



# LIFESTYLEZ FAMILY MINISTRIES

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – WEEK 13

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Dear Family,

Family. A word that has lost all of its meaning in a secular sense and has not gained enough value in a spiritual sense.

Family is a wonderful institution. Well, at best, it was. It was, after all, created by God, and for the fulfilment of His loving purpose. All that promotes and sustains familial bonds is in keeping with His will. Likewise, all that threatens and breaks those bonds are at conflict with His purpose. It is a wonderful and beautiful thing when families function in the way that He intended. There is harmony and there is peace. There is a spirit of mutual respect and helpfulness. There is a loyalty that is quite awesome in its ability to close ranks in the face of any threat. It is at such times that the strength of family ties is most evident.

*"Most promises in the Bible comes with qualifying criteria, which most Christians choose to ignore or leave out, then stand amazed that it is not being fulfilled!" - AJ*

Within the family circle, emotions will rise and fall. Both light and darkness will penetrate. Agreement and disagreement will be the order of the day. But at the end of the day, no-one will doubt the existence of the bond that binds them together, or the greatness of its worth. This is what functionality is about. It can take the strain of stress and imperfection; it can agree or disagree; it can absorb the pain and disappointment; it can forgive and even forget; it can love and never stop. Functionality in the family mirrors the Father's heart. It expresses His love in various degrees. It is not dependent on personal achievement or success. It is a simple matter of belonging, of being of the same blood and of the same spirit. And with regards to our spiritual families, that blood is the Blood of Jesus and that spirit is the Holy

Spirit. It is a conscious recognition rooted in personal history and provided with a quality which goes beyond reason.

Familial bonds are permanent. The son remains a son; the daughter remains a daughter; the mother will always be mother; the father will always be father, the brother a brother, and the sister a sister. Functionality in families embrace this with a sense of joy and gratitude. It is something which neither life nor death can destroy.

The relationship remains. Even if they should be broken, they will continue as broken relationships. Relationships cannot be drained out of existence. It holds hands in the present with both the past and the future. Even when the family are no more, and its existence in time has ended, it will continue to permeate the halls of memory with its fragrance. Yes, such is the loveliness of familial functionality. And it does exist! Despite all the brokenness in the world, it is still the inner fabric that keeps much of the human race on its feet.

But make no mistake, that functionality is under threat. The breakdown of relationships, even the most sacred of familial ties, is the order of the day. It is terrible when the institution, created for security and stability, becomes the very source of pain and collapse. When it turns in upon itself, bent on its own destruction. When bitter suspicion and jealousy overcome its members and destroy all peace. When kindness and generosity are rewarded with cruel disregard.

It is terrible when dysfunctionality displays all its ugliness. It makes losers of all the victims. Not simply the loss of each other, which in itself is bad enough, but the awful loss of identity in terms of God's image for our lives. For better or for worse, we are in a circumstance from which we only exist in a danger of our own making. The prodigal son made that discovery. Then he clawed his way back to the place of belonging. And belonging it was, for it expressed the functionality of love.

Dysfunctionality troubled Jacob and his family as well. However, it did not have the last word. After years of separation, caused primarily by jealousy, they all found one another again. It is a profoundly moving scene when Joseph and his brothers meet in reconciliation. The tears of warm embrace and acceptance.

To a large extent each little family unit, with all its hopes and fears and deep desires, is a small part of the great family of humankind, created for relationship with One who is our

Father. He shows us this in Jesus and calls us out of all that is dysfunctional about our lives into a new dimension of being, in unity with Himself.

As Ephesians 3 puts it, 'in Him every family ... is named', that is, reaches its full potential by being rooted and grounded in love – in HIS LOVE.

