

INTRODUCTION – 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER ONE

This chapter is apportioned with five (5) sections in the bible that reveal Paul's letters to the Corinthians for our study, understanding, obedience, blessings and edification.

1. Greetings: **1 Corinthians 1:1 – 3**
2. Spiritual gifts at Corinth: **1 Corinthians 1:4 – 8**
3. Sectarianism is sin: **1 Corinthians 1:9 – 16**
4. Christ the power and wisdom of God: **1 Corinthians 1:17 – 23**
5. Glory only in the Lord: **1 Corinthians 1:24 – 31**

To enable readers and the Churches and Body of Christ as a whole understand the first chapter of Paul's epistle, I have done my best with the grace of God upon my life and ministry to explain verse by verse or combination of verses in bringing out the quality of Paul's messages to the Corinthians.

Like a weaned child just weaned from milk and drawn from the breasts, the word of God is taught precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little (**Isaiah 28:9 & 10**). Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, He shall guide us unto all truths (**John 16:13**).

Connect to other writings of the Church and bible commentaries as the Holy Spirit enlightens your understanding because grace and truth emanated from our Lord Jesus Christ (**John 1:17**). For this study, additional biblical information from the New King James Bible Commentary added fresh revelations to enhance understanding.

Clearly it portrays Paul as the spiritual father to the Church of Corinth with interest and passion to the faith of the Corinthian Believers, Christian teachings and doctrines, spiritual growth and maturity. Precisely, Paul handed the Corinthian Church to Aquila and Priscilla in AD 53 to continue his second missionary journey.

It is also important to note that Paul's first epistle was in response to two letters received from the Chloe's household and the team of Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus had brought from Corinth. Also, it was in Ephesus that he received two letters about the state of the Church of Corinth. Hence his response which begins the study of chapter one.

Since every letter has a beginning, content and conclusion, let us be mindful of its first chapter with five relevant areas emphasized by Paul and brother Sosthenes to the Corinthians Believers.

Study and know its relevance to your life first as Christian before you apply it to other Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders. This is one of the best practices to be equipped with the knowledge of God in Christ and grow spiritually in the wisdom of God unto maturity as the Holy Spirit leads you.

It is my prayer and hope that you shall be an instrument in the Lord's service to bring sound Christian teachings and practices to your local Church and Body of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen. Hallelujah!



CALLING BY THE WILL OF GOD

INSPIRATION

The will of God is His desire and joy to see you obey His word in Christ by the Holy Spirit. The will of the devil is his desire and joy to see you disobey God's word as a sinner, unbeliever and a Believing Christian. The former loves to see us walk in truth and integrity, but the latter in lies and falsehood.

The call of God into ministry is the Sovereign will of our Lord Jesus Christ as Paul did explain to the Corinthians later in his epistle; evident in **(1 Corinthians 12:5)**. By this truth Paul reveals His call as a divine one or a higher call with the mandate and authority to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Hence his work in Corinth as an Apostle and Church relationship to father them in Christ unto God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We read

1 Corinthians 1:1 – Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother

The bible says that Paul's salutation in his first epistle to the Corinthians revealed his true identity without any shyness as an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God and not the will of man. It means that His call as an Apostle to preach and teach and reveal Christ was not the decision of man but the will of God to achieve eternal purposes.

By this truth, Paul knew that he was not fit and qualified to be an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ because of his past unbelieving life and works against the Churches of Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders. Yet the Lord chose him to be His voice and Preacher to the Gentile nations on the way of Damascus **(Acts chapter 9:1 – 31)**. So also was His brother in the Lord, Sosthenes who was also called into ministry perhaps under a different circumstance.

Hence his salutatory and introductory words to the Church of Corinth as a true servant of Jesus Christ whose call into the apostolic ministry was of Him. This was an early notice to the Corinthians of the content of his epistle to be read, believed and practiced for their good and blessing.

Talking about Paul's letter, it revealed also the apostolic mandate to defend the gospel of Jesus Christ in any given situation such as his response to the two letters received about the Corinthians.

It meant also that the words in his letter were not ordinarily but supernatural to fulfill God's purposes. With this apostolic call into ministry, his divine mandate was expressed confidently and boldly in prayer, preaching, teachings, established Churches, correction, rebuke, cast out devils, written letters to the Churches, and instruction in righteousness.

We live in a world where the sinner, evil and wicked are commended and rewarded more than the righteous and holy. Sinners use the weapon of injustice whereas the righteous use the weapon of justice as God's legal weapon to deliver His children from enemies. Yet the gospel of Jesus Christ is loaded with truth and preached daily to make us conform to His image as children of God.

Like Paul when your call and ministry is by the will of God, your power and authority emanate from Him and signs and wonders follow you in the name of Jesus. You have the leading of the Holy Spirit always to keep you on track and be in God's perfect will beyond His permissive will. Yes in the Christian faith, we don't follow the crowd but the leading of the Holy Spirit because the word of God of God is in our hearts, minds and mouth. Be wise buddy.

WHEN YOU KNOW THE KIND OF PEOPLE YOU DEAL WITH IN LIFE, MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH, YOU POSITION YOURSELF STRATEGICALLY STATING YOUR CREDENTIALS BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM THE MESSAGE.

TRULY, PAUL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH OF CORINTH AND BROTHER SOSTHENES WAS AT THE LEVEL OF HIS CALL AND APOSTOLIC MINISTRY.

PRAYER

O God I pray in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ my call and ministry identify me in my relationship with all the Churches and Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders in Your perfect will.

We pray for grace to walk in your word always and be in Your perfect will. For it is by grace and not human effort. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

IF MY FAITH, CALL AND MINISTRY AND CHURCH ARE IN THY WILL, I WILL SERVE HIS PURPOSES AND NOT WASTE MY LIFE AND TIME IN UNPROFITABLE VENTURES. BUT IF YOUR CALL, MINISTRY AND CHURCH ARE BY THE DEVIL, YOU SHALL WORK TO SERVE HIS PURPOSES AND NOT THAT OF GOD. YES THE ANOINTING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE BEYOND THE CHARISMA. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

IDENTITY AND AUTHORITY AS A MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST

INSPIRATION

Every Minister of God must know his or her audience. That is the target groups to receive the word of God for belief, obedience, observation, monitoring, assessment and corrections where necessary. Indeed, Paul's first letter was in response to two letters received from the household of Chloe **(1 Corinthians 1:11)**. The report detailed the divisions and immorality of the Church. This was a result of the failure of the young Corinthian Church to overcome the decadence culture of the Corinthian society.

Also a set of letters from Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus had brought from Corinth **(1 Corinthians 16:15 – 18)**. The detailed questions were about marriage and singleness **(1 Corinthians 7:1 – 40)** and Christian liberty **(1 Corinthians 8:1 – 11:1)**.

Yet Paul's apostolic authority and mandate and fatherly relationship with the Church of Corinth and the Christian community did not permit him to be silent on these corruption areas. Hence the writing of this first epistle to the targets groups already stated for our study.

We read

1 Corinthians 1:2 – Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

Paul's call and ministry as an apostle of Jesus Christ is identified in his authority to the Church. Here the Church of Corinth receives warm greetings and recognition as his godly salutation. Not only is the Church mentioned in his letter but especially the target group of Believers who were going through the process of sanctification.

Paul extended his salutation to all people who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Also he made them aware of their sense of belongingness; as one family in Christ through same belief, association and love. To him, irrespective of persons who believed in Jesus and places where the Lord Jesus Christ was accepted became also a recipient of the Godly messages as contents of his letter. It means to say that

Learning from Paul's righteous example, be mindful of the truth that your call and ministry are linked to the Church and all Believing Christians as the Body of Christ irrespective of nation, country, family, language, and Church. There must be same taste and passion in our Christian faith and works by the Holy Spirit. Indeed if we all believe in God's love and salvation package for humanity and redemption in Christ, we must adhere to the leading of the Holy Spirit to bind us together in unity.

This is the New King James Bible Commentary: A local Church is a group of people who identify themselves and gather together to worship and serve Him.

Sanctified in Christ Jesus: The Corinthian's holiness came from their position in Christ, not from their own goodness. The tense of the verb sanctified indicates that God had sanctified the Corinthians at a specific time in the past producing a condition that they still enjoyed in the present.

Called to be saints: The work of Jesus Christ makes a believer holy forever in God's eyes. But in everyday living, sanctification involves small, daily changes (see Hebrew 10:14). This is why Paul could call the Corinthians believers to become saints, even the problems in their Church testified that they were far from the goal of holiness.

In every place: is most likely a reference to local Churches throughout the Roman Empire (see 1 Timothy 2:8).

Therefore we pray for one another to be strong in the Christian faith (Ephesians 6:10, 2 Timothy 2:1) and the Churches to be spiritually grown unto maturity (2 Peter 3:18). For this is our common responsibility beyond the scope and mandate of any Minister of God. Know that in God's will, you are saved to be a participant and not just an observer. Make your contributions good if you are led by the Holy Spirit.

PAUL'S SALUTATION REVEALED A SENSE OF UNITY OF FAITH AND PURPOSE TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH, ALL THE SAINTS AND PLACES WHERE CHRIST WAS BELIEVED AND ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE. THIS WAS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE CONTENT OF HIS LETTER TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BEYOND THE CHURCH OF CORINTH.

PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, we pray that you bind us together in love and unity to make your Church strong and mighty in works by the Holy Spirit.

Let our faith in Jesus Christ remain the same in the Church and all other places. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

IF WE ARE CALLED AND ANOINTED BY GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, THEN OUR MINISTRIES AND ASSOCIATIONS MUST BE TO ALL THE CHURCHES AND PLACES WHERE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS ARE THERE. YES PRAYER IS SOMETHING WE CAN ALL DO FOR ONE ANOTHER IRRESPECTIVE OF DISTANCE, SPACE AND TIME. INDEED OUR IDENTITY AND AUTHORITY IN CHRIST MUST EDIFY THE CHURCH IN THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD. AMEN. NANA KWAKU DUODU

SALUTATION BLESSINGS

INSPIRATION

When you receive the greetings and blessings from an important personality such as Pastor, Minister of Christ, Church leader, Christian leader, Chief, King, Queen, President, Prime Minister, politician, business man, business woman, judiciary, or a person of high standard in society through another important personality, it commands a lot of respect, honour and glory.

In the context of the Church, when we receive greetings, commendations and blessings from God and the Lord Jesus Christ to acknowledge our eternal relationship, faith and works by the Holy Spirit, love and unity of the Churches and the brethren, it is edification and establishment in the Christian faith. This was Paul's salutation blessings to the Church of Corinth and all other Believing Christians and places where Christ was believed. Let's study in detail.

We read

1 Corinthians 1:3 – Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's call and ministry was ordained by God in Christ by the Holy Spirit to have an unbreakable bond with the Church. Hence his salutation blessings upon the Church. Paul seemed to play the role of an ambassador here representing God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. In this truth, he emphasized on the inseparable and eternal relationship between the Father and Son as evident in the accomplished work of eternal salvation and institution of the Church.

Despite the two disturbing letters received by Paul, his love for the Church of Corinth made him pronounce these divine blessings on them. The mention of grace reveals the finished work of Christ on the cross and belief in Him as Saviour and Lord. It meant that Paul reminded the Church of Corinth and all Believing Christians about their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the need to maintain it through peace with God.

In other words, it was righteous and proper to bestow grace and peace on the Church of Corinth and all Believing Christians. For they qualified themselves as children of God whose eternal relationship with Him in Christ was peaceful and not antagonism.

Learning from Paul's righteous example, it is righteous and Christian to greet and acknowledge the Church and all Believing Christians as beneficiary of the finished work of the cross and restored peace with God. This grace work increases our faith in the Lord Jesus and makes peace with God always achievable.

Christian leaders who identify with the Church and Body of Christ in this manner, reveals shared vision and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. It sounds the good news that we are not alone or abandoned but have unity of faith and purpose. Indeed if power and authority

in Christ by the Holy Spirit are used in a positive manner to build and establish the Church and the Body of Christ, then the Christian faith is fulfilling its eternal work and bearing eternal fruits as written in the bible. Yes make it real to glorify God as a Believing Christian filled and led by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THERE IS NO CHRISTIAN FAITH WITHOUT THE ROLE PLAYS OF GOD THE FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. HENCE PAUL'S SALUTATION GREETINGS AND BLESSINGS AS A TRUE AMBASSADOR OF DIVINITY TOWARDS THE CHURCHES AND THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES. FOR GRACE AND PEACE BESTOWED ON THE CHURCH ARE DIVINE BLESSINGS THAT ACKNOWLEDGE OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND WORKS BY SCRIPTURE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

DESPITE THE TWO DISTURBING LETTERS RECEIVED BY PAUL, HIS LOVE FOR THE CHURCH OF CORINTH MADE HIM PRONOUNCE THESE DIVINE BLESSINGS ON THEM.

PRAYER

I pray that the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Master Architect of eternal salvation makes His Holy Spirit shine in our hearts to maintain our Christian faith and peace with Him always.

May the Holy Spirit be our Helper to salute and commend the Church and Believing Christians as beneficiaries of the manifold grace of God and peace in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS WHO SEND SALUTATION BLESSINGS OF GRACE AND PEACE TO THE CHURCHES IN WORD OR LETTERS OR ELECTRONIC MESSAGES SHARE WITH THEM THE BENEFITS OF THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS ON THE CROSS. THIS IS ALSO CALLED EDIFICATION WHICH IS A GOOD TASTE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THANKSGIVING PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH; THE MINISTER AND CHURCH LEADER

1 Corinthians 1:4 – I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

INSPIRATION

After the salutation blessings to the Corinthian Believing Christians, Paul's first message was to inform them about his prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for the maintenance of God's grace given them in the Lord Jesus Christ. It means that Paul was filled with joy because he knew of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The peace, joy, righteous lives as a result of their new nature in Christ was Paul's motivation to pray and intercede for them.

Indeed Paul believed that living the Christian life was beyond the Law of Moses with rules and regulations. It is a spiritual life which requires intercessory and supportive prayers to maintain our faith in Christ always. This was what he was doing behind the scenes until he disclosed it to the Corinthians through his letter.

