**Aflame Sunday Celebration Message – 18 February 2018**

**Minister : Pastor Jimmy S Goh**

**Theme : To Freely Receive, To Freely Give – To ENGAGE & BEAR FRUITS (4)**

# “Freely you have Received, Freely Give” – JESUS told HIS Disciples, *Spiritually* - Matthew 10: 8b.

# GOD’s People in HIS Church to be Known for their Faith in CHRIST JESUS and Love for People.

~ Our Good Works bring Glory to GOD thru our Faith in CHRIST JESUS and Love for *All People.*

**Our Mission – Our Good Works are to Impact our Communities, which Requires us to ENGAGE with the People (Unbelievers), so that the Love, Hope, Faith, Peace and Joy of CHRIST JESUS**

**will *Flow Out* from us who are *Being Filled Full* of the Truth and of the SPIRIT, to the Lost.**

Same Truth Seed we Received, is *Being Sown All* over the World, to Bear Fruit of Changing Lives.

**Under the New Covenant & the New Way thru JESUS, *Qualified* by the Glorious SPIRIT, to**

***GO* into the World *to tell* the Truth *so the Lost read* *us as Letters* In CHRIST *written by* the SPIRIT.**

**People Living in this World are with Offences – Anxiety, Agitation, Anger, Argue, Anti-Peace.**

**~ We in CHRIST, *Sanctified* by the Truth to Respond as *Alive Letters*, written by the HOLY SPIRIT.**

**~ Philippians 2: 13 – 16a**

 For it is GOD Who works in you both to will and to do for HIS good pleasure. Do all things

 without complaining and disputing, that you may become *blameless and harmless*,

 children of GOD *without fault* in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,

 among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the Word of Life.

**To Engage *Many & Diverse Communities* - By ‘Sharing’ our New Life in CHRIST, *Been Renewed*.**

**~ Common Ground, Common Social Denominator in Status, Social Patterns & Life-Style.**

**Engage to *Seize Opportunities* - The LORD of the Harvest *Always Creating Opportunities* to Sow.**

**~ Each one Sow, Water to *Reap Together*, as the LORD *gives us the Increase* from Communities.**

**The LORD GOD Knows HIS Creation of Human in HIS Image, is yet *Weak in Flesh & Soul*.**

**~ Exodus 20: 3 – 6**

 "You shall have no other gods before ME.” "You shall not make for yourself a carved image –

 any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that

is in the water under the earth; you *shall not bow down to them nor serve them*.

 For I, the LORD your GOD, *am* A jealous GOD, *visiting the iniquity of the* fathers upon

 the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate ME, but showing

 Mercy to thousands, *to those who love* ME and *keep* MY Commandments.”

**The Issue of Iniquity, *Moment a Child is Born* from his mother’s womb *Tendency towards sin*.**

**~ Psalm 51: 5 – 6**

 Behold, I was *brought forth in iniquity*, and in sin my mother conceived me.

 Behold, You desire Truth in the inward parts, and *in the hidden part*

YOU will make me to know wisdom.

**~ Isaiah 6: 7b**

 "Behold, this has touched your lips; your *iniquity is taken away*, and *your sin purged*."

**~ Ezekiel 18: 30b – 31**

 "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so *that iniquity will not be your ruin*.

 Cast away from you *all the transgressions which you have committed*, and

 get yourselves a *New Heart* and a *New Spirit*. For why should you die, O House of Israel ?”

**As We are in the World to Engage the Communities, there will be Offences & Temptations**

**~ so we have to be Honest to Examine our Weaknesses to Sin thru *Iniquities of Generations*.**

**The LORD GOD Knows *Human Weaknesses* in Overcoming Temptations & Tests towards Sin.**

**James 1: 12 – 16 (NLT); 14 – 16 (NKJ)**

GOD blesses those who *patiently endure testing and temptation*. Afterward they will receive

the *crown of life* that GOD has promised to those who love HIM. And remember, when you

are being tempted, do not say, “GOD is tempting me.” GOD is never tempted to do wrong,

and HE *never tempts anyone else*.

Temptation comes from *our own desires*, which *entice us* and drag us away. These desires

*give birth to sinful actions*. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

So don’t be misled, my dear brothers and sisters.

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by *his own desires and enticed.* Then,

when *desire has conceived*, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when *it is full-grown*, brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

**JESUS’ Way of Truth, the Truth that Set Human Free of Living *Self-Seeking Lies* of Deception.**

**James 3: 14 – 18**

But if you have *bitter envy* and ***self-seeking*** in your hearts, do not boast and ***lie against the Truth***.

