**Aflame Sunday Celebration Message – 21 January 2018**

**Elder : Elder Benny Suwarno**

**Theme : CHRIST's Mind – To ENGAGE & To BEAR FRUITS in Every Good Work (2)**

**Last Week we have learnt from Elder Stephanie :**

* **We are All GOD's Masterpiece, Created aNew in CHRIST JESUS so we can do the**

**Good Things HE planned for us long ago.**

* **All are Chosen to be Masterpieces to Bear Fruits thru Good Works that will**

**Impact our Communities.**

* **Relate and Engage with our Communities to Bring GOD's Hope to the hopeless, GOD's Love to the rejected, GOD's Peace to the restless, GOD's Joy to the sorrowful in heart.**

**Aflame Community Church – Mission Statement :**

A Church Aflame with GOD’s Heart in Worship and Prayer, by Living Passionately according to HIS Word and HIS Purpose, so as to Impact our Communities with Love, Hope, Faith, Peace and Joy.

**As we Start 2018, Let us ALL Run Together in Unity with One Heart and One Purpose with**

**Full of Expectation to Advance as One Body, to SOW and to be Fruitful in Every Good Work.**

**Philippians 2: 2 (AMP)**

Make my joy complete by being of the Same Mind, having the Same Love (toward one another),

Knit together in spirit, intent on One Purpose (and living a life that reflects your Faith and spreads the Gospel – the Good News regarding Salvation through Faith in CHRIST).

**2 Corinthians 2: 15 – 17 (NLT)**

Our lives are a CHRIST-like fragrance rising up to GOD. But this fragrance is perceived differently

by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.

To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are

being saved, we are live-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?

You see, we are not like many hucksters who preach for personal profit. We preach the Word of GOD with sincerity and with CHRIST's Authority, knowing that GOD is watching us.

**We are not Huckster trying to sell or Convince others about the Good News (Bible-bashing).**

**We are to Engage with our Communities by Building Genuine Relationships with Sincere Care and Right Motives, to Lead as many to CHRIST.**

**2 Corinthians 1: 12 (AMP)**

This is our (reason for) proud confidence: our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world (in general), and especially toward you, with Pure Motives and Godly Sincerity, not in human wisdom, but in the Grace of GOD (that is, HIS Gracious Lovingkindness that leads people to CHRIST and Spiritual Maturity).

**Aflame Core Value no. 8 – Sincere and Truthful Relationship**

We believe in Building Personal Relationships in our Communities, with Sincere Care and Concern,

by Sharing the Truth in Love, and Leading them to Discover GOD’s Purpose in their lives.

**Engaging with our communities – To SOW.**

**S – Show Sincere Care and Concern.**

**1 Timothy 1: 5**

Now the Purpose of the Commandment is Love from a pure heart, from a good Conscience, and

from sincere Faith.

**John 13: 35 (AMP)**

By this everyone will know that you are MY disciples, if you have Love and Unselfish Concern for

one another.

**Quote ~ “People won't care how much you know until they know how much you care”.**

**Matthew 5: 46 – 47 (NLT)**

“If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that?

Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.

If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.”

**Aflame Core Value no. 7 – Compassion For All**

We believe in having Compassion for All people in every community, Christian or Non-Christians,

of all races & culture, and of all walks of life.

**We Engage by Finding Common Ground to Relate with as many, to Build Sincere Relationships that will Lead them to JESUS.**

**1 Corinthians 9: 19 – 20 (Message), 22b – 23 (NLT)**

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily

become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, non-religious, metiulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized- whoever.

I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in CHRIST.

Yes, I try to find Common Ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.

I do everything to spread the Good News and share its blessings.

**O – Opportunities.**

**As we Relate and Build Genuine Relationship, we are to Pray for Opportunities in**

**Every Situation, with Thankful Heart.**

**Colossians 4: 2 – 4 (NLT / Message)**

Devote yourselves to prayer with alert mind and a thankful heart.

Pray for us, too, that GOD will give us many opportunities to speak about HIS Mysterious Plan concerning CHRIST. That is why I am here in chains.

Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude.

Don’t forget to pray for us, that GOD will open doors for telling the Mystery of CHRIST, even while

I’m locked up in jail. Pray that every time I open my mouth I’ll be able to make CHRIST plain as day

to them.

**Apostle Paul while locked up in jail, could be complaining / grumbling / having self pity.**

**Instead, he was Thankful and See Opportunities.**

**The LORD can open up Opportunities for us to Impact our Communities even during time of challenges and hardship.**

**Apostle Paul Led others to the LORD and Discipled them while he was in prison.**

**One of the man is Omnesimus. Who is he ?**

**Philemon 10 – 11 (AMP)**

I appeal to you for my (own spiritual) child Omnesimus, whom I fathered (in the faith) while a captive

in these chains. Once he was useless to you, but Now he is indeed useful to you as well as to me.

