

## WHEN GIANTS FALL

### PREFACE

Often times, we are treated to shocking stories of the fall of respected Church, public and political leaders. The list of ‘fallen heroes’ is getting longer by the day. Whatever are the causes of their fall; some fortunately, deserve the fall, others, however fall out of carelessness, while a few (very few in our time) fall sacrificially.

God has time and again raised men and women from among us whom He has purposed to use in this world, but very few of them stand out for a decade. Men of God (as we call them) have risen and Men of God have fallen. The advancement of the gospel has in some cases met stiff resistance because the people it is presented to still remember the ‘fallen giants’ and thus conclude (wrongly though) that Christianity is not real. Some fall due to mere carelessness while others deserve to fall, but all the same the consequence are the same: they leave a very bad mark on Christianity.

The purpose of this Bible study series is not to expose these

*When the Giants Fall*

fallen heroes in the faith but rather to explore some of the factors that led and still lead to these falls and perhaps learn a lesson from their predicaments. It is a sobering reality that some of those standing today may fall tomorrow. Having seen the reality of this, Paul warned the early church by saying: **“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you do not fall ”** [1 Corinthians 10:12]. It is those who are standing that fall. Many that have fallen rarely thought that they would fall.

We will look at three Bible giants who fell in their time and compare their situations with ours with the sole reason of learning from them. In the first part of the study we will see the case of one Goliath who by all means deserved to fall. We will then look at King David who fell out of his own carelessness, and finally on our Lord Jesus Christ whose fall was sacrificial. It is my sincere prayer and desire that learning from them, we may be careful how we live.

Enjoy a fruitful study!!

## Part One

### THE FALL OF GOLIATH: A DESERVED FALL

#### Study One:

#### The Goliaths Of This World

*1 Samuel 17: 1-11*

#### Introduction

**T**he world is full of giants of various sorts; giants whose sight threaten and silence multitudes. In our time we have seen or heard of such people rising to power. When they speak, they roar like a lion. SCOM branches have been closed at their commands and members have suffered, been persecuted and suspended under their administration for no apparent reasons.

Church leaders have risen and made every effort to fight against born agains while favouring the 'born againsts'. In some countries, the church has suffered greatly in the hands of those who hate Christianity. Christians are still dying today because of Christ. At times it seems like the children of God are losing; but like Goliath, their fate is already pronounced. They cannot defy the ranks of the Mighty One and live long.

#### Study Questions

##### A. Goliath: A Seasoned Warrior. [vv 1- 7]

1.
  - a. Which nations were engaged in battle in this passage?
  - b. What do you think was the cause of this battle?
2.
  - a. Who was Goliath?
  - b. Humanly speaking, why were the Israelites justly terrified of Goliath?
3. Like Israel, Christians are engaged in battle with the forces of darkness;
  - a. What is the cause of this battle?
  - b. What are the kinds (types) of Goliaths that we are likely to face on the battle field?
  - c. Despite belonging to the mighty army of the Lord, do we often find it easy to face these modern Goliaths?

##### B. GOLIATH: An Impossible enemy! [vv 8-12]

4.
  - a. What are some of the factors that made Israel shrink in the presence of Goliath?
  - b. Was Saul not an anointed King of Israel?
  - c. What did he lack to face Goliath?
5. Most of our prayer sessions focus on binding the devil and his agents as causes of evil in the world,
  - a. By focusing much attention on the devil and not on God, what picture about Christianity and the power

- of the devil do we portray?
- b. How would putting our focus on God build enough confidence in us to face the forces of darkness?
6. “This day, I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other” [vs10]
    - a. What was the reaction of Israel to this open defiance? Was any man found to fight Goliath?
    - b. How do we react to similar challenges in our time?
    - c. Not By Power, Not by Might [Zechariah 4:6-10]
  7. As leader of God’s people, what important things did Saul forget as he faced Goliath? Did he realize that God was on their side?
  8. When you are faced with a challenge that seems beyond your abilities, how do you tend to respond?
  9. What spiritual lessons do we learn from this study concerning the nature of our enemy and his tactics?

