 **CHRIST COMPANION BIBLE CHURCH**

**Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Headquarters Date: 12/03/2024***

 **TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LIFE (PART 3) STUDY 9**

**Text**: Genesis 32:9-30

**Memory Verse***: Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. Hebrews 10:35-36.*

 Fear is a perceived threat and sense of danger, which can be unreal or factual.

 It is an emotional phenomenon that is ingrained in living being (humans inclusive).

 Individual response to it varies base on personal exposure, perspective, knowledge, past experience and support.

 Fear according to the scripture can have negative effect (torment), when not ruled by faith. John 4:18. For example:

 *i. It can paralyse one sense of initiative and judgement to act foolishly.*

*ii. It can build a barrier between you and your goals.*

*iii. Fear limits or can victimise you, if not managed audaciously.*

 ***Fear also can have positive effect by providing you with a sense of awareness and caution to take certain preventive measures; to dare, confront and turn your fears to favour and advantage.***

 The life of Jacob provides you with wisdom of taking personal responsibility towards your fears in life as seen in this study.

 **JACOB CONFRONTED AND OVERCAME HIS FEARS! GENESIS 31:1-12.**

 Looking at the life of Jacob at different times and seasons, his fears could be categorised into two.

(a**) Minor fears**. (b) **Major fears.**

***Minor fears:*** These are fears base on:

*i. Personal welfares: food, clothing and sheltering etc. Genesis 28:20*

*ii. Cares over family necessities, like Rachael's conception, domestic tussles among the siblings. Genesis 30:1-2*

*iii. Business challenges and success under Laban. Genesis 31:1-3 etc.*

***Major Fears:*** Genesis 31:22-24.

*i. Security over his life from Esau, a brother turned enemy by cheating! Genesis 32:11.*

*ii. Security over the life of his sons, especially after the death of Joseph! Genesis 42:36.*

 Note: In our today world, everyone has their peculiar fears, which are multi-dimensional in spectrum, like:

 Life insecurities, inflations, food crisis, threats of war, poverty, academic challenges, marital challenges, unemployment cum economic challenges, relationship problems, domestic issues etc.

 Like Jacob, you can overcome your fears by trusting and inviting God to your situation!

 ***Let's take a look at some of the steps Jacob took to overcome:***

**1. Jacob normally acknowledged his fears, but always refused to succumb to it. Genesis 30:1-2.**

 Lesson: Do not give up over your fears and challenges. Always insist to face it, and persevere to overcome it.

**2. Jacob engaged critical thinking and brainstorming to demystify his fears, and to finding solution!**

 **See Genesis 32:1-9.**

 He believed, his brain was part of God’s endowment in finding ways forward in meeting life challenges.

Lessons:

*i. As a believer, do your best to develop your mind. It is a great treasure in fighting rude fears and frivolity in life! Nehemiah 6:10-12.*

*ii. Do not act presumptuously when under pressure; take ample time to cool down. Think through to take the best course of action.*

*iii. Have rule over your emotions.*

**3. Jacob believed in prayer warfare!** He knew the fact that most physical problems and troubles of life had spiritual root! Thus, God's axe in prayer warfare could always pull down strongholds of fears and terrible imagination's. Genesis 32:24-29.

 Lesson: Instead of worry, complaints and loosing heart, take the issue to God. Be violent in prayer, your authority in Christ can turn darkness to light, and your night breaking into days like Jacob.

**4. Jacob after prayer and wrestle in encounter with God, met Esau (his fear) in peace and was delivered! Rather than been avenged and wasted, the meeting was full of testimonies of God goodness and faithfulness to both of them. Genesis 33:4-12.**

 Lessons:

 i. No mountain is difficult to move when God is involved.

ii. Your fears and challenges today can become stepping stones to experiencing God's unfathomable power working for your favour, upliftment and power!

 Dare to confront your fears through faith and leading of the Holy Spirit, and you will have testimonies of God' saving power.

Take personal responsibility to fight and overcome in the battles of life. Amen.

**HYMN: I DON’T KNOW ABOUT TOMORROW**

1. I don’t know about tomorrow,

 I just live from day to day;

I don’t borrow from its sunshine,

For it’s skies may turn to gray;

I don’t worry o’er the future,

For I know what Jesus said,

And today I’ll walk beside Him,

For He knows what is ahead.

***Many things about tomorrow,***

***I don’t seem to understand;***

***But I know who holds tomorrow,***

***And I know who holds my hand.***

2. Ev’ry step is getting brighter

 As the golden stairs I climb;

Ev’ry burden’s getting lighter,

 Ev’ry cloud is silver lined;

There the sun is always shining,

There no tear will dim the eye;

At the ending of the rainbow,

Where the mountains touch the sky.

3. I don’t know about tomorrow,

 It may bring me poverty;

But the One who feeds the sparrow

 Is the One who stands by me;

And the path that be my portion,

May be through the flame or flood,

But His presence goes before me,

And I’m covered with His blood