The Fellowship in Winnipeg June 13th , 2021 Topic: The Perfection of our faith: Seven indicator blocks to confirm the great Hope (Via God) Speaker: Bro Chidera Bisong

This meditation considers the great and precious promises God has given to us to enable us partake of His nature. It also explores the building blocks we add to our faith to partake of these promises. If a person is admitted into Harvard, there are certain things the individual needs to do to ensure that he remains admitted and not expelled from the university. In a similar way, these promises are the seven building blocks we need to add to ensure our part in these promises given freely to all believers.

Block 5: Godliness.

Godliness is an area most ignore; however, this is a clear evidence of the presence and love of God in an individual. In ancient Rome, there were code of conducts called the Roman Virtue. This were conducts that all true Romans must abide by. It was also known as the Roman way or Via Romana, which was a set of moral principles that they believed helped Rome conquer and civilize the world. One of these was Pietas, which meant patriotism and devotion to others. The Word for godliness was Eusebia which means piety towards God. Every Roman was obligated to serve Rome and fulfil not just religious but all requirements of the state. Godliness is depicting actions or a life that lives by the doctrines of God.

In *Mark 12:16-17*, Jesus says, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that belong to Him. Godliness speaks of reverence and piety. *Psalm 1* differentiates a godly man from an ungodly. Whereas the ungodly man sits among scoffers, walks in the counsel of other ungodly and sinners, the godly delights in the Law of the Lord. He meditates day and night on this Law. A lack of delight in God's law is a clear sign of a path towards ungodliness. How can one obey the law if they never meditated or delighted in it? However, this is a spiritual disease that plagues a lot of believers today, where they can spend hours on social media, but cannot stand a few hours in God's presence. As <u>Titus 1:1</u> says, Godliness is a response to acknowledging the truth of God's word. This law is what converts and changes us.

<u>Hebrews 12:28-29</u> admonishes that in light of becoming a citizen of heaven, we must be driven by the fear of God and godly reverence. Why? Because as much as our King is benevolent and a loving father, He is a consuming fire. Nadab and Abihu were priests unto God, however, the moment they offered a strange offering before Him, outside of what He had instructed, He killed them, and their father, Aaron was not allowed to mourn. In response to their death, God told Aaron in <u>Leviticus 10:1-3</u>, that He must be sanctified in the heart of all that near Him. This means that these people must be consecrated and dutiful to Him. He also said He will be glorified in the eyes of the people. This means that the servant of the Lord who serves the people must do so in a way that all the glory goes to the King and not themselves. Often

the church in a bid for acceptance and accommodation blur the line between righteousness and iniquity. A priest of God is to Glorify God and encourage reverence for God. We are to bring people into the household of faith, but not leave them as they were before Christ. We are set apart from the world and are to live as such.

Fruits of Godliness:

- 1. Fear of the Lord. *Revelations 14:7*. The command to all flesh is to fear God and keep his commandment.
- Devotion: Job 1:5-8 shows Job sanctified his children out of reverence for God. Cornelius was also described as a devout man in Acts 10:1-2. He gave alms to the community.

The bible says the Lord sets apart the godly for himself, *Psalm 4:3*. Godliness is to seek God's way in every matter. King David was a man set apart for God, why? He always sought God on every matter, and He greatly revered God. One example of note was when His wives and children were captured in <u>1 Samuel</u> <u>30:1-25</u>. He was weary and the people around him were going to stone Him. Rather than presumptuously go to war, He sought the will of God to know if he should go at all. Another example was in 2 Samuel 5:23-25, when he was fighting the philistine. He had sought God on this matter on a previous time, however, this did not prevent him from seeking God again for how to go about the war this time. God told him to go by the mulberry trees and when he heard a sound on the mulberry trees. This is godliness. This fear of the Lord makes us endeared to the Lord and make us matured sons. May the Lord instill His fear in us. Amen

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

Psalm 4:3 KJV

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit. Amen