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***Memory Verse***  
*On hearing the Philistine’s words,  
Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed  
and terrified (verse 11)*  
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## ***Study 2***

### **THE GOLIATHS ARE DESTINED TO FALL**

#### **Introduction**

It is very unlikely that any of the soldiers in Israel camp ever dreamt that Goliath would fall. In their eye, Goliath was a champion and an impossible enemy. He was super human and covered all over-yes it was practically impossible to fight him using sword and spear. Who could dare draw closer to him and live! Warriors that cannot fight are a disgrace to their citizens! The only possible weapon [missile] that could find its way into Goliaths body was a small stone, shaped in the form of the opening on his forehead. It took, a shepherd boy to see this, with the eyes of faith. It is the mustard seed-size type of faith that brings Goliaths horizontal to the ground! How often we shrink in the face of the many challenges we encounter in our spiritual journey. But the truth of the matter is that these Goliaths, no matter how powerful, scaring and secure they may appear; are bound to fall! They deserve it!

#### **Study Questions**

##### **A. Goliaths are short-lived: vv16-33, 48-49**

1.
  - a. For how long did the Philistine army challenge the Israel army?
  - b. Did they continue with this challenge forever?
2.
  - a. When Goliath moved closer to David, did he expect in any way that he would be defeated?
  - b. What do you think made David run towards this giant that Israel so feared?

3. What do you think was the source of confidence for each one of these:
  - a. David?
  - b. Goliath?
4. In the event that you face your type of Goliath what is your source of confidence?
5. What do you think is the fate/destiny of those who oppose God's people in our time? Can they continue forever?

**B. WOE TO THE GOLIATHS vv51-54**

6. How did Goliath die? Is this the right way for a giant to die? Did he deserve such a fall!
7. What happened to those who put their confidence in Goliath?
8. What happened to the fear of Israel once Goliath was laying parallel to the ground?
9. What spiritual lessons do we learn from this account regarding the fate of those who oppose God's children?

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Memory verse

*David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword; (9verse 510)*

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**Study Three**

**LITTLE DAVIDS VS MIGHTY GOLIATHS**

**Introduction**

**D**espite being the youngest in their family and that he had never been to war in his life and the sharp rebuke from his elder brother, David unlike other soldiers in the battle front could not stand the defiant talk of Goliath; the uncircumcised heathen, whose God was not god at all! Despite being of tender age and not fit for war, David knew his God so well that he felt compelled to silence the giant once and for all!

The world is full of the mighty Goliath's and sometimes Christians feel like the little David's; like grasshoppers in their sight. Sometimes when we try to speak out, our very brothers silence us. They feel threatened by our stand. We therefore remain quite when we are expected to talk due to fear. The devil continues to have a field day!

**Study Questions**

**A. DOES THERE SEEM TO BE ANY HOPE? [v 8-11]**

1. Looking at the stature of Goliath and his manner of speech, was there anyone among the ranks of Israel who was courageous enough to face him? If David had not come on the scene, what could have happened?
2. The Israelites went to the battlefield with the intention of fighting.
  - a. What do you think stopped them from engaging in the actual battle?
  - b. What might have caused Goliath to make the

- suggestion in verses 8 and 9?
3. God was on Israel's side all the days Goliath challenged them.
- Was it possible for Israel to win the battle without having to fight?
  - Can we win our spiritual battles without putting up a spiritual fight? Is there any hope of success?

**B. DAVID'S SECRET [vv41-47]**

4. a. What impresses you about the conversation and battle between David and Goliath?
- b. What do you think was the source of David's confidence as he approached the giant?
5. a. What must have been the people's reaction when they saw David challenging the giant?
- b. From human point of view why was David an unlikely choice as champion of Israel [vv. 15, 33, 38-40]?
6. a. In whose name did David trust as he faced the giant? Was it the same with Goliath?
- b. Would it make any difference for us if we face every challenge in life in the same name?
7. ".....for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you in our hands." verse 47b
- Can God lose in a battle? Could this be David's logic as he faced Goliath?
  - How would this help us in our conflict with forces of darkness?