André Binneman  
Senior Servant Leader

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## **DAILY CONFESSIONS**

Jesus, You took all my punishment on Yourself, so that I might have peace in God.  
(Isaiah 53:5)

Jesus, You were made sin for me, so that I might be blessed in God.  
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

Jesus, You became a curse for me, so that I might be blessed of God.  
(Galatians 3:13)

Jesus, You became poor for me, so that through Your poverty I might become rich.  
(2 Corinthians 8:9)

God, as You made a covenant of abundant multiplication with Abraham, and I thank You that it is also available for me through Jesus Christ.  
(Genesis 17:2; Galatians 3:29)

God, You made a hedge of protection around Job and blessed the work of his hands, thank You that You will put a hedge of protection around me and bless the work of my hands, also.  
(Job 1:10)

God, thank You that as I pursue to know You, that You will break through to me like the day break in the latter rain.  
(Hosea 6:3)

God, thank You that you have pleasure in me as Your servant.  
(Psalm 35:27)

God, thank You that Your plans for me are plans to prosper me and not to harm me, but plans to give me hope and a future.  
(Jeremiah 29:11)

God, thank You that You will make me the head and not the tail, that I will always be above and not beneath, that I will go forwards and not backwards, that I will lend money but never borrow money.  
(Deuteronomy 28:12-13)

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## WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS WEEK – UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday 10:00** – Prayer meeting, anybody is welcome. If there are any specific prayer requests, please send it through to us.

**Wednesday 18:30** – Fellowship groups. We spend some time together getting to know each other while drawing nearer to God. Anybody is welcome to join us and please invite a friend.

If you have friends or family in hospital or are unable to travel that require prayer and counselling, please let us know.

The first book in the **Back to First Love Basics Series**, "**Do You Know Jesus Christ?**", is now available in eBook format. The second book in the **Back to First Love Basics Series**, "**Do You Know the Holy Spirit?**", is officially being launched the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025. Contact us for your free copy.

**TAKE NOTE!** We are launching our Sanctification Seminar Course in May 2025. Exact dates are still to be determined but stay on the lookout for this.

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## IN THE PRAYER CLOSET

Pray – it works!

*"Thus, the Lord God showed me: Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed, it was the late crop after the king's mowings. And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said: O Lord God, forgive, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, for he is small! So, the Lord relented concerning this. It shall not be, said the Lord."*

*Amos 7:1-3 (NKJV)*

Amos is seeing in chapters 7 to 9 various visions of how God plans to judge the land.

In the first vision God shows him that He is planning to send a plague of locusts that will eat all the greenery in the land. This sight is so troubling that Amos immediately starts to pray and asks the Lord to stop this plan.

Amos reminds the Lord that His people, Jacob, are but a small and weak people and will not most assuredly not survive a locust plague. The good news is that Amos' pleading did not fall on deaf ears. God listens.

He hears when His children pray and intercede for others. He hears when people pray according to His will and asks for grace. That is why God changed His plan to send the locust plague.

God can change His plans. He can hear when His children pray and He listens to their call, because He is a God of love and of saving grace.

He does not destroy. That is why He changed His plan when His servant, Amos, urgently asked Him for grace.

Let us do the same as Amos. Let us intercede for our country, our people, the church, our congregation, and for each other.

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## **LIFESTYLEZ TRAINING CENTRE**

This week we are going to start a series on the Armour of God. This is such an important part of our spiritual walk with the Lord, and we need to know that we are going to need this Armour to make it in life. The closer we are drawing to God, the more the devil will try and resist us. He will try all kinds of schemes and lies to distract, dismay, and demotivate us and it is up to us to realise that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities,

against powers, against rules of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).

**This week we start by looking at the Helmet, which represents our Salvation.** This is my free gift that I receive from Jesus Christ the moment I decide to believe that He is my Lord and my Saviour (Eph. 6:17).

**Salvation protects us from confusion and foolishness.** Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise and apply your heart to my knowledge (Prov. 22:17). The way of the fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise (Prov. 12:15).

**The helmet protects us from deception.** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ (Col. 2:8).

**The helmet protects us from slander and gossip.** Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers (Eph. 4:29). Do all things without complaining and disputing (Phil. 2:14). Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit (Prov. 18:21).

**The helmet protects us from lust and fornication.** For it is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God (1Thes. 4:3-5). But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart (Matt. 5:28).

**The helmet protects us from perversion.** Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things and receive me in Your way (Ps. 119:37). I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman (Job 31:1)? Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2Cor. 10:5).

As powerful as this first element of the armour is, the helmet, it remains useless unless we actually use it. A physical helmet we have to pick up and put it on our heads. In the same way we need to take up our spiritual helmet and put it on, the knowledge of our Salvation,

knowing that Jesus Christ died for us and set us free. Now we need to believe it and apply it every time we find ourselves in a situation where our minds are under attack.