It means to say that Paul always had the Corinthians at heart to pray for their sustenance of their faith in Christ as an act of God's grace. He must have prayed for them to be led always by the Holy Spirit knowing the culture and society in which they lived and the Church was situated. In this truth, he encouraged the Corinthians and assured them that he was glad they shared the same faith in their numbers. Indeed Paul's thanksgiving and intercessory prayers and commendation made him qualified to write to the Corinthians concerning their works.

This teaches us to pray for the faith of Believing Christians as having same faith, same vision and same mission by the Holy Spirit. Indeed a praying Church leader, Minister and Christian leader for a local Church will always be confident and bold to share his or her thoughts as the word of God for the leaders and members. Don't pretend to be praying for the Church and Believing Christians when you are not; for God hates hypocrisy. For those who are led by the Holy Spirit are the children of God. Yes we have to value what Paul valued and see by the eye of the Spirit.

We have to value prayers and intercessions like Jesus to make the Church a house of prayer and not a den of thieves and robbers **(Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:7, Luke 19:46)**. You have a part to play buddy.

Be prayerful because God delights in the prayers of the righteous and uses them to reveal His glory **(Proverbs 15:8)**. Once we pray for the spiritual growth and maturity of the Church, it is a righteous investment with a promising future with eternal blessings and eternal rewards **(2 Corinthians 4:15)**. In other words, the faith of many Christians as an act of grace results in thanksgiving to the glory of God. If prayer builds and sustains and expand the Church, then no prayer is a waste but a blessing.

PAUL GAVE AN EARLY INDICATION THAT HE WAS STILL INTERESTED IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE CORINTHIANS; SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY. HENCE HE COMMUNICATED TO THEM ABOUT HIS PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION FOR THEIR FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST GIVEN BY GOD. THOUGH HE WAS ABSENT FROM THEM, YET HIS PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVING TO GOD REVEALED SAME CHRISTIAN FAITH AND GRACE UPON THEM.

PRAYER

O God help me to have the desire and passion to pray for the Church and Believing Christians for spiritual growth and maturity in the name of Jesus.

For I hate living a hypocritical life because the Holy Spirit is in me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

IF I HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF PRAYER LIKE JESUS AND PAUL, GOD WILL HELP ME TO PRAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS WILL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. PRAY FOR THE CHURCH; PRAY FOR THE FAITH OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

KNOWING THAT YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER AS A MINISTER, CHURCH LEADER AND CHRISTIAN LEADER PRAYS FOR YOU AND THE CHURCH'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY IN CHRIST. IT MEANS TO ACCEPT AND BELIEVE HIS OR HER LETTER OF INSTRUCTION, COMMENDATION, RECOMMENDATION, CORRECTION AND REBUKE IN GOOD FAITH. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

RIGHTEOUS PRAYER; ENRICHMENT IN CHRIST, UTTERANCE AND IN ALL KNOWLEDGE

INSPIRATION

When somebody seeks your good and blessing in life, he or she should be cherished and encouraged. That was what Paul sought for the Corinthians in his quest to make them grow spiritually unto maturity, and correct all the anomalies in the Church.

We read

1 Corinthians 1:5 – That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge

Paul's knowledge and experience of the grace of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit was so great and phenomenal. He knew that the Church in Corinth and all other Believing Christians were strategically aligned to knowledge acquisition, wisdom, prayer power, gifts of the Holy Spirit, fruit of the Spirit, higher spiritual life, bible studies, with the great potentiality for spiritual growth unto maturity.

His prayer therefore was for them to grow rich in Christ spiritually to manifest physically in every aspect of their physical lives. His prayer was that Christ as the source of their faith would result in utterance by the Holy Spirit. In other words, Christ will enrich them in boldness and confidence in the preaching and teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Again, Paul prayed and informed them that they would graduate to unlimited knowledge of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. For Paul rated the knowledge of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit as supreme knowledge over any other knowledge.

New King James Bible Commentary: Enriched that the Corinthians had been spiritually destitute but had become abundantly prosperous through God's grace.

It means to say that when one turns to Christ from the world and from other religions, there must be spiritual growth and maturity attainment. Indeed the prayers for the Ministers, Christian leaders for the Church besides the prayers of fellow Believing Christians makes God's grace available to the Church.

It means to say also that Paul's desire for the grace of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit to grow spiritually unto maturity is not automatic. For it takes the power of God to get to this level. Likewise, let us invest prayers for given utterance where boldness and confidence are at work to preach, teach, counsel and defend the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Be encouraged because we have to testify to the world that Jesus died for our sins and was buried, but resurrected on the third day and ascended into heaven for our salvation and receipt of eternal life and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Yes the world needs to hear, know

and believe in forgiveness of sins, mercy and compassion as the love of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Truly when the Church and all Believing Christians are enriched in the gospel of Jesus Christ, there would be spiritual and physical changes in us as children of God. Therefore let the word of Christ dwell in you richly because it has multiple blessings in nature. Amen. **(Colossians 3:16)**

THE DESIRE AND PRAYER OF APOSTLE PAUL WAS THAT THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH ALL CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS AND GOSPEL TRUTHS TO MAKE THEM PROFITABLE IN LIFE, MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH. UTTERANCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS EMPHASIZED AS THE SANCTIFICATION AREAS TO CORRECT AND CHANGE THEM RIGHTEOUSLY.

PRAYER

We pray in the name of Jesus that God helps us to pray always for the manifestation of His grace in Christ by the Holy Spirit in the Church. For this prayer direction, we will achieve spiritual growth and maturity in Jesus' name. Say amen because the Holy Spirit is our Helper.

If God's grace to make us receive utterance and knowledge for the gospel of Jesus Christ is to prosper our lives and to reach all people and places, then our faith in Christ must remain unpolluted and undefiled. Prayer makes it achievable. For it is all about Jesus Christ and outside Him is no forgiveness, mercy and compassion but condemnation and judgment. **Nana Kwaku Duodu**

DOES THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST CONFIRMS YOUR CHRISTIAN STATUS?

INSPIRATION

It is good to know that the gospel of Jesus Christ changes and transforms lives that have been reduced and degraded to the minimum level of sin. If Jesus changed and transformed people with His gospel of salvation that society did not relegated them to the background, then it confirms Paul's reminder to the Corinthians that it is the gospel of Jesus Christ that made them become a children of God.

We read

1 Corinthians 1:6 – Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

Paul's message to the Corinthians was that their enrichment in Christ must be proven as testimony in all facets of life; utterances and knowledge acquisition. In other words, the testimony of Jesus Christ must confirm their Christian status. For Christ died on the cross to save us from our sins but resurrected from the dead to give us eternal life. This was his desire and prayer for them to be enriched in Christ everywhere and in all things as children of God with the receipt of eternal life.

It means to say that when the testimony of Jesus Christ is the basis of your words and works, you have a beautiful Christian life by the Holy Spirit that honour and glorify God. The bible says that when one is in Christ, the old nature of sin is no longer controlling you but the new nature of Christ. Yes the old is gone and the new has come **(2 Corinthians 5:17)**. The bible says that Barnabas brought Paul to Antioch where he stayed with them for a whole year and taught the people. The testimony of Christ was confirmed in them and was visible to all the people that they were called Christians for the first time **(Acts 11:25 & 26)**. For previously people who put their faith in Christ were called Believers or people of the Way.

Jesus Himself said that we shall know false Prophets by their fruits **(Matthew 7:15 – 20)**. I believe that this is also applicable to the Church where the gospel of Jesus Christ makes us known the truth Believing Christians from the false brethren **(2 Corinthians 11:26i)**.

The bible says also that the testimony of Jesus Christ could not be confirmed in king Agrippa because he denied being a Christian in the presence of Governor Festus, nobles and military commanders in Caesarea **(Acts 26:28 & 29)**. Soon after that Paul was exiled to Rome.

We read

Romans 8:14 – For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

For your life and ministry to be proven as a child of God, you have to be led by the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit speaks the truth and testifies of Jesus as the Son of God, Saviour and the Christ (**John 15:26**). For Christ is your testimony and you live in the power of the Holy Spirit to live by faith in Him (**Galatians 2:20**).

PAUL'S MESSAGE WAS THAT THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST MUST BE READABLE IN THE CORINTHIANS LIVES, MINISTRIES AND THE CHURCH. IT MUST ALSO BE THE EVIDENCE OF OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS AND WORKS BY THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

PRAYER

Dear Papa God, please help us and the Church to live and show the life of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

I know it is by grace if our faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WHEN YOUR LIFE IS BY THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST, YOU LIVE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ABOVE THE STANDARD OF THE WORLD. LIVE AS CHILDREN OF GOD IN THE SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
NANA KWAKU DUODU

SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR BELIEVING CHRISTIANS

INSPIRATION

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are needful in our lives, ministries and the Church to fulfill Christ's mission and achieve His vision. It involves spiritual empowerment through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Paul, himself, manifested in the spiritual gifts and knew of its importance and benefits. Hence his desire and prayer was that the Corinthians became equipped with the spiritual gifts in doing the Lord's work. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:7 – So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Paul's epistle to the Corinthians of being enriched in Christ was purposed driven to be spiritually empowered and endowed with spiritual gifts as Believing Christians. In his leadership role and duty to the Corinthians, he ensured that they were adequately prepared in the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ; spiritual empowerment and usage of received spiritual gifts.

It meant that fellowship with the Father and Son by the Holy Spirit was emphasized to makes spiritual gifts activated and effective. Having received the baptism of the Holy

Spirit, it was necessary for them to function effectively in the spiritual gifts. For God had given to them freely in Christ. It reveals also that Paul inculcated in them the need and operational of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives, ministries and the Church.

Paul realized that waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was to be utilized profitably in service in the Church and kingdom of God. For the kingdom of God and His Son Jesus Christ belong to Believing Christians washed by the blood of Jesus and saved eternally and not sinners and unbelievers until they believe too. It is a reminder of the parable of the talents where the ones who received five (5) and two (2) talents used them profitably for the Master's benefits and were rewarded accordingly. But the one who did not use his one (1) talent and buried and also insulted the master for being a wicked person was judged to be unfit in His service; God's kingdom **(Matthew 25:14 – 30)**.

Truly the attitude to work was reinvigorated by Paul as part of his leadership and managerial prowess over the Corinthians and other Believing Christians. The gifts of the Holy Spirit had been given and they needed to manifest in them. This called for prayer and the word of God because the gospel of Jesus Christ is non – negotiable. Truly the eternal contract between God and you in Christ is beyond human terms and permissions because only God can supply the Church with these spiritual gifts **(Ephesians 4:8)**.

Know also that the Christian faith is not about observation without participation because the Holy Spirit is active in Christian lives with testimonies. It revealed early that God needed the time and services of the Corinthians to testify of the Lord Jesus Christ and change the world. It takes a lazy person to sit idle without doing anything profitable. As a result, later chapters of Paul's messages in his letter revealed the grace of God upon the Corinthian Church to be gifted spiritually **(1 Corinthians 12:1 – 6)**.

This message is simple but loaded with gospel truths and revelations that shaped the future of the Corinthian Church and subsequent generations of the early Church even to this day and future generations. Yes you have the Holy Spirit in you to testify of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. And the gifts of the Holy Spirit is given for the furtherance of Christ's mission and vision. Hallelujah. Don't limit yourself because you live in God's grace and not subject to the whims and caprices of people and enemies of the cross of Jesus. Be wise buddy.

New King James Bible Commentary: Gift here is probably a reference to the spiritual gifts described in **1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 14**. Despite the Corinthians boasting, their many gifts had come from God **(1 Corinthians 12:11, 18, 28)**. The Corinthians were richly blessed with spiritual gifts because God was giving them everything they needed to do His will **(1 Corinthians 12:24 – 27)**.

PAUL'S RIGHTEOUS DESIRE AND PRAYER TO THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS WAS THAT THEIR RICH FAITH IN CHRIST WOULD BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE RECEIPT AND MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THEIR LIVES, MINISTRIES AND THE CHURCH. ANYTHING SHORT OF IT WAS A SPIRITUAL ERROR THAT WOULD BE JUDGED BY GOD. DON'T LAZY AROUND BUT USE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHURCH, BODY OF CHRIST AND KINGDOM OF GOD.

PRAYER

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit helps me to discover my gift (s) and use it profitably to pursue Christ's mission and vision.

Let my waiting O God for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ be in service for your glory and not subject to the whims and caprices of people and enemies. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

WHEN YOU DISCOVER WHO YOU ARE, YOU LIFE BECOMES MEANINGFUL AND PURPOSE DRIVEN. LIKEWISE WHEN YOU DISCOVER THE REASON FOR YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION AND PLACEMENT IN THE CHURCH AND KINGDOM OF GOD, YOU BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. FOR BY YOU GENERATIONS ARE BROUGHT INTO THE CHURCH AND KINGDOM OF GOD AND PREPARED FOR USE TO FULFILL CHRIST'S MISSION AND VISION. YEAH YOU HAVE HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY POWER TO DO GOD'S WILL IN THE NAME OF JESUS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

YOUR LIFE IS SAFE IN THE HANDS OF JESUS

INSPIRATION

It takes a Holy Spirit filled Minister of Christ to have faith in backsliding people to repent, revived and be faithful to the end where they would stand blameless in the Day of Judgment before the Lord Jesus Christ. It means to say that despite the weaknesses of the Church, there is grace for repentance, correction, rebuke and instruction in righteousness. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:8 – Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul was sure about one thing: that God will confirm the Corinthians faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to the end. For God cannot fail because He is faithful. By this truth, he emphasized that God's righteous agenda was to strengthen and establish them in the Christian faith. The place of the Church, prayer and the word, fellowship, breaking of bread, epistles, through the encouragement, correction, rebuke and instruction in righteousness by Ministers and Christian leaders and Believing Christians as a whole. For the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ builds us up to strengthen and establish us in the Christian faith.

Likewise God has chosen to strengthen and establish you through the Church with words and works of Ministers, Christian leaders Believing Christians. Indeed God does not establish us with sin and unrighteous works but in the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and working of the Holy Spirit. Yes those who are led by the Holy Spirit are the children of God (**Romans 8:14**). And God is ready and willing to establish you in Christ to the end of your life on earth. He will not abandon you as a Covenant Keeping God and faithful God.

