

author: Stanislav



***Discovering the gospel
of Jesus Christ***

E-mail: zivyjezisypraxi@gmail.com

www.ZivyJezisyPraxi.sk

Contents

➤ Prayer	5
➤ Don't overlook it!	6
➤ Using references (abbreviations) to verses from the Bible	7
➤ Acknowledgments	7
➤ The testimony of brother Stano	8
➤ 1. What's the life really about	12
➤ 2. Creation of the world and the Garden of Eden	16
➤ 3. People were living 900 years before the flood	20
➤ 4. The Old Testament – different views	23
➤ 5. Satan fights on three levels	25
➤ 6. Charismatics + speaking in tongues	29
➤ 7. The problem of hell, the parable of the rich man and Lazarus	30
➤ 8. The Bible shouldn't be contradictory	32
➤ 9. Consequences of wrong decisions	32
➤ 10. Jesus Christ came to reveal the true God to us	33
➤ 11. The Ten Commandments in Hebrew	34
➤ 12. On Golgotha Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself	35
➤ 13. What a tithe is	38
➤ 14. The Bible must be taken as a whole	40
➤ 15. Forget the old things (Jac 5)	41
➤ 16. Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial	42
➤ 17. The prodigal son (Lk 15, 11) + growing in faith	45
➤ 18. What fellowship is	51
➤ 19. When an evil spirit comes out of a man (Matthew 12, 43 – 45)	53
➤ 20. Our Father – the Lord's prayer (Mt 6, 8 - 15)	55
➤ 21. The demon of unforgiveness (Mt 5, 44)	58
➤ 22. Put on the full armour of God (Eph 6, 11 - 12)	59
➤ 23. The demon of materialism (Mt 6, 19 - 34)	61
➤ 24. The demon of adultery (1Cor 6, 12-20)	63
➤ 25. Power to cast out demons (Mt 10, 1 - 8)	65
➤ 26. How to cast out Satan	66
➤ 27. The meaning and significance of baptism	67
➤ 28. Go and preach the gospel (Mk 16, 15 - 20)	74
➤ 29. Always look at what is in heaven, not on earth (Col 3, 1-5)	76
➤ 30. Carry your cross and crucify your passions and desires on it (Gal 5, 16-25)	77
➤ 31. Don't worry about it any more, Jesus will resolve it (Rom 7,15-25, Rom 8,1-4) ..	80
➤ 32. Look at the giver and not the gift	82
➤ 33. Faith is courage; our response to God's calling	84
➤ 34. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5,13-20)	85

➤ 35. What Jesus looked like (Rev 1,12-18)	87
➤ 36. Summary	88
➤ Verses used in the text	97

„ Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.“

(The gospel of John 14, 6)

Prayer

Thank you, my only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that through your infinite love you came down from the throne and glory of heaven to sacrifice yourself for me and lay down your blameless life on Golgotha to redeem me from death, cleanse me from sins and set me free from all adversity.

Eternal victorious Jesus, I open my heart to you and ask you to enter into my everyday life, to be my friend and protector and to use my life as it pleases you and bring me to you, to heaven and to eternity.

May everyone know you and accept you into their life as the living God.

To you be grace and glory forever!

AMEN.

Don't overlook it!



This text is a transcript of an audio-recording from an interview with a particular person about solving his particular problems and needs (people are different, having different needs, so their needs are different for communication and understanding) with the aim to introduce living Jesus Christ in a simple and uncomplicated way (just as Jesus spoke in parables so that common people might understand) in order to deliver and heal the soul and body, change life, not to give a theologically detailed explanation; otherwise it would have been a large and long work and there are so many nowadays. If you have any questions, a further explanation can be provided.

I apologise that the transcript of the audio-recording has not been stylistically adjusted.

Using references (abbreviations) to verses from the Bible

References to verses from the Bible are used in other chapters. They connect an idea in chapters with the ones in the Bible.

Jesus Christ used the same method in his teaching, when he referred to texts from the Law of Moses, from the prophets and from the psalms. The records of His life in the Gospel are a proof.

Examples:

Matthew 6:5-15 means: Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 6, verses 5 to 15
gospel = glad tidings for man about the life of Jesus Christ

Genesis 11:23 means: the first book of Moses, chapter 11, verse 23

Acknowledgments

First of all, I thank Jesus Christ for His gift of life, infinite love, guidance in life and for the opportunity to write this book.

