**Aflame Sunday Celebration Message – 24 February 2019**

**Minister : Pastor Evelin Goh**

**Theme : Life & Death, Blessings & Curses. Choose LIFE ! (2)**

**Ephesians 5: 15 – 16**
See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

**Apostle Paul’s Instruction :**

**~ To Walk Accurately, Perfectly, Correctly.

The Wise :
~ The Wise seeks GOD’s Heart and Will – Willing to Yield and Do It.

Matthew 7: 24**
“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of MINE, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man

who built his house on the rock.”

**The Fool – Self-will and Self-opinionated.
Proverbs 28: 26**He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

**Proverbs 18: 2 (NLT)**
Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

**Psalms 14: 1**
The fool has said in his heart, “There is no GOD.”

They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.

**~ We were all fools saved by Grace.
~ The extent of GOD’s Love for Humanity is seen in HIS Redemptive Work on the Cross.
John 3: 16 – 17**
For GOD so loved the world that HE gave HIS only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in HIM should not perish but have everlasting life.
For GOD did not send HIS Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through HIM

might be saved.

**John 3: 5 – 6**
JESUS answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the SPIRIT,

he cannot enter the Kingdom of GOD.
That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the SPIRIT is Spirit.”

**GOD initiated and HE Make Provisions for our Salvation – Not because we are good, but**

**by HIS Grace.
Ephesians 2: 8 (AMP)**
For it is by Grace [GOD's remarkable Compassion and Favor drawing you to CHRIST] that

you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith.

And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the

[undeserved, gracious] Gift of GOD.

**Ephesians 2: 9**
Not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**Romans 12: 3 (AMP)**
For by the Grace [of GOD] given to me I say to everyone of you not to think more highly of himself [and

of his importance and ability] than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as

GOD has apportioned to each a degree of faith [and a purpose designed for service].
 **~ GOD expects us to walk by Faith to Fulfill HIS Will.
~ Many of JESUS’ disciples turn away from following HIM when they could not agree with**

 **HIS Teaching.

John 6: 60**
Therefore many of HIS disciples, when they heard this, said,

“This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”

**John 6: 66**
From that time many of HIS disciples went back and walked with HIM no more.
 **John 6: 64 (AMPC)**
"But [still] some of you fail to believe and trust and have faith." For JESUS knew from the first

who did not believe and had no faith and who would betray HIM and be false to HIM.

**The natural man cannot understand the Spiritual Things of GOD.
John 6: 63**
It is the SPIRIT Who gives Life; the flesh profits nothing.

The Words that I speak to you are SPIRIT, and they are Life.

**Do not be wise in our own eyes, humble ourselves before GOD.
Proverbs 3: 7**
Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

**The Pharisees and the Sadducees demanded a sign !
Matthew 16: 4 (AMP)**
“An evil and [morally] unfaithful generation craves a [miraculous] sign; but no sign will be given to it, except the sign of [the prophet] Jonah.” Then HE left them and went away.

**Isaiah 5: 21 (AMP)**
Woe (judgment is coming) to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever and shrewd in their

own sight !

**JESUS turned to HIS 12 Disciples and asked :
John 6 : 67 AMP**
So JESUS said to the twelve [disciples], “You do not want to leave too, do you?”

**Peter Made his Choice, by Faith :
John 6: 68 – 69 (AMP)**Simon Peter answered, “LORD, to whom shall we go? YOU [alone] have the Words of Eternal Life

[YOU are our Only Hope].
We have believed and confidently trusted, and [even more] we have come to know

[by personal observation and experience] that YOU are the Holy One of GOD [the CHRIST,

the SON of the Living GOD].”

**~ Joshua, Moses’ assistant.
~ The 12 spies. Reference Numbers 13 & 14.
~ Joshua’s and Caleb’s faith was on the LORD and HIS Will and HIS Promises.
~ Their hearts were not divided between the past and GOD’s Promises and Will.**

**Joshua loves GOD’s Presence.
Exodus 33: 11 (AMP)**
And so the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.

When Moses returned to the camp, his attendant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man,

would not depart from the tent.

**Joshua’s Strength and Courage.
Joshua 1: 7**
Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which
Moses MY servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that
you may prosper wherever you go.

**Joshua 1: 9**
“Have I not commanded you ? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed,

for the LORD your GOD is with you wherever you go.”

**~ Battle against Amalekites - under Moses’ covering.**

 **Reference Exodus 17: 8 – 13.
~ Jericho – Joshua 6.**

**The day the Sun stood still – Chronos time stood still.
Joshua 10: 12 – 14**
Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”
So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jasher ?
So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man;

for the LORD fought for Israel.

**What Causes of Barren Faith -**

**1.    Lover of Self rather than lover of GOD.**

**~ Self-centredness, Selfish, Self-righteous, Self-justify, Self-denial, Self-deceived,**

 **Blinded our eyes from Seeing GOD’s Plan for HIS Church.

John 12: 25 (AMP)**
The one who loves his life [eventually] loses it [through death], but the one who hates his life in this world [and is concerned with pleasing GOD] will keep it for life eternal.

**2.   Spiritual Blindness.

1 Corinthians 2: 14 (AMP)**But the natural [unbelieving] man does not accept the things [the teachings and revelations] of the SPIRIT of GOD, for they are foolishness [absurd and illogical] to him; and he is incapable of understanding them, because they are spiritually discerned and appreciated, [and he is unqualified to judge spiritual matters].
 **The LORD’s Counsel – We are to TO BUY from HIM.
~ Pure Gold
~ White Garments
~ Eye salve

Revelation 3: 17 – 18**
Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and

do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

I counsel you TO BUY from ME gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and

white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

**3.   Disobedience.

1 Samuel 15: 22 – 23**
So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the

Voice of the LORD ? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.
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.”