This was purposed driven to make them righteous and blameless in the day of the Lord. Paul referred to the Day of Judgement where the Lord Jesus Christ will make all of us account for our lives on earth. On that day, the grace of God that kept them safely in Christ by the Holy Spirit would make them blameless. Hence Paul commended the Ephesian Elders and the Church to the grace of God that is able to build them up and give them an inheritance among those who are being sanctified (**Acts 20:32**).

Likewise, every Believing Christian must know that God is interested in them and the future. Going to prepare a place for us in heaven is Jesus' promise of salvation to us (**John 14:1 – 3**). And God is committed to ensuring that we qualify for placement in eternity. That is why we are built, protected and preserved by the grace of God, and not works of the flesh. Keep believing like the Corinthians because God cannot fail us; the gospel of Jesus cannot fail us but keep you blameless in the Day of Judgment.

New King James Bible Commentary: Because God is faithful to His word, Paul was confident that even the sin plagued Corinthians would stand blameless before Him. This blamelessness does not refer to the Corinthians works but to their standing in Christ; their justification in Christ (**1 Corinthians 3:14 & 15**).

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS THAT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS ABLE TO KEEP THEM BLAMELESS ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT. HENCE THE NEED FOR COMMITMENT AND FAITHFULNESS WITH ALL THE GRACE OF DEEP UTTERANCE AND KNOWLEDGE AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS GIVEN THEM.

PRAYER

Dear God, I believe in your sweet promises to build, strengthen and establish me in the Christian faith now and to the end of my life on earth.

I believe also in your promise to preserve me for Your kingdom and glory, and be blameless before You on the Day of Judgement.

Therefore help me with your word, Holy Spirit and the Church works to be obedient in the Christian faith. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HOW CAN GOD FAIL US? HIS RIGHTEOUS AGENDA IS TO BUILD, STRENGTHEN AND ESTABLISH US IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH EVEN TO THE END OF OUR LIVES ON EARTH. NOT ONLY THIS BUT ALSO PROTECT AND PRESERVE US FOR ETERNITY WITH HIM IN HEAVEN. THEREFORE IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD AND

WILL, WE OVERCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS AND ENJOY THE LEADING OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN. NANA KWAKU DUODU

YOU WORSHIP AND SERVE A FAITHFUL GOD

INSPIRATION

God's faithfulness is tied to His identity, credentials, word in Creation, dealings with the Israelites and Christ's salvation work, provisions, protection, preservation, Church, and promises. For the promises of God are yes and amen **(2 Corinthians 1:20)**. This is a God's whose word says that even if we become unfaithful, He would be faithful. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:9 – God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul had learnt to trust God as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ beyond his knowledge in Judaism and the Mosaic Law. Confidently, he mentioned that God is faithful in the call into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. By this truth, God was committed to their spiritual growth and maturity in Christ and working of the Holy Spirit. Once they were Believing Christians, God's righteous agenda was to strengthen and establish them to protect and preserve and be found blameless on the Day of Judgment. Hence absolute trust in God's work in Christ by the Holy Spirit. It meant that the Corinthian Believers were to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ always and never turn to idol worship and idol temples for fellowship and solutions. For God is faithful as proven over the generations.

As Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers, we have to help and support one another to be strong in the Christian faith. Let me remind you of the work of Jesus in the lives of the apostles. When the devil noticed Peter's potentiality to be the leader, he planned and set up traps for him to fall into them and be consumed. Truly he asked for Peter's life and destruction just as he asked for Job the righteous man (Job). But Jesus prayed for him and overcame the devil in the spirit. He revealed to Peter that Satan wanted to sift him as wheat but he had prayed for his deliverance. He would be strengthened from weakness and he was to strengthen also the brethren in their weaknesses **(Luke 22:31 & 32)**.

Even with Jesus' prayer and Peter's strong desire to follow Jesus wholeheartedly and never abandon Him, he fulfilled the prophetic word to deny Him three (3) times **(Luke 22:33 & 34)**.

This encourages us to believe and trust in the faithfulness of God to instruct us in righteousness, provide, protect and preserve us in Christ as long as the Holy Spirit is in us. I tell you the truth that if David as a Shepherd boy did not abandon the father's sheep in the wilderness to lions and other wild beasts **(1 Samuel 17:34 & 35)**, then believe that God is Jehovah Shammah; Ever Present God.

God is faithful and will not abandon you in Christ to the peril of the devil and his demons as well as human enemies. Yes the words of Jesus are still true today: I will not leave you and abandon you. Lo I am with you always even to the end of this age **(Matthew 28:20)**. Jesus is faithful. Keep believing; keep trusting; keep praying. For He keeps us in the Father's love and none go missing unless it is prophetic and decreed divinely in scripture **(John 17:12)**.

New King James Bible Commentary: Because God is faithful to His word, Paul was confident that even the sin plagued Corinthians would stand blameless before Him. This blamelessness does not refer to the Corinthians works but to their standing in Christ; their justification in Christ **(1 Corinthians 3:14 & 15)**.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIAN'S BELIEVERS WAS THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS WORKS, WORD AND PROMISES. WHAT HE HAD BEGAN DOING IN THEIR LIVES, MINISTRIES AND CHURCH WOULD BE COMPLETED WITH SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY BECAUSE HE IS A FAITHFUL GOD. THIS MEANT ALSO THAT THERE WAS NO TIME TO BACKSLIDE AT ALL BECAUSE HE WAS DETERMINED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST.

PRAYER

Thank you Almighty God for showing us your faithfulness throughout the generations.

I pray that in Christ, your faithfulness to me and the Church would be experienced daily as I enjoy the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOD IS FAITHFUL AND CANNOT DENY AND ABANDON US IN CHRIST. IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN ME AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN, CHRISTIAN LEADER AND MINISTER, THEN I MUST NOT MISCONSTRUE SIN AND BACKSLIDING AS ABANDONMENT BY GOD. FOR BEING IN CHRIST AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO US. NANA KWAKU DUODU

NO ROOM FOR DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH; EARLY DETECTION AND SOLUTIONS

INSPIRATION

No Church prospers in a time of divisions just as a country cannot prosper in a time of war. Clearly the war in the Church was divisions that arose from false teachings and doctrines with regards to baptism indicated early in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Let's read further.

We read

1 Corinthians 1:10 – Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Paul's interest in the Corinthian Church to have one voice and message indicated that all was not well. He realized that there were divisions among them concerning their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Varying beliefs were clear signs of cracks in the rank and file of the Church. It revealed opposing thoughts, opinions and different understanding of their faith in Christ. It revealed also that some of them were led by the Holy Spirit whilst others were subject to the whims and caprices of worldly doctrines.

But the good news is that Apostle Paul as the Christian leader was able to discern and diagnose the problem of the Church in Corinth (**1 Corinthians 12:10c**), and began the process of healing. First he appealed to them in the name of Jesus putting emphasis on their Christian faith. It reminded them of their oneness in Christ when they first believed and accepted as children of God.

Secondly, Paul's statement revealed that in Christ there is perfection of faith to be achieved and attained where there is oneness in mind and judgment. This was meant to correct varied opinions on allegiance that had taken root in the Church. For Paul, his vision of unity of faith and purpose was uncompromising despite the experienced early divisions among the believers.

This message is still relevant in our days where the Church records doctrinal differences even about our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I thought that once we believed and still believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Messiah and the Christ, there should be peace in the Church because the Holy Spirit is in us. But this is always not the case because we don't allow the Holy Spirit to lead us.

When we make this observation in the Church, specific prayers must be made and ask for the Lord's intervention and counsel. We must state categorically oneness of faith in Jesus Christ to have the same mind and confession and judgment. Church leadership becomes important here to lead the way in solving problems. In truth, spiritual growth and maturity help a lot in resolving Church problems (**2 Peter 3:18**). Let us therefore encourage Church leadership to solve doctrinal problems as the Holy Spirit leads us.

New King James Bible Commentary: Paul pleaded for an outward expression that comes from an inward spirit. Not only did Paul encourage the Corinthians to speak the same thing and have external unity, he also urged them to be joined together in a unity of hearts and minds **(Ephesians 4:14 – 16)**.

PAUL KNEW THAT HAVING ONE VOICE AND MESSAGE IN THE CHURCH CONCERNING THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WOULD BREAK THE HOSTILE SPIRIT OF DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH OF CORINTH. BESIDES HAVING ONE MIND AND SAME JUDGMENT SHOULD BE THE EXPRESSION OF SAME FAITH IN CHRIST AS A PEOPLE EMPOWERED AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to discern and know early problems in the Church such as doctrinal differences concerning faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Help us to understand better that Christ died for all of us and belief in Him matters most unlike human identification and association. This I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HAVING THE SAME MIND AND JUDGMENT OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH IS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE AGAINST DIVISIONS AND SIGNS OF DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH. A PRAYERFUL CHURCH CREATES A GOOD ATMOSPHERE FOR EARLY DETECTION AND SOLUTIONS TO CURB THE PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY BY THE MINISTER IN CHARGE AND CHURCH LEADERS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

CHLOE'S HOUSEHOLD MENTIONED AS THE SOURCE OF PAUL'S INFORMATION

INSPIRATION

As the Church of Corinth grew and established, one of the noticeable challenges was dealing with the spirit of contention that pervaded the lives of the members. Contentions are one of the strong weapons of the devil to divide a united Church because it is synonymous with strife. The bible says in

Proverbs 17:14 – The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

The bible says that conflicts breeds on grounds of contentions and can be compared to a reservoir of water that is released and gushed out everywhere. As long as contentions and disputes exist, there will always be conflicts. Let's study further.

We read

1 Corinthians 1:11 – For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

Paul's ministry work at Corinth in Achaia as a Roman colony produced many faithful disciples such as Chloe with a household of Believers. They were associated with the Church in Corinth and the Church respected her words according to the New King James Bible Commentary.

This faithful disciple and her household was the source of Paul's information about the divisions in the Church. They were not gossips but serious minded Believing Christians filled and led by the Holy Spirit. It's obvious that they were not happy about the pollution of the Church through divisiveness of faith concerning water baptism. For the contentions were so strong and bad to have the concern and intervention of Chloe's household.

Indeed one of the reasons why Paul wrote his first epistle to the Corinthians was in response to the report of Chloe's household about the spirit of contentions in the Church. Clearly Paul knew of the consequences strife and divisions that existed with other works of the flesh (jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults) if action was not taken **(2 Corinthians 12:20)**. Contentions also co – exist with other works of the flesh such as idolatry, sorcery, hatred, jealousies, selfish ambitions, dissensions and heresies **(Galatians 5:20)**.

Indeed a praying and Holy Spirit led household can have the concern and boldness to report this corruption in the Church to Ministers like Paul. Clearly the motive was right to restore the Church to its glory. For the thoughts of the righteous are good and acceptable to God unlike that of the wicked **(Proverbs 12:5, 15:26)**.

If families of Believing Christians will have good thoughts and show righteous concern like the household of Chloe, the Lord would use them to make righteous interventions in corrupt Churches. For the Holy Spirit enables such people to pray, offer righteous counsels and set up committees to adjudicate such contentions in the Churches without compromising our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ embraces all who believe in Him as Saviour and Lord **(1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16)**.

We need to commend Chloe's household for this righteous intervention because they rewrote **Ezekiel 22:30** where God found them worthy to have stood in the gap to correct evil in the Church of Corinth. Let your prayers go to God and your report with good motives go to Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders to correct spiritual errors in the Churches.

Indeed if we are prayerful and led by the Holy Spirit, we will have the thoughts of Jesus just as He had about the Father to do His perfect will and never be influenced negatively. For He did nothing that the Father will not do **(John 6:38, 10:37 & 38)**.

We will be discerning and never be partners in crime against God and His Son Jesus Christ, and against the Church; Ministers, Christian leaders and Believing Christians. Be

wise to make your local Church a Holy Spirit led Church free from contentions about faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and roles played by various ministers and Church leaders in the lives of Believing Christians.

New King James Bible Commentary: Paul avoided dealing in rumours or secrecy; he openly names his sources: Chloe's household. We know little of this woman and her household except what this verse implies. Chloe lived in Corinth or Ephesus, and the Corinthians respected her word.

PAUL DISCLOSED TO THE CORINTHIANS THE SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTENTIONS THAT EXISTED IN THEIR MIDST. CHLOE'S HOUSEHOLD WAS MENTIONED WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE AS THE PRINCIPAL INFORMANT. FOR THE INFORMATION WAS TRUE AND GENUINE WITH NO IOTA OF DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER AND PERSONALITIES. THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY PAUL WROTE HIS FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS.

PRAYER

Dear God, make the Holy Spirit have His rightful place in the Church and in the lives and ministries of Believing Christians.

Let not the spirit of contention have a place and recognition in the hearts and minds of Your people.

Help us to pray, counsel, and correct wrong doctrines and teachings and practices like the household of Chloe, as righteous interventions, whenever we notice them in the Churches. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

YOUR SOURCE OF INFORMATION DEFINES AND SHAPE YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND STATUS OF YOUR CHURCH. IF IT IS FROM GOD, JESUS CHRIST, SCRIPTURES AND HOLY SPIRIT LED BELIEVING CHRISTIANS UNLIKE THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS, WITCHCRAFT, FETISH, MAGIC, OCCULT AND ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF JESUS, YOU SHARE THE SAME VISION AND MISSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. EVIDENTIALLY, YOUR RIGHTEOUS INTERVENTIONS REVEAL YOUR HEART AND MIND, CHARACTER, AS A STAKEHOLDER IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH AND RATING BEFORE GOD AND PEOPLE. NANA KWAKU DUODU

IF YOU AVAIL YOURSELF TO BE PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH, THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL PUT ON YOU THE BURDEN TO PRAY FOR PROBLEMATIC AREAS AS THE BEGINNING OF RIGHTEOUS INTERVENTIONS. BESIDES, HE SHALL MAKE YOU CONFIDENT AND BOLD TO MAKE RIGHTEOUS REPORTS TO CHURCH LEADERSHIPS AS STANDING IN THE GAP TO FULFILL THE WORD OF GOD. NANA KWAKU DUODU

PAUL DECLARES THE SIN OF THE CHURCH OF CORINTH; IDOLISM

INSPIRATION

Just as clean water is good and healthy to the body, so also bad water is noticeable and not healthy for drinking. Likewise a holy and righteous Church with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has the leading of the Holy Spirit unlike a polluted Church with some members subjected to the whims and caprices of personalities.

