

## Facts And Truth We need To Face *(Part 3)*

*“But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD’s anger burned against Israel. Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.” So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water. Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. And Joshua said, “Alas, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?” The LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. “Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them. “‘In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the LORD chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the LORD chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the LORD chooses shall come forward man by man. Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!’” Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen. Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.” Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.” So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the LORD.<sup>24</sup> Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. Joshua said, “Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today.” Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.<sup>26</sup> Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.” (Joshua 7:1-26)*

Our God is a triune God; He is a God who loves fellowship. He created man so that He will live and have fellowship with man. But for God to dwell with man He need a clean atmosphere, an atmosphere of no sin. Therefore when God created man and put him in the garden east of Eden to work it, He instructed him how to live His life. And when man sinned against God and refused to repent the Lord sent the man away. But God remain faithful to His covenant to save and redeem man and continue to live with Him. In addition as we read in the bible God had placed a corporate responsibility upon all His people that they should purge, clean and remove the evil from among them. Therefore further truth and facts we learn as we can read below.

**10- Corporate responsibility to purge the evil from among us:** For all the sins that man do, the man who sin will receive the consequences of his wrong doing and how he acted unfaithfully toward God. As well as God had called us as a church to purge the evil and to expel the evil from among us; those who persistently refuse to repent and go along their evil ways of life they need to be expel out. *“But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.” (1 Corinthians 15:11-13)* And that what Joshua and the Israelites did to Achan who sinned; they clean the camp from sin, so the Lord will enter the camp and live with them again.

**11- Discipline and rebuke those who sins:** Those who are called brothers, especially those who are involved in God’s service and God’s ministry and live in sin they need to be rebuked and disciplined for the wrong doing they are practicing in their lives. *“But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.” (1 Timothy 5:20)*

**12- Restoration for those who sin:** As well as those who sin God call us to restore them. *“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1)* The church will do its best in prayer, counseling, warning, and in teaching the Word of God, and waiting patiently for those members who sin to repent in order for them to be restored back to God and to the church.

**13- Close follow up, high control and nurturing is the responsibility of the church:** Some they don’t like the church to interfere with their personal life and their decision. Well that it might be the truth as long as there is nothing wrong. But the church should interfere even in the personal things when there is sin. As well as everything should be transparent and the church must know certain details so it will help in following them up and protect them from falling into sin and the trap of Devil.

**My Dear and Beloved:** The above are God’s divine way of how to live in peace with Him and with one another. These are safe way to secure an abundant life for each and every one of the church members and to secure to us a place in heaven among those who are sanctify through faith in the blood of Jesus and what He did for us on the cross as we agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I thank you for your Son the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to follow the instruction of your Word. Lord help me and guide me to be in line with your instructions and commands and be faithful to the church and the ministry that you place me in, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*