This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, *demonic*.

For where envy and ***self-seeking exist****,* confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

But the Wisdom that is from Above is first Pure, then Peaceable, Gentle, Willing to Yield,

full of Mercy and Good Fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Now the Fruit of Righteousness *is sown in* Peace by those who *Make Peace*.

**GOD’s Grace is sufficient for us, for GOD’s Strength is *made perfect in our weaknesses.***

**World is *Living in Lies of Deception* for Ungodly Pattern of *Living in Unrighteousness* – Media.**

**Romans 1: 18, 24 – 26a**

For the Wrath of GOD is revealed from Heaven *against* ***All ungodliness and unrighteousness*** *of men*, *who* ***suppress the Truth in unrighteousness.***

Therefore GOD also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts,

to *dishonor their bodies among themselves*, *who exchanged* **the Truth of GOD *for the lie***, and

worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen.

For this reason GOD gave them up to vile passions.

**Malachi 3: 2 – 3**

"But who can endure the Day of HIS Coming ? And who can stand when HE appears ?

For HE *is* like a Refiner's Fire and like launderers' soap.

HE will sit as a Refiner and a Purifier of silver; HE *will purify* the sons of Levi, and

*purge them* as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD An Offering in Righteousness.”

**Being Friendly to World’s Pattern of Living for Self & *Pleasing Self*, is to *Trade Truth for A Lie*.**

**James 4: 3 – 4**

You ask and do not receive, because you ask ***AMiss***, that you may spend it *on your pleasures*. ***Adulterers and adulteresses !***

Do you not know that *friendship with the world is enmity with* GOD ?

Whoever therefore wants to be *a friend of the world* makes himself an enemy of GOD.

**World’s Ways Swayed > Deception > Degeneration > Dysfunction > Demonic > Destruction.**

**1 Samuel 15: 23**

“For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and *Stubbornness* *is as* iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the Word of the LORD, HE also has rejected you from *being* king."

**Idolatry > Issue of ‘Idol’ in Heart > UnFaithfulness to GOD > Adultery with the World.**

**Idolatry is the *Cause* of Disobedience to the Word of GOD, but Iniquity is the *Root* to Rebel.**

**1 Samuel 15: 22 (NLT)**

But Samuel replied, “What is more *Pleasing* to the LORD: your burnt offerings and *sacrifices*

or *your obedience to* HIS Voice? Listen ! Obedience *is better than sacrifice*, and

submission is better than *offering the fat of rams*.”

**Idolatry causes Adultery with the World, so Iniquity causes *Craving Lusts to Dominate* flesh.**

**~ 1 John 2: 15 – 17**

 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Love of the

 FATHER is not in him. For all *that is in* the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes,

 and the pride of life - is not of the FATHER but is of the world. And the world is *passing away*,

 and the lust of it; but he who does the will of GOD abides forever.

**~ 1 John 2: 16 – 17 (NLT)**

 For the world offers only *a craving* for physical pleasure, *a craving* for everything we see,

 and *pride in our achievements and possessions*. These are not from the FATHER, but are

 from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave.

 But anyone who does what pleases GOD will live forever.

~ **1 John 5: 19**

 We know that we are of GOD, and the *whole world lies under the sway of*the wicked one.

**1 Peter 1: 14 – 16**

As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as in* your ignorance; but

as HE Who called you is Holy, you also be Holy in *all your conduct*, because it is written,

"BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

**1 Timothy 6: 17 (AMP)**

As for the rich in this present world, instruct them not to be conceited *and* arrogant,

*nor to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches*, but on GOD, Who richly *and* ceaselessly

provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

**World is Busy with Self, *Idols* to Not Put GOD 1st in Life, Worldly Excuses to NOT Seek HIM.**

**~ Parable of the Great Last Supper – Luke 14: 15 – 20, Invited are Giving Worldly Excuses.**

**~ Luke 14: 18 > Bought a Piece of Ground > A land or property, that Asset occupy My Time.**

**~ Luke 14: 19 > Bought 5 Yoke of Oxen > Business Equipment / Device, Busy to Set Up/ Test.**

**~ Luke 14: 20 > Married A Wife > Commitment / Time to Please her & Raise a Family/ children.**

**In Jewish History of the kings, after Saul, David & Solomon, only 2 Kings made a Distinct line**

**~ against Idolatry, they lived what is Right in GOD’s Sight & led the People to Remove Idols.**

**~ Most kings *give into the Idolatry culture* of their world, a few live Rightly before the LORD.**

**~ King Rehoboam, son of Solomon to settle Issue with Jeroboam – 2 Chronicles 11: 2 – 3.**

**~ Nation split into 2 and only Judah & Benjamin remained under King Rehoboam (11: 12b).**

**~ Jeroboam led other tribes into Idolatry to worship created ‘gods’, abandoned GOD’s Law.**

 **2 Chronicles 11: 15 – 16 (NLT)**

 Jeroboam appointed his own priests to serve at the pagan shrines, where they worshiped the

 goat and calf idols he had made. From all the tribes of Israel, those who sincerely wanted to

 worship the LORD, the GOD of Israel, followed the Levites to Jerusalem, where they could

 offer sacrifices to the LORD, the GOD of their ancestors.