**C Matters of Faith: Quality or Quantity [vv34-40]**

8. a. While everyone was dismayed and terrified, what past experiences did David recall to mind? [34-37]
- b. In what way would previous acts of God in our lives

- help us face current battles?
9. a. With what kind of weapons did David approach the enemy of Israel?
- b. What does this reveal about David's faith in God as he faced the enemy?
- c. Is there any lesson for us from this? Share it.

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Memory Verse

*"The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion  
and the paw of the bear will deliver me  
from the hand of this Philistine" I Samuel 17:37*

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## Study Four

### FACING THE CHALLENGE [1 Samuel 17:1-58]

#### Introduction

An old popular chorus says:  
***“I am a soldier in the army, I am a soldier in the army of Jesus” If I live let me live in the army, if I die let me die in the army, cause I am a soldier in the army of the Lord!***

Being always conscious of the warfare, we are engaged in helps us to be on the ready. As soldiers we should always be willing to fight for life. The enemy is ready and determined to fight on despite our status [fighting back or not]. We must always be ready to face the enemy head on. There is no room for turning back.

#### Study questions

##### A. FIGHT BACK OR RETREAT?

1. What do you think was the reason why, despite the fact that they were not fighting, Israel remained in the battlefield? Did their inactivity signify surrender or hope vv 16, 25?
2.
  - a. What could have happened if Israel had run away from the threats of Goliath vv51-54?
  - b. If Israel had retreated from the battlefield, could God have worked deliverance in the way He did?
3. As the enemy moved closer, to which direction did little David ran [verse 48]? Was there any room for David to retreat?
4. Sometimes we think it is more spiritual to remain silent and not to fight back?
  - a. What lessons do we learn from this chapter as regards

- to spiritual warfare?
- b. By remaining quite, does this signify that we are meek or weak?

##### B. OUR WEAPONS

5. Did the five small stones that David picked [verse 40, 49] have any spiritual significance to us today?
6. Often times Christians have lost the spiritual battle because they fight it physically.
  - a. What do you think is the nature of our weapons [2 Corinthians 10:3-6]?
  - b. Are they capable of defeating the enemy?
7. After having slain the giant with a small stone, David ran and stood over him [verse 51]
  - a. What would you suggest is the reason why David used the corpse of Goliath for a platform?
  - b. Is it possible for us to use what seem to be roadblocks in our lives as stepping-stones to victory?
8. What lesson have you learnt from the fall of Goliath in this part of the study?

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**Memory verse**

***“So David triumphed over the Philistine with a string and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him”  
 1 Samuel 17:50***

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## Part Two

### DAVID'S FALL: A CARELESS FALL

#### Study 5

#### THE BATHSHEBA'S OF OUR TIME, 2 SAMUEL 11:1-5

##### Introduction

**W**e hear of many sexual scandals in the church today. Many are still falling prey of this evil. Some scandals that hit the body of Christ are committed within the body of Christ while others from outside. The question has always been why should people continue falling victims of this despite being fully aware of the grave consequences this has on their lives and on Christian faith? The sin of sexual immorality always involves two parties. Unless it is a rape, sex almost always is committed when the two agree to do it. In the text of study, it is David who bears the blame? But is that all? Does he bear all the blame? Does Bathsheba not play any part in the fall of the Man of God? Are the current sexual scandals in the Body of Christ a product of

one individual? Who should bear the blame?

##### Study Questions

#### A. Bathsheba: Was she to blame?

1.
  - a. What was the marital status of Bathsheba?
  - b. Was it normal for a married woman to sleep with another man who was not her husband in Israel?
2.
  - a. Describe the situation that led to the sexual sin between David and Bathsheba
  - b. In what ways did Bathsheba contribute to the fall of David? If she had said 'No' to the king could he have raped or her?
3. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was beautiful v2b.
  - a. If David had not seen the "naked Bathsheba" could he still be tempted this way?
  - b. What connection is there between the beauty of the bathing woman and the weakness of the king?

#### B. Freedom of dressing: Is it Spiritually Neutral

The story of David and Bathsheba reveals how a series of smaller sins can build to a tragic and devastating results.

