE SING AND REJOICE FOR I THE LORD HAVE TAKEN OVER ALL THE GLORY.

This is the opening (revelation) of the April Pentecostal. So let us look at our First Lesson.

FIRST LESSON: JOHN 3:6

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit".

THE TWO CATEGORIES IN B.C.S

Today is the day that you will know that man is in two categories namely, the man of the flesh and that of the spirit; the children of God and the children of the world (flesh). This does not mean that the children of the world should not tell the truth or indulge in anything. It is just that they are made for the world and the worldly people look after them. They are of the world. Those who are the children of God always dwell with God and have come from heaven down to earth to dwell with Him. Those who are begotten here are here. This is why in this opening of the April convention, those from above and those in the earth are all assembled here. This is also why it is stated that the kingdom of this world have become the kingdom of Jehovah God and His Christ. THEREFORE, THE HEAVENLY AND THE EARTHLY PEOPLE ARE MERGED INTO ONE FOLD AND THERE IS NO MORE SEGREGATION FOR WE ARE ALL ONE. THE HEAVENLY PEOPLE AFTER BEING BAPTISED ARE ENDOWED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT; THE EARTHLY PEOPLE AFTER BEING BAPTISED OBTAIN THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD AND NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM ABOVE.

The earthly people, even if they do not fornicate, marry or give in marriage or indulge in concoctions, upon baptism are endowed with the spirit of the world which is earthly. They cannot obtain the sign of the Holy Spirit. But he that cometh from above whether unmarried or

married with a wife and children, when baptised is endowed with the Holy Spirit for that is the seal or sign of sonship of God.

THOSE OF HEAVEN AND THOSE OF THE EARTH:

All those who are from above (heavenly) possess the signs of the endowment of the Holy Spirit. That is why baptism is very necessary so as to know and classify those from heaven and those from the earth. However, we are all the children of God. The sign of the Holy Spirit cannot be bought and it is never sold either. It is not obtained here in this world but inborn in an individual. John the Baptist was born with power of Elijah and the spirit of Elijah. But Jesus Christ was born with the Holy Spirit which descended on Him and revealed Him as the son of God. John the Baptist was born with the power of Elijah and was of Elijah with the spirit of Elijah inborn in him. Jesus the Christ was born with the Spirit of God in Him as the son of God and Christ and this differentiated them. The children of God do not need to be looked for because baptism reveals openly those who are the Children of God.

THE SEAL OF IDENTIFICATION:

When those of God are baptised, the Holy Spirit descends on them and they then receive the Holy Spirit. They are not from here (earthly) and do not have any inheritance here. But those who are earthly, when baptised, are endowed with the Spirit of the World. THEREFORE, IF SOMEONE SHOULD COME CLAIMING TO BE A CHILD OF GOD, DO NOT BELIEVE HIM BECAUSE THOSE WHO WERE GIVEN AND HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT KNOW THEMSELVES AND PEOPLE KNOW THEM. Whosoever seeth a child of God knows such a child for the children of God all know themselves and God revealeth Himself unto them in all ways. And such are they who uplift the glory of the Father and also revealeth the Father unto all the corners and crannies of the world.

Do not seek the Holy Spirit through your own power for it is not obtained carnally here. The children of God are born with the Holy Spirit in them just as the children of the world are born with the Spirit of the World. The people of the world know more about the things of this world like worldly wisdom, craftiness and naked power but the children of God know about God, the power of God, and everything pertaining to God. As children of God, they do not have any dealing with the things of this world or the earth.

Let our Second Lesson be read.

SECOND LESSON: JOHN 1:33-34

"And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptise with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the son of God".

