

God's Calling Requirements

Part 15

Don't Defy God's Word

"1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. 2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. 4 And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. 5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. 6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before. 7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. 8 And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: 9 For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest. 10 So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel. 11 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father. 12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. 13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon, 14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am. 15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. 16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: 17 For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest. 18 He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him. 19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water. 20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back: 21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, 22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcass shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers. 23 And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back. 24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcass was

cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcass. 25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcass cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcass: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. 26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him. 27 And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him. 28 And he went and found his carcass cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcass: the lion had not eaten the carcass, nor torn the ass. 29 And the prophet took up the carcass of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him. 30 And he laid his carcass in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother! 31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones: 32 For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass. 33 After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. 34 And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth." (1Kings 13:1-34 KJV)

God sent His man to deliver His message and to rebuke the wicked King Jeroboam who set up his idols in Bethel and Dan and worked it out to prohibit the Israelites to go to Jerusalem to worship God in the Temple of God as you can read: *"25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. 26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: 27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. 30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. 31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. 32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense." (1 Kings 12:25-33 KJV)*

The man of God that the Lord sent to face and rebuke Jeroboam for his sin did well and he pronounced God's judgment to the king in a furious way and publicly in front of all the people. He proclaimed the judgment of God against Jeroboam who was standing there in front of the altar to do

something against God's will. From the passage that we chose you can get the following conclusions and lessons to learn:-

1- Do not be afraid to proclaim the whole will of God, because all will come true: “2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.” (1 Kings 13:2 KJV) He reminded Jeroboam that his sin by instituting another religious festival will be judged by God using the house of David through one of their Kings. Many today are introducing many feasts and festivals to God's church that are not there in the Bible - Birthday celebration, Halloween, Valentine, Father Day, Mother Day, Christmas, Friend Day, etc. These all things against God and they will be judged for that.

The man of God gave him the name of the King, Josiah, who was truly born after 358 years. The man of God also mentioned to him that on this altar the priests of the high places will be slaughtered and offered on the altar, and human bones taken out from the graves will be burned on that altar. The man of God proclaimed all that publicly to all the people and faced them who came to offer their gifts to that false altar. That prophecy was fulfilled by King Josiah who did all this proclaimed judgment of God, “15 Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. 16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. 19 And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the Lord to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel. 20 And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.” (2 Kings 23:15-16, 19-20) It is a kindness from God to send warning to sinners. So be diligent and be the instrument that God will use to send His kindness to the wicked people who do their own in serving God. Do not be afraid. Go to them and rebuke them for their wrong doing so that they will be saved.

2- God will support you with signs and wonders as you are proclaiming and doing His will: “3 That same day the man of God gave a sign: “This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out.” (1 Kings 13:3 KJV) The people offered their sacrifices on an altar that on the same day got split, “5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.” (1 Kings 13:5 KJV) God supported His man who stood firm and proclaim the judgment message of God against His people who went away from Him. God will stand with you and support you as you rebuke those who left the church and went to follow their own idols.

3- Do not be afraid, God is with you against your enemy: “4 And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.” (1 Kings 13:4 KJV) God further supported His man when he inflicted judgment on Jeroboam when he tried to harm his prophet. God would protect His messenger who is doing His work according to His

promise, “15 Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.” (Psalm 105:15 KJV) When Jeroboam offered to the altar that he built, the Lord did not punish him but he sent him warning. But when he tried to harm his prophet, the Lord inflicted judgment on him. Those who try to harm those who do God's work will be punished by God. So do not be afraid, God is with you against your enemy.

4- Be merciful and pray for the sinners who asks you prayers: “6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.” (1 Kings 13:6 KJV) The man of God was merciful to Jeroboam when he asked for prayer. The point that we want to expound here, Jeroboam did not repent when God sent him judgment. So when the man of God prayed for his hand to be restored, he put the possibility that Jeroboam might be repenting of his sin when he will receive mercy from God. Jeroboam when he was afflicted he did not pray or asked healing from the altar that he built, so the man of God might put the possibility that Jeroboam might be repenting and that was another reason for him to pray. Your aim should be to bear fruit in the life of the people that you are ministering.

5- Discern if people repented or not: “7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.” (1 Kings 13:7 KJV) Jeroboam after he was healed, he did not repent from his sin. If he repented he would announce publicly his wrong doing, and if he wants to give a gift he should give it to God and send it or go to Jerusalem to the temple of God. Be discerning, people may give you gift, invite you to eat, give you food but they are not repenting. You should be discerning and withdraw yourself and do not continue to condone their wrong ways of life and their worship to idols.

