

## **BRIDGING THE DIVIDE Intro**

*John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you may ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

My family and I enjoy going away on holidays and by God's grace, we have been able to do that from time to time. One of the things we have noticed over the years is that more often than not, what you see on promotional pictures and the reality on the ground is usually different. On the website, the holiday place looks brilliant but when you get there, it's a totally different case. This is a common phenomenon, and I am sure you all have a story to tell; a story of not getting what was promised.

This is the story of many well-meaning believers whereby the realities of their lives contradict the promises found in God's word. The word says you are healed but you have been in pain for as long as you remember. The word says you are above, but your life has been at the bottom as far as you remember.

I have seen people deserting their faith because they feel let down by God.

How do you reconcile your current reality and the truth found in God's word. That brings me to the title of the upcoming sermons. I want to talk to you on a series titled **BRIDGING THE DIVIDE**.

- We want to address the elephant in the room; the divide that exists between your reality and the promises in God's word.
- Seated here, there are some people who have been asking questions about God's nature and character because your life seems to be everything except what God says.
- Something needs to happen to bring those two worlds together. Just like a bridge would connect two worlds together, we need a bridge to connect these two worlds together.
- The Bible is a story of people who built bridges between their realities and the truth found in God.
  - Abram was found barren but by the end of his life, a nation was in its formative years. What did he do to move from being barren to being called a father of many nations?

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- Moses began as an adopted boy in pharaoh's palace, he later became a wanted fugitive for murder but by the end of his life, Moses was the deliverer of the house of Israel. Again, what did Moses do, that made his reality to collide with God's plans for him?
  - A young shepherd boy, little known in his community by the name of David, ended up being one of the greatest kings of Israel and Judah.
  - Rahab, a prostitute did not die empty handed – she died having given birth to a descended of the Messiah. How could a prostitute end up having such an inheritance.
  - A naïve Peter, a man who always had a neck of putting his foot in his mouth ended up bold in action and pioneered revival during the formative stages of the early church. It was this Peter who thought of establishing tents for Moses, Elijah and Jesus up on the mountain, It was Peter who refused for his feet to be washed by Jesus. It was this Peter who denied the Lord 3 times. But by the time he died, it was a different Peter; he died as one of the pillars in establishing the kingdom of God through crucifixion.
- These were common people who started common but did not die as common people.
  - There is hope for you, my friends; there is hope that your reality can collide with God's promises.
  - Never judge someone based on where they are today, you don't know what tomorrow will bring.
  - The people you are ignoring today, you might need to make an appointment to meet them tomorrow.
  - Treat everyone with utmost care because you don't know when their divide is going to be bridged.
  - But to get to that moment, we need to stay the course, we need to remain resolute in the seasons of contradictions.

*Hebrews 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great recompense of reward. 36 For you have need of patience, so that after you have done the will of God you might receive the promise.*

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- You need to learn to hold on and to hold up because your turn is coming. Let us be like the fathers of faith, who kept faith even though they never received ultimate promise of seeing the Messiah.
- Like our fathers of faith, we must build bridges between our realities and our desired end.
- A bridge is needed to operate in greater exploits because greater exploits await those who now how to build these bridges.
  
- A couple of weeks ago, we were celebrating the passion of Christ, which is the death and the resurrection of Jesus.
- Building up to that moment of His crucifixion, the disciples of Jesus began to be sorrowful and confused. They got discouraged and were not quite sure about the what the future held for them.
- Being aware of their emotional state, Jesus took it upon Himself to strengthen them and to create a sense of hope.
- Jesus began to highlight to them, how it was for their advantage that He should go and where we read, we find Jesus giving them words of encouragement.
- In John 14, Jesus told them that greater works awaited them, and He was the key to greater works.
- Do you believe that you are a candidate for greater work, do you believe that your reality can and will change one day. I for one, believe it strongly with all my heart.
- You and I are destined for greater work, you are destined for a future worth noting.
  
- So, what are the keys of bridging your reality and God's best for you?

### **1. Childlike faith**

- Faith is the currency of the kingdom of God – with much of it, you can do much but with less of it, you will do less as well.

*John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also,*

- Faith will bridge the divide between your current location and God's best for you. My faith and your faith need to encounter the resurrection power of Jesus.

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- If your faith is malfunctioning, do not miss the coming teachings because we are going to create a faith clinic from this pulpit.
- In Mark 9, there is a story of a father whose boy was possessed by a tormenting spirit and when the disciples of Jesus could not heal his son, his faith went into cardiac arrest and began to malfunction. But listen to what he said when Jesus came by:

*Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. 24 And immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.*

- Yes, your faith can be helped, your faith can be strengthened in this coming season.

### **2. Holy Spirit Power**

- Without power and authority, the life of a believer cannot stand the kingdom of darkness.
- Something happens when a believer embraces Holy ghost power – your natural abilities get supercharged by the supernatural of God.
- What was impossible becomes possible through the power of the holy spirit.

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- The promise of the Holy Spirit could only be experienced after Jesus had ascended and presented the request before God.
- In the verse, you can see that greater works are possible because Jesus went to the Father.
- Do you walk in power today, are you aware of what the Holy Spirit can do when you fully embrace Him in your life.
- Jesus was adamant that His disciples needed the Holy Spirit to fulfill their mission and He told them not to leave Jerusalem until they received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Again, we are going to deal with matter at great length in the coming weeks, if not months – so don't miss out on any church service because you will need it.

### **3. Prevailing prayer.**

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- Someone said prayer is an open invitation for divinity to influence the affairs of humanity.
- This is so true because God requires our permission to intervene in our affairs. God is God and can do anything He wants but He respects the principles He established.
- One of those principles is that the earth was given to man to govern and as such God will intervene at the invitation of man.

*Psalms 115:16 The heavens, even the heavens, are Jehovah's; but the earth He has given to the sons of men.*

- When God wanted to operate on earth in a physical and legal way, He had to borrow the body of a man called Jesus to legally operate in a physical way.
- So, Jesus told His disciples that for them to do greater works, they actually needed to engage in prevailing prayer.

*John 14:13 And whatever you may ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

- The word whatever is so inclusive – money is a whatever, favor is a whatever, healing is a whatever, wisdom is a whatever.
- What this means is that what stands between you and greater works is the absence of prayer.
- Again, we are going to deal with what prayer is, why prayer and how to pray in this series.