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## DAILY BREAD

### Day 1 – Eternal Life Is a Gift

*“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you become slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves to God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

*Romans 6:15-23 (NKJV)*

An Evangelist who was good friends with a pearl-fisherman had tried time after time to explain to his friend the way to Salvation. But the fisherman could not believe that Eternal Life could be a gift from God. He firmly believed that the only way he could get into heaven

was by taking the 1,500km journey to Delhi on his knees. Before the fisherman left for his pilgrims quest to Delhi, he gave the Evangelist a huge perfect pearl.

He explained to the Evangelist that this pearl cost him his son's life. The Evangelist thanked him and insisted that he pay for the pearl. The fisherman felt deeply insulted and answered that no price was high enough to compensate him for the loss of his son's life.

Now the Evangelist could explain to the fisherman exactly what he could not understand before. Eternal life is not free; it was worth the life of God's Son. For that very reason we could never pay for it but could only receive it as a gift of grace.

You can never earn Eternal life with God – to make it possible for you God paid with His Son and Jesus paid with His life. The only thing that you can do is to accept it as a gift and thank God for it.

**Prayer.** Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. I thank you for the gift of Your grace that made Eternal life possible for me. Please help me to never forget that this gift cost You the life of Your Son. In Jesus' Name, amen.

## Day 2 – Sin And Grace

*"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves;*

***it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."***

***Ephesians 2:1-10 (NKJV)***

Eternal life is a free gift from God to man that believes in the Son. This gift He gives us out of grace. And grace is always one-sided. It can only come from God. Not one of us can earn it for ourselves, and therefore not one of us has a reason to boast within ourselves.

Before we can understand grace we first need to understand how bad and sinful we are by nature. The whole world is judgement worthy before God, according to Paul in Romans 3:19. There is not even one of us that are righteous and seeking out the will of God.

***"For all have sinned and for short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."***

***Romans 3:23-26 (NKJV)***

Eternal life is forever out of our reach; by ourselves we will never be able to get to heaven, like everybody else we are of a bad and sinful nature. But God sent His Son so that He might set us free. If we believe in Him, God forgives us our sins, and Jesus makes heaven for us possible, and He guarantees us Eternal life. Free of charge!

**Prayer.** Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. I now realise that I am of a bad and sinful nature. please forgive me and free me from my sins. Thank you that You guarantee me Eternal life when I believe in You. In Jesus' Name, amen.

### Day 3 – Live Forever

*“Then Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then they said to Him, Lord, give us this bread always. And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

*John 6:32-40 (NKJV)*

When Jesus tells the people that He is the bread of life, they ask Him immediately to give them of that bread. Jesus is willing to give this bread to them, but He expects of them to do the will of the Father by eating the bread, by believing in Him. Faith in Jesus is the only prerequisite that God puts to man that would one day like to spend eternity with Him.

God sends Jesus to this world with a special purpose: to save the people who believe in Him. Although everyone that believes in Jesus already knows that one day they will live forever, there will still come a day when God will complete His rescue plan for this world. Then everyone that believes in Jesus will be raised from the dead, will receive glorified bodies, and spend eternity with God in heaven.

It is still God's purpose for you that you will receive eternal life and that you will be raised from the dead on the last day. But the choice remains yours. If you want to live forever, then you must believe in Jesus and live according to His precepts here on earth already.

**Prayer.** Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Jesus, thank you that I may know already that if I believe in You, I will be raised from the dead and will spend eternity with You. I Jesus' Name, amen.

## Day 4 – Bread For Life

*“The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, I have come down from heaven? Jesus therefore answered and said to them, Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught by God. Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not then anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”*  
*John 6:41-51 (NKJV)*

When the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God provided them with manna, so that they would not die of hunger. Although they ate of this heavenly bread, they eventually still died. Jesus tells His disciples that He is the bread that gives true life. Everyone that eats of this bread will never die.

Jesus is the bread of life, and that means that He is capable of fulfilling our every spiritual need. On the cross Jesus gave His body, that if we believe in Him (eat His body), we will live forever. Although every one of us will die physically, we know that with the second coming of Jesus we will be raised from the dead.

