The Fellowship in Winnipeg Topic: The Covenant Speaker:Bro Samuel Agboola

These are days that can be likened to the days of Abraham. In *Genesis* 15, God made a covenant with Abram. The Lord spoke to Him and he believed, and God said this was counted to him as righteousness.

In Chapter 16, there seemed to be a detour in his walk where he took Hagar as a concubine. Hence, in Chapter 17, God said "Abraham, walk before me and be blameless". This is a time to go back to the basics. How has your Christian journey been since you first believed? Have you deviated? Don't do things as though you are your own. Let His eyes guide you. This is the time to walk under the glorious light of His presence. God had to re enact the covenant, by cutting away the flesh. This is where we are, we need to ask ourselves what we are doing. If Jesus comes right now, what would He say to you? Well done? Or Get away from Me. We must begin to re evaluate our lives. The Lord is saying to us, walk thou before me and be blameless.

God values covenants above other things. Every man that will work with God must know His covenant. We are covenant Children. We may have broken the terms of the covenant or tried to do things to help God keep the covenant, like Abraham did, but God is coming back to us and is saying, walk before Me and be blameless. The covenant He has with us is not grievous, but it is to express His love. Our safety depends on this covenant, our future depends on it. The tomorrow belongs to those who have come to terms with the covenant of God. It is for those who have made a covenant with Him by sacrifice. It is written that the people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge, *Hosea 4:6*. Don't be among them, know what is written of you.

In the book of Malachi 2:4, we see a covenant that was established with Levi. This covenant was for life and peace. The whole world is looking for life and peace. We are not to fear their fear, because we have abundant life and peace in Jesus. This is what man lost at the beginning and this is what God came to restore. Levi feared the Lord and hence the covenant was given to Him. The fear of the Lord makes you love righteousness, maintain peace with your brethren and walk before God and be blameless. This covenant is within you, you don't need to look for this anywhere else. Wherever the scripture says God has given you something, don't gloss over it because you need it; He gives you only what you need. He didn't just give you life and peace, He gave it to you by the covenant. If you do not belong to the covenant, you cannot access life and peace no matter what you do. You don't have access to life and peace because you are good, but because of the covenant.

In a covenant, there is something expected of you and something you expect. An example is if you want to build a house, you enter into an agreement with a contractor who builds the house. The contractor can always lay claim on the client's money because they made a covenant. The old covenant (the mosaic covenant) was like this, it was two sided. *Hebrews* 8:7 says that if the first covenant had not been faulty, there was no need to create another covenant, based on better promises. God had fault with those who were supposed to keep the covenant. In every covenant, there is an expectation, a promise. When we look at the covenant we have with God, based on the terms of the promise, it becomes more exciting. The whole of the promise can be looked at in these two dimensions; life and peace. Because of the days we are in and the days that are to come, each one of us must come to terms with these truths, that God will ensure that our life and peace is undisturbed.

Hebrews 6:13-15 KJV

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, [14] Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. [15] And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

When we look at the promise that God gave to Abraham, it was enacted in a blessing, hence we must make it a habit to bless ourselves. In the book of *Genesis 1:26-30*, this is the first point of reference to man. As we arrived on the scene, the first thing that God said is a blessing. Every other promise that comes to us is a further elaboration of this one. As you go on in life, anything that is not in alignment with this should be thrown away. This promise can be grouped into two; life and Peace. The first four parts of the blessing (Be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth and subdue) are life and the other (dominion) is peace. It is only when we are fruitful that we can multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it. It is via life that we have dominion which secures peace. The covenant of life and peace is assured you. He moved further to assure you with an oath that it is yours.

What is Life?

This is the Divine life, the life of God Himself, which is superior to the life of man. It is the uncreated life that he gave to man. When God created man, He closed the aspect of natural life and entered into rest. The next creation that He made, the new creation man, was out of life that was not created. This is the very life of God. The eternal life is not one that deteriorates, it generates life. It does not depend on the things outside. The Divine life does not need anything from outside. It is important that we know what the Divine life is. The Divine life swallows up the dying process. This is a life that is beyond the natural. God has called us into that estate of life. This Life is the life of God, the breath of God in you and me. We need to know what this Life is meant to be and what it is meant to achieve in us, if not, we will fear the fears of the natural man. This Life will make you to be fruitful. It makes you to multiply. You will not diminish. When God gave the children of Israel the land of promise, He told them, I will not drive all the nations immediately, if not the beast will increase, Deuteronomy 7:22. But He said as you increase, the nations would reduce their own boundary. We need to run away from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, no matter how much it is enticing, but we must eat of the tree of life.

There is a battle for life at this point and hospitals are not helping. There is a Life in you that is given to you by covenant, search the scripture and discover this Life. This Life swallows up death in victory. It is the Life Jesus used here on earth and He left it for you to continue on here. We need to be more conscious about it. It continues to grow and expand; it is not a static life. This is because the ultimate is to have dominion. It is already in you. You only need to give it the chance to grow. It sets you free from the law of sin and death, Romans 8:2. God said this covenant of life is going to be put in our heart and written in our minds, Jeremiah 31:33. It is in our hearts, the seat of wisdom and affection towards God and it is in our mind, the seat of understanding, not in a paper or a book. Therefore, guard your heart with all diligent for out of it are the issues of life.

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-24