



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you September 2022 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. This month's edition is on Jonah the Prophet.

Jonah prophesied around 782-753 B.C during the time of Jeroboam II in the Northern Kingdom. He ministered after Elisha and before Amos and Hosea. Nineveh was the capital of Assyrian Empire and at that time, the cruelty of Assyrians had become legendary. Graphic details of their treatment of captives have been found in ancient records especially from 9th to 17th century B. C. Thus, when God called Jonah to go preach repentance to wicked Ninevites, knowing that mercy would follow, he turned down the assignment and ran. Jewish nationalism and the blinding of God's prophets to God's worldwide purpose and plan of salvation may be another factor that influenced his decision. He was eventually compelled by divine discipline and chastisement to undertake the assignment.

Jonah's preaching was a success, but the preacher came away angry and discouraged. He had to learn firsthand God's compassion for sinful men and His redeeming love for everyone He created both Jews and Gentiles.

Jonah's desire to see his negative prophesy fulfilled and the Ninevites destroyed was an evidence that that something was wrong with his heart and pointed to his need of sanctification, cleansing and purity of heart.

Evidently, any minister or believer who have Jonah's kind of heart and attitude have the same need today. The scriptures stated that there is joy in heaven before God's holy angels when sinners repent. If what makes God and angels happy saddens a believer or minister, something is seriously wrong. A true godly person desires in all he/she does to make God happy and please the Lord at all times; he loves what God loves and hates what He hated.

Jonah's historical experiences and Nineveh's response teaches obedience, immutability of God's counsel, His faithfulness, longsuffering and compassion. We still need these lessons today. It is my sincere prayer that these divine attributes and other lessons highlighted in this edition of Watchman's Trumpet will transform your life, and enrich further your experiences and walk with God in Jesus Name. Welcome!

THE RUNAWAY PROPHET

"Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord" Jonah 1:1-3.



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The book of Jonah is unique among Old Testament books because of its message of hope of salvation to the Gentiles. In it, it became clear that the God of the Jew loves the Gentiles too and wanted them as well as all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Set within a wider context, Jonah's commission to go to Nineveh a Gentile capital city to preach, his initial reluctance and disobedience, as well as subsequent dissatisfaction about how God granted salvation to the city when they appropriately responded to God's message clearly shows Jewish prejudice about admittance of Gentiles into the blessings and benefits of God's kingdom. This prejudice which continued in New Testament and resonates at the time of the Apostle in the Book of Acts. We from it learn that God's thoughts clearly differ from that of man and His ways are higher than that of men.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Evangelistic Mission to a wicked city
2. Minister's flee from duty post and responsibilities
3. God's chastisement to convert erring preacher and idolatrous people

1. Evangelistic commission to a wicked city

“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me” **Jonah 1:2.**

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” **Mark 16:15**

God sent Jonah to go to Nineveh and rebuke them for their sins. Ancient Nineveh was the foremost city in the world at that time. Men saw their greatness but God saw their wickedness. None of men's wickedness are hidden before God. God is still concerned about wickedness perpetrated in the world today. As He sent to warn Nineveh to desist from wickedness, He is warning all wicked men today to desist.

God called Jonah to labour for the salvation of Ninevites. It is a great privilege for God to call us to serve others in His name and He is much displeased if we reject such calls. Our rejection of a mandate to contribute in any significant way to save others from divine judgment and damnation is a height of ingratitude for our own salvation.

Leading divine mandate today is to preach the Gospel and warn men of the consequences of sin and wickedness. The Lord expects that a leading responsibility of preachers to sinners in their generation is the preaching of sermons on the necessity of repentance and Holy living.

The privilege that Nineveh has was one that Sodom and Gomorrah never had. We live today in days of overwhelming gospel privileges and opportunities. Those who reject, neglect or abuse these privileges shall not escape divine judgment.