 **2 Chronicles 12: 12 – 14 (NLT)**

 Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD’s anger was turned away, and HE did not destroy

 him completely. There *were still some good things in* the land of Judah. King Rehoboam firmly

 established himself in Jerusalem and continued to rule. He was forty-one years old when he

 became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen from

 among all the tribes of Israel as the place to honor HIS Name. Rehoboam’s mother was Naamah,

 a woman from Ammon. But he was an evil king, for *he did not seek* the LORD *with all his heart*.

 **2 Chronicles 13: 1 – 3, 17 – 18, 20 (NLT)**

 Abijah began to rule over Judah in the eighteenth year of Jeroboam’s reign in Israel.

 He reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother was Maacah, the daughter of Uriel from Gibeah.

 Then war broke out between Abijah and Jeroboam. Judah, led by King Abijah, fielded 400,000 select

 warriors, while Jeroboam mustered 800,000 select troops from Israel.

 Abijah and his army inflicted heavy losses on them; 500,000 of Israel’s select troops were killed

 that day.  So Judah defeated Israel on that occasion because they trusted in the LORD,

 the GOD of their ancestors.

 So Jeroboam of Israel never regained his power during Abijah’s lifetime, and finally the LORD

 *struck him down and he died*.

**~ King Asa - Started Pleasing the LORD, Removed All forms of Idolatry in the Land, then**

 **he Commanded the People to Seek the LORD and Obey HIS Law and Commands.**

 **2 Chronicles 14: 1 – 6 (NLT)**

 When Abijah died, he was buried in the City of David. Then his son Asa became the next king.

 There was peace in the land for ten years. Asa did *what was pleasing and Good in* the

 Sight of the LORD his GOD. He removed the foreign altars and the pagan shrines.

 He *smashed the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah poles*.

 He *commanded the people of Judah to seek* the LORD, the GOD of their ancestors, and

 to obey HIS Law and HIS Commands. Asa also *removed the pagan* *shrines*, as well as

 *the incense altars from every one of Judah’s towns*. So Asa’s kingdom enjoyed a period of peace.

 During those peaceful years, he was able to build up the fortified towns throughout Judah.

 No one tried to make war against him at this time, for the LORD *was giving him rest from his enemies*.

 **2 Chronicles 14: 11 – 12 (NLT)**

Then Asa cried out to the LORD his GOD, “O LORD, no one but YOU can help the powerless

 against the mighty ! Help us, O LORD our GOD, for we trust in YOU alone.

 It is in YOUR Name that we have come against this vast horde.

 O LORD, you are our GOD; do not let mere men prevail against YOU !”

 So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians in the presence of Asa and the army of Judah, and

 the *enemy fled*.

 **2 Chronicles 16: 2 – 3, 8 – 10, 12 – 13 (NLT)**

 Asa responded by removing the silver and gold from the treasuries of the Temple of the LORD

 and the royal palace. He sent it to King Ben-hadad of Aram, who was *ruling in Damascus*, along

 with this message: “Let there *be a treaty between you and me* like the one between your father

 and my father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Break your treaty with King Baasha of

 Israel so that he will leave me alone.”

 “Don’t you remember what happened to the Ethiopians and Libyans and their vast army, with all

 of their chariots and charioteers? At that time you relied on the LORD, and HE handed them over

 to you. The Eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts

 are fully committed to HIM. What a fool you have been ! From now on you will be at war.”

 Asa became so angry with Hanani for saying this that he threw him into prison and put him in

 stocks. At that time Asa also began to oppress some of his people.

 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a serious foot disease. Yet even with the

 severity of his disease, *he did not seek* the LORD’s help but turned only to his physicians.

 So he died in the forty-first year of his reign.