**Choose Life and Blessing – Denying Self.

Mark 8: 34 – 35**
When HE had called the people to HIMself, with HIS disciples also, HE said to them,

“Whoever desires to come after ME, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow ME.
For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for MY sake and the Gospel’s will save it.”

**~ Sons of Jacob.
~ Reference Genesis 29: 31 – 35;  30: 1 – 25.**

**Reuben : -
Genesis 29: 31 – 32 (AMP)**
Now when the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, HE made her able to bear children, but

Rachel was barren.
Leah conceived and gave birth to a son and named him Reuben (see, a son !), for she said,

“Because the LORD has seen my humiliation and suffering; now my husband will love me

[since I have given him a son].”

**After Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin...**

**Genesis 35: 21 – 22**
Then Israel journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.
And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine; and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve.

**40 years later, before he died, Jacob prophesied over his sons – To give them Blessings ;
Reuben and Simeon and Levi were condemned.
Genesis 49: 3 – 4 (AMP)**“Reuben, you are my firstborn; my might, the beginning of my strength and vigor,

Pre-eminent in dignity and preeminent in power [that should have been your birthright].
But unstable and reckless and boiling over like water [in sinful lust], you shall not excel or

have the pre-eminence [of the firstborn], because you went up to your father’s bed [with Bilhah];

You defiled it--he went up to my couch.”

**Moses interceded and reversed Reuben’s curse :
Deuteronomy 33: 6**
“Let Reuben live, and not die, nor let his men be few.”
 **Reuben and his descendants never did excel.
1.   Firstly Reuben was favored as first-born – Position of honour and power, he lost it.
2.   Moses spoke Blessing and yet they never lived to their potential.
~ Non of Reuben’s descendants excel. In fact, his descendant Dathan and Abiram took part in**

 **rebellion against Moses.
 Reference Numbers 16: 1 – 3.**
**~ Disturbing Choice of the 2 tribes who were contented to stay outside of the Land Promised to**

 **Abraham. Reference Numbers 32: 1 – 5.
~ In the great struggles of the Nation against the enemies who oppressed them,**

 **they did not take part.

Judges 5: 15 – 16 (AMP)**
“And the heads of Issachar came with Deborah; as Issachar, so was Barak; into the valley they rushed

at his heels; among the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.
Why [Reuben] did you linger among the sheepfolds, to hear the piping for the flocks ?

Among the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.”

**These tribes were contented to stay where they were – seemed good enough for them.**

**But fell into complete Apostasy, and GOD allowed them to be carried away by the Assyrian.
Reference 1 Chronicles 5: 25 – 26.**

**Simeon and Levi.
Genesis 29: 33 – 34 (AMP)**
Then she conceived again and gave birth to a son and said,

“Because the LORD heard that I am unloved, HE has given me this son also.”

So she named him Simeon (GOD hears).

She conceived again and gave birth to a son and said, “Now this time my husband will become

attached to me [as a companion], for I have given him three sons.” Therefore he was named Levi.

**Incident of Dinah – Simeon and Levi Revenged.
Reference Genesis 34

Genesis 49: 5 – 7**“Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.

Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly;

For in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.
Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel !

I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.”

**~ Simeon’s tribes scattered and finally absorbed by Judah.
~ In the Blessing of Moses before he died, Moses did not include Simeon’s tribes.

Moses Blessed Levi.
Deuteronomy 33: 8 – 11 (AMP)**
Of Levi he said, “Your Thummim and Your Urim belong to Your godly man [Aaron],

whom You tested and proved at Massah, with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah;

who said of his father and mother, ‘I did not consider them’; Nor did he acknowledge his brothers,

Nor did he regard his own sons, for the priests observed Your Word, and kept Your Covenant.
“The priests shall teach Your Ordinances (Judgments) to Jacob, and Your Law to Israel.

They shall put incense before You, and whole burnt offerings on Your Altar.
“O LORD, bless Levi’s substance (ability), and accept and take pleasure in the work of his hands;

Crush and shatter the loins of those who rise up against him, and of those who hate him, so that

they do not rise again.”

**The tribe of Levi turned and dedicated themselves to serve the LORD in the incident of the Golden Calf.
Exodus 32: 26 (AMP)**
Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the LORD’s side, come to me !”

And all the sons of Levi [the priestly tribe] gathered together to him.

**Exodus 32: 28 – 29 (AMP)**
So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people [of Israel]

were killed that day.
Then Moses said [to the Levites], “Dedicate yourselves today to the LORD - for

each man has been against his own son and his own brother [in his attempt to escape execution] –

so that HE may restore and bestow HIS Blessing on you this day.”

**~ They became a blessing to others and themselves.**

 **As Priestly tribe, they taught GOD’s Way to the others.
~ Moses and Aaron were from the Levites tribe, sons of godly parents.

~ Phinehas. Reference Numbers 25: 11 – 13.
~ Godly Zeal stopped the plaque.**

**~ Ezra – Restored the Nations after captivity.
~ John the Baptist – Prepared the Way for the LORD.**

**Because they turned to the LORD, the curse was turned into Blessing.**

**GOD wants to Bless each one of us. HE has no pleasure in our defeat.
Hebrews 7: 25**
Therefore HE is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to GOD through HIM, since

HE always lives to make intercession for them.

**Romans 5: 10**
For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to GOD through the Death of HIS Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by HIS Life.
 **Colossians 3: 1 – 2**
If then you were raised with CHRIST, seek those things which are above, where CHRIST is,

Sitting at the Right Hand of GOD.
Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

**As Moses had commanded :
Deuteronomy 30: 19**
I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you LIFE and DEATH, BLESSING and CURSING ; therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both you and your descendants may live.