2. Minister's flee from duty post and responsibilities

“But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, ...” **Jonah 1:3**

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” **Hebrews 4:13.**

Jonah has been ministering in the Northern Kingdom in the days of Jeroboam II before he received the commission to go and cry against the rampant wickedness in Nineveh 2 Kings 14:25. He not only rejected God's call to Nineveh, he ran away from his duty post in Israel. He went to Joppa, boarded a ship going to Tarshish in attempt to get as far away as possible from the assignment and from God. He actually travelled in the opposite direction. Nineveh the capital of Assyria at that time was on the North East and lies about 500miles from Israel. Jonah was on his way to Tarshish estimated to be 2,500miles west of the Holy Land. He later confessed that he did so because he did not want Nineveh to be saved. He desired that the city would be destroyed (Jonah 4:1). God sent a great storm into the sea that threatened to destroy and sink it. Defiance and rebellion against God comes at a cost.

The outcome of Jonah's experiment here revealed how unwise is it to want to flee from God's presence. The Lord is not only angry with sin and wickedness on earth, He is angry too when preachers who are commissioned to reach them and bring them back to the Lord forsake their duty post or reject His call; He is displeased when we are indifferent or complacent about the spiritual state of others. The kind of storm that God sent after Jonah may find expression in anything and everything around a disobedient and rebellious believer or minister today. God will make the way of a backslider difficult.



3. God's chastisement to convert erring preacher and idolatrous people

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” **Hebrews 12:5-6**



God disciplines those that He loves. He causes a storm to come into the lives of those who step out of His will and remain outside for very long. In response to the danger they were in, Jonah's shipmate began praying, each person to his own god. They threw their cargo overboard to lighten the ship. Thus, these mariners were willingly sacrificed their goods to save their lives. What shall it profit a man who gains the whole world but loses his soul? We must be wise. Jonah slept while others prayed, later he was compelled to pray when other are sleeping. We must learn to do the right thing at the right time.

When eventually they cast lot, they discovered that Jonah was responsible for their woes. He told them that he evaded divine assignment and was running away from God. He requested that they should cast him into the sea when all else failed. They did and the sea became calm. This experience converted the mariners who offered sacrifices to God and made vows. God ordered a great fish to swallow Jonah and he was inside the fish for three days. God has ability to calm the storm in our lives but it is dangerous to become business partner, enter into marriage relationship or embark on a journey with someone running away from God's presence. Jesus stated clearly that without Him we could achieve nothing. Absolute and implicit obedience can save the believer or minister from loads and bundle of troubles and heartbreaks.





ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For September 2022

1. Thank God for the sufficiency of His grace and provisions of the cross to save all who come to Him through Christ
2. Pray against indifference and complacency about the salvation of others; pray against prejudice and religious bigotry
3. Pray against unforgiving spirit, malice, resentment and bitterness, pray for freedom from carnality and pride
4. Pray for cleansing from filthiness of the flesh and the spirit; pray for perfection in holiness and fear of God
5. Pray for believer and minister’s sanctification and holy living
6. Pray for grace for absolute and implicit obedience to God.
7. Pray for the mind of Christ and grace to love others as He loves them
8. Pray for the conversion of multitude and revival of true religion in our world

“ *men ought always to pray, and not to faint,*’ **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

For more info on the Mission, log on to:
www.w.watchmanoutreachmission.org

PRAYING IN THE BELLY OF FISH

“ ... I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice”
Jonah 2:2.

Jonah in chapter two recorded his prayer to God out of the belly of the fish and his deliverance at the end of it. The context and content of his prayer is the focus of our message as we consider these three subtopics:

1. Seeking God in times of affliction
2. Sincere confession and repentance of a penitent
3. Supernatural deliverance from death and hell

1. Seeking God in times of affliction

“Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms” **James 5:13.**

“And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” **Psalm 50:15.**

Jonah when in trouble prayed. He prayed from inside his prison, he prayed from inside the belly of the fish. The Bible enjoined that those in affliction should pray and send out prayer requests. There is no place, position or circumstance from which if we offer sincere whole-hearted prayer to God that God will not answer. He commanded us to call upon Him in the day of trouble **Psalm 50:15.** Our prayers to God are better late than never.

It is ironical that Jonah slept while others prayed. Now the sea is calm. The mariners are at rest and perhaps some of them are sleeping but Jonah is praying.

Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. Relationship with God strengthens our convictions and predispose our petition to speedy clearance in the courts of heaven. The Lord delights in listening to and communing with His people. Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord and the

nation that He has chosen as His inheritance. Jonah in his prayer like the Psalmist described his trouble. He was like a man who suddenly awake and finds himself in the grave, brought there by the Lord to learn important lesson in life that he could not have learnt in any other way.