**Omnesimus was Philemon’s run-away slave, who might have stolen from him.**

**In Verse 18, Paul mentioned to Philemon that if Omnesimus has wronged him in any way,**

**or owed him anything, to charge it to Paul’s account.**

**In CHRIST, Anyone can be changed and transformed. No one is useless, all can be Useful.**

**He was Discipled by Paul to be Fruitful. No one is to be written off.**

**2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 17 (Message)**

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look.

We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know.

We certainly don't look at HIM that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that Anyone united with the MESSIAH gets a Fresh Start, is created New. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons!

**~ Ref 2 Timothy 2: 21** – **All can be a Vessel for Honor, Sanctified and Useful for the Master,**

 **Prepared for Every Good Work.**

**~ In Colossian 4: 9, Omnesimus was one of Paul’s disciple who was sent by Paul to strengthen**

 **the Colossian Church.**

**As we are Thankful in Every Situation, we’re able to See Opportunities and our**

**Sharing of our Faith becomes more Effective.**

**Colossians 3: 17**

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the LORD JESUS, giving thanks to GOD the FATHER through HIM.

**Opposite of being Thankful = Unthankful, Ungrateful, Unappreciative, Discontent.**

**Spirit of ingratitude will harden our heart towards GOD and others.**

**This will cause us to become discontented, self centered and having self pity**

**> Full of self > No room for the LORD JESUS and other people.**

**Philippians 2: 14 – 15**

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.

**To pray against the Enemy, Not to Hinder GOD's Given Opportunity.**

**Romans 1: 9 – 10 (NLT), 13 (NKJ)**

GOD knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to GOD, Whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about HIS SON.

One of the things I always pray is for Opportunity, GOD willing, to come at last to see you.

Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now). That I might have some fruit among you also, just as among other gentiles.

**1 Peter 4: 7**

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

**Let us Be Ready to Seize GOD’s Given Opportunity wisely. Do NOT miss it or procrastinate.**

**Colossians 4: 5 (AMP)**

Conduct yourself with wisdom in your interactions with outsiders (non-believers), make the most of each opportunity (treating it as something precious).

**Ephesians 5: 15 - 16‬ (AMP)**

Therefore see that you walk carefully (living life with Honor, Purpose and Courage, shunning those who tolerate and enable evil), not as the unwise but as wise (sensible, intelligent, discerning people).

Making the most of your time (on earth, recognizing and take advantage of each opportunity and

using it with wisdom and diligence) because the days are (filled with) evil.

**W – Witness.**

**We are to Be Ready as Willing Vessels, to be Led and Guided by the HOLY SPIRIT to**

**Sow the Truth, with the Right Heart and Right Attitude.**

**1 Peter 3: 14 - 16‬ (Message)**

Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before CHRIST, your MASTER.

Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you’re living the way you are and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before GOD so that when people throw mud at you,

none of it will stick. They’ll end up realizing that they’re the ones who need a bath.

**1 Peter 3: 15b - 16a (NLT)**

And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear.

**Utmost Courtesy = Gentle and Respectful Way.**

**Right Heart and Attitude = Humility, Out of GOD’s Love in our Hearts.**

**Not by arguing or debating or trying to convince, but**

**In Love, Sharing the Truth and not out of self righteous attitude.**

**2 Timothy 2: 23 (NLT)**

Again I say, don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights.

**2 Timothy 2: 24 (Message)**

GOD’s servant must not be argumentative, but a gentle listener and a teacher who keeps cool,

working firmly but patiently with those who refuse to obey.

You never know how and when GOD might sober them up with a change of heart and a

turning to the Truth, enabling them to escape the devil’s trap, where they are caught and

held captive, forced to run his errands.

**With the Right Heart and Right Attitude, Sharing in Humility;**

**Not forgetting that we were once lost, foolish and disobedient.**

**Titus 3: 2 – 6 (NLT)**

They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarelling. Instead, they should be gentle and show

true humilty to everyone. Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient.

We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But when GOD our SAVIOR revealed HIS Kindness and Love, HE saved us, not because of the righteous we had done, but because of HIS Mercy. HE washed away our sins,

giving us a new birth and new life through the HOLY SPIRIT.

HE generously poured out the SPIRIT upon us through JESUS CHRIST our SAVIOR.

**Colossians 4: 6 (AMP)**

Let your speech at all times be gracious and pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you will know

how to answer each one (who questions you).

**To Be Willing and Generous with our Time and our Life for others.**

**To Invest into their lives as others have invested into ours.**

**1 Thessalonians 2: 8 (NLT)**

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only GOD's Good News but our own lives, too.

**Acts 2: 46 – 47**

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house,

they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, Praising GOD and having Favor with

All the People. And the LORD added to the Church daily those who were being saved.

**We are All GOD's Ambassadors, Representing CHRIST in our marketplaces,**

**Building Genuine Relationships, Awaiting and Expecting GOD's Given Opportunity**

**to SOW and to Reap.**