



I am distressed about the state of the Church today. Sin abounds and many Christians are discouraged, empty, and walking in defeat. **The Church today no longer puts up with sound doctrine. It has rejected the truth and turned aside to myths.** Many preachers today are deceiving Christians with fables and false teachings. They make empty promises that God will shower His blessings on them if they just follow techniques. These preachers only want to make Christians feel happy, so they tell them what they want to hear. But many Christians are in a desperate state. So I ask the question: **Where is the Church going?**

For the Church to come back onto the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, I believe it is vitally important that Christians understand the real promises of God, which were first spoken to Abraham and still speak to us today in Scripture. The Body of Christ has the right to inherit and to receive the true promises and blessings of God.

Genesis 12:1-3 reads, *"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country... I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'"*

God did bless Abraham with material possessions, but that is not the essence of the promise. Abraham is known today as the 'father of the faith' not because of what he owned, but because he dared to believe in the promise of something he would never see with his own eyes. The promise he received was spiritual.

In Galatians 3:14 we read, *"He (God) redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."* Here apostle Paul links the faith and blessing of Abraham to the New Covenant God has made with His Church. God is spirit and He makes spiritual promises for a spiritual purpose. The purpose of God's promise to Abraham was to save mankind through Jesus Christ, His son. This is the essence of God's promise to us as Christians today: the redemption of our souls.

Hebrews 6:12 reads, *"We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."* This Scripture has been totally abused by preachers who talk about faith and perseverance to receive material blessings. God does not promise us vast possessions, but eternal life in heaven and a victorious spiritual life on earth. This is our inheritance passed down from Abraham through Jesus Christ. In verse 9 it says, *"...we are confident of better things in your case - things that accompany salvation."* What are these better things that accompany salvation? They are spiritual growth and maturity; to be conformed to the image of Christ

and to become like Him. That is the greatest blessing we can receive!

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We who were not a people have become a people. We are those whom God has chosen from the nations of the earth, who have been given the grace to believe and to be called children of God. Therefore, what kind of life should we live? A holy life! The first verse of 2 Corinthians 7 confirms this: *"Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."* This was the paramount concern of the apostles. They never talked about what we can get from God. They spoke about growing in Christ, and becoming spiritually mature people. The true blessing of God is to gain victory over our sinful nature in a sinful world by our identification with Christ's death and His resurrection.

The apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:18 that the preaching of the cross is the power of God. When I catch the spirit of the gospel preached by the apostles, I see the heart of God. I see His promises and their purpose from the right perspective. I understand that the purpose of God's blessings is to enrich my spiritual life, bring me to maturity, and enable me to walk in victory over my sinful nature. Christians need to rediscover the joy of suffering for Christ; the joy of identifying with Him in His death. They

need to feel the hand of God on their lives, breaking and purifying them, and shaping them into the image of Christ.

That's why the Church needs to come back to the simple message – the cross of Christ. Christians should be given the opportunity to deny themselves, take up their cross and lose their lives to gain the life of Christ. This is blessing and spiritual life in its fullness! This is the way to receive blessings that will not perish, which will lead us on toward the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls. Why are we so eager to receive blessings that are bound to perish?

I am convinced in my heart that there are thousands upon thousands of Christians who are waiting to hear something that will feed their spirit, even if there is a price to pay. They must be sick and tired of hearing a gospel that has no power to change their lives. Christians are hungry and thirsty for the true gospel. They have the right to hear it and it is time for God's servants to rise up and preach it. God is faithful to His chosen people and He is bringing the message of the cross of Christ back to a defeated Church. May the Church that He died for be restored, for His glory alone!

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From Miki Hardy's message:
“Where is the Church Going?”
broadcast on TBN/CTV.
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