4.
  - a. What made Bathsheba; a married woman to bathe on such a visible place? Was there no better place for her to bathe?
  - b. If David had met a dressed Bathsheba in the streets of Jerusalem could he still have fallen this way for her? Could her beauty alone have the same results?
5. The issue of freedom of dressing has found its way in the church today.
  - a. Is God concerned about way we dress? If yes, in what ways?
  - b. Some people have attributed the increase of rape

cases in Malawi to the immodest dressing of some women who exercise their freedom. Do you support this argument or not? Discuss your views.

- 6. a. What do you think is the reason why some women dress in such a way that they expose what is meant to be hidden?
- b. Is this a proper way of exercising their freedom?

**C. Mind Your Business: Be A Gentleman!**

A lot has been said about the controversial issue of dressing both within and outside the church. Majority of the men condemn mini and micro skirts. The women activists however, argue that men ought to be gentle and mind their business!

- 7. a. What do you think is the reason why?
  - i Men condemn mini and micro skirts among ladies?
  - ii) Some women insist that it is their democratic right as women to dress this way?
- b. Are these arguments justifiable before God?
- 8. a. Is it possible that the freedom of dressing, if exercised irresponsibly within the church can lead to the fall of some members of the Body of Christ?
- b. In what ways would men survive the changing patterns of dressing in the society?
- 9. What responsibility does each one of us have towards the spiritual the growth of others?

**Memory Verse**

*“One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From there he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.”*

**2 Samuel 11:2**

**Study 6**

**MEN OF GOD; WATCH OUT!**

**Introduction**

**T**he term “man of God” is so popular among Christians these days! Everyone wants to be called a man or woman of God. Yes, it really shows that one is no ordinary Christian, but one whom the Lord is using in a mighty way. For all purposes of esteem, it feels good to be called ‘a man of God’. It gives one a sense of importance! The tragedy however is that many such ‘men and women’ of God, who rise up don’t stand for long. Many have fallen prey of the devil’s tricks. Sex, power, and money have been the most common traps that have sent these giants horizontal to the ground, for some, never to rise again! Men of God have fallen, men of God are falling and will still fall unless!

**Study Questions**

**A. Men of God: Are they Immune!**

Read the following scripture texts. **Numbers 20:1-13, Judges 16:15-22, I Kings 11:1-13**

- 1 a. What kind of blunders did each one of them commit?
  - i) Moses
  - ii) Gideon
  - iii) Solomon
- b. Was theirs a deserved or a careless fall? Could it have been avoided? How?
- 2. Disgraceful stories have been said about the scandals of great men of God.
  - a. What impact does their fall make on the body of

- Christ?
- b. Are there any ways these scandals can be avoided among all of us as children [men and women; gentlemen and ladies; sons and daughters of God]? What are these ways?
3. Christians are quick to judge and condemn when others [giants] fall. “We knew it would happen!” is the common response when we just hear such sad news.
- a. Are those of us who are still standing immune to the things that topple our brethren?
  - b. How can we safeguard ourselves against the possibility of being the next fallen giant?

**B. WHY DAVID WHY? 2 Samuel 11:1-5**

- David is referred to as “a man after God’s own heart “ [1Samuel 13:14]
- 4 a. What do you think is the reason that led such a highly favoured man before God, sin against his very God?
  - b. Did the fact that David succumbed to the sexual temptation make him less favoured by God?
- 5 a. When David realised his sin, what did he do? [see 2 Sam 12:13-14]
- b. Did his repentance take away the physical consequences of his sin?
  - c. Does this imply that God had not fully forgiven David for his sin?
- 6 a. What does God expect of us should we fall into sin? [see Jeremiah 8:4]
- b. Is there any hope for the fallen giants?

**C. David. A Victim of Circumstances?**

Most of us often blame the situation when things go wrong. We argue that it was impossible for us to do otherwise. But

- we should know that if we are to avoid certain consequences, we must avoid certain actions.
- 7 a. Was the temptation too big for David to resist? How did young Joseph respond to a similar sexual temptation?
  - b. When a member of the opposite sex deliberately or not expose their nakedness does that mean we should commit sexual sin with them?
8. When David called for Bathsheba and made an advance to sleep with her she accepted,
- a. Does her acceptance despite her marital status imply that she might have deliberately bathed where the king could easily see her? Was there any hidden agenda behind her actions prior to the sin?
  - b) Does the fact that a situation is conducive for a sexual sin justify our falling prey to it? Does God understand such circumstantial failures?
9. What lesson[s] do we learn from David’s:
- i) temptation
  - ii) fall
  - iii) repentance?