It is important to note that the Church of Corinth began well with praises until weak minds and weak hearts with regards to having a good, strong and sure foundation in Christ was exposed. Hence Paul's declaration of their sin of idolism in the Church. Let's read further.

1 Corinthians 1:12 – Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

Apostle Paul must have prayed to God in the name of Jesus when Chloe's household declared the contentions and arguments that divided the Church of Corinth. At the opportune time when the whole Church was gathered to listen to the words of his letter, he revealed further and declared the sins of the Church. These revolved around allegiance and loyalty to personalities who played key roles in their water baptism and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Names mentioned included Paul himself, Apollos, Cephas and Christ the Saviour. The Believers loved their chosen personalities and created an aura of importance around them more than their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence the contentions and divisions in the Church and non – manifestation of the glory of God.

This was so serious and entrenched that every one of them was found to be part of the existing problem perhaps except Chloe's household. Yet Paul scanned the environment to know the opportunities and threats there. Proactive measures required the leading of the Holy Spirit and radical approach and solution to the problem; not a bargaining and negotiation approach because they had sinned. It required also men and women of prayer with boldness and confidence in their corrective message. Hey this demon was big to influence all the Believers in the Church except Chloe's household; same mind and talk everywhere. Like Jesus said, this kind goes not except by prayer and fasting (**Matthew 17:21 & Mark 9:29**).

What was Paul's motive when he declared boldly the sins of the Church of Corinth? He wanted them to know that Christ is our salvation and the centre of the Church, and not idolism like the household idols of Laban (**Genesis 31:19**). Truly, serving idols is a snare to the people concerned (**Psalms 106:36**). For God is against having idols in our hearts. Repent! (**Ezekiel 14:3 – 6**). Rather Jesus Christ should be the focus in the Church in the perfect will of God to enjoy the leading of the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 1:3**).

It tells us good leadership must provide vision and direction to the people always and make righteous interventions whenever it becomes necessary. Don't take for granted that the Church is the congregation and gathering of born again people and therefore all is holy and righteous. Lack of prayer, bible studies, good Christian doctrines, observation and supervision, and instruction in righteousness can make the devil and his demons influence negatively the Believing Christians.

I tell you the truth that some Ministers and Christian leaders are ignorant of the mess in their Churches. But if we detect them, we must consider the matters prayerfully and be bold and confident to speak against them. Like Paul's admonition to Timothy concerning speaking against demonic doctrines and influence in the last days, we would be good ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ nourished in the words of faith and the good doctrine as bible students **(1 Timothy 4:6)**. Yes we are each brother's keeper, and you have a part to play in the Church. Be wise.

PAUL REVEALED THAT IT WAS SO SHAMEFUL TO COMPARE THE WORK OF DIVINITY WITH HUMANITY. HUMAN LOYALTY SEEMED TO HAVE REPLACED DIVINE LOYALTY IN THE CHURCH OF CORINTH. FOR IDOLISM HAVING BEEN INTRODUCED IN A CHURCH MUST BE UPROOTED BY THOSE WHO SEE BY GOD'S WORD AND SPIRIT TO AVERT THE DEVIL'S MANIPULATION AND CONTROL OF THE CHURCH.

PRAYER

We thank you O God for giving us the Spirit of boldness to declare the gospel of salvation found in Your Son Jesus Christ to shape the spiritual growth of the Church and bring it to the point of maturity.

Help us to speak against all ills in the Church, either as an individual or group, with the mind of Christ.

Help us also to influence the Church positively through righteous stance unto conviction and understanding and not negatively through partnership in crime; aiding and abetting. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

WHEN A CHURCH BEGINS TO EXPERIENCE DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES WHERE FAITH IN PERSONALITIES OTHER THAN FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, IT IS IDOLISM AND WITCHCRAFT AT WORK TO MANIPULATE AND CONTROL THE PEOPLE. NANA KWAKU DUODU

TO BE QUIET OVER SIN IS JOINING FORCES WITH THE CULPRITS. BUT TO BE LOUD AGAINST SIN IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE, FAMILIES, CHURCH, ORGANIZATIONS AND COMPANIES IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT IS LIGHT SHINING TO DRIVE AWAY DARKNESS. IT IS GOOD LEADERSHIP AT WORK WITH MUTUAL BENEFITS AS A STAKEHOLDER. NANA KWAKU DUODU

PAUL REDIRECTS THE CHURCH OF CORINTH TO JESUS CHRIST; CONVICTION

INSPIRATION

Conviction does not come once but many times as the work of the Holy Spirit in all Believing Christians and the Church. A young Church like the Church in Corinth was yet to understand fully the gospel of Jesus Christ and Church structures and role plays. Hence Paul's leadership role to perfect them.

1 Corinthians 1:13 – Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Here we see Paul tell the Church that Christ as the Son of God and Messiah cannot be divided into human personalities like idols of the nations. For the work of eternal salvation is the perfect work and will of God accomplished in His Son Jesus Christ whom they had all believed to receive the gift of eternal life. The eyes of the Believers were partly opened to truth and revelation.

The second conviction area was about the ministry work of Paul to preach Christ's crucifixion and resurrection from the dead for belief into eternal salvation. In other words, Paul reminded them of the distinction between him and the Lord Jesus Christ. For He was Christ's Minister to them and not the Christ who was crucified for our sins. Indeed Paul had introduced himself to the Corinthians Believers as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ by the will of God evident in all his preaching and teachings **(1 Corinthians 1:1)**. Hence the focus should be on the Christ he preached to them and not on personalities like him Paul. Again the eyes of the Believers were opened more to truth and revelation.

The third conviction was Paul's ministry work where he baptized new Believers in the name of Jesus and not in his name. This was enough proof of his apostolic ministry as a Minister of the Lord Jesus Christ. For his personality and identity, and ministry work and given grace was tied to his call as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore the eyes of the Believers were opened greatly to truth and revelation as the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ was confirmed in them **(1 Corinthians 1:6)**.

This is likened to John's revelation as not the Christ but a messenger and forerunner written and prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah **(Isaiah 40:3 – 5, Luke 3:2 – 6)**. Yes in the same way John the Baptist declared himself as not the Christ but directed the people to Jesus **(Luke 3:15 – 17)**, likewise Apostle Paul in his epistle declared himself as not the crucified Christ but rather instructed the Believers to maintain their true and pure faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This was a proactive measure to break up the demon of contentions and divisions in the Church of Corinth and it worked. Hallelujah.

The message clearly reveals that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Messiah and the Christ whose accomplished eternal work on the cross of Calvary has given us eternal salvation. Paul enlightened us that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ transcends personalities, denominations, barriers, groups and religion, and membership of institutions, organizations, institutions and unions. Sectarianism is not and cannot be accepted in the

Church. By this truth and revelation, we are all one in Christ and accepted by God. Avoid divisiveness (2 Timothy 2:23, Titus 3:8) but be united in Christ by the Holy Spirit. **For all those led by the Spirit of God are the sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:14). Be wise buddy.**

SECTARIANISM IS A GRAVE SIN IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE IT EQUATES OTHER PERSONALITIES AS GODS TO THE IDENTITY AND CREDENTIALS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. PAUL'S REBUKE OF THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH WAS THAT CHRIST COULD NOT BE DIVIDED, AND HE WAS NOT THE ONE WHO DIED FOR THEIR SINS, AND THEY WERE NOT BAPTIZED IN HIS NAME UNLIKE CHRIST. HENCE THERE WAS NO NEED TO HAVE IDOLS IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL HAD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION.

PRAYER

Blessed be the name of the LORD our God who gives His word to us for conviction and edification.

Our prayer is that you convict us with your word and Holy Spirit to change our hearts and minds whenever there are sectarianism from contentions and divisions in the Church.

Help us to focus on the Lord Jesus Christ other than ministry personalities. Redirect our steps to Jesus Christ whenever we backslide. Thank you for answered prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CONVICTION DOES NOT COME ONCE BUT MANY TIMES AS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL BELIEVING CHRISTIANS AND THE CHURCH. SECTARIANISM IS AN EARLY SIGN OF THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT OF THE ANTI – CHRIST. FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND SAINTS MUST BE PURE, HOLY, RIGHTEOUS AND PERFECT. NANA KWAKU DUODU

CONVICTION DOES NOT COME ONCE BUT MANY TIMES AS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL BELIEVING CHRISTIANS AND THE CHURCH. SECTARIANISM IS A SIN IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE IT CREATES AND MAKES MINISTERS, CHURCH LEADERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS IDOLS THAT ARE WORSHIPED AND EXALTED LIKE OR ABOVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. NANA KWAKU DUODU

CAN YOU THANK GOD FOR YOUR CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND WORKS?

INSPIRATION

I have come to realize that one's confidence level is high when you thank God for the works you have done and accomplished in life, ministry and the Church. In wisdom, Apostle Paul used his accomplished works in ministry and the Church in Corinth to convict further the backsliding Corinthians of their sin of idolism. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:14 – 16 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

Paul started by thanking God and showing his unflinching loyalty as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. For he realized that all his accomplishments were by the grace of God and not human strength. Also he mentioned names of Believers he had baptized in the name of Jesus. Among them included Crispus and Gaius whom Paul could testify of them openly but the others he did not baptize. The motive here is that Paul did not want the Corinthians to think that he was interested and had joined their camp to be contentious and divisive in the Church.

Again Paul shifted focus from individuals when he stated that he had baptized only the household of Stephanas. For no other household was mentioned. Indeed Christ's command was that we should baptize new Believers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit **(Matthew 28:18 – 20)**. This means that all Ministers, Church leaders, Christian leaders and Believing Christians are to obey Christ's command and not be subject to the whims and caprices of people.

What I want us to learn from Paul's message to the Corinthians is that we should be confident to talk about our accomplished righteous works in Christ by the Holy Spirit. And this must be for the honour and glory of God and His Son Jesus Christ to restore the faith and confidence of Believers suffering from the effects of bad doctrinal issues in the Churches. By this truth, Paul did not claim glory of baptizing some of the Corinthians because he considered them the works of God just like other Ministers like Apollos. For this reason, he could thank God and we can do the same if we are led by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, you can boast about your accomplishments in ministry such as prayer and fasting, preaching, teaching, counseling, singing, praise and worship, and writing books, as long as it is meant to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ and honour God. But if it is meant to promote and entrench evil, you shall be judged and punished **(Jeremiah 9:23 & 24, 2 Corinthians 10:13 – 18)**.

Therefore be wise in Christ by the Holy Spirit to use your righteous works and accomplishments to establish and maintain peace and unity in the Church. Be a problem solver and not a problem causer. May people see you as an instrument of righteousness and peace, and not an instrument of evil, chaos and confusion. For by their fruits you shall know them saith the Lord **(Matthew 7:16a, 17 & 18)**.

New King James Bible Commentary: Paul said that I baptized none of you, because the Corinthians had taken to identifying with their spiritual mentors rather than Christ. Crispus was the ruler of the synagogue in Corinth when Paul began to preach there **(Act 18:8)**. He was instrumental in the conversion of many other Corinthians. Gaius may be the same person who hosted Paul and the entire Church **(Romans 16:23)**. Stephanas was one of Paul's first converts in Achaia, the region of which Corinth was capital. Paul praised him and his household for their devotion to the ministry and for their assistance **(1 Corinthians 16:15)**.

PAUL'S DEFENSE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY AGAINST SECTARIANISM IN THE CHURCH OF CORINTH WAS CENTRED ON HIS MINISTRY WORKS. FOR HE COULD ONLY BOAST OF BAPTIZING CRISPUS AND GAIUS AND THE HOUSEHOLD OF STEPHANAS. THEREFORE THE ARGUMENT ABOUT LOYALTY IN THE CHURCH WHICH NAMED HIM AMONG APOLLOS, CEPHAS AND CHRIST WAS NOT NECESSARY. BY THIS TRUTH, HE EMPHASIZED ON FAITH IN CHRIST AS THE FOUNDATION OF ONE'S CHRISTIAN FAITH, AND NOT PERSONALITY LOYALTY AS IDOLS IN THE CHURCH, BECAUSE OF BEING SPIRITUAL FATHERS OR BENEFICIARIES OF THEIR MINISTRIES.

PRAYER

Jehovah Shalom is your Name and you grant peace to your people.

I pray that your peace shall be found in our Christian services and righteous works by the Holy Spirit to foster love and unity in the Church.

Like Paul, help us to use our accomplishments to honor and glorify Your holy name and influence Believers positively against contentions and divisiveness in the Church. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

IF PEOPLE COME TO SEE OUR CHRISTIAN SERVICES AND RIGHTEOUS WORKS IN MINISTRY TO PROMOTE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, FORSTER PEACE AND UNITY IN THE CHURCH AND BODY OF CHRIST, THEN WE CAN THANK GOD AS AGENTS OF PEACE AND NOT AGENTS OF CONTENTIONS AND DIVISION. BE A PROBLEM SOLVER AND NOT A PROBLEM CAUSER. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH DO NOT OWE MINISTERS, CHURCH LEADERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS THE LOYALTY OF IDOLISM BECAUSE FAITH IN CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION OF ONE'S CHRISTIAN FAITH. FOR BENEFITING FROM THE MINISTRY WORKS OF SPIRITUAL FATHERS AND OTHER MINISTERS, CHURCH LEADERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS SUCH AS WATER BAPTISM OR HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM STILL CANNOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CHRIST. HENCE SECTARIANISM IS A SIN AND MUST BE STOPPED IN THE CHURCH. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

FULFILL YOUR CALL AND MINISTRY

INSPIRATION

For every work, the employer gives the employee areas of work and assignment to ensure functionality, productivity, profits and evaluation. Such was the given ministry of Paul by the Lord Jesus Christ as His Apostle especially to the Gentile nations and people. He was to preach Christ and not baptize the people. For the former was his main call and ministry with baptism as the accompanying duty to fulfill.