6- Stand firm and be firm with the people whom God sent you to minister: “8 And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: 9 For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.” (1 Kings 13:8-9 KJV) The man of God was commissioned to do two more things in Bethel:

- A- **Not to eat or drink anything there:** God intended to tell the people of Bethel, that He abhors their sin and the fellowship with them till they repent. The man of God said to Jeroboam, “I would not go with you,” and he refused to take anything from him, “Even if you were to give me half your possessions.” With such kind of action and attitude, the message of rebuke was more severe and affirmed.
- B- **Not to return by the way he came:** The explanation of that is to show to the people of Bethel that the man of God was not coming to them but he met them as he was passing by. The purpose of that is not to show them importance so they will not take pride of themselves. “10 So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.” (1 Kings 13:10 KJV) In this way it showed that he was just passing by and was not intentionally coming for them. Be careful to follow the instruction and implement them when you minister to the people, so they will receive the correct message.

7- Be obedient to the instruction that God is giving you: You may not understand why God is asking you certain instruction to do, but as you obey Him then the wisdom of God will be manifested in your ministry and you will be able to deal wisely with the people that He is sending you to minister.

8- *Be aware of wicked false prophets who try to trap you: “11 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father. 12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. 13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon, 14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.” (1 Kings 13:11-14 KJV)* That old prophet was wicked and was false one. He did not go after the man of God to help him, or to look after him and to his body needs, or to get the wisdom of God from Him. But he went after him to trap him. He most likely was trained by one of the schools of Samuel the prophet, but he left the ways of righteousness and the true worship of God and went after Jeroboam. If he is a true prophet he would not allow his children to attend the festival of Jeroboam. Further he lied to the man of God, *“15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. 16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: 17 For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest. 18 He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.” (1 Kings 13:15-18 KJV)* False prophets are liars and telling lies for them is their normal language. They are devil servants and their ministry is to trap the people of God. That false prophet lied to the man of God in three things; 1. proclaimed himself as a prophet, 2. told a fabricated story as if a true, 3. and he used the name of God in vain stated that God commissioned him to do so.

9- *Be aware of the tempter: “19 So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.” (1 Kings 13:19)* Food and drink is a weakness and devil may enter into your life and destroy you through that, so be careful. Devil tempted Eve and succeeded to make her eat from the forbidden tree. The tempter also tempted Jesus when he was hungry, *“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4 KJV)* The false prophets are those who knew the word of God but they don't live it, and their aim is to force and entice others to do and to be like them as you can read here, *“But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.” (Amos 2:12 KJV)* The false prophets they push the committed people and try to convince them to break their commitment to God. That is so evil and wicked practice for the wicked false prophets. And they love to mislead people from the way of righteousness, and to make others to sin. Truly they are Satan servants. And this is what God's word tells us about such prophets, *“9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness. 10 For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right. 11 For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD. 12 Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the LORD. 13 And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err.” (Jeremiah 23:9-13 KJV)* Many churches now days are full of people who teach wrong, and encourage young people to sin by seducing them to eat food sacrificed for idols, Birth day celebration, Halloween, Valentine, Father Day, Mother Day, Christmas, Friend Day, etc.

and push their members to do immoralities and fornication by encouraging them and condoning them to have boyfriend, girlfriend, live in relationship, divorce and remarriage.

10- *Be aware about your deed and actions because you are accountable to God: “19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.” (1 Kings 13:19 KJV)* One meal had caused the life of that man of God. As you know what God had spoken to you then you should not allow others to tempt you or twist you. The man of God should realized that this old prophet is wicked, because if he is a righteous man the Lord would use him to rebuke Jeroboam and no need for him to be sent to that place. He should not trust him because God did not use him to do the ministry that the man of God did. If you are faced with such kind of people who proclaim to be pastors, prophets, workers, etc, don't believe them till you test them and see their fruit, *“21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)*

11- God will discipline you for your disobedience and you will pay the consequences of your sins: *“20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back: 21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, 22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.” (1 Kings 13:20-22 KJV)* God proclaimed to His servant the judgment for his sin. Judgment will start in the house of God, to bring speedy repentance in their lives. The man of God heard his sentence and accepted it and did not retaliate or vindicate himself.