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Memory Verse  
“How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”  
Genesis 39:9b  
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## Study 7

### THE CHAIN REACTION OF SIN: CAN IT BE STOPPED?

#### Introduction

**S**in often begins with a series of temptations, each one leading to the next. Sin is active and progressive. One sin leads to another. Usually it starts as a small sin and gets bigger and bigger until explodes, unless if it is dealt with. What began as a lustful desire in David lead into adultery. Adultery led into corruption finally into murder. That is typical of sin. Describing this chain reaction, James the apostle say:

*“But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desires he is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived it gives birth to sin, and sin when it is full-grown gives birth to death [James: 1:14-15]*

The ultimate end of any sin is death. Sin, now matter how small it may appear in its inception leads to death. Blessed are those whose sin does not lead to death, but they confess it before it can strike the final blow.

#### Study Questions

##### A. The chain Reaction of Sin: [2 Samuel 11:1-17]

1. a. What led to David’s sin with Bathsheba [vv 1-5]?
- b. At each stage of his temptations, what might David have done to keep from taking the next step? [Be specific].
2. a. What plans does David devise to cover up his sin [vv 6-13]?
- c. When deceit fails to work, how does David’s plan

- become vicious [vv14-15]?
3. From this chapter, how would you explain what led “a man after God’s own heart” to commit adultery and murder. In what specific ways is David’s experience a warning to you?

##### B. The consequences of Sin. James 1:13-15

4. a. What were the consequences of David’s sexual sin with Bathsheba? See also
  - i) verse 5
  - ii) verse 6-15
  - iii) 2 Sam 12:11-14
  - iv) 2 Sam 13:12-14
- b. What kind of death does sin lead to? [James 1:15]
5. a. Were these consequences worth in comparison to the sexual pleasure that David might have felt in his adultery with Bathsheba?
- b. What do you think is the reason why David called for Uriah from the battle field? Did he succeed in his efforts to cover up his sin?
6. a. Did the fact that David repented of his sin mean that he could be spared of the [physical] consequences of his sin?
- b) Under what condition will sin not lead the doer (sinner) into death?

##### C. Prevention Is Better Than cure! (Gen 39:1-20)

Several innocent people suffered as a result of David’s sin

7. a. Mention some of the people that suffered due to the sin that David and Bathsheba committed?
- b. If David had known [thought of] these consequences, Could he still have continued to commit the adultery?
8. a. If the victims of sexual sin in our time were to focus

- on the consequences of their action [as Joseph did] instead of the short-lived pleasure, could they still go ahead to indulge in it?
- b. One reason why sexual sin is so common in the world is that it feels good when doing it. What lessons can we learn from the life of Joseph?
9. Paul talks of fleeing from immorality and evil desires of the youth [I Corinthians 6:18, 2 Tim 2:22], how can this be effectively be done in our time?

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**Memory Verse**

*“Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death” James 1:15*  
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## **Study 8**

### **MODERN NATHAN: WHAT A RARE SPECIES!**

#### **Introduction**

One of the ills that the modern Christian army has suffered is its failure to restore its wounded. As an army engaged in warfare, it is likely that it will be faced with the possibility of having some of its soldiers wounded. It is therefore the duty of every responsible soldier to assist the wounded fellows to prevent the possibility of being captured as prisoners of war. It's sickening to see that so many of our brothers who have fallen casualties have been left on the ground bleeding to death. Today many are prisoners in the enemy's camp and are a source of shame and ridicule to our camp. Someone observed [and rightly so] that the Christian army is the only one in the world that finishes its own wounded! When we gossip about those who are caught up in some kind of sin are trying to help them or not? Unless we make every effort to emulate Nathan's example, our camp will continue to suffer loss!