1 Corinthians 1:17 – For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

In solving the problem of the Church in Corinth, Paul was against sectarianists who dragged his name into the mud. He stated clearly that Christ sent him not to baptize people as his main call and ministry but to preach the gospel in power, truth and revelation. This was to be achieved by Holy Spirit inspired words full of revelation and truth, and not with ordinary words. That is in a purposive way to bring many people into the kingdom of God. For the message of the cross needed to be sounded higher for the hearing and salvation of many people as achieved eternal results. In truth, the cross of Jesus should be made of none effect by the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit to achieve righteous and eternal results. This was achievable because he was led by the Holy Spirit and full of power, truth and revelation to declare the complete gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. But if they replace their faith in Christ with that of Church personalities with righteous ministry works, they would make nonsense of the cross of Jesus.

Clearly Paul did not want to focus on baptism of believers as his main line ministry; a clear contrast to the backsliding Corinthians. It means to say that Paul was mindful of the distractive work of the devil and his demons to make them deviate from their true calling in ministry.

Learning from Paul's effective strategy, the Church must be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and escape the manipulations of our enemies to waste our time and energy on unprofitable arguments and ventures. For nothing must be allowed to replace the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes the doctrine of baptism is good and a physical sign and identity with the Lord Jesus Christ (water baptism). It is even more powerful when a Believing Christian receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit (immersion in the Holy Spirit).

But people with wrong motives as agents of the devil, and babes in the Christian faith should not be allowed to replace or belittle the gospel of Jesus Christ at all. Yes the gospel of Jesus Christ saves eternally and water baptism is part of it. But baptism is not one's qualification to heaven and receipt of eternal life though it is a commandment from our Lord Jesus Christ and a righteous act.

Early In the ministry of Jesus in the city of Capernaum, He taught the people the Kingdom of God and convicted them of their sins. Also He healed the sick in their numbers and

delivered people from demonic possession and infirmities, and this included Peter's mother – in – law. Besides, He performed miracles, signs and wonders **(Mark 1:21 – 34)**. When the disciples found Him in a solitary place, and expected Him to respond to the great desire of the people to see Him, He responded by saying that they needed to go to other places to fulfill the purpose of His coming; messianic ministry **(Mark 1:38, Luke 4:43)**. Truly Jesus did not allow human and demonic manipulations but obeyed the will of God.

Be like Jesus to discern by the Holy Spirit to preach and baptize new Believing Christians and enrich their spiritual growth unto maturity. Be prayerful because God does great things and reveals things to us in prayer and His word through His Holy Spirit. Once Jesus and Paul succeeded in obeying the will of God other than public opinion, we are to follow their righteous examples to convict and solve Church problems of this nature. For this is called spiritual healing. Fulfill your call and ministry because heaven will respect you even when Church and worldly opinions are against you. Be wise buddy.

New King James Bible Commentary: Paul's primary message was to preach the gospel. Baptism naturally followed conversion but was secondary in importance. With the phrase not with wisdom of words, Paul addressed the Corinthians tendency to place undue emphasis on human wisdom. The immature Corinthians were so impressed by clever oratory and learned debate that many of them ignored the relatively 'simple' message of the cross.

FULFILL YOUR CALL AND MINISTRY AS A MINISTER OF CHRIST IN THE SAME WAY THAT PAUL DEFENDED HIS CALL AND MINISTRY OVER THE PERIPHERALS OF WATER BAPTISM IN THE CHURCH OF CORINTH. YOU CANNOT LISTEN OR SIDE WITH BACKSLIDING PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH TO DISTRACT THE CALL AND MINISTRY OF THE MINISTERS, CHURCH LEADERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

PRAYER

We pray that the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ gives us the grace to fulfill our call and ministries and prove the power, truth, revelation, blessing and eternal life and eternal blessings for all Believing Christians.

May we never be fooled into the camps of personalities who use baptism as a means of gaining recognition, importance and societal and Church status.

Let the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit lead us in maintaining sanity in the Church. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WITH GOD, OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IS BETTER THAN CHURCH AND PUBLIC OPINION. THIS IS THE UNADULTERATED GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST THAT SAVES ETERNALLY. THIS PROMOTES UNITY OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AT ALL LEVELS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY UNLIKE CONTENTIOUS DIVISION BAPTISMAL STATUS IN THE CHURCH. NANA KWAKU DUODU

I TELL YOU THE TRUTH THAT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT UNITES THE CHURCH AND BODY OF CHRIST. BUT IF THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS USED BY PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH FOR PERSONAL AGENDA SUCH AS GLORIFICATION IN BAPTIZING PEOPLE AND LOOKING DOWN ON OTHERS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED BY LOW CLASS PEOPLE, THEY HAVE MISSED THE MARK OF THEIR CALL AND MINISTRY. SAVE THE DAY BUDDY BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN YOU. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

FULFILL YOUR CALL AND MINISTRY BECAUSE HEAVEN WILL RESPECT YOU EVEN WHEN CHURCH AND WORLDLY OPINIONS ARE AGAINST YOU. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BREAKS SELF – CENTEREDNESS.

INSPIRATION

After Apostle Paul stated his call, apostleship and mission message to the Corinthians, he used the gospel of Jesus Christ to distinguish between the proud and the humble, yielding hearts and self – centred hearts. And this was to convict them further and help them break away the worldly life of self – centeredness. For a clear understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the panacea to help Believing Christians come out of their self and be led by the Holy Spirit. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:18 – For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Therefore Paul declared that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. That is to those who are full of self – righteousness because they love themselves more than the word of God. These are people who disregard the gospel of Jesus Christ because they believe in their religion, atheism, occult, witchcraft, tradition,

culture, family background, friendships, achievements and accomplishments such as acquisition of properties, educational certificates, politics, money, business, and connections and human intelligence. These are headstrong people who manifest in the works of the flesh because they are perishing in their sins.

Paul states again that the preaching of the cross is the power of God unto salvation for those who believe and are being saved. By this truth, Paul reminded the Corinthians that they would be saved by the gospel of Jesus Christ to relate with one another in love and unity of faith and purpose.

Indeed if this was the state of the Corinthians as a whole, the issue of contentions and divisions from factions would not have arisen in the Corinthian Church. It is also true that the poor state of the Corinthian Church made the household of Chloe complain seriously about their backsliding state **(1 Corinthians 1:11 & 12)**.

Ministers and Church leaders are to use the gospel of Jesus Christ as the standard of God's righteousness to correct errors with regard to doctrines. That is the doctrine of baptism known to have created factions in the Church of Corinth. It revealed the urgency for their backsliding to be corrected and changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ through the sanctification work of the Holy Spirit. Yes by teaching truth to the Church, it makes it easy to know falsehood whenever it pops up. For being saved eternally means also to be saved by living the life of Jesus **(Romans 5:10)**.

It means to have a prayerful Church as commanded by Jesus Christ and not a den of thieves who arrogate the glory of God to themselves **(Isaiah 56:7, Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46)**. By this truth and revelation, spiritual thieves can only steal God's glory if the Church is not praying. Truly what happened to the Corinthian Church can happen to your local Church if it lacks the passion to pray with no discernment. But God forbids that it happens. Let us break the spirit of self – centeredness and self – righteousness in the Church through prayer and the teaching of the word of God because the Holy Spirit is in you. Awake to righteousness in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BACKSLIDING IN THE CHURCH SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED AT ALL. WHY BECAUSE IT MEANS TO STOP BELIEVING SOME ASPECTS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BUT TO TRUST IN HUMAN, PHILOSOPHICAL AND DEMONIC TEACHINGS. HENCE PAUL'S MESSAGE WAS THAT THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS FOOLISHNESS TO THOSE WHO PERISHING BUT IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO US WHO ARE BEING SAVED.

New King James Bible Commentary: The message of the cross is the gospel, the Good News about Christ's death and resurrection for our sins. The gospel penetrates to the core of self – centeredness. For those who exalt self, the message sounds absurd. But for those who bow humbly in faith, it becomes the power that is able to snatch them from death and impart eternal life. No wonder Paul put such confidence in this message **(Romans 1:16)**.

PRAYER

Our prayer is that God grants us the grace to pray and preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to maintain our Christian faith by the Holy Spirit.

When the devil and his demons and human enemies plant the spirit of contentions and divisions in our hearts and the Church, let God uproot them in the name of Jesus.

We overcome because grace is given unto us to succeed every challenging situation in the Church. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE CHURCH WOULD RATHER PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND USE PRAYER AS WEAPONS TO FIGHT AGAINST AND CAST OUT THE DEMON OF CONTENTIONS AND DIVISIONS. FOR LIGHT IS STRONGER THAN DARKNESS, TRUTH OVERCOMES FALSEHOOD, AND UNDERSTANDING AND UNITY OF FAITH AND PURPOSE OVERCOMES CONTENTIONS AND DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH.

NANA KWAKU DUODU

GOD'S WORD IS PURPOSELY WRITTEN

INSPIRATION

It's amazing how God's word is purposely written for our good and blessing in life, ministry and the Church. And this is good news to Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers filled and led by the Holy Spirit. But this is bad news to sinners and unbelievers because God's word is against them and condemns and judges them.

1 Corinthians 1:19 – For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

We read of Apostle Paul's message to the Corinthians in his quoted scripture from the book of **Isaiah chapter 29:14** where God's righteous intent is to destroy the wisdom of the wise. This referred to men with philosophical ideas that contrasted the word of God, wisdom of God and works of God.

By this scripture, Paul reminded the Corinthians that the gospel of Jesus Christ came to them from people they least expected because they believed and obeyed the heavenly calling to preach Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Through people of low societal status without respect, God's righteous agenda was fulfilled to confound the so called wise people. That is why it is salvation to those who believe and being saved, but foolishness to those who are perishing (**1 Corinthians 1:18**).

Again Paul defended the gospel of Jesus Christ and convicted the Corinthians of their sin of idolism, contentions and divisions unto repentance. Truly God is still working and using ordinary people to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ because of simplicity, humility and obedience. Indeed the things of the Holy Spirit are superior to the philosophical wisdom of people because they produce eternal results. We are not to use human wisdom and intelligence to replace the wisdom of God in preaching Christ and solving Church problems. As Paul quoted from the book of Isaiah, God shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and make useless the understanding of people living in sin without Christ; the ordinarily having revealed the superior wisdom of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore whenever the Church is in dispute over doctrinal issues and errors, let us use the gospel of Jesus Christ as the righteous standard to convict and solve the problem. For Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers in the authority of the Church use the gospel of Jesus Christ as final authority over the Mosaic Law. Yes the New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant because we are under grace and not by the Mosaic Law in the Christian faith. Let us keep praying and performing righteous works in the power of the Holy Spirit and be assured of God's approval, blessings and results in Christ. Amen.

New King James Bible Commentary: God's marvelous work includes both judgment on the proud and salvation for the lowly (**Isaiah 29:17 – 44**). Wisdom ...shall perish: For a similar idea, see **1 Corinthians 1:18 – 31**.

PRAYER

Dear God, Your word tells us that You shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing the understanding of the inferior things of sin, evil and wickedness.

Help us as a Church to prove and confirm the gospel of Jesus Christ as the final authority with resolution of controversies through enlightenment of Your word by the Holy Spirit.

Help us to overcome the temptation of accepting and using philosophical ideas in the Church when Holy Spirit is telling us to use the gospel of Jesus Christ as the word of God. Let this grace be upon us in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WHY SHOULD THE CHURCH USE THE INFERIOR WHEN THE SUPERIOR IS THERE? WHY SHOULD THE CHURCH USE PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS WHEN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS WRITTEN FOR OUR OBEDIENCE AND SALVATION? IF SCRIPTURE IS OF GOD AND WRITTEN FOR OUR BLESSINGS, THEN THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO USE SCRIPTURE FOR CONVICTION, GUIDANCE, INSTRUCTION, AND OBEDIENCE, CORRECTION, RESOLVE DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES, REBUKE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION ARE NECESSARY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. NANA KWAKU DUODU

GOD HAS MADE FOOLISH THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD

INSPIRATION

One line of argument or opinion looks good until a second one over turns it. The first answer sounds good until a second answer is also given. The point is that comparison makes us know the similarity and difference between two people or opinions among people and make us better judges of people and situations.

1 Corinthians 1:20 – Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

Such was the case of Apostle Paul to the Corinthians when he invoked their consciences to truth and revelation about the superiority of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For all of other teachings and doctrines fell short of the gospel of salvation to save us eternally and make us righteous to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus' death and resurrection from the dead is the message of the cross being preached everywhere.

Therefore Apostle Paul states boldly that the gospel of Jesus Christ has silenced all peoples whose voices once sounded higher and louder. Where is the wise refers to the class of Greek philosophers associated with worldly wisdom. Where is the Scribe refers to Jewish scholars who were trained to handle details of the Law. Where is the disputer refers to a Greek person who is also trained in delivery of speech and oratory skills to convince and persuade people. Here Paul is saying to the backsliding Corinthians and the Church that Christ's work on the cross is proof of eternal salvation to all who believe in Him as Saviour and Lord.

Suddenly these three categories and descriptions of people seemed to have been overpowered by the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes Paul seemed to have questioned their strength and pride now because of the present and eternal works and blessings with the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What this means is that God has made foolish the wisdom of this world. And this means that we are to trust in the work of eternal salvation because it has no eternal benefits.

If God answered the prayer of David against his best counselor, Ahitophel, to make His righteous plan successful, then what God makes foolish is foolish and non – beneficial; and what God makes wise is wisdom for us to uphold and practice to attain eternal life and eternal blessings.

This teaches us to uphold the Christian faith over personal teachings and doctrines handed over to us in the generations. Truly all religions, cultures, traditions, rules and regulations, the Jewish Laws of the Ten Commandments and other religious laws have moral values respected in society because they contribute to character formation of its people. But they are all inferior to the God's standard in Christ by the Holy Spirit which is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I tell you the truth that there comes a time always when the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ shows physical and eternal blessings that even the classes of the wise, Scribes and disputers are put to silence. The voice of the Church sounds louder than them. For the strength of the world is pride which is broken forever. Therefore like Paul to the Corinthians, let us prayerfully identify these groups in the Church and be led by the Holy Spirit to put them to check.