For cooperation in writing the book I thank Peťka and my 15-year-old daughter Lenka during the writing of introduction and summary.

Thanks also goes to Peťo and Lidka for editing the book and to all the people who supported me while writing it.

A sequel to this book is also in preparation, where the secret of action and mutual influence of spirit and mind is pointed out in depth.

The testimony of brother Stano

Stano got to know living Jesus Christ without any encouragement of the church, but he also had a long period of life in the church. He is married, has two daughters and lives in Brezno. He started to read the bible trying to find mistakes and prove that so-called God's word doesn't work in real life. However, God's word started to change his life and he found that Jesus Christ is alive and the bible is a true, perfect and still topical book. He recognized that life with Jesus is the victory and realised that God accepts us the way we are and loves us with unconditional love. Jesus Christ can change our lives when we give ourselves to him and mainly, he sets us free. How the Lord Jesus changed Stano's life by setting him free from addiction, you can read from his testimony:

Before I got to know the Lord, my life ran in a completely different direction, which now, after a certain time, I can see as the wrong course, but at that time it was the best way of life I could know. Since my childhood I was attracted by mysterious things such as the unknown, universe, caves, chemicals, from which I tried to make some explosives. Then I got into puberty and as a young 15-year-old boy I realized the difference between what the adults taught us at school and in the family and also in the way they lived. I started to recognize that their speech and their deeds were completely different, just like as the saying goes "they preach water but they drink wine". I started to be disappointed and rebellious against the society, because the righteousness I believed in was not there. At that time I met a man who taught me, because I was interested in spiritualism and mystery, how to evoke spirits and it markedly influenced my life. I was deeply involved in this for three years, which changed and orientated my mind in darkness. That's why I rebelled against society and the regime and began to prefer anarchy. My friend and I established the punk movement and began to spread rebellion. Many people joined us and so we were followed by the policemen. In fact, this way of life had its dark side: addiction to alcohol, practising karate, fights, harming people, in which developed a certain pride giving me authority among people and success. At that time I saw it as my personal growth and development and that it was me who knew exactly what to do and what not to do. I established my own rules and principles that made me happy and that way of life seemed really good for me. Because of that way of life, my life was sliding and it was visible at school and in my behaviour towards my peers, elders and parents. Actually, I stopped understanding other people and my friends were just those, who believed in the same things as me – punk and rebellion against the society, fights ...

It was like a magic circle, which I didn't try to escape from until the moment my mother discovered that I evoked spirits and she said we couldn't live together under one roof. Because she was a believer, she gave me the bible to read. But I didn't understand it and because it didn't tell me anything, I stopped reading it and let it be. Meanwhile I grew up and joined the army, where I met one man, a fellow soldier, who was able to swing a key with his eyes. We all were excited and I said that I was able to do greater things by evoking spirits, had mysterious powers and they wanted to know more about it so I showed them how to evoke spirits. Some of them made fun of me, some were afraid. Soldiers were afraid of keeping guard and it caused chaos in a military unit because the commanders were not able to manage the situation caused by the new phenomenon. Many were imprisoned in order to suppress this activity, but nothing happened to me. I was respected by other soldiers and could feel protecting power, because those who had bullied me before admired me and it did me good to meet my needs and have me on their side. At that time I could feel the help of that power.

After finishing my military service, I came home and again became addicted to alcohol. I carried a little bottle of alcohol with me because I wasn't able to go sober even to a pub. I returned to the old group of punkers, to addiction to alcohol, to practising karate, to street fights and to harming people and lived the same kind of life as before. But at that time there was the Gentle Revolution (1989) which meant the state coup, allowing people to preach and have freedom in religion. There were several churches preaching their truth and teaching people that they were the right ones, who knew the truth and that it was necessary to join them. Because I read the satanic bible when evoking spirits, I thought I knew the bible very well. So I told them that they were true and knew the bible, but I criticized them for being opposed to each other, slandering and not knowing the real God and I promised to read the Bible to show them that their God is different from what they imagined.