#### **Study Questions**

##### **A. EXPEL OR RESTORE! 2 Sam 12:1-25**

1.
  - a. When David sinned, what role did Nathan play?
  - b. Why do you think Nathan tells David a story rather than confronting him directly about his sin [vv 1-6]?
2. What was the source of this kind of wisdom that Nathan employed in his approach to the king? Can God give us the same wisdom today?
3.
  - a. How is God's justice and mercy revealed in His decision about David's sin [vv 10-14]?

- b. Does God rejoice when his children fall into sin? After the child dies, how is God's grace again evident in David's life [vv 23-25]?

**B FINISHING OUR WOUNDED! Galatians 6:1-5**

- 4.
  - a. What guidelines does Paul give for dealing with a person who is "caught up in sin", and why is each important?
  - d. Why is it important to restore those who are caught in sin?
- 5. The tendency in most of our fellowships, churches or gatherings is to ex-communicate those who fall into sin.
  - a. Does this effectively help to restore the victim back to the faith?
  - b. Does this show that we are "really spiritual" by doing so?
- 6. "Of all armies in the world, the Christian army is the only army that finishes its own wounded"
  - a. Do you agree with this observation, explain your answer.
  - b. Have we ever been found in a situation on our campus where a brother or sister is caught up in sin? How did we react?
  - c. In what ways does our reaction to their predicament help to restore or finish them off?

**C. A LESSON FOR ALL OF US! 2 Samuel 12:1-14, Galatians 6:1-5.**

- 7. By restoring the fallen brother or sister, are we implying that we are condoning sin?
  - b. What would be of greater value to you, maintaining the reputation of your fellowship/church or restoring to the Lord a fallen brother/sister, which may tarnish

- your name?
- 8. One reason why Christians are quick to finish fallen victims is that they don't want to take responsibility over the victim
  - a. Whose responsibility is it to restore fallen brethren?
  - b. Should we still restore them even if their fall was as a result of their own carelessness?
- 9. Are there any known brothers and sisters who have currently been caught in sin in your fellowship? What plan of action do you intend to take?

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**THOUGHT**

*"God values human life much more than He values the reputation of any fellowship or church"*

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## ***Part Three***

### **THE FALL OF JESUS: A SACRIFICIAL FALL**

#### ***Study 9***

### **THE CHALLENGE OF BEING A CHRISTIAN TODAY!**

#### **Introduction**

**O**ne thing that Our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to His disciples before He “fell” out of favour from the very people He came to serve and save was that “the world will hate them just as it hated Him”. Since then Christians have gone through persecution, opposition, criticism of all kinds. Jesus was

fully aware of what would befall Him. And was ready to face it. His death appeared like a defeat to those who did not know His mission. His enemies thought they had won the battle. They were wrong!

Christianity today is offensive to many. They hate the word Christian and Born Again. This agrees so well with the Words of Jesus. To be a Christian today is not just like bread and butter. We need to brace ourselves to be hated by the world, not because we have sinned against it, but because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus willingly “fell” in the hands of His captors as a sacrifice for all of us to be victorious, be it in death or in life.

#### **Study questions**

##### **A. BATTLE CONSCIOUSNESS: John 15:18-25; 16:1-4**

1.
  - a. What important facts did Jesus ask his disciples to keep in mind?
  - b. Why was it necessary for them to remember these things?
2. Does any of the things that Jesus told the disciple in His address, take place in our time? What are they?
  - b. In what ways will our constant awareness that we are engaged in warfare with forces of darkness help us to avoid despairing?
3. Christians have suffered in many ways throughout the history of the church.
  - a. Does suffering in the name of our Lord imply that the Christian is in the wrong?
  - b. What kind of treatment can the disciples expect from those who do not know Christ?

##### **B. CONFORM OR TRANSFORM? Romans 12:1-2**

4. Why do you think Paul uses the imagery of “living sacrifices” to describe our response to God’s mercy?
  5. Sometimes we view God’s will as something to be avoided rather desired. How can the last part of verse 2 correct this distortion?
  6. How would the kind of love Paul describes in verses 9-16 transform our relationships with other Christians?
- A. BECOMING ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN :  
1 Corinthians 9:19- 27.**
7. “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone”
    - a. What does Paul mean by this statement?
    - b. What was the reason behind his self-proclaimed slavery?
  8.
    - a. By becoming all things to all men is Paul living a life of compromise?
    - b. Did Paul achieve his goal by doing this?
  9. Would it be too much a sacrifice for you if were to give up your rights for the sake of the gospel?