Know that every controversy in the Church will be settled if Church leadership is led by the Holy Spirit. If God did it in the Church in Corinth and in the Antioch and Jerusalem Churches **(Acts 15:1 – 35)**. Clearly God has made the gospel of Jesus Christ wisdom to give us eternal salvation and eternal inheritance among all people being sanctified **(Acts 20:32)**.

It is this same work of God that we see about the Christmas and Easter celebrations. The Church believes and celebrates Christmas because she believes in the prophetic birth of Jesus through the Virgin Mary. The Church believes in Christ's death and resurrection for our sins and attainment of eternal life and eternal blessings. We see them as acts of God which involved angels and humans like a well prepared drama. Yet some groups of people do not see the need to celebrate them. They align them to pagan festivals and pagan gods because they are perishing in their sins. In this controversy, I join Church leaders filled with the word and knowledge of Christ to teach and correct such anomaly with Christ's birth, death and resurrection **(Colossians 3:16)**.

The bible says also that any spirit that does not believe in Christ's birth in the flesh is the spirit of the antichrist **(1 John 4:3)**. Again Apostle John reveals that many deceivers are in the world spreading false information about Christ's birth not through the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. This is the spirit of the antichrist **(2 John 1:7)**. Church leadership have a responsibility to correct all such false doctrines and shape the minds of the people to all truths and revelations about the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the only way to silence all antagonists who are in and outside the Church. For the power of the Holy Spirit must be evident in our lives, ministries and the Church. Let us keep praying buddy.

New King James Bible Commentary: The wise is probably a reference to Greek Philosophers. The Scribe is a technical term for a Jewish scholar trained to handle details of the Law. The disputer refers to a Greek person, especially one trained in rhetoric. These professionals tried to solve every problem with every logic and debate. The point of this message is that all human efforts to find favour with God woefully fall short **(Romans 3:9 – 28)**. Only through faith in Christ can we be saved from our sins.

WHAT IS WRITTEN AS GOD'S WORD IN A PURPOSEFUL WAY CANNOT BE ALTERED BY ANYBODY. PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS IS THAT THOSE WHO USE HUMAN WISDOM, INTELLECT, PHILOSOPHIES, SKILLS AND TALENTS LIKE ORATORY TO JUSTIFY THEIR ACCEPTANCE TO GOD FIT INTO THE WORD OF GOD TO BE DESTROYED AND MADE NAKED. FOR SALVATION IS ONLY THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

PRAYER

O Lord our God, help us to use the gospel of Jesus to solve all Church controversies and problems because it assures us of eternal life and eternal blessings.

Though the wisdom of this world can be good to certain situations, it is sub – standard with Christ’s work on the cross. Therefore let your Holy Spirit be our Helper all the time in Jesus’ name. Amen.

WHY SHOULD THE CHURCH TRUST AND DEPEND ON WORLDLY WISDOM THAT GOD HAS MADE IT FOOLISH? IF WE ARE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO USE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO SETTLE ALL CHURCH CONTROVERSIES AND PROBLEMS, WE HAVE CHOSEN WHAT GOD HAS MADE WISE FOR US IN THIS LIFE AND ETERNITY. BE WISE BUDDY. NANA KWAKU DUODU

WISDOM THAT MAKES YOU KNOW GOD; BELIEF IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

1 Corinthians 1:21 – For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

INSPIRATION

Paul justifies his belief in worldly things as the wisdom of the world that cannot save us from our sins and give us eternal life. The likes of the wise, Scribe and disputer, confirm God’s judgment. Hence God has declared worldly wisdom foolishness because it is earthly and temporal and blinds us to the truth of salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He emphasized that since the world did not and cannot know God through its wisdom, it pleased God that through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, people will be saved eternally. It means to say that we will be saved eternally and live a life of righteousness only through the wisdom of God.

By this truth and revelation, only those who believe the gospel have the wisdom of God to be saved unlike those who have put their trust in the wisdom of the world. Clearly Paul warned the Church in Corinth and other believers not to trust in worldly wisdom in their faith and solve problems that entangle them.

Again Paul describes the preaching of the gospel as foolishness to unbelievers because they believe and pride themselves in the things of this world to save them. But the foolishness of the gospel which does not recognize facts and realities of life invites all

people irrespective of colour, race, tribe, language, sinful life, rejected, infirmities and societal perception to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and be forgiven and saved eternally.

Also the foolishness of the gospel which does not recognize and accept religious knowledge without Christ (**John 5:39**), like the old Covenant Scribe, invites all religious people to lay aside their pride and embrace Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Furthermore, the foolishness of the gospel which does not recognize arguments using democratic beliefs such as rights and freedoms (freedom of religion), and non – democratic beliefs such as force and oppression and suppression, as well as scientific, philosophical ideas and atheistic ideas invites all people to put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved eternally. If only the Church in Corinth could remain resolute in their faith in Christ, all those Church conflicts would have been a thing of the past. For in believing and obeying, they would be saved eternally.

This teaches us to remain in Christ as the branches of the Vine; the Christ (**John 15:1 – 15**). In building our Christian lives and solving Church conflicts and problems, the Holy Spirit is our Helper and this is the grace work as long as it is of faith and not of works. The good news is that once we remain resolute in our Christian faith, and are prayerful, the Holy Spirit will be our Helper in obedience and managing and solving conflicts and problems doctrinally and non – doctrinally.

In truth if we can meditate on what God has declared wisdom and foolishness, we will know and discern to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, build His Church and be in His perfect will. Keep praying and trusting God as a Believing Christian because it is by grace and not by works lest any should boast in himself or herself. Be wise buddy.

New King James Bible Commentary: The wise is probably a reference to Greek Philosophers. The Scribe is a technical term for a Jewish scholar trained to handle details of the Law. The disputer refers to a Greek person, especially one trained in rhetoric. These professionals tried to solve every problem with every logic and debate. The point of this message is that all human efforts to find favour with God woefully fall short (**Romans 3:9 – 28**). Only through faith in Christ can we be saved from our sins.

GENERATIONS ALLOWED THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD TO CONTROL PEOPLE AND WORSENEED THEIR BAD SITUATIONS. GOD SAYS THAT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. FOR HE HAS PROVEN THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS THAT SALVATION IS FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO PUT THEIR FAITH IN HIM. INDEED PAUL MADE THE CHURCH OF CORINTH AWARE THAT SINCE THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD COULD NOT MAKE PEOPLE KNOW GOD, IT PLEASED THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE MESSAGE TO SAVE THEM IN FAITH.

PRAYER

I PRAY THAT THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HELPS TO DISCERN HIS WISDOM IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD.

HELP US MEDITATE ON YOUR WORD FOR STRENGTH TO OBEY AND RESIST ALL TEMPTATIONS OF WORLDLY WISDOM TO JUSTIFY OURSELVES AS CHILDREN OF GOD.

LET US WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT BECAUSE YOU HAVE CALLED US TO BELIEVE AND NOT PHILOSOPHICALLY, SCIENTIFICALLY, RELIGIOUSLY, CULTURALLY, TRADITIONALLY AND HISTORICALLY AND MEDICALLY RESIST THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION. IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.

O WHAT A CONTRAST. THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD CANNOT SAVE US ETERNALLY NO MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL AND BENEFICIAL IT IS TO US IN THIS LIFE. ONLY FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST SAVES. IF THE WORLD DECLARES THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL FOOLISHNESS, GOD SAYS THAT IT IS THIS SAME GOSPEL THAT IS SAVING PEOPLE ETERNALLY. YES AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS FILLED AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, LET US LIVE AND BUILD CHRIST'S CHURCH BY THE GOSPEL AND NOT WORLDLY WISDOM THAT DENIES THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. FOR IF THIS PLEASES GOD, WE UPHOLD IT AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE KIND OF JEWS AND GREEKS AGAINST CHRIST VERSES THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD IN CHRIST

INSPIRATION

The history, traditions and culture of a nation and people are cherished and cannot be erased from their minds easily. For these are inherited over the generations and valued by the people. Truly people who perceive the gospel of Jesus Christ as the history, tradition and culture of the Israelites tend to compare it with their own history, tradition and culture. Hence the resistance and opposition shown by people in nations of the world to believe in Christ as Saviour and Lord. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:22 – 24 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Apostle Paul continued in his teaching of the Corinthians by revealing further the distinction between unbelievers' concept and his apostolic ministry. Notable was the Jews who required signs before they believed in the fulfillment of the messianic prophecy, Jesus Christ. For they were used to the signs of Moses as belief in God and having His approval in the life of a person. In depth of truth, the Jews wanted signs from the Messiah before they believed in God's salvation plan. They were also used to seeing Abraham as their father and living in the Abrahamic covenant.

Again the Greeks were noted for wisdom and philosophical explanation to Christ's death and resurrection. Hence their argumentative and debatable approaches typical of the house of legislature; law – making body.

But we preach Christ crucified for belief and salvation unto eternal life. In other words, the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ was not and is not by signs to believe and not by human wisdom and intelligence to believe but the power of God; the power of the Holy Spirit. It is by faith because it synonymous with works of righteousness and eternal results. By this truth and revelation, Paul referred to ministry work as prayer and the word of God just as Apostle Peter told the multitudes in their complaints of neglect in daily distribution of food from the Hellenists **(Acts 6:1 & 2)**.

For this reason, Paul concluded that this was a stumbling block to the Jews belief in Jesus because faith was excluded. For this reason, Paul concluded that the Greeks perceived the work of the cross as foolishness and thus lacked revelation to believe in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

But to believing Jews and Greeks, it is the power and wisdom of God. Indeed when you talk about the power and wisdom of God, it is about living and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ as the word of God, and application of the word of God as obedience in a timely manner to be in God's will. It is about the leading of the Holy Spirit as sons and daughters of God in Christ **(Romans 8:14)**. Yes loving and practicing the things God loves and abstaining from the things God hates. This involves also the power and will to speak and do things in faith and receive eternal results beyond the concepts of the unbelieving Jews and Greeks.

This message of Paul to the Corinthians teaches us also to abide in the Lord Jesus Christ as Believing Christians and do the work of the ministry. This makes us experience the power and wisdom of God as the Holy Spirit leads us in our Christian faith and ministry works. Indeed if Ministers and Church leaders are able to identify these groups in the Church, application of prayer and word of God will be a proactive measure to change the hearts and minds of the people.

No matter what, the gospel of Jesus Christ is our teaching and learning resource written in the bible. Received revelations and understanding by the Holy Spirit makes obedience produce tangible and eternal results like Peter and John healing a lame man at the Beautiful Gate in the Jerusalem temple and making disciples of all nations **(Acts 3:1 – 10)**.

I tell you the truth that the gospel of Jesus Christ turns your disappointments to appointments, failures into strengths, curses into blessings, and replaces sin with righteousness, gravelike situations with graceful situations, and delivers you from hell torment to heaven's glory forever. Yes Timothy fought a battle of acceptance and recognition and was victorious as a Believing Christian and Christian leader because his mother was a Jewish woman but the father a Greek (Gentile lineage) (**Acts 16:1 – 3**). By this truth and revelation, you show forth the power and wisdom of God in life, ministry and the Church. Be committed and faithful because the Holy Spirit is in you (**Romans 1:16**).

New King James Bible Commentary: The Jews sought miraculous signs from the Messiah to signal the beginning of the deliverance God had promised (**see Mark 8:11, John 6:30**). The Greeks, especially the Philosophers, sought to use wisdom to answer their questions about God and life. To the Jews, who expected a political Savior, Jesus was a stumbling block. To the Greeks, whose self – centred wisdom could not make sense of the cross, to believe in Jesus was foolishness.

THE HISTORY, TRADITIONS AND CULTURE OF A NATION AND PEOPLE ARE CHERISHED AND CANNOT BE ERASED FROM THEIR MINDS EASILY. PAUL USED THE HISTORY, TRADITION AND CULTURE OF THE JEWS AND GREEKS TO DEPICT TWO CHALLENGING AREAS TO BELIEF IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY. THIS DID NOT DETER HIM AT ALL BECAUSE HE PREACHED CHRIST CRUCIFIED AS THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD TO SAVE BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES ETERNALLY.

KNOW THE BACKGROUND OF PEOPLE IN YOUR CHURCH AND LET PRAYERS, PREACHING, TEACHING, COUNSELING AND DELIVERANCE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT BE USED TO SHAPE AND MOLD THEM TO BE CHRIST-LIKE.

PRAYER

O Lord my God, please help us and the Church to identify the kind of unbelieving Jews and Greeks so that we can show them the way of salvation through living and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Help us to understand the history, tradition and culture of Church members through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and fruit of the Spirit to make them break free from the spirit of indoctrination and demonic backgrounds that still hunts them.

When we preach Christ's crucifixion and resurrection by the Holy Spirit, let us experience eternal results in the name of Jesus Christ and transformative power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WHEN GOD SEES OUR FAITH IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, HE USES IT FOR HIS GLORY EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THE LIKES OF UNBELIEVING JEWS AND GREEKS. FOR OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST REVEAL THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD IN LIFE, MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH. NANA KWAKU DUODU

TRULY, KNOWLEDGE OF THE BACKGROUNDS OF CHURCH MEMBERS ENABLE STRATEGIC PRAYERS AND DELIVERANCE SESSIONS, COUPLED WITH PREACHING, TEACHING AND COUNSELING, ARE EMPLOYED TO CORRECT AND PERFECT THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

**UNDERSTAND THIS TRUTH;
GOD'S FOOLISHNESS IS WISER AND POWERFUL THAN ALL**

INSPIRATION

The history, traditions and culture of a nation and people are cherished and cannot be erased from their minds easily. For these are inherited over the generations and valued by the people. Truly people who perceive the gospel of Jesus Christ as the history, tradition and culture of the Israelites tend to compare it with their own history, tradition and culture. Hence the resistance and opposition shown by people in nations of the world to believe in Christ as Saviour and Lord. But we always see God's superior wisdom and power at work. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:25 – Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Apostle Paul increased momentum in his quest to make the Corinthians have absolute trust in God's judgment for making His Son Jesus Christ the Author of eternal salvation. Having shown and proven to them that the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power and wisdom of God despite the background of the Jews and Greeks, he justified his position by revisiting the truth of God as All Powerful and All Wise. For the foolishness of God that has resulted in eternal life for all Believers is wiser than men and the weakness of God stronger than men. Indeed the righteous and eternal results from the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ testified that the foolishness of God is wiser and powerful than that of humanity.