This means that the possibility of eternal life is now available to all through Jesus. Please be very careful that you do not let the invitation to eat of the bread of life pass you by.

**Prayer.** Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Jesus, I worship You as the Bread of life, and I know that if I believe in You, if I eat of You by believing in You, that I one day will live forever. In Jesus' Name, amen.

## Day 5 – Jesus' Body and Blood

*"The Jews therefore quarrelled among themselves, saying, How can this Man give us His flesh to eat? Then Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever. These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum,"*  
*John 6:52-59 (NKJV)*

The word of Jesus that He said that He is the bread that came down from heaven, confused the Jews completely. For them He was just the son of Joseph and Mary that they knew since He was young. Jesus knew their thoughts and told them that only the people that the Father Himself sends will believe in Him, and that these believers will be raised from the dead on the last day.

Jesus promised that he who believes in Him, already has eternal life. When somebody eats of His flesh and drinks of His blood a spiritual unity occurs between Jesus and them. For this reason, they will live as long as God remains, and that is forever.

He who eats the body of Jesus and drinks His blood, will live forever – and that is also the message that we convey every time that we partake in communion. John uses this image to describe the intimate relations between Jesus and His children. If you believe in Jesus and partake in communion, you should highlight your confession with your life. Thus, communion should not only remind you of what Jesus did for you, but also what you should do for Him – in living your life as a child of God.

**Prayer.** Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Jesus, thank you for the sacrament of communion that reminds me that Your body was broken, and Your blood was shed for me so that I now can live for You and one day live forever. In Jesus' Name, amen.

## Day 6 – The Obstacle of Sin

*“By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, this is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them, then He adds, Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.”*

*Hebrews 10:10-18 (NKJV)*

There is however one thing that can keep you out of heaven, your sin. God hates sin and, in His eyes, it always deserves the death penalty. Right from the start everyone of us were of a sinful nature – and by ourselves we will never ever be able to get into heaven. Martin Luther often said that he confesses his sins, but that this should be a process that repeats itself daily.

There is only one sacrifice that can be bought for your sin, and Jesus already did that when He gave His life on the cross that you can one day live forever. Except that sacrifice with thanksgiving, believe in Jesus, confess your sin, and depart from it and know that by doing so you can make a life in heaven for you.

**Prayer.** Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Jesus, thank you for assuredness that the promise of heaven is mine, because I believe in You. I praise you for the ultimate sacrifice that You made that unlocked the gates of heaven for me. In Jesus' Name, amen.

## Day 7 – A Special Invitation

*“That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me. And of His fulness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”*

*John 1:9-18 (NKJV)*

Someone once said that God has a lot of children, but no grandchildren! The natural way to become a part of a family, is to be born into that family. But parents can not decide for their children if they will believe in God. We also do not get born again because we decided to do our own will – this new birth that we heard of yesterday is always the work of the Holy Spirit.

All that we need to do is to say yes or no to God’s invitation. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

If you are already certain that you belong to God, you are born again because God willed it – it is His will that you should be His child, that you will be part of His family here on earth and that you one day will live forever. If you are not sure if you are bound for heaven, it is still not too late. Today’s invitation is meant for everybody. Even for you. Do not wait any longer to respond to it.

**Prayer.** Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. That you that everyone that believes in You, You gave the right to become Your child. I believe in You, Jesus, and I know that You love me. In Jesus Name, amen.

*P.S. If you are at all in any way uncertain of your salvation, please contact us so that we can walk this road with you to ensure that you do not miss out on this great opportunity and open invitation, to become a child of God.*

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## CONNECT WITH US

**Call us:** +27(71) 562 3644

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You can find us on social media! Please like, follow, share, tag us, and engage. We are on Facebook, and Instagram. You can find us by clicking on the icons below.



For tithes, offerings, love gifts, and donations, please use the details below and use the purpose of your payment as reference.

<b>Bank:</b>	FNB
<b>Account Name:</b>	Lifestylez Family Ministries
<b>Account Type:</b>	FNB Business Cheque
<b>Account Number:</b>	628 691 604 17
<b>Branch Number:</b>	250 655

*“The Lord blesses you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift His countenance to you and give you peace.”*

*Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)*