So I really started to read the Bible, which had been given to me by my mother and which I didn't understand. So I blew the dust out of it and began to read with the aim of finding mistakes (discrepancies). I read the verses like: *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."* (Mt7,7-8) and *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed and say to the mountain: Go, throw yourself into the sea, it will obey you."* (Lk 17,6; Mk11,23). Because I had a lot of experience with the supernatural world, I didn't have any doubts that these supernatural things, such as *throwing the mountain into the sea*, really worked. I was also deeply impressed by the verses *"who asks receives"* because I had been seeking life since my childhood and was attracted by the secrecy and unknown. At that time I got seriously ill, had temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius, had a sore throat and a bad cold. I felt so weak that I could hardly move and my first prayer was something like this: "God, if you are the same as in the Bible, I believe that you won't have any problem healing me." Then I was completely healed immediately after saying the prayer. I realized that the God who I had fought against and whom I had persecuted, was completely different from my imagination, which I had gained from believers from different christian fellowships, who presented God as someone, who rewards those who obey Him and punishes those who are disobedient. So I had thought that God should punish me because I was opposed to him, I evoked spirits, harmed other people, practised karate or punk, was addicted to alcohol. But instead of punishment, He set me free. He had healed me from a disease. I had never heard before that God would reward in this way, even His faithful. It caused a great change in me and I recognized that God is different from how I had known Him till then and I wanted to know Him the way He really is. I had already begun to read the Bible, not to find mistakes, but to know Him more and He started to touch my life.

The first steps of getting to know Jesus Christ were accompanied by several healings in my life. I believed the gospels the way they were written and now, after a certain time, I can see that I was lucky, because I wasn't brought to Jesus by any believer and so nobody could form me by their opinions about what God is like and how I have to live as a christian; that as a christian I cannot listen to punk, that as a christian I cannot practise karate, that as a christian I cannot drink ... I wasn't formed like this by anyone and so I read the Bible, enjoyed Jesus Christ, who healed me repeatedly, demonstrated himself in my life; I was happy and did the things that I had done all my life before. I thought it was the meaning of my life, but I realized that the more I knew Jesus Christ, the more I admitted Him into my life and the more He entered my life, addictions to alcohol and punk gradually disappeared. At that time I listened to punk all the time – when training, eating and when falling asleep. I couldn't imagine my life without it, but I somehow didn't miss it. It was disappearing from my life naturally. The group

of friends who were like my second family, I didn't understand any more and I realized that the Lord was changing my life and now, after a certain time, I can see that He did it naturally without forcing me to do things that I as a christian should or shouldn't do. He knew perfectly what I was able and ready to do and cleansed me from those things gradually in absolute freedom and I felt happy.

About two years after knowing and experiencing personally Jesus Christ, I joined one protestant church, where I went for 13 years and gradually learnt their rhetoric and practices, because every church has their own doctrinal points, and their way of knowledge by which they convert new people. There I was taught what I was allowed, what I was not allowed, what I could do as a christian and thus I started to experience the life of a believer, the life with God, but the personal contact with Jesus Christ, which I experienced at the beginning, disappeared into some theorems. I recuperated when the twin towers collapsed in America in 2001. It shook the entire world and I realized that it was the sign of the last times and who could be saved? What I am experiencing with God now is, in fact, about morality, some keeping and guarding, with my personal joy from experiencing and knowing the freedom with Jesus Christ, who accepts me the way I am. He demonstrated himself at the beginning, although I wasn't the righteous and perfect christian, but the opposite was true that I was bad and He accepted me the way I was. He humbled himself to me, gradually cleansed and got rid of evil; it was not because I wanted to get rid of it with my own strength or because I was encouraged to do it from the pulpit. I started to miss it and tried to seek the living God in my life, Jesus Christ, who loves me despite my faults and the bad things I had done.

With this freedom, God suddenly started to send into my life people. Unknown people, who started to open themselves to me, to speak about their problems, to cry in desperation that they couldn't handle their situation and asked for advice. Because I didn't want to form those people the way the church did it, and also because I could feel a lack of freedom and loss of the living God in that church, I didn't tell them doctrinal points or what they have to or don't have to do, but I told them about Jesus Christ who had changed my life, who loved me and accepted me despite my bad deeds and that He changed my life. I started to lead those people this way, through my personal experience, they were impressed and wanted to meet with me to tell them more about it. Although I didn't have any theological preparation to teach them the Bible, the Lord led me to tell them about my personal experiences and what He had done in my life and thus gradually we started to read the Bible, to pray and the Lord explained the word, to let us know what we needed for our lives at that moment and those people cried and were excited. Their lives changed and the Lord added more and more people, they came by themselves and now I know that the Holy Spirit led it as it is written in the Acts of apostles that *the Holy Spirit led Peter to Cornelius and to Cornelius said that Peter would come* (Acts 10, 19-22) and that the Lord used me for people, who couldn't be touched in any other way and that I could demonstrate, by my life, that Jesus Christ was able to lift me completely out of the mud and that it was Him who lifted me out of it, not by my effort nor my church with its doctrines.