It means that God is in His own class as Jehovah Elohim; God the Creator. This is also tied to His pure word and Holy Spirit. Comparatively the weaknesses of humanity is evidenced by its fall in the Garden of Eden and struggles to obey the word of God. Even with Israel, the Law could not save them because they found it impossible to obey all the provisions. Hence their weakness compared to Christ's work on the cross. To both Jews and Greeks as Gentiles, Christ's work on the cross is a revelation of the wisdom and power of God **(John 3:16)**.

Earlier Paul had written to the Corinthians that the Church and her leaders speak wisdom to the mature superior to the wisdom of this world. Concerning the crucified and

resurrected Christ, if the rulers of this world knew of the eternal salvation, eternal blessings, inheritance among the saints and the everlasting testimony by the Church, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory **(1 Corinthians 2:6 – 8)**.

Clearly, Paul realized that God is perfect in His nature but the imperfection of man makes him perceive God's word and work as foolishness sometimes because it is not reasonable to the human mind and situations **(1 Corinthians 1:18 & 21)**. Yet God's word produce results when acted by faith evidenced in the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For salvation is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and not by works. Yet obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ require righteous works and leading of the Holy Spirit.

He showed further that God's decisions and judgments are true with no falsehood in them. It means that God does not make mistakes in His righteous plans and decisions because of its intended purposes to make us righteous, have inheritance among the saints and provide, protect and preserve us for His kingdom. Hence the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ to save us eternally. The bible testifies of Jesus of having the power to lay down His life for His sheep and also the power to take it up again as a command from the Father who loves Him **(John 10:17 & 18)**. Indeed the superior wisdom and power of God over humanity.

Comparatively God has never failed humanity but humanity has failed God many times to make His judgments meted to us for the purpose of correction and elimination of sin in our lives justified. Clearly the corrupt practices of the Corinthians made them examples of a society where God's establishment of the Church through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ challenging.

But you can't challenge it; for power belongs to God **(Psalms 62:11)**. If the Church would have a deeper understanding of God's superiority through His word and Spirit, plans and purposes, decisions and judgments, we will respect, revere and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. If we are filled and led by the Holy Spirit, we will not look for options to God's word. If the Church is prayerful and discerning by the Holy Spirit, we will not question God's power and wisdom through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus by the Holy Spirit. If we will humble ourselves to follow the righteous instructions and counsels of Ministers and Christian leaders, they shall lead us in the way of God's righteousness by the Holy Spirit for our good and blessing. If we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we will manifest the power of God in the Great Commission. For all authority in heaven and on earth have been given to Jesus and also delegated to the Church to make disciples of all nations. And Jesus is with us always even to the end of the age **(Matthew 28:18 – 20)**.

Again, it emphasizes on the integrity of God to declare something good and wise for our blessing, and declare also something foolishness for us to avoid in life, ministry and the Church. Keep believing buddy.

PAUL DID NOT MINCE WORDS AT ALL BY STATING THAT THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOD IS WISER AND POWERFUL AND IS SUPERIOR TO THAT OF THE WISDOM AND POWER OF THE WISE AND POWERFUL PEOPLE. THIS IS PROVEN IN THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE PEOPLE ETERNALLY

AS WELL AS USE EVEN PEOPLE FROM LOW CLASS AND REJECTED BY SOCIETY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL AND CHANGE ETERNALLY.

HENCE BELIEF IN CHRIST AND OBEDIENCE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL DESPITE SOCIETAL PERCEPTION AND REJECTION AND BACKGROUND IS THE REVELATION OF THE SUPERIOR WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD OVER THE WISDOM AND POWER OF PEOPLE.

PRAYER

You are great, powerful, mighty and awesome in all Your works and word. Please help us O God to trust in Your power and wisdom all the time and not some of the times.

Help me O God to trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ because it is the power of God unto salvation to all Believing Christians. Since we have many weaknesses, help us to trust in Your power and wisdom always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE SEE THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD IN CREATION. HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS TO BEHOLD WITH OUR EYES. WE SEE JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY AND RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD, PERCEIVED AS FOOLISHNESS BY THE WORLD, CHANGING PEOPLE. IF GOD IS ALL POWERFUL AND ALL WISE, IT IS EVIDENT IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST WHICH DEFIES HUMAN POWER, WISDOM AND INTELLIGENCE. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

SEE GOD'S WISDOM IN OUR CALLING AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS

INSPIRATION

Under the Old Covenant of the Law, you had to be born into the tribe of Levi and be qualified to serve in the house of the Lord. But under the New Covenant in Christ, your call and ministry is of the Lord and not born into the priesthood family. It is always about believing in the Lord Jesus Christ first before being called and appointed into the office of a Minister (**Mark 3:13 – 19**); five – fold ministry of the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher (**Ephesians 4:11**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:26 – For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

Apostle Paul expressed God's superior wisdom to the Corinthians through divine call and ministry work as Believing Christians filled and led by the Holy Spirit. Using the Corinthians as an example, he told them to look into their fold carefully. For among themselves, not many wise men, mighty and noble have received the divine call and ministry work. It means that many of the Corinthian Believers were simple and ordinary, and could be placed under the low class category in society. These were people rejected and disqualified in society and yet became children of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. These are ordinary people transformed and changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and power of the Holy Spirit. And they constituted the Church as majority from the world.

The Wise (W), Mighty (M) and the Noble (N) are Paul's societal scan that brought out the state of the Corinthian society. According to the New King James Bible Commentary, the wise refers to the Greek Philosophers. The mighty refers to the influential, politically powerful people. The Noble includes all the aristocratic upper classes. But most of the Corinthian Believers came from the lower classes. This is what I term as **W. M. N.** identification groupings among the upper classes of the Corinthians which is typical of social classes in all countries of the world.

With this revelation and truth, God's vision, mission, purposes, interests and will are clearly revealed in His Son Jesus Christ and work of salvation on the cross. Synonymously, the humble, sinners, weak, poor, unemployed, sick, maimed, cursed, rejected and the low class people responded to the call of God and ministry work unlike the proud, rich, powerful, political class, and royal class in society. Yet God was pleased with the simple and ordinary group of people because of their response and obedience but displeased with the group of people with pride and life of self – centeredness.

This good news of the gospel is refreshing because it reveals the non – partiality of God in His call of all people who have faith in His Son Jesus. It means to say also that God does not consult people, even your masters and mistresses, and does not need your permission before one is called to be a Believing Christian and be appointed and assigned

ministry work to do. For the Holy Spirit is freely given to us when we express faith in the Lord Jesus Christ of which we call God, Abba Father **(Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6)**.

This is our divine call as Believing Christians with divine mandate to live and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls. If we have been chosen and accepted by God in Christ, we must be led by the Holy Spirit to do the will of God. For salvation is by grace and not by works. Truly you have been saved through faith and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God **(Ephesians 2:8)**.

Keep praying because the battle involves the physical and the spiritual. Keep believing because it is the only way to be saved eternally through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Be led by the Holy Spirit because He is our eye, mind and heart opener to truth and revelation in Christ.

PAUL ENCOURAGED THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS TO MAINTAIN THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND MINISTRY WORKS BY USING THEIR CALL OF GOD. TO HIM, NOT MANY WISE, MIGHTY AND NOBLE PEOPLE FROM THE HIGH CLASS IN SOCIETY HAVE BEEN CALLED AND SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD OF SIN, EVIL AND WICKEDNESS UNLIKE THEM. HENCE THE NEED TO ACCEPT AND WALK IN GOD'S CALLING THAT DID NOT CONSIDER THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE CORINTHIAN SOCIETY OR BACKGROUND BUT THEIR BELIEF AND FAITH IN CHRIST TO HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THEM.

PRAYER

Thank you Almighty God for choosing us in Christ not by the merit of this world but by your mercy and grace when we believed in Your Son Jesus Christ.

We are forever and eternally grateful as we keep believing through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Let our faith be maintained in Christ as we believe and pray and do your works as our divine call, ministry work and mandate in Jesus' name. Amen

SEE GOD'S WISDOM IN OUR DIVINE CALL, MINISTRY WORK AND MANDATE AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS WITH THE MANDATE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. IF WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN NOT BY THE MERIT OF THIS WORLD BUT MERCY AND GRACE, THEN WE CANNOT TRADE OUR FAITH FOR WORLDLY THINGS. FOR WE ARE FILLED AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

GOD CHOOSES ORDINARY AND INSIGNIFICANT PEOPLE AND THINGS TO REVEAL HIS STRENGTH AND GLORY

INSPIRATION

The choices of God, sometimes, contrast with societal expectations because God is wiser and powerful than all. He is All Knowing and Sovereign in nature. As indicated already, the New Covenant relationship with God is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to have the Holy Spirit and not through the Old Covenant of Levitical Priesthood by birth and lineage. Paul now revealed the reason for choosing the Corinthian Believers, symbolic of the Church everywhere, to preach Christ to the world as instruments of His glory. Let's read further.

1 Corinthians 1:27 & 28 – But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

Paul defended his position of choice of the Corinthian Believers to do the works of God instead of the wise, mighty and noble. For they believed in Christ and qualified to be used by God to proclaim the everlasting testimony unlike the proud and arrogant. Hence Paul explained that God knew of their weaknesses and yet in belief gave them His knowledge, wisdom and Holy Spirit to be His ambassadors. They fitted into the Corinthians perception of being foolish, weak, and at the lower class in life like a slave status but God chose them anyway to teach the wise through His wisdom, do exploits in Christ to perplex the mighty and glorified them to confound the exalted and proud status of people.

It does not mean that Paul was against the wise, mighty and noble in the Corinthians society but they resisted the gospel of Jesus Christ based on what they possessed as their strength and anchor in life. For many of the Corinthians Believers were described as foolish, weak and of low societal class compared to the so called wise, mighty and high class of people.

Apostle Paul told the Corinthians believers that people who are wise in their own eyes, people who depend on their mighty works in terms of accomplishments without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ have no place in the Kingdom of God and His Son Jesus Christ. They are proud and self – centred and think that they are smarter than other people because of their intelligent decisions and works for good and bad. Indeed the kind of Ahithophel fit into this category. For his words were as one had inquired at the oracle of God **(2 Samuel 16:23)**.

Indeed the kind of Naaman the Syrian as a great warrior and commander of the Syrian army think that they have all it takes to win battles and accomplish things because of strategic planning that are results oriented **(2 Samuel 5:1)**. Their pride makes them reject God's counsel and instructions **(2 Samuel 5:9 – 12)**. In the case of the weak things to confound the mighty, God used a slave girl serving the wife of Naaman to heal the

husband **(2 Samuel 5:13 & 14)**. These are the people who perceive the gospel of Jesus Christ as an option because being religious is a right and not as an eternal decision.

Also Apostle Paul shows the Corinthians that God has chosen the lowest and insignificant things in life as well as nothing to bring about something good, tasteful and a blessing. It is just as Samson's riddle of out of the water came something to eat and out of the strong came something sweet **(Judges 14:14)**. For the lion's carcass came honey to be eaten and strengthened. It has the same measure and understanding of how Jesus received and prayed over the five loaves and two fishes of the lad who followed Him to a deserted place to listen to His words **(John 6:6 – 14)**.

Here Apostle Paul taught the Corinthians Believers not to trust in the arm of the flesh but trust God in all things and maintain their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. For among them were people wise in their own eyes, mighty accomplisners, who struggled to have absolute faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. By this truth and revelation, they were to commit all things to God in prayer as children of God and not children of the world. For the Holy Spirit leads those whose faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In truth the word of God is not against blessings and prosperity from hard work and labour but about not trusting in God and having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. The tendency to become like the Corinthians outside the Church is there but we have the grace to overcome because our sense of belonging is Christ. Yes when you live your life without grace, you find yourself in the grave. Know that God is still interested in using the simple, willing and obedient to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to save people eternally. The bible says that creation awaits the manifestation of the children of God **(Romans 8:19)**. And you are one of such children as a Believing Christian filled and led by the Holy Spirit. Be a good learner.

New King James Bible Commentary: **Verse 27** – God's plan of salvation does not conform to the world's priorities. In fact, it seems foolish. Yet in reality, eternal salvation is more valuable than all the fame, wealth, and success pursued by the world.

Verse 28 – base ... despised: Paul's use of these two terms for the slave class would capture the attention of his readers in Corinth, where many slaves lived.

The things which are not: No doubt that many of the Corinthians believers were people who did not count in the eyes of the world but had found grace in God's eyes.

GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE BUT LOVES MORE THE CHURCH OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHURCH WORKERS, CHURCH LEADERS, MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS BECAUSE OF OBEDIENCE TO HIS CALL. THEREFORE IN CHRIST, HE HAS NO REGRETS OF CHOOSING AND USING US AS THE CHURCH TO REVEAL HIS WISDOM AND POWER TO THE SO CALLED WISE, MIGHTY AND PROUD IN LIFE, AND MAKE THEM ALSO SUBMIT TO THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST.

PRAYER

We thank You O God for choosing us as ordinary and simple people in Christ to reveal Your wisdom and power to the world.

Thank You for using us to break the wisdom of the wise, might of the mighty and pride of the proud though society's perception of us is bad, rejected and demeaning.

We pray that Your grace will remain on us to be simple, willing and obedient to the heavenly calling and be instruments of Your wisdom and power to change and fulfill your purposes in life, ministry and the Church.

Let your Holy Spirit be our Helper in Jesus' name. Amen.

IF WE WANT TO BE ACCEPTED BY GOD AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS AND INSTRUMENTS OF POWER AND CHANGE IN THE CHURCH AND KINGDOM, WE MUST BE SIMPLE, WILLING AND OBEDIENT. FOR GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF CHOOSING THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THIS WORLD TO CONFOUND THE WISE AND THE WEAK THINGS TO CONFOUND THE MIGHTY AND LOWEST AND INSIGNIFICANT THINGS TO CHANGE PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS FOR HIS GLORY ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS WITHOUT REGRETS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

NO MAN OR WOMAN TAKES THE GLORY OF GOD

INSPIRATION

Apostle Paul revealed the works of God that chooses the foolish things to confound the wise, and the weak things to confound mighty things, and the base things and things that are not to bring down things that are full of pride, and makes the ordinary become extraordinary, and makes the impossible become possible. It had the intended purpose to humble humanity but exalt God as the Creator and Architect of eternal salvation through His Son Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:29 – That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Clearly the message of Apostle Paul to the Corinthians was to make them aware that no flesh is glorified in the presence of God. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the work of God to save humanity and therefore no man or woman takes God's glory.