**~ King Jehoshaphat - Followed and Pleased the LORD GOD, Deeply Committed to HIS Ways.**

 **2 Chronicles 17: 3 – 7a, 10 – 12 (NLT)**

 The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father’s early years

 and did not worship the images of Baal. He sought his father’s GOD and obeyed HIS Commands

 instead of following the evil practices of the kingdom of Israel. So the LORD established

 Jehoshaphat’s control over the kingdom of Judah. All the people of Judah brought gifts to

 Jehoshaphat, so he became very wealthy and highly esteemed. He *was deeply committed to*

 The Ways of the LORD. He *removed the pagan shrines and Asherah poles* from Judah.

 In the third year of his reign Jehoshaphat sent his officials to teach in all the towns of Judah.

 Then the fear of the LORD fell over all the surrounding kingdoms so that none of them wanted

 to declare war on Jehoshaphat. Some of the Philistines brought him gifts and silver as tribute,

 and the Arabs brought 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats. So Jehoshaphat became more and

 more powerful and built fortresses and storage cities throughout Judah.

**~ Error of Judgement by Jehoshaphat to Ally with King Ahab, vs GOD.**

 **2 Chronicles 18: 1 – 2, 4 – 6 (NLT)**

Jehoshaphat enjoyed great riches and high esteem, and he *made an alliance with* Ahab of Israel

 by having his son marry Ahab’s daughter. A few years later he went to Samaria to visit Ahab,

 who prepared a great banquet for him and his officials. They butchered great numbers of

 sheep, goats, and cattle for the feast. Then Ahab enticed Jehoshaphat to join forces with him

 to recover Ramoth-gilead.

 Then Jehoshaphat added, “But first let’s find out what the LORD says.” So the king of Israel

 summoned the prophets, 400 of them, and asked them, “Should we go to war against

 Ramoth-gilead, or should I hold back?” They all replied, “Yes, go right ahead! GOD will give

 the king victory.” But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not also a prophet of the LORD here ?

 We should ask him the same question.”

 **2 Chronicles 18: 13 – 15 (NLT)**

 But Micaiah replied, “As surely as the LORD lives, I will say only what my GOD says.”

 When Micaiah arrived before the king, Ahab asked him, “Micaiah, should we go to war against

 Ramoth-gilead, or should I hold back?” Micaiah replied sarcastically, “Yes, go up and be victorious,

 for you will have victory over them!”

 But the king replied sharply, “How many times must I demand that you speak only the Truth to

 me when you speak for the LORD? ”

 **2 Chronicles 18: 18 – 22, 27 (NLT)**

 Then Micaiah continued, “Listen to what the LORD says! I saw the LORD sitting on his throne

 with all the armies of heaven around him, on his right and on his left.  And the LORD said,

 ‘Who can entice King Ahab of Israel to go into battle against Ramoth-gilead so he can be killed? ’

 “There were many suggestions, and *finally a spirit approached* the LORD and said, ‘I *can do it* !’ “

 ‘How will you do this?’ the LORD asked. “And the spirit replied, ‘I will *go out and inspire all* of

 Ahab’s prophets *to speak* *lies*.’ “‘You will succeed,’ said the LORD. ‘Go ahead and do it.’

 “So you see, the LORD has *put a lying spirit in the mouths of your prophets*.

 For the LORD has pronounced your doom.”

 But Micaiah replied, “If you return safely, it will mean that the LORD has not spoken through me !”

 Then he added to those standing around, “Everyone mark my words!”

**We in CHRIST, to Draw the Line of the Kingdom with this World and the Ideals & Things in It.**

**Romans 12: 1 – 2**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the Mercies of GOD, that you present your bodies a *living sacrifice, holy, acceptable* to GOD, *which is* your reasonable service. And *do not be conformed* to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect Will of GOD.

**Drawing the Line in our Daily Living & Walking about this World, as the Kingdom is Within us.**

**Romans 12: 1 – 2 (MSG)**

So here's what I want you to do, GOD helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life -

your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before GOD

as an offering. Embracing what GOD does for you is the best thing you can do for HIM.

Don't become so *well-adjusted to your culture* that you fit into it without even thinking.

Instead, fix your attention on GOD. You'll be changed from the inside out.

Readily recognize what HE wants from you, and quickly respond to it.

*Unlike the culture* around you, always dragging you down to *its level of immaturity*,

GOD brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

**We are Not to be Passively Tolerant & Keep Silent to the Flow of the World’s Current :**

**~ to Bring in the Tide of the Filth of Ungodly Lies of Confusion & Disorder into Our Lives.**

**~ to Allow Camouflaged Christianity into Our Faith, into our Daily Lives.**

**~ But, to Confront the Building of Ungodly Patterns of Thinking & Desires to be Strongholds.**