Those people grew in the Lord, but they had their own problems and Jesus let me know, that the same way He set me free and removed all my addictions by His power, He is able to do with the lives of those people. I taught those people that the Bible is the basis and that they have to build their lives on it. We read in the gospels that *Jesus gave the power to His disciples* (Mt10,1 & Mk6,13) so that people could be free and I was gradually placed in this ministry and admitted by the Lord, so that what He did with my life, He is able to do in other people's lives. He gradually taught me and I experienced people being delivered and physically healed from various disorders. When those things happened, the news about it spread very fast and people

wanted to know living Jesus Christ more and more, because many of them, like me at the beginning, were tired of various churches which offered guaranteed truth, but people's lives weren't changed. They were expected to do something all the time, but they didn't experience freedom, happiness and change in Jesus. When people experienced it in the groups, which the Lord gradually gave me, they demonstrated it by their lives and showed their relatives and neighbourhood that, in Jesus, a man can really be happy without being told what he can or cannot do. Do's and don't's. They were led to freedom. When I experienced this, I had nine groups and seven days a week. Sometimes two groups in one day. So many people came to know living Jesus Christ. They arrived from different parts of Slovakia. So the Lord led me and is still leading me to ministry among people who, as I usually say, can hardly be converted by a classical evangelism, because they have a lot of negative experience with various churches and have different problems, by which they weren't helped by preaching the word. They literally needed to be delivered by the power of Jesus Christ and Jesus gave us that power and if we accept it, the power is manifested through us and I am very glad, that despite my faults and weaknesses, the Lord uses me this way to spread His name and His word as it is promised in the gospels. For me the basis is the Bible and living Jesus Christ who is manifested through the Holy Spirit, who He promised and said that *He will lead us (Jn14,26)* as He led his disciples 2000 years ago. So I enjoy my everyday life Jesus, I am happy that I can experience these sorts of adventures and experiences when people are set free. If people want to experience the adventure, with Jesus Christ it is really the greatest one because it changes people's lives, blesses us either at work, in a family or wherever we are. He makes our way straight and blesses other people through us and thus the light is spread and people can know and praise Jesus Christ, accept living Jesus Christ who is able to change their lives.

Stano prays for every born again person to be able to join a lively christian community. He also prays for the particular needs of people and God's power heals many people through him. Many people experienced the Lord's touch through this God's servant in a new miraculous way and it gave them a new dimension of knowledge. At present Stano teaches in several biblical groups, leads people to freedom in Jesus and is open to meeting new people so that they may know the living Jesus Christ.

1. What's the life really about

A human being is a human spirit in its mental and material body, although people only see the material body when they talk about a man. Just as a driver drives a car and from a distance we can only see the car that's moving (accelerating, braking, turning, hooting), it is clear to everyone that someone has to drive the car although we don't see the driver inside. The human spirit uses the human body to be able to exist and realize its potential in this material world. If a driver does not follow the set regulations and drives the car badly, he is likely to depart from the road and damage the car or other road users and their property. The regulations are aimed to protect all the parties although somebody might find them restrictive. The manufacturer gives us instructions about how to use products (TV, washing machine, mobile) and if we follow them, the products serve us to our satisfaction. If we find the instructions restrictive and fail to follow the manual, we will cause damage to ourselves. Similarly, the creator of life and world issued regulations and recommendations that protect us along our life path. If someone perceives this as a restriction, he himself complicates his life. If a driver departs from the road, slows down, drives along obstacles or completely stops, he might cause damage to himself or others. It is useless to repair the car until we teach the driver to drive properly to be able to keep the car on the road and to follow regulations. There is no point in repairing the damaged car again and again until we teach the driver to use the car properly. Therefore, in addition to following the instructions, it is a good idea to go to school or course. For the sake of our safety, the smart manufacturer puts indicator lights in every car to warn us in advance that something wrong is going on (little fuel or oil, worn brakes, open door, etc.). When the indicator lights come on, it is clear to everyone