12- *God used the false prophet to proclaim his judgment on the man of God:* That is not strange; God used Balaam to proclaim his message. And the message of God was first given to the false prophet and it was a shocking message, *“21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee,” (1 Kings 13:21)* Now if God will judge His man for a single disobedience how much more the false prophet will receive of God's judgment? It is an alarming message not to the man of God but first was the message alarming to the false prophet that is why he was crying in proclaiming it. Even today, the message is alarming to us, that the Lord will judge us if we fail him and disobey His Word. Therefore let us repent and take seriously the message that we hear today. Be sure that God will judge you if you defy Him and break His instructions to you.

13- *God fulfilled his judgment: “23 And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back. 24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.” (1 Kings 13:23-24 KJV)* The lion killed the man of God but he did not eat him. God punished him for his sin, and ordained for him not to be buried in his father tomb. But the man of God is saved, for no eternal judgment was inflicted on him, and the prove of that is this: when king Josiah was executing God's judgment he did not disturb his grave or exposed his bones, *“17 Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of*

Bethel. 18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.” (2 Kings 23:17-18 KJV)

14- God fulfilled what he said to bring others to repentance: “25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcass cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcass: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. 26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.” (1 Kings 13:25-26 KJV) The people saw the scene and took heed of what had happened. The lion did not eat the man of God or kill the donkey, and everyone knew that it was God’s doing. Death is heavy and brings deep conviction. In this way the message of God’s judgment were proclaimed in more serious way in the city of Bethel.

15- The murderer brought to the scene and drove toward repentance: The murderer is the false prophet of Samaria, “27 And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him. 28 And he went and found his carcass cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcass: the lion had not eaten the carcass, nor torn the ass. 29 And the prophet took up the carcass of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him. 30 And he laid his carcass in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother! 31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones: 32 For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.” (1 Kings 13:27-32 KJV) The false prophet convicted with the true judgment of God. He carried the man of God and his blood stained his clothes, realized that he was the one who killed him with his lies and realized that God will judge him in more severe way if he would not repent. Therefore he decided to repent and chose not to spend eternity on fire. He chose the destiny of the man of God that he buried. The repentance of that false prophet was proved when his bones were spared and not exposed when Josiah was executing the judgment of God, **“17 Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel. 18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.” (2 Kings 23:17-18 KJV)**

Continue to do what God is asking you to do and the outcome of your ministry is in the hand of God. You do your part and He will be the One to bring sinners to repentance.

16- Others hardened their hearts: “33 After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. 34 And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.” (1 Kings 13:33-34 KJV) Jeroboam did not repent, and it seems that his heart was hardened and he continued in his sin. God tried with him His judgment (warning him causing his hand to shrivel) and his mercy (healing his hand) and when he did not respond then he hardened his heart by the death of the man of God. Jeroboam might be speaking maliciously against the man of God and he might be using God’s judgment on him to justify his stand and actions.

My dear and beloved: Continue to serve God and follow his instructions precisely. Be aware and discerning, the devil is around and is a roaring lion. Don’t allow him to pull you. Don’t allow him to tempt and cause you to sin. Follow carefully and applied precisely the instruction that is given to you, **“8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9 KJV)** As you obey and abide with God’s word and command He will be the one to deliver you from devil peril as Paul said, **“16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:16-18 KJV)** Do not trust the lies of devil or his servants the false prophets. Trust God, trust His word and what He instructed you. Continue to obey His Word and do not give a foothold for devil.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear word to me. Lord saves me from the lying lips and deceitful tongue. Lord give me sober mind, discernment and help me to say ‘No,’ to the devil lies.

Lord I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I repent from the love of food, and what is enticing my stomach

Lord I repent from the love of being with friends who would mislead me.

Lord I repent from the half obedience, which is disobedience.

Lord have mercy on me and restore me once again to the way that I need to be.

Lord I commit myself to serve you and do precisely the instructions that I am receiving from you, from your Word and from the church that you had placed me in.

Here am I Lord send me, I trust you that you are beside me and will deliver me from the mouth of lions. Lord I trust you that you will protect me, that you will provide all my needs and you will do more miracles as I obey your call and go on and serve you.

Lord I pray for all my brothers and sisters who had repented and renounced their sins, Lord have mercy on them and restore them back to the good plan that you have for them. Lord as they commit their lives to abide precisely with your instructions, Lord provide all their needs, heal the sick among them, comfort those who are weak and sustain them with your mercy and grace.

I thank you and praise for your word that speaks to us and direct us to go back to your ways and to live in the truth. Lord we pray for the church to grow. We pray for more evangelism and for more souls to be harvested. Lord we pray for more Bible studies to be planted. Lord we pray that our life testimony and our firm stand on your Word will be a good testimony to attract others to follow you. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free

us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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