THE SPIRIT BORE TESTIMONY OF CHRIST:

Brethren, have you not seen that? God is the one who sends you on an errand and the same one who accomplishes the errand. He does not send one on an errand and then abandon one. It is stated that, *"but He that sent me to baptise with water, the same said unto me, upon whom that shalt see the spirit descending and remaining on him, the same is he which baptiseth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the son of God"*

You are not known and do not know Him because He raised the dead or made the lame walk for Elijah and John and other prophets of old had performed such feats. In the case of Christ it was very glaring that He was the son of God and thus the only one given the authority to baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. Therefore, He is the greatest, and

is the one in our midst. He has come to lead you to the accurate wisdom of truth. He, the Christ, is the one who has used His word to change us, heal us, give us peace as well as teach us. He uses the spoken word to accomplish everything.

THE GREATEST GIFT:

Do not go to Jesus Christ with the notion that He should give you money, motor car, house or farmland. Those things are insignificant. The greatest gift is the gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed on you. If you are endowed with the Holy Spirit, He will accomplish everything for you and be everything to you because you are from above and not of the world. You should not have any dealings with the things pertaining to the earth and your communications and dealings should be direct from above.

It is said that those who are of the earth speak of earthly things and those who their dealings as well as their ways are earthly. But those who are from above speak of heavenly things, hear and speak and see heavenly things. Therefore, he is a hundred times more than those from the earth. That is why it is said, *"blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth; blessed are those which are persecuted, spoken evil against for my name's sake; rejoice for the kingdom of God is yours"*. Have you not seen those who are the children of God? A lot of evil is spoken of them; the people of the world hate them, lie on them on a daily basis. But to them I say "rejoice for you are a real child of God and born of the spirit. You are born of the spirit and crowned so the world cannot seek you or love you. You must suffer, but you should not suffer as an evil doer, a thief, fornicator".

BE SATISFIED WITH YOUR POSITION.

Recall the period of the reception of the Holy Spirit. That reception is meant for the children of God, for it is accomplished exactly as is revealed unto them. Right from that time, the earthly people are also commemorating the event. At anytime the reception of the Holy Spirit commences it should be conducted by the children of God all over the world. The children of God are not taught anything about preaching, healing, having power and abstaining from sin. They do not commit fornication, tell lies, eat fish, meat, get angry, concoct or believe in fetishism. They do not believe in or hope on anybody for their sole belief and hope are on the Father.

The children of God hear the word of God whereas the children of the world neither listen or hear. Do not be troubled that even though we are all Brotherhood children, some people are still eating fish, meat and drink alcohol while others do not. Yes! Those who do not indulge in all those acts are directly from above. Just like a hen can never give birth to a goat, the children of the world can never change to be the children of the world, neither can the children of the world change to become the children of God. They are in their different positions and are all children of God.

There is a visioner in Brotherhood whom I have not seen for a very long time now whose name is Effiong. He sees visions very well and he moves and does his things like a woman. He saw in a vision how the children of God were carrying out their activities. He then wondered what the difference was between him and those he saw since he sees visions, sings and prays. I told him to maintain his position where he was and not long to be among those people. Then one day, he came and demanded to belong to the children of God. I asked him if he was interested to belong to the other side and he answered in the

affirmative I told him to do as he wished but within a few days he ran away and demanded to be given his turban. He was an apostle, since that period, I have not seen him again. I learnt he is staying permanently in Oron. Everybody knows him as Effiong the Visioner.

A lot of people are here who at various times wondered what is in becoming a child of God. They would wish to become one. The fact is that you cannot gate-crash into the children of God if you are not one of them. The day you try to force yourself you will be disgraced and put into shame. It is said that no matter how wide or big a farm is, there is always a boundary. There is a great boundary here so do not force yourself by trying to emulate somebody in order to be like him. It is not an easy thing to become a child of God. It is not an easy thing for one to be elected a Prophet, Christ Servant, Christ Student or a Brotherhood. You should be contented in the position you are kept. Do not look at another person; rather, always listen to your spirit for it is the Father who is leading us in all our activities.

Brethren, I do not wish to prolong matters. Let our Golden Text Be read.

GOLDEN TEXT: MATTHEW 3:13-17

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptised of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptised of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptised, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.