Again ministry work and Church formation and Church gathering are also the works of God and therefore no man or woman takes God's glory. Especially in the Church, worldly wisdom, might and pride are not to be accepted when it comes to worshipping God and

our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If one is not named and known of Christ, the Church is not his or place of blessing. Truly such a person cannot glorify God but glory in His presence.

By this message, Apostle Paul reiterates the authority of the gospel of Jesus Christ over all people in the Church. To this end, we give God the glory for His eternal works in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

This teaches us to eschew pride and not steal God's glory like armed robbers of the blessings of people. These days, there are armed robbers in the Church who forcibly take the place of God when His works are at play. They say things as if they answer our prayers to God in the name of Jesus.

Others think that their helps and support are the reason for our successes and victories in life, ministry and the Church; hence seek and give God the glory. Indeed when people take the place of God, they rob Him of His due glory. And this is a sin to God as written that His name is the Lord and His glory shall not be given to anyone, and His praises not to be given to carved images as idols of worship **(Isaiah 42:8)**. This is because the glory of God involves His presence, word, and Spirit in life, ministry and Church. And as Believing Christians, we must be careful to give God and His Son Jesus Christ all the glory as Holy Spirit filled and led people.

Even Jesus in His flesh prayed for the restoration of glory with the Father only when the messianic ministry was near fulfillment **(John 17:5)**. For He humbled Himself in obedience on earth even to the death on the cross **(Philippians 2:5 – 11)**.

Truly the Church can only share in Christ's glory bestowed on us as Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers as well as in eternity **(John 17:22 & 24)**. Yes God does not want us to steal His glory as the Creator and that of His Son Jesus Christ as the Messiah, Christ and Author of eternal salvation by the Holy Spirit but share in Christ's glory as Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers.

Be committed and faithful for this is God's perfect will for us and the Holy Spirit is our Helper. The bible says in

Jeremiah 9:23 & 24 – Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

God showed the Prophet Jeremiah that He was not interested in human wisdom, accomplished works through might and strength such as in warfare, and in the riches of people such as properties and wealth. Rather He revealed that having a personal relationship with obedience to His word is what He delights Him as God.

Yet these were the very weapons of warfare that were employed against the Prophet Jeremiah as stated by the New King James Bible Commentary.

The three things mentioned to please God are lovingkindness, judgment and righteous on earth. God was talking about expression of love and kindness and mercy to people through His goodness, making righteous decisions to favour the poor, oppressed and the suppressed especially when they call on Him in prayer, and exercising righteousness with regards to obedience to His word and not idol worship and obedience to demonic activities. Indeed God wanted the Israelites and the Gentile nations to know that He alone is to be worshiped and be given all the glory.

Keep praying because salvation is free as the gift of God. It requires an act of faith to believe, do and will. Have in mind that it is the work of God so that no man should boast about them **(Ephesians 2:8 & 9)**.

Let us always remember that we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them **(Ephesians 2:10)**. Hallelujah. Yes you are God's choice in Christ by the Holy Spirit to do His works that would qualify you to share in Christ's glory. We will go through suffering in given situations for our faith and works in Christ by the Holy Spirit but the bible tells us to bear the fruit of longsuffering **(Galatians 5:22d)**. However we cling to the promise of God that as we suffer and endure suffering with Christ, likewise we share reign with Him **(2 Timothy 2:12a)**.

WHEN WE UNDERSTAND FULLY THAT THE WORK OF ETERNAL SALVATION IS THE HANDIWORK OF GOD, AND THAT PREACHING OF CHRIST TO SAVE PEOPLE ETERNALLY IS THE WISDOM OF GOD BUT FOOLISHNESS TO THE WORLD, WE WILL GIVE ALL THE GLORY TO GOD AS A CHURCH OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHURCH WORKERS, CHURCH LEADERS, MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

PRAYER

We give you all the glory O God because you deserve it as the Creator and Architect of eternal salvation.

For in Christ Jesus, you have taught us not to steal Your glory but be committed and faithful to share in your glory bestowed on us.

Let Your Holy Spirit be our Helper in Jesus' name. Amen.

WHY SHOULD WE STEAL GOD'S GLORY WHEN WE HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY IN CHRIST TO BE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND MINISTERS TO MANIFEST AND SHARE IN HIS GLORY? TRULY IF WE ARE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE WILL GIVE ALL THE GLORY TO GOD AND HIS SON JESUS CHRIST, AND CAN ONLY PARTAKE OF THE GLORY IN GOD'S PERFECT WILL. NANA KWAKU DUODU

THE FOUR PILLARS OF BEING IN CHRIST AS GOD HAS DETERMINED

INSPIRATION

Being part of your biological family and knowing your placement, recognition, acceptance and blessings is peace and satisfying. So it is with the Church, we find ourselves loved and appreciated among Christ's family in a blessed manner. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 1:30 – But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Paul's message to the Corinthians laid emphasis on Christ's relevance to every area of the believer's life where He became the wisdom of God, righteousness, sanctification and redemption for us.

It is of this revelation that Apostle Paul's message to the Corinthians centred on the four cardinal pillars of being in Christ. For this should be our focus and not let pride take the place and glory of God to sin. It is not that we are better qualified than other people but our blessings are connected to the saving work of Jesus on the cross in the perfect will of God.

Apostle Paul's follow up message to the Church of Corinth and other Believers reassured them of their status in Christ and the need to be practical with their Christian faith.

The first cardinal pillar Paul mentioned about being in Christ is the blessing of wisdom as God has determined. For God's wisdom in Christ is that He made Him come into the world through the Virgin Mary and Joseph the Carpenter and died on the cross of Calvary. This defies scientific and medical explanation as well as human intelligence and wisdom. Hence Paul's message that Christ is their wisdom that defies all odds making God using foolish things, base things, and insignificant people and things confound the wise and mighty in the Corinthian society and life. And this was to be their focus and joy.

The second cardinal pillar is that being in Christ is the blessing of righteousness. Since Jesus obeyed the Father throughout His life, messianic ministry, death on the cross, the accomplishment of salvation with His burial and resurrection and ascension to the Father in heaven is considered the righteousness of God. Therefore Paul's message to the Corinthians is that their belief in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord distinguished them as righteous to God. And this was to be their focus and joy.

The third cardinal pillar is that being in Christ is the blessing of sanctification; the process of being made holy and righteous daily through prayer and the gospel of Jesus Christ as the word of God, by the Holy Spirit. For there is no cleaning, obedience, establishment and maturity without the scriptures and the Holy Spirit's work. According to the message of Paul, God does His cleansing work through Christ and therefore continuous faith in Jesus Christ is giving God permission to do His work of sanctification in us. It is allowing grace to manifest in your life, ministry and the Church. It's part of the grace work in our

Christian lives. And this was to be their focus and joy, and not pride to glorify themselves in the presence of God.

The fourth cardinal pillar is the blessing of redemption. For Christ's work has set them free from the curse of the Law to the Jew and from religious rules and regulations; legalistic way. Also, it reveals that salvation has come to the Corinthians who worshiped idols in former times as Gentiles. Therefore the central personality of the Christian faith is Jesus Christ and His gospel of salvation. Without Him is religion with its set of rules and regulations and idol worship. It assured them also of the hope of eternal life with the Lord Jesus Christ. And this was to be the Corinthians focus and joy, and not pride to glorify themselves in the presence of God.

Clearly all Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders like the Corinthians Believers are to rejoice in God's goodness and determine to remain and maintain God's blessings in an abundant measure. It teaches us to set our priorities right with good motives in the Church. Seek to honour and glorify God by continuous faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and leading of the Holy Spirit. Seek to worship God in spirit and truth as Jesus said; for the Father seeks such to worship Him **(John 4:23 & 24)**.

In Christ we must be in God's perfect will by the Holy Spirit because He has destined our blessings to conform to these four cardinal pillars. It means that obedience and experience of them enrich our Christian faith and makes it easier for God to bless us and protect and preserve us for His kingdom.

LIKE PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS, LET US AVOID THE SIN OF GLORIFYING OURSELVES IN GOD'S PRESENCE AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHURCH WORKERS, CHURCH LEADERS, MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

RATHER LET US UPHOLD THE GIVEN BLESSINGS OF GOD IN CHRIST TO ENRICH OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH. FOR IN THIS TRUTH AND REVELATION, WE ARE MADE WISE, RIGHTEOUS, SANCTIFIED AND REDEEMED DAILY BY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

PRAYER

Thank you O God for enlightening us about Your written word which the Holy Spirit reminds and instruct in righteousness.

We are forever grateful that in Christ, you have destined and marked us for wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

We trust in the conviction of the Holy Spirit that whenever we backslide, we would be revived and helped to enrich our Christian faith, walk in our blessings in honour and glory of Your holy name. Amen.

SINCE CHRIST IS OF GOD AND OUR FAITH IS IN CHRIST, THE BLESSINGS OF GOD IN WISDOM, RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION AND REDEMPTION MUST BE EVIDENT IN OUR LIVES, MINISTRIES AND THE CHURCH. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

GOD WANTS US TO APPRECIATE THE GRACE WORK OF SALVATION AS FROM HIM AND GIVE HIM THE GLORY. FOR NO FLESH TAKES THE CREDIT IN HIS PRESENCE. THEREFORE OUR PORTION IN CHRIST IS TO EMBRACE THE BLESSINGS OF WISDOM, RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION AND REDEMPTION IN OUR LIVES, MINISTRIES AND THE CHURCH. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE CHURCH IS TO GLORY IN THE LORD

INSPIRATION

Being part of a family means to share in its blessings, challenges and glory. Likewise being part of Christ's Church which is of God means not to steal His glory but to share in it as grace work in your life, ministry and the Church. Let' study further.

1 Corinthians 1:31 – That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Apostle Paul's message to the Corinthians revealed God's mind and purpose for boasts as testimonies for every Believing Christian, Christian leader and Minister. That he that makes his boasts and praises himself must be done in the Lord to reflect righteous works by the Holy Spirit.

Paul helped them to maintain their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to confess Him daily as Saviour and Lord. For the work of the cross that saved them eternally was designed by God to make our glories be in the Lord, and not in pride of the kind of the wise, mighty, and rich identified in the Corinthian society.

In other words, Paul reminded them that worldly people make their boasts in their strengths, accomplishments, achievements to honour and glorify themselves but Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders are to make their boasts in the Lord and honour and glorify Him; either themselves or other people. O what a nice way of ending chapter 1 of Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians.

What does the bible says about glorifying ourselves in the Lord that Apostle Paul emphasized to the Corinthians? Truly the word of God tells us in

Jeremiah 9:23 & 24 – Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

This is because God prefers an eternal relationship with knowledge, understanding and wisdom with Him to obey His word and humble oneself before Him. As the word of God tells us further, God delights in eternal things unlike boasts in worldly things and achievements.

Indeed if you understand God's nature and power in Christ by the Holy Spirit to use the foolish things of this world to confound the wise and the base things to confound the mighty and insignificant things to fulfill His righteous purposes as evident in Christ's birth through the virgin Mary and Joseph the Carpenter as earthly father, and Paul apostolic ministry with the Corinthians Believers **(1 Corinthians 1:21, 25 – 29)**, you will only make

your boasts in the Lord. I tell you the truth those who say that it is the grace of God that has brought them this far in life, ministry and the Church are led by the Holy Spirit (**James 4:13 – 15**), unlike those who boasts to say that it is by their own wisdom and intelligence, might and riches to have made it in life (**2 Timothy 3:2, James 4:16**).

As a Church with Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers, we love to know and obey the word of God. Yes we love what the scriptures tell and instructs us to obey such as the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Psalms 40:7 – 10**). If the Holy Spirit is our Helper and reminds us about the words and message of our Lord Jesus Christ, then He is totally committed to remind us of the humility and gentleness of Christ to obey (**John 24:16 & 26, 15:26, 2 Corinthians 10:1**). As God blesses us daily, let us also glory in the Lord and let us also glorify other people in the Lord with testimonies to honour and glorify His holy name.

OUR BOASTS IN THE LORD IS THE PRESCRIBED WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY PAUL WITH REGARDS TO OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND WORKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. FOR WE BELONG TO CHRIST WHO IS OF GOD AND THEREFORE ARE BEING MADE PERFECT DAILY BY HIS WORD AND SPIRIT. OBEDIENCE KEEPS US AWAY FROM TAKING THE PLACE OF GOD LIKE THE DEVIL TO SIN AND BE CAST AWAY FROM HIS HOLY PRESENCE. HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST.

PRAYER

Thank you O God for teaching us not to let pride rule hearts and glorify ourselves in Your presence.

Help us to obey scripture, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and make our boasts in the Lord and to honour and glorify Your holy name.

Help us to avert the sin of glorifying ourselves and relegating You to the background.

Help us to emulate the righteous examples of Jesus Christ and Apostle Paul and the Corinthians Church. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory in Jesus' name. Amen.

IF GLORIFYING ONESELF IN THE LORD MAKES US RIGHTEOUS, HUMBLE AND SUBMISSIVE TO GOD'S WILL AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN, CHURCH WORKER, CHURCH LEADER, MINISTER AND CHRISTIAN LEADER, THEN THE CHURCH MUST ENFORCE IT BY SETTING RIGHTEOUS EXAMPLES BEGINNING FROM CHURCH LEADERSHIP TO EVERY BELIEVING CHRISTIAN. NANA KWAKU DUODU

IF GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR FULFILLMENT OF SCRIPTURE, THEN WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO FULFILLING ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS SUCH AS GLORIFYING OURSELVES ONLY IN CHRIST. IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER, THEN IT IS HIGHLY AND PRACTICALLY ACHIEVABLE IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN. NANA KWAKU DUODU



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