

Good day to you all and welcome to our second video.

We greet you all in the wonderful, blessed Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and trust that you will be blessed by this word today.

Today, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we quickly want to have a look at what the Lord has spoken over us, and over 2021, before we launch into the first teaching of our first theme, "New Life".

At the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, God spoke three words over LFM and 2021, which we shared over social media. Initially it was received as words of encouragement, which it most definitely was intended to be, but on closer inspection, it is clear that God also intended it to be clear words of direction as well.

The first Word was:

*"2021 will be a year of **NEW LIFE**, **NEW GROUND**, **NEW PURPOSE**, and **NEW Harvest!** **Prepare yourselves NOW** for the coming new move of God TOMORROW! **Consecrate yourselves NOW!** **Set yourselves apart NOW!** And **seek God's face NOW** more than ever, for a new day is coming, a new dawn in coming ... 2021 is coming!"*

"And Joshua said to the people, Sanctify yourselves [that is, separate yourselves for a special holy purpose], for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." – Joshua 3:5. (AMPC)

The second Word was this:

***Prepare yourselves!** **Consecrate yourselves!** **Set yourselves apart!** **Seek God's face!** ... 2021 is coming!"*

Then early in 2021, God said:

*"This is the year of **new beginnings**, **new territory**, **new oil**, and **new wine!** Draw near to God! His divine provision is only found in a close and personal relationship with Him. Enquire from the Lord YOUR own calling and purpose for your life. With that VISION comes His PROVISION!"*

Each Word regarding LFM and 2021 has four core themes, or courses of action, to ensure that these words come into fulfilment into our lives.

In the first Word, the core themes are new life, new ground, new purpose, and new harvest.

In the second Word, the core themes are prepare yourselves, consecrate yourselves, set yourselves apart, and seek God's face.

In the last Word the core themes are new beginnings, new territory, new oil, and new wine.

We will look at each Word and each core theme in order, starting today with the first theme from the first Word, New life. Our first course of action for New Life, must then be a close relationship with Jesus Christ.

Being a year of new life, we must ask the questions, what is wrong with my current or old life, where and how do I get a new life, and why do I need a new life.

It is simple, new life starts at salvation, and the act of becoming born-again.

The word salvation is a noun that is derived from the Latin word, salvo, which means to save. In essence it refers to the act of saving, or the act of preservation from destruction, danger, or great calamity. If we look at the practical application of this word in our everyday lives, we look at policemen, firemen, etc.

whose job it is to save us from the destruction, danger, or great calamity we find ourselves in, or to keep us safe from getting into these situations in the first place.

It is interesting to note that this can not be done at a distance. We need to be in close proximity to our saviours if we are to be saved by them. A fireman can not save us from a burning building if he is two blocks away.

It is also interesting to note that our saviours come to us when we need saving. We do not get out of the burning building, run or drive to the nearest fire station to ask them for help, run or drive back to the burning building and then wait for them to come and save us. We get in trouble, and they come to save us.

The same is true with salvation.

Appropriately in theology, salvation is the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and in turn the conferring on him everlasting happiness. This is the great salvation and has already been done for us 2000 years ago by Jesus on the cross. Jesus already saved us, we now just have to believe it to receive it.

In Hebrews 10 verse 22 we read: Let us all come forward and draw near with true (honest and sincere) hearts in unqualified assurance and absolute conviction engendered by faith (by that leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness), having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty (evil) conscience and our bodies cleansed with pure water.

In James 4 verse 8 we read: Come close to God and He will come close to you. [Recognise that you are] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [realise that you have been disloyal] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [of your spiritual adultery].

The idea of close proximity before the act of being saved is clearly seen in both these verses. We can not be saved spiritually from a distance. And while we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus today we can see that Jesus came down in human form to be close to us, and He came to US so that we can be saved, we did not go to find Him. He was not lost, we were. He found us in our sin, He continually draws near to us until we come to the realisation that we need saving, we accept His help, and He saves us.

So why then do we need Jesus?

God created Adam and Eve in His image and likeness. This included the capacity to relate to God through which God would enjoy eternal life with His creation. The one condition to this eternal life was that we would apply our free will to obey God in the faith that God knew what was best for us. God placed Adam in the garden with awesome things to enjoy, yet instructed him not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Now you may ask: Why then did God give us a free will if He knew that we would make the wrong decision? The truth is that no real relationship can exist without free will. In His love, God designed us with the capacity to choose faith and obedience, or doubt and disobedience. The first would result in us experiencing eternal life, while the second would result in death and destruction. At this point in time, we were still free and did not need any saving.

Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to doubt and disobey God. In essence, we decided that we would live by our own knowledge instead of by God's better judgement. We chose against a life-giving relationship with God, and on that day something in us died. It was not an immediate physical death, but our direction changed to a path that led to eternal hell apart from God.

Adam chose a life without God and His wisdom. He chose to manage his own life by his own wisdom. He chose his own direction and destiny. What he did not realise was that Satan had trapped him onto a path that leads to death. The worst part is that we are all born into Adam's sin with eternal death as a result. Ever since that day we all need constant saving and we are constantly in need of a Saviour.

This left us in a desperate predicament contrary to our original design and destiny. A God-shaped hole exists in the heart of each and every one of us that will only be satisfied with the real thing. To no avail, we try to fill this hole with other religions, good deeds, and even with attending church. Our instinctive need to encounter God is confirmed by our universal search to worship some creature or object, irrespective of our level of culture or civilisation. No matter how hard we try, we always fall short and simply cannot close the gap of sin. Adam's choice not only separated us from God, but it also sentenced us to eternal death as a result. We need a saviour, and we need one desperately.

So what did Jesus do for us?

Long before God created us, He made a contingency plan to rescue us should we chose eternal death as our destiny. Because of God's very nature being love, He simply had to create a way for us to return to the path of eternal life in relationship with Himself; and that way is called faith in Jesus Christ! It is very clear that the punishment for our sin should be death. In the Old Testament a perfect lamb was sacrificed annually to forgive our sin and give us access to God. The death of a perfect lamb literally redeemed us for one year from having to carry out our death penalty. This is called Passover.

God's master plan, however, was to save all of us from this sentence of death through sacrificing His sinless Son, Jesus Christ, on a cross outside Jerusalem. Jesus was God's perfect lamb, sacrificed once and for all to forgive our sins in order to reunite us to God.

After dying on the cross Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day and appeared to numerous people as proof that He was alive. He paid the death penalty for our sin and now offers us the opportunity to return to regain eternal life as our destiny.

How then should we respond to Jesus?

The reality of what Jesus did for us on the cross demands a response. We either believe in Whom He is and what He did for us, or we do not. We either accept Who He is and accept what He did, or we do not. There seems to be no middle ground if we desire to experience abundant and eternal life. Contrary to many modern paradigms which propose that there are many pathways to God, the Bible clearly states Jesus is the only way to God, and that His Name is the only Name by which man can be saved. There are therefore only one of two decisions to be made, either to believe in Christ and receive what He did for us, or to refuse His offer for abundant life.

"And there is salvation in and through no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by and in which we must be saved." – Acts 4:12. (AMPC)

Adam made his decision with devastating consequences to all of us. Jesus, in turn, made His decision and decided to give His life as a substitute sacrifice so that we may live by faith in Him. This leaves one decision to yet be made, ours. It is vital that we make an informed decision about what determines our eternal destinies.

If at this point you feel convinced about Whom Jesus is and convicted to receive what He did for you, then we would like to offer you some assistance in prayer. You may ask; "How can I get saved from the penalty of sin?", or "Can I be 100% sure that I will go to heaven?", or even "How does this faith work?".

Afford us an opportunity to offer you the following truths on these questions.

How can we get saved?

Grace is God's unmerited favour bestowed on us in Jesus Christ. No one of us can qualify ourselves or by our own works be forgiven, accepted, or loved by the Father. However, grace was made available through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

"For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favour) that you are saved (delivered from judgement and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; not because of works [not the fulfilment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself]." – Ephesians 2:8-9. (AMPC)

Only this grace can save us and restore us in relationship to God. This grace is activated by our faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work. We are therefore saved by the power of God's grace which is released by our faith.

Can we be 100% sure?

Those who believe in and receive Jesus Christ are given the legal right to become children of God. The only way that our assurance of salvation can be reduced is if we diminish what we believe about Jesus Christ and the work that He finished on the cross. A prime scheme of satan remains to sell us lies about who Jesus really is and what He really did for us. If we buy his lies, we settle for a reduced faith and experience of life.

Therefore, we find that all false doctrines have, at its core, a diminishing of Christ and His work. Should we pay attention to it, Satan succeeds in robbing us of an abundant life and we may even lose our assurance. However, if our faith in Jesus Christ keeps on growing, we can be assured of our salvation.

How does this faith work?

“Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes (adhere to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation.” – Romans 10:9-10. (AMPC)

These verses highlight three essential steps to being saved. The first is to acknowledge that we are sinners in need of a Saviour and that we are unable to save ourselves. Then we must believe that Jesus Christ is the only One that can save us. Then, finally, we must confess what we acknowledge and what we believe. It is then when our confession releases God’s forgiveness as He cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

“If we freely admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].” – 1 John 1:9. (AMPC)

What is repentance?

Repentance means a sincere turning away, in both the mind and the heart, from self to God. A life of repentance is marked by being obedient to God and His Word. Repentance also means that we have

seen ourselves as sinners in need of a Saviour, and therefore have given our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ as our Master and Lord. Repentance also means that we have turned our back on sin and worldliness and that we now respond to the Holy Spirit's leading as He guides us in the process of becoming more like Jesus.

However, you and I, from time to time, will still sin and mess up. In these moments we can go to our loving Father and repent of our sins. Real repentance means that we see our sin as God sees it.

Remember, sin simply means that we have missed the mark. We have operated differently from God's design and intention. Therefore, repentance is a lifestyle; one which emphasises keeping a short list of wrongs.

As a Christian, our lives cannot be marked by the habit of sin; rather it should be marked by obedience and the willingness to change.

Does this mean we are forgiven?

We enter a relationship with God based on grace. This means we are saved by faith through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and not by our own works. Works simply mean anything we want to do out of our own power. No work, no matter how holy, will get us in right standing with God.

Only one Person has that ability and His name is Jesus Christ.

God has forgiven all our sins and trespasses because Jesus has paid for our sins on the cross with His own blood. When Jesus hung on the cross, He became the curse for us. This means He took all our sins upon Himself and endured all the wrath and judgement of God so that we would not have to. Even more so, because Jesus paid the full price for all our sins, we can come into a relationship with God

based on Jesus Christ. You and I do not need to endure the wrath and judgement of God as Jesus has settled it for us. We are now in right-standing with God based on Jesus Christ.

“Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified);” – Galatians 3:13. (AMPC)

“For everyone who call upon the name of the Lord [invoking Him as Lord] will be saved.” – Romans 10:13. (AMPC)

When God forgave us for all our sins, He did it because of Jesus Christ. As long as we have Jesus, we have nothing to fear. Heaven is our home and God is our Father. We deserve hell, but because of God's mercy and grace, acceptable in and through Jesus, we receive a Kingdom that is unshakeable. Because Jesus paid in full for our sins, we can love God with all our heart, mind, body, and soul.

Are we now ready to be saved?

Biblical salvation is God's way of providing His people deliverance from sin and spiritual death through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, the concept of salvation is rooted in Israel's deliverance from Egypt in the Book of Exodus.

The New Testament reveals the source of salvation in Jesus Christ. By faith in Jesus Christ, we are saved from God's judgement of sin and its consequence: eternal death.

When Adam and Eve rebelled, man was separated from God through sin. God's holiness required punishment and payment for sin, which is eternal death. Our own death is not sufficient to cover the payment for sin. Only a perfect, spotless sacrifice offered in just the right way can pay for our sin. Jesus, the perfect God-man, came to offer the pure, complete, and everlasting sacrifice to remove, atone, and make eternal payment for sin.

Why? Because God loves us and desires an intimate relationship with us.

Salvation is God setting everything right by way of Jesus Christ. God loves us so much that He chose to send His one and only Son: the perfect Lamb of God to come and die a sinner's death, so that we no longer have to pay the penalty of sin. In Jesus Christ we are set free, forgiven, and set right with God, the Bible calls this being justified. We are now free and a relationship with God is available. He is our Father if we have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Salvation is available in Jesus alone and is dependent on God alone for provision, assurance, and security.

When we commit our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, we are born again from above. In other words, our spirit becomes renewed as the Holy Spirit takes up residency in our heart. It is essentially our belief that if we were properly saved once that is enough. True conversion is a one-time process, which produces lifelong fruit.

So what does it mean to be born-again?

Being born again means that we regain the capacity to relate to God which Adam once lost. Though Adam's choice put our spirit-man to slumber, the born-again experience awakens our spirit. It is our inner-man that holds the capacity to relate to God. There is a spiritual awakening of our heart which enables us to experience and encounter God in powerful ways. In essence it means that our spirit-man who has been slumbering since our natural birth comes alive to God like a new born spiritual baby.

"Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb again and be born? Jesus answered, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and [even] the Spirit, he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God." – John 3:3-5. (AMPC)

To the born-again believer, all things seem brand new. Almost like a newly born baby there is freshness to life as we now experience everything through the senses of our newly-born spirit man. The miracle of being born-again is offering us a brand-new life in Christ.

To be born again means to be changed by God into a new creation.

This new person is different and saved from God's righteous judgement. As a new creation we are spiritually enlightened to what is right and what is good. We accept the truths found in the Bible which is God's Word, where before we could not. We then seek to please God and resist sin because we are born again.

Therefore, when we are born again, we become new people that now live under God's rule as we have transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light. As God's children, we lovingly enter a lifelong journey of sanctification; where we become more like Jesus.

Our lives are driven to be obedient to His Voice and His Word. We are no longer our own as our very lives are now defined by God. Jesus made it very clear that we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven if we are not born to God.

These are very important truths for us to understand because it simply means that we cannot enter Heaven if we are not born of God. Being good will not get us there! It will not even get us in right standing with the Father. The only eternal investment we can make is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to follow His Word. God's ways are not burdensome. They are easy and light, and always lead to peace and joy.

Before we go on, we must make sure that we have salvation settled in our hearts. Salvation and being born again is the same concept in the Bible. For now, it is just very important that we know that we are saved.

How do we know that we are saved?

The Bible clearly teaches that the moment a person turns from his sin and trusts in Jesus to be forgiven of his sin, he is saved. He passed from spiritual death to spiritual life, and has been declared not guilty in God's court of Law. From God's perspective his salvation is an objective reality that cannot be changed.

"I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to Me message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) eternal life. And he does not come into judgement [does not incur sentence of judgement, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life." – John 5:24. (AMPC)

There might be times that we do not feel saved, but our salvation is completely and entirely based on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, what we do and do not do, cannot get us unsaved, but it will produce a harvest of sin and fruit that we do not want to endure.

Let us pray:

Thank you, Father, that You wiped away the handwriting of sin that was against us. Thank you that because of Jesus' finished work on the Cross, we are completely washed clean. Thank you that we are new creations in Christ. Help us to know Your heart and follow Your Word.

Thank you, Father, that Jesus paid for our sins in full. Thank you that we are called Your children based on Jesus. We receive Your complete forgiveness over our lives.

Thank you, Father, that You have forgiven us of all the wrongs that we have committed against You. Lord, in this day, we choose to forgive every person that has committed wrongs against us. We release them and we let go of all rage, anger, unforgiveness, and bitterness that has entered our hearts. Father, please heal our hearts, our minds, and our emotions. We are now free from these people and we have forgiven them.

Thank you, Father, for sending Jesus to save our souls. We acknowledge that we are sinners in need of Your forgiveness and mercy. We tried to manage our own lives in our own way. Please forgive us. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was resurrected on the third day. He is the only way back to a relationship with You.

If you have never before taken this step of faith and asked Jesus into your heart, or you are for whatever reason unsure of your salvation, please pray this prayer with me.

Say: Lord Jesus –

I ask You to come into my life –

and forgive me of all my sins. –

I confess my sins before You this day. –

I denounce satan and all his works. –

I confess Jesus as the Lord of my life. –

Thank you Jesus for saving me. –

I believe with my heart –

and confess with my mouth –

that You rose from the dead. –

I am saved. –

Write my name in the Lamb's book of life. –

Today is my God-day with the Lord Jesus! –

I confess that Jesus Christ –

is now my only Lord and Saviour. –

I pray this prayer to the Father –

in the name of Jesus. –

Thank you, Father God –

that my salvation is completely dependent –

on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. –

There might come times after this –

where I do not feel saved –

but this does not mean that I am not saved. –

Thank you that Your grace –

in my life –

is big enough –

even for all my mistakes. –

I declare that I am saved by Grace! –

In Jesus' name. –

Amen. –

AMEN!!

If you prayed this prayer for the first time today, please let us know. We would like to bless you and we would like to walk this journey with you.

If you would like to contribute to LFM, please do so.

If your contribution is financial, please do an EFT to the account details on the screen right now.

If you would like to make any donation to our social, welfare, and outreach programs, please get in touch with us on 065 918 6284 during 08:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday, or send us an email at info@lifestylez.co.za to make all the necessary arrangements.

Look out for our next video as we continue the theme of New Life, this time looking at a more personal relationship with God rather than just a close platonic relationship as we discussed today, looking at how to return to our First Love.

Enjoy a Blessed week ahead, with all our Love from the LFM Team, Goodbye!