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Memory verse  
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*“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men, so that by all possible means I might save some” verse 22*

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## Study Ten

### DIE AND RESURRECT

#### Introduction

**U**nless a seed is buried in the soil, it cannot produce a crop of its kind. Every wise farmer makes sure that he has buried his seed to the ground where it will be left. It is prone to be attacked by pests and diseases, which may cut short its life expectancy. Yet the farmer somehow believes that it will germinate and develop into a healthy productive plant. Unless the farmer is willing to let go his seed, he cannot harvest anything. It will remain nothing but seed. And yet if he plants it, it has the potential to multiply and give him a rich harvest .The process of germination converts the once dormant seed into an active plant that is capable of growing and producing.

Unless man dies from the **self**, which is naturally **selfish** and corrupt, he cannot be of any spiritual value. The natural man belongs to the physical world and is subject to death and decay. The spiritual man on the other hand belongs to the spiritual world and lives eternally. The spiritual man cannot be born unless the natural one dies. Like the seed, the natural man needs to die and be buried with Christ so as to resurrect a brand new man capable of growing and producing a rich spiritual harvest.

#### Study Questions

- A. ‘Unless A Kernel Of Wheat Falls To The Ground And Dies....’ John 12: 20-34**
1.
    - a. What happens to a seed when planted to the ground?

- b. Does it emerge with the same features as it was planted?
2. What connection is there between the glorification of the Son of Man and the falling to the ground and death of a kernel of wheat?
3.
  - a. In what way{s} would the death of Jesus Christ increase the spiritual harvest?
  - b. If Jesus had avoided the painful experience that accompanied His death, could He still have achieved the same spiritual results?
4.
  - a. What spiritual lesson do we learn from verse 25 of this text?
  - b. Is it possible for us to love our lives in this world and keep it for eternal life as at the same time?
5.
  - a. What will happen to our lives and the world if we remain in our comfort zones [verse 25]?
  - b. When Jesus gave up His life to die on the cross, did it signify that He had surrendered to the desires of His enemies?

**B. Defeat or Victory? 1Corinthians 15: 42-49.**

6.
  - a. What kind of body will come out at the resurrection?
  - c. Can a similar body be attained without the death of the natural body?
7.
  - a. The world thinks its foolish to give up the pleasures of this life for a world no one has ever seen.
  - b. What assurance do you have that you have not believed a lie as regards to the resurrection?
  - b. What is the source of such a hope?
8. Many Christians have lost their lives defending of the gospel.
  - a. Does the death of the preacher of the gospel in the hands of persecutors imply that Christianity has been defeated?

- b. How should the Church react in event that its members are persecuted for the truth?
9. “The blood of the martyrs is fuel for revival”
  - a. In what ways is this statement true in the history of the Christianity?
  - b. If Christ had not gone through the crucifixion, could He still be victorious over the forces of evil?

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**Memory verse:**

*“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”*

***John 12:24***  
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## Study Eleven

### BEARERS OF THE CROSS: WHAT'S THE OPTION?

#### Introduction

Jesus had previously declared that if anyone wanted to follow Him that person would have to deny himself, pick up the cross and then follow Him. Seeing how Jesus suffered and fell under the weight of the cross, we should never be surprised when we experience the same. The cross of Christ was a symbol of death and sacrifice. The same is true of those who seek to follow Him.

The weight of the cross will at times be heavy and some may fall under it. But those who may 'fall' under the weight of the cross if indeed they have grown faint and weary, should draw encouragement from the Master who was the first to bear it.

In the decadent society, which we find ourselves, cross bearers will find its weight increasingly heavy. It is one thing to throw it off, but it is another to fall under it. To throw it off implies we have found the sacrifice too much pay. To fall under it is to be willing to bear its shame no matter the cost.