2. Sincere confession and repentance of a penitent

“Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me” **Psalm 51:2, 3.**

Though threatened by the splashes of water all around with sea weeds wrapped around his head and the fish's flesh or muscles encasing him like mountain, He prayed. His self-consciousness in the belly of the fish was a miracle. It was like receiving offer of a second chance, of life from the pit or from the dead. This was possible because, at the time he was about to choke, he remembered God and prayed. He confessed his sins and repented. His petition rose to heaven God's holy Temple. He rejoiced in the love, mercy and goodness of a God who can hear and answer prayers. He proclaimed the worthlessness of idol and idolatry. Those who worship images are by implication turned against God the source of grace and mercy. They are by so doing rejecting life-saving and necessary help. We should be glad and praise God that we serve a living God who can hear and answer prayers as well as help His people in distress who call upon Him.

Jonah promised that when His deliverance is complete, he would offer peace offering. He will praise God. He will pay his vows. Jonah obviously make vows to God in the course of His prayers in the belly of the fish. He confessed that *“salvation belong to God”* The Lord is the savior of all men. His experience revealed it to be so. At the point of that declaration, the Lord commanded the fish to vomit Jonah out upon dry ground. This story revealed that God does grants men a

second chance. Those in need of such should not despair. We are to repent and trust, keep faith and hope alive in God. He will send help to us.

Jesus acknowledged that Jonah was a historical figure. He compared Jonah's experience in fish belly with His lying in the grave before resurrection for three days. The vomiting of Jonah on to a dry ground after spending three days in the belly of the fish is a picture of Christ's resurrection. Repentance and salvation of multitude followed the vomiting of Jonah, so is that of the resurrection of Christ. The preaching of Christ's resurrection brought salvation and it is still bringing salvation to multitude today.

3. Supernatural deliverance from death and hell

“But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord. And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land”
Jonah 2:9, 10.

What happened to Jonah, that is, his survival in the belly of the fish was a miracle. God practically stopped the fish's digestive secretion and supernaturally provided oxygen in such an unusual environment. God is still working miracles today. Day by day, He keeps alive those who in challenging and difficult times rely on Him. Jonah's experience teaches us to call upon God when in trouble. We are not to observe lying vanities or forsake God. We should not go down to Egypt to seek help when in trouble. We must keep in mind that salvation is of the Lord. Whatever He will not do, no man can do. He loves His children. He is always ready and willing to take care of them. Even those who backslide like Jonah can be restored. They can be welcomed back again into the covenant of peace and joy once they acknowledge their sinfulness and repent.



RENEWED COMMISSION AND RESTORATION TO MINISTRY

“And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee” **Jonah 3:1, 2.**

“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance” **Romans 11:29.**

The deliverance of Jonah was followed by a renewal of his commission to preach at Nineveh. The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time telling him to arise and go to Nineveh to preach in it as earlier directed. Nineveh was described as a great city covering a distance of about three day’s Journey. In medieval times, scholars estimated this to be an average of about 60 miles. The message God gave to Jonah that he was commanded to preach was short and straight forward. The message states *“In forty days, Nineveh shall be overthrown”* on account of the great wickedness being perpetrated in the city (Jonah 1:2).

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. God’s hatred of wicked practices
2. Appropriate response to divine rebuke
3. Divine response to national repentance

1. God’s hatred of wicked practices

“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity ...” **Habakkuk 1:13**

God’s hates wickedness in the past as much as He still does today. We owe the seeming delay of judgment upon the wicked today to God’s long-suffering (1 Peter 2:9). He wanted all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. But ultimately, the wicked shall be turned into hell and all nations that forget God (Psalm 9:17). A parallel should be drawn between Sodom and Gomorrah and the city of



Nineveh Genesis 18:20, 21. The cries of the oppressed and those weeping and crying on account of man’s inhumanity towards their fellow men always rise up into God’s presence to the courts of the judge of the whole earth asking for intervention, for justice and relief. What God said to Nineveh He is saying to wicked men on earth today. Except they repent, they will likewise perish (Luke 13:1).