HUMILITY IN CHRIST:

Brethren, have you seen that? John never saw anything. That is why he stated, *"He that sent me to baptise with water said that he that the spirit of God will descend upon, He is the person who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire and i shall bear witness that He is the child of God"* . Have you seen how John revealed Christ? If Christ had not surrendered to be baptised by claiming He was that messiah and a son of God, for John bore eloquent testimony of Him, if Christ had not accepted to be baptised but started being pompous, would He be known? Would He have being revealed? One should be contented with one's position.

He was the one who went to John and confessed His sins. If He had not done that nobody would have known that He was the Christ. And it was at the moment that Christ accepted to be baptized that the Spirit descended on Him like a dove and the heavens opened and a voice said; *"This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him"*. If John had told Him that He was the Christ even John himself would not have believed. Recall when John was in prison and sent some people to go and inquire of Christ if He was the one (Messiah) or there was another. It was not flesh and blood that was doing things; then John the Baptist never knew Him even though they were cousins. But He that sent him (John) stated the nature of every event. That is why it is very necessary for us to always listen to our spirit. For the Father is speaking to you even at this moment you are here listening to this gospel. But you all have bluntly Refused to believe. Instead you look up to what others do.

FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT REVEAL HIM:

John the Baptist never witnessed Christ raise the dead or make the lame to walk, nor did he hear Him being declared Christ. It was only

stated that if he should see somebody the Spirit of God will descend on, such is the one that will baptise people with the Holy Spirit and he (John) shall bear witness. That was how John revealed Christ unto the whole world.

Flesh and blood cannot reveal God to anybody. Money, fattening, raising the dead can never reveal God to anybody. It is only God who reveals Himself and what you are to people.

If it were to be the flesh that reveals God to man, Zachariah who was a known priest in Israel and Elizabeth John's mother, would have revealed Him.

When John was born, everybody believed that he was the Christ. Even when the Pharisees sent people to enquire if he was the Christ, John answered that he was not the Christ. If it were to be you, you would have answered instantly that you are the Christ and at the end be put to shame. But John declared that he was not the Christ. He was asked why he was baptising people. He said he was baptising people with water; that He that cometh after him is so great that he is not fit to loose His shoe latchet.

Brethren, have you seen that: Zachariah, a great priest of God was struck dumb by the Holy Spirit while in the alter until God revealed to him everything about to happen. As a result of that, therefore, everybody thought that John the Baptist was the Christ because of the mysterious work he had done; but he declared openly that he was not the Christ. He declared that he was the voice crying in the desert preparing the way for God.

If God does not reveal Himself to you, you cannot know Him. No matter what you can do you cannot raise the dead, make lame to walk. However, when God reveals Himself to you, what you were destined to be is exactly what you shall be.

People went to John and demanded who he was; they said that Jesus Christ does not baptise with water but uses only words to accomplish everything like- "Gō, your sickness is over; go I have given you a husband etc. He used the word but His disciples used water in baptising people.

When people trooped to His disciples to be baptised there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification: "And they came unto John and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptiseth and all men come to Him. John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven (John 3:25-27) if it were to be now there will be a Serious dispute? If it were to be you would there not have been problems? It is said whosoever is not of God can never work in accordance with God's injunction. If God should command you to do something and you refuse, you are bound to have problems with Him. The baptism of John the Baptist was from God and that of Christ was from God. John was commanded to baptise with water while John was told the person upon whom the spirit will descend would baptise with Holy Spirit and with fire. That is why Jesus Christ never took anybody to the water to be baptised despite the fact that water was everywhere. He never used nor sprinkled water on anybody. He uses the spoken word in healing your sickness and changing you. He uses the spoken word in all His dealings and activities.

Brethren, I do not wish to be tedious with you. It is said that a stroke of cane is sufficient for the wise. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. May God bless His Holy words-Amen.

THE VOICE OF GOD (FRIDAY MORNING 3/4/98)
PRODUCED BY EVERLASTING GOSPEL CENTRE
34 AMBO STREET, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE.
NIGERIA.

THANK YOU FATHER.