#### Study Questions

##### A. Fall Under The Cross! 2 Corinthians 4: 1-18

1. a. What does it mean to 'fall under the cross'?
- b. When the cross becomes heavier, Paul and friends fall under its weight?
2. What kind of hardships did Paul experience in his ministry

- a. as revealed to us in this text?
3. Does the fact that the going is getting tougher warrants us to:
  - a. stop following Jesus?
  - c. look for alternative ways of going about the whole business?
4. a. What do you think was the source of Paul's perseverance in the face of suffering in the ministry?
- b. If Paul and companions had given up under the pressure of the cross, what could have happened to the Corinthian Church?
5. a. Does the fact that these 'men of God' had the anointing of the Holy Spirit spare them from the physical pain under the weight of the cross?
- b. If they had given up the ministry due to pressure, could we be justified to blame them for being less spiritual?
- c. What is it really that compelled them to keep on despite the terrible suffering they endured?

##### B. Throw It Off If Its Too Heavy!! John 18:15-18, 25-27

6. a. When Peter found it tough to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ, what did he do?
- b. Did the fact that Jesus had forewarned Peter of the incidence help him to stand as a disciple in the face of possible persecution?
7. Jesus clearly pointed out that those who follow Him will be persecuted.
  - a. Does this automatically help those being persecuted not to lose heart?
  - b. Why is it that despite being fully aware of possible persecutions, many Christians still give up when they eventually face it?
8. a. Have you ever faced any persecution as a Christian?

- b. What was your initial reaction? Did throwing off the cross ever cross your mind?

— — — — —  
Memory verses

*“Therefore we do not loose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all”*

*2 Corinthians 4: 16- 17.*  
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*Study Twelve*

**CROOKED AND DEPRAVED GENERATION**  
**[1 PETER 4:1-11]**

**Introduction**

“His intent was that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.....”[**Ephesians 3:10**]

God has high hopes for the church. He desires that His wisdom be known to the entire world through the Church. The Church is the medium through which God is to be revealed to the rulers and authorities of the world. The Church is meant to be the light for the society and yet the society largely remains in darkness. What has happened to the source of light that people should grope in the dark?

The Church is designed to be the salt of the society [world] for its preservation and palatability and yet the society is so rotten that it stinks! Has the salt lost its saltiness or has it become too salty to the dislike of the world? The tragedy we are in is that “ **a rotten society is indicative of a rotten Church**” If things are getting rotten, the blame goes to the preservative and not the agents responsible for routing: they are just doing their work after all! When there is darkness, we do not blame its source but rather the source of light. The truth is: darkness takes cover in the presence of light!

Giants are falling be it deservedly or carelessly. What is the role of the Church is restoring the fallen giants or preventing possible falls? How can the Church be more effective in making known

the ‘manifold wisdom’ of God in this crooked generation?

### Study questions

#### A. Arm Yourself With Christ’s Attitude: vv 1-7

- 1
  - a. What example did Christ set for us in verse 1?
  - b. How does this do away with sin?
2. Suffering is unpleasant and no one in his right mind would deliberately subject himself to it.
  - a. What kind of suffering is Peter referring to here?
  - b. What role does suffering play in the life of a Christian?
3. **“ They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you” verse 4**
  - a. Is this true of us today?
  - b. What do you think causes them to heap their abuse on us?
4. Some Christians shrink in the face of abuse from non-Christians.
  - a. What causes them to shrink?
  - b. What should be the best way of reacting to such abuses?

#### B. Clear Minded and Self - Controlled : vv 7-11

- 5
  - a. How far is the end of all things?
  - b. What will follow after the end of all things?
- 6
  - a. In what ways would our constant awareness that the end is near influence our daily living?
  - b. What things does God expect us to be doing as we await the end? Are we doing these things?
- 7
  - a. How should we use the gifts that God has given us?
  - b. If these gifts are used otherwise, will God still get the

8. Our generation is characterized by human rights and freedom of an individual.
  - a. How does God expect us to relate to each other [verses 8-11]?
  - b. By doing so, are we still exercising our rights as democrats?
  - c. By giving up our democratic rights in order to obey God, are acting foolishly or wisely?

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Memory verse

*“The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.”*

1 Peter 4:7.  
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