2. Appropriate response to divine rebuke

“That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more” **Job 34:32.**

“Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” **Isaiah 55:6, 7.**

Even though the preaching of Jonah prescribed no solution, the conscience of the men in the city beginning from the king which sat on the throne to the least person bore record to the faithfulness of the charges against them and revealed to them what they have to do to avert divine judgment. Concerning the message itself, it is instructive that time and men’s circumstance like what Jonah went through did not change the message.

God’s word is eternal and immutable, what God says in the past to all men, He still says today. The message in the word of God proclaiming doom upon the wicked and calling all men to repentance is still the same today. The King of Nineveh by decree proclaimed a fast and demanded an end to the evil and violence perpetrated by all with the hope that God would in response to these show them mercy. God did.

It is interesting to note that even animals fasted in Nineveh. Such was their zeal in turning to God. We learn from the action of Nineveh what true and genuine repentance is all about and we can by that standard judge those who claim to repent or to have repented today. Truly penitent people or individuals must acknowledge their sinfulness confess it to God and pray for forgiveness. They must be ready and willing and take deliberate step to forsake the sins they confessed and embrace righteous living.



3. Divine response to national repentance

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” **2 Chronicles 7:14.**

God’s response is consistent with His nature. Even today, anyone who will sincerely repent and call upon God shall like the Ninevites be forgiven. The Ninevites believed God and responded positively to His message. Responding to God’s message positively and obedience to His words are all work of faith in God. Jesus rebuked the generation that heard Him preach but refuse to yield using Nineveh as test case. (Luke 11:32). His audience had the privilege of listening to a preacher greater than Jonah but remained in unbelief. Nineveh’s response will condemn them on the last day Faith in God will never fail to bring great result.

The faith of Ninevites is evidenced by the genuineness of their repentance and fervency of their prayers. They cried *“mightily”* to God. God heard and answered their prayers. He still does today.

SANCTIFICATION FOR EFFECTIVE REWARDABLE SERVICE

Jonah's last chapter recorded his anger and quarrel with God over the salvation of Ninevites. He was unhappy that Nineveh repented, God forgave them, and overruled the fulfillment of his prophecy of doom and damnation. Jonah would rather prefer to see Nineveh destroyed than saved. He proffered this as the reason why he rejected the commission in the first place and attempted fleeing to Tarshish. The Bible in Jonah 3:10 recorded that God saw Ninevites' response to the warning that He sent to them through Jonah. He observed their penitence and contrition and how they turned from their evil ways. He responded to them in compassion and canceled the destruction He threatened to bring upon them; Jonah had controversy with that. He was unhappy that God will show compassion to another nation beside Israel, especially such a nation like Assyria that poses considerable threat to Israel as a nation. Jonah was unhappy that God's salvation would be extended to a presumed enemy of his nation. But by saving Ninevites God confirmed that He is a God of all and sufficient for all whether Jews or Gentiles.

Jonah hated the people to whom he was sent. He was reluctant to undertake the mission but was compelled to do so by suffering. God blessed and prospered his ministry to Ninevites. Even though the mission succeeded, he was not happy that it did. He has his own motive and agenda different from God's. Heaven rejoiced because of the outcome of Jonah's assignment to Nineveh. But Jonah was sad. He was grieved to the point of desiring to die; an obvious indication that he does not have the mind of Christ and of God. If we have the mind of Christ, We will love what God loves and hate what He hates. We will rejoice over things that make Him happy and be committed to it.

We shall consider these three subtopics:

1. The need for sanctification
2. Cleansing from the spirit's filthiness
3. Unchangeable attributes of God

1. Need for sanctification by ministers

"But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil" Jonah 4:1, 2.

It was obvious from this account that Jonah needed a new heart - a heart of flesh to replace his heart of stone. He needed the sanctification experience and baptism of love - supreme love for God and sacrificial, selfless love to His neighbours whether Jews or Gentiles. The Lord promised to give us a new heart (Ezekiel 36:25-27). Until we have it, our usefulness and fruitfulness in God's kingdom will be limited, being seriously challenged and constrained by selfishness, religious bigotry, stereotypes and insensitivity to the plights and needs of others such as we find in



Jonah. It is the sanctification experience and the gift of a new heart by God that guarantees total and complete victory over sins; whether inward sins or outward sins.

