



#### **Pentecost (NOT) in Lockdown 4 (2020)**

Dear Father

Thank you that I/we was/were made to your image;

Thank you for showing me/us that you value me/us as your creation and that you were impressed with the result;

Thank you that you did not refrain from me/us when I/we sinned against you;

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for stepping into my/our place and paying my/our debt by dying on the cross;

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for leading me/us to Christ and for giving me/us the guarantee that I/we am/are God's child/children.

Father thank you for loving us so much and for saving us from a fruitless life. Please fill me/us with the Holy Spirit that I/we can enjoy a fruitful life.

As your child/children, I/we would like to become the person that you want me/us to be and to understand what my/our true value is and how our relationship with you can add value to my/our life here on earth.

Amen

#### **4. Character building (26-05-2020)**

Continuing my testimony:

In realising that I was filled with the Holy Spirit was a new realisation and thus I wanted to learn more. During one of my exams there was a conference at the Hartbeespoort dam, and I knew I would not be able to stay over - I needed to do some preparations. I decided to attend a few sessions by driving in and only paid for lunch. Normally I am early and arrived during breakfast. God laid it on my heart to wash some of the dishes. I felt good - I did not eat but was willing to serve. The next day I did the same. As I was busy scrubbing a pot a camper came and added another pot to the load than the one I chose for myself – this pot needed some extra elbow-grease! I wanted to throw the person with the pot and say: *“Hey, don't you realise that I am not a camper, I am just here for the day!”*

It was then, that the Holy Spirit confronted me about my attitude! I knew I can do the right thing, but if my attitude is not in line, then it does not glorify God! I had to scrub the pot and learn to do it with the right attitude.

Let's reflect on two well known passages:

### Romans 12:3-8      Life in God's Service

So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: **Offer yourselves** as a living sacrifice to God, **dedicated** to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God **transform you inwardly** by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

<sup>3</sup> And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, **be modest** in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you. <sup>4</sup> We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. <sup>6</sup> So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it **according to the faith** that we have; <sup>7</sup> if it is to serve, we should **serve**; if it is to teach, we should **teach**; <sup>8</sup> if it is to **encourage** others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it **generously**; whoever has authority should **work hard**; whoever shows **kindness** to others should do it **cheerfully**.

Ministry	→	Attitude
encourage	→	encourage
shares	→	generously
authority	→	work hard
kindness	→	cheerfully

### 1 Corinthians 13      Love

I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have **no love**, my speech is no more than a **noisy** gong or a clanging bell. <sup>2</sup> I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have **no love**, I am **nothing**. <sup>3</sup> I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned<sup>[a]</sup>—but if I have **no love**, this does me **no good**.

<sup>4</sup> Love is **patient** and kind; it is **not jealous** or **conceited** or **proud**; <sup>5</sup> love is **not ill-mannered** or **selfish** or **irritable**; love does not **keep a record of wrongs**; <sup>6</sup> love is not **happy with evil**, but is **happy with the truth**. <sup>7</sup> Love **never gives up**; and its **faith, hope, and patience** never fail.

<sup>8</sup> Love is **eternal**. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass. <sup>9</sup> For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; <sup>10</sup> but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.

<sup>4</sup> Love is **patient** and **kind**; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; <sup>5</sup> love is not; love does not keep a record of wrongs; <sup>6</sup> love is not happy with evil, but is **happy with the truth**. <sup>7</sup> Love never gives up; and its **faith, hope, and patience** never fail.

**Love is:**

patient  
kind

happy with the truth

*never gives up*

faith

hope

eternal



**Love is NOT**

*jealous, conceited, proud*

*ill-mannered, selfish, irritable*

*keep a record of wrongs*

*not happy with evil*

Both sections speak about our spiritual gifts, the diversity and the responsibility that we have to the rest of the Body of Christ. In discovering your gift and ministry there is also the discovery to learn how to do your part with the right reason, attitude or purpose

It is not what we do BUT **why** we do what we do;

It is not what we do BUT **how** we do what we do;

It is not where we do something BUT **when** we do what we do.

**Reason**

**Attitude**

**Purpose**



We could be doing the right thing, but if we do it for our own agenda or wrong **reason**, our **attitude** will show it;

We could do the right thing but if our timing is wrong, our **purpose** will show it

... we might blow the opportunity;

Everyone has a role to play and although we might have similar gifts, we add our own personality to it, giving it a unique flavour or colour. There is no competition when our reasons, attitude and purpose is done in uprightness.

Learning to be part of the body is to avail yourself to that aspect that interest you & willing to learn, or that aspect you might initially feel more comfortable to engage in & is willing to give a hand. Availing yourself becomes a service to God (first and foremost) and secondary to your fellow believer. As the body becomes aware of your gifting the rest of the body know what they can rely on. You are still in control of how much (time, effort, money, knowledge, etc) you are willing to give – your willingness to serve is a part of your worship to God therefore no one can demand more than what you in your faith can give. So, no one can deny you to give more of yourself, if it is with the right reason, attitude or purpose.

As we journey during this Lock down and preparing to re-join as a congregation, my prayer is that you will reflect on your part, your responsibility, your gift and ministry and will step forward and add value to the body of Christ.

- It will give you the opportunity to put in practise what you believe
- It will give you the opportunity to learn and develop the skill and gain experience (including making mistakes and learning from them)
- It will give you more freedom to be Body of Christ in your home, you work, school, community

Let's not loose out on the opportunity that God has given you now to reflect and learn.

Looking forward to seeing each and every one soon (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Heavenly Father, thank you for pouring out the Holy Spirit on all believers – young & older. Holy Spirit thank you for enabling us to be the body of Christ and

- for providing us with different gifts and ministries
- to build each other up in our faith,
- to equip us for our ministries,
- to be available to carry each other loads.

Thank you that we can in a time like this come to the fore and share our gifts and ministry to strengthen, encourage and to comfort one another. May we glorify you through our participation in Church. May your Gospel spread through our gifts and ministries where we represent you in our community. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. May your Kingdom come. May your name be glorified. Amen