

**CBS for Thursday, November 10 & 17, 2011**

**Topic: Flourishing in Famine: Deductions & Lessons**

**Text: Genesis 26:1-25, Genesis 41:1-57, Deuteronomy 28:15-68, 1 Kings 17:1-24, 2 Kings 6:24-33, 2 Kings 7, Psalm 92:5-15, Proverbs 10:3, Matthew 24:1-14**

**Words in Marble:** *“In the midst of famine there are two classes of people: those who famish in famine and those who flourish in famine”* **Pastor Tunde Bakare (25/08/11)**

For many weeks the Serving Overseer, Pastor Tunde Bakare, took us through a life-changing series titled **Flourishing in famine**. Key principles were taught under such teachings as managing our finances in famine, God’s economic system versus world economic system and dealing with strife.

It is important to take a journey into the lessons we have learnt as we are living in the days called ‘Perilous Times’ (2 Timothy 3:1-9). “For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.” (2 Peter 1:12). We need to dwell on the present truth until we are established in it and become doers in deed. (James 1:22-25).

Today, we are taking a cue from the words in marble- *“In the midst of famine there are two classes of people: those who famish in famine and those who flourish in famine”* – simply put, there are **“The haves’, ‘The Have-nots’, ‘The Yet-to-have’, and ‘The Used-to-have’**. We need to understand the principles behind this great divide in order to accurately align and position ourselves with God’s plans and purpose for the righteous in famine. (Proverbs 10:3).

We shall be examining 4 cardinal God-centred principles that will guide our operations in this dispensation. The reasons are not far-fetched: **(i) The Lord knows more about famine than all the professors of economics put together. (ii) The Lord has warned us about famine. (Matthew 24:1-14) and (iii) He has prepared us for famine.**

These four cardinal principles that will sustain us through famine are: **(1) Have God (Relationship) (2) Hail God (Praise/Worship) (3) Hear God (Communion) and (4) Heed God (Obedience).**

## THE FOUR CARDINAL PRINCIPLES

**1. HAVE GOD (Relationship):** During the series of teachings on flourishing in famine one foundational principle stood out – our relationship with God. The God factor is a re-occurring decimal from Abraham to Isaac, Joseph to Elijah and subsequently Elisha. The obvious reason being that apart from being the creator of the heavens and the earth, He fills them all, (Psalm 24:1-2) and knows more about famine than any other being. All provision and blessings flow from Him towards His creation (Genesis 49:25). Thus, relationship with God apart from being the currency of the Spirit remains the connecting conduit between us and our source (God). Daniel confirms that...Daniel 11:32 "...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." It is wisdom that instructs us to stay connected to the One who has promised that *"They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied."* (Psalm 37:19).

**Poser:** how has our relationship with Him been lately? Consider the instructions in Jeremiah 9: 23-24. What can we learn or adapt from experience of David with God, Psalm 42: 1; Acts 13: 22; Psalm 37: 25-26. **John 5: 20.**

**2. HAIL GOD (Praise/Worship):** While praise brings God into our situation (Psalm 22:3) worship translates us into His very presence and creates room for communion as we behold His face. (Isaiah 6:1-10). This explains why the patriarchs always erected altars of communion with Jehovah. (Gen. 8:20, Gen. 12:7-8, Gen. 26:25, Gen. 33:20, Ex. 17:15-16). The presence of God ensures provision, protection and direction. ( Gen. 22:9-14 Ex. 13:21-22, Ex. 14:19-20, Ex. 33:14-15, Ps. 16:11). When we praise God the earth will yield her increase! (Psalm 67: 5-7). The place of worship is also the place of prayer; a humbling encounter that brings our humanity under the sovereignty of the Almighty God. (Psalm 61:1-4). The presence of God builds trust in us and reinforces the needed virtue of waiting and patience within us. (Psalm 40:1-3, Heb. 6:12). Finally, thanksgiving is an attitude of gratitude that demonstrates our faith, seals our testimony and ensures constant favour before God. So in all things give Him thanks! (1Thess. 5:16-18).

**Poser:** how truthful has our worship and dedication to Him been, John4: 23-24? Has our praise life been qualified or dictated by circumstances, conditions, and feelings. Can we praise Him sacrificially? Habakkuk 3: 17

**David of a truth knew how to prioritize God and it paid off on all fronts. Psalm 103. He was not selfish but desired to entrench the same tradition in his family. He instructed his son Solomon to seek to establish relationship with God, 1 Chronicles 28: 9, and 2 Chronicles 1: 7-12. There is no shortcut or lift in walking with God to work around our situations at all times. We need to establish relationship and sustain same with praise and worship.**

***Lord, give me a heart that yearns for you. I need an unquenchable desire to be where you dwell in your presence.***