Jonah went out of the town, and took his seat on the east side of the town and made himself a roof of branches and took his seat under its shade till he will see what would become of the town. And the Lord God made a vine come up over Jonah to give him shade over his head. And Jonah was very glad because of the vine. But early on the morning after, God made ready a worm for the destruction of the vine, and it became dry and dead.



"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

2 Corinthians 7:1

Then when the sun came up, God sent a burning east wind: and so great was the heat of the sun on his head that Jonah was overwhelmed, and requested death for himself. He said, *“Death is better for me than life”*. He was the more angry, specifically now for his loss of the vine and his protection from scorching heat. God then drove the lesson home by asking Jonah why he thought that sparing the vine was worth much more than the great city of Nineveh that had more than 120,000 children and many cattle. Surely, the life of one single person in Nineveh was worth much more than thousands of vine. A single soul is worth much more to God than all the treasures in the world. Therefore, believers and ministers should be ready and willing to go to any length and endure anything to get such a soul saved and brought to heaven to live with God eternally in the end.

We find here God’s concern and care for the innocent, for the children and even the animals. Those who have the mind of God should care about these too. The Bible stated clearly that striving with God over any issue attracts curses and could lead to damnation (Isaiah 45:10); much more so to quarrel with God over acts that are consistent with His eternal and unchanging nature.

2. Cleansing from spirit’s filthiness

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” 2Corinthians 7:1.

It is appalling to quarrel with God for being gracious, loving, caring, compassionate and merciful towards others. Rather, we are to endeavour, to have these attributes of His nature impacted and implanted into us so that as He is, so we can be in this world. The whole essence of Christianity and ultimate goal is godliness and Christ-likeness. Anything short of that will make us unprofitable in His service and many make us miss heaven. We must be more interested in seeing many

people become converted and spared the horror of hell. We must labour for it. We must rejoice whenever we see multitude turning to the Lord in repentance.



We must love our enemies and do good to all those who despitefully use and persecute us following the example of Christ and His teaching. We must bear no grudge or animosity against anyone no matter what wrong they may have done against us. We must forgive and continue to forgive. We must have the mind of Christ. We must love what God loves and hate what He hates. As much as it lies with us, we must live peaceably with all men. We must resist whatever thought, idea or suggestion in our mind that will want to make us act contrary to the spirit of love and brotherly kindness.

We must keep in mind that God daily scrutinizes our actions and will appropriately and adequately reward all that we do or suffer for His names sake. We must labour on earth with eternity in view. We must labour with an eye on how we want things to be for us when we come to the end of our earthly journey and eternity. We must keep in mind that one day we shall give account to God regarding our commitment to the duty He assigns to us and how we responded to others in need and those who are hurting. Those who are receiving and enjoying token expression of God’s love and compassion like Jonah should be willing to extend the same to others.

3. Unchangeable attributes of God

“For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed” Malachi 3:6.

In the book of Jonah, everything and everyone changed - the sea, the great fish, Jonah, the Mariners and the people of Nineveh. Only God remained the same and acted as true and consistent with Himself and His nature throughout. Worthy of note is His care, love and compassion towards sinners and all who like Jonah are apt to go astray. The unchangeable attribute of God in a rapidly changing world should inspire our confidence and help us remain attached to Him so He can keep us supplied with grace and the resources we require for daily strength and stability as we execute His will on earth. The book of Jonah revealed clearly that God loves all His creatures whatever their colour or creed. He loves all men whether Jew or Gentile and delights in seeing them get saved to spend eternity with Him. *“For God so love the world that He gave us His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:16.* Christ loves sinners but hates sin. As many as are willing and ready to repent and forsake their sins, He is willing to forgive and receive. Life on earth is probation, we are in the world to get saved and assist others to get saved and prepared for eternity in God’s presence.



TO DOWNLOAD INSPIRING
SERMONS; BOTH MP3 AND
PDF FORMAT, KINDLY LOG
ON TO
www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

William J. Seymour was born on May 2, 1870 in Centerville, Louisiana, as the second of eight children born to parents freed from slavery. Lacking formal education, he taught himself, mainly through reading the Bible. Even from his early years, he had a hunger for spiritual things. At age twenty-five he moved to predominately white Indianapolis, Indiana, where he worked as a hotel waiter.

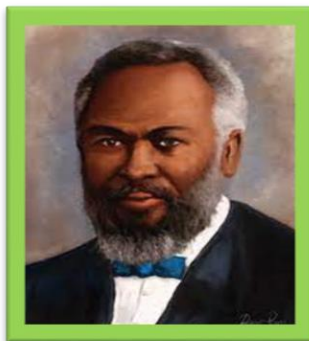
In Indianapolis, he had his own conversion experience, joined Methodist church and became involved in the denomination's holiness movement. In 1901 he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio and continued attending Methodist church. As his involvement with holiness churches and movement deepens, he met the Evening Light Saints and was ordained. After his ordination, he experienced a painful life's trial. He contracted smallpox and lost his sight in one eye. However, this did not stop Seymour. He launched out on itinerant evangelistic ministry.

Later in 1903, he settled in Houston, Texas. Here he was offered the leadership of a small holiness church pastored by Mrs. Lucy Farrow who was leaving the church to work in Kansas Bible school founded by Charles Fox Parham. Parham taught that the evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit was speaking in other tongues. At the school, Farrow had a personal experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues. She came back to Texas and told Seymour and others about her experience. Parham opened a Bible school in Houston; this Seymour attended. The school's training exposed Seymour to the theology of tongues being the evidence of Holy Spirit's baptism.

In February 22 1906, he arrived in Los Angeles on invitation to pastor a small church led by Mrs. Julia Hutchins who wanted to go to Africa to do missions work. His teaching on Baptism in the Holy Spirit was met with mixed reaction; some people liked it while other did not. One person who disagreed with him was Pastor Hutchins herself. She locked him out of the church. Others who received the teaching, especially a couple, the Lees, from Hutchins' church, let him live in their home.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

WILLIAM J. SEYMOUR
1870 - 1922



Here Seymour spent many hours in prayer. The Lees and others joined and a prayer meeting developed. Soon, Seymour was invited to move into the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Asberry, who lived on Bonnie Brae Street. The prayer meeting at the Bonnie Brae Street address would run for hours as people sought God. Many experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and a revival broke out. Seymour also was baptized in the Spirit and spoke with tongues. In April 6, 1906, the group moved to an old building on 312 Azusa Street. This facility was also filled. There was seemingly unending testimonies of healings and supernatural phenomena in the meetings.

Azusa Street revival ran for years and acted as a catalyst for the spread of Pentecostal practices. Its influence extended beyond Los Angeles through evangelism and missionary work. He began publishing a newspaper, The Apostolic Faith, in September 1906. Within one year, its circulation reached 40,000 issues. By 1907, missionaries from Azusa Street had reached Mexico, Canada, Western Europe, the Middle East, West Africa, and parts of Asia. Seymour led the Azusa Mission until the time of his death. He died on September 28, 1922, from a heart attack and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in East Los Angeles.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye".

2 Colossians 3:13

SONG OF THE MONTH

LOWER AND LOWER, DEAR LORD, AT THY FEET

1. Lower and lower, dear Lord, at thy feet,
Seeking thy Spirit, thy mercy so sweet;
Down in our need, blessed Master, we fall,
Lower and lower be Thou all in all.

Refrain:

*Lower and lower, down at thy cross,
All the world's treasure counting but dross;*

Down at thy feet, blessed Saviour, we fall,

Lower, still lower, Christ all in all!

2. 2 Lower and lower, dear Saviour, we pray,
Losing the self-life still more every day;
Weak and unworthy, we're looking above:
Empty us wholly; then fill us with love.
[Refrain]
3. 3 Lower and lower; yet higher we rise
Lifted in Jesus, led on to the skies;
Humbly we follow the way of the cross,
Then, crowns of glory, and gain for all loss. [Refrain]

Author: Eliza E. Hewitt

CONTACT DETAILS

Watchman Outreach Mission
78/80 Nepa (IBEDC)
Building,
Opposite U.I Second Gate
Ibadan, Oyo – State, Nigeria

BANK DETAILS FOR DONATION

Bank: FBN PLC
Acct Name: Watchman Outreach Mission
Account No. C/A 2016363366
GSM No. +234-9026840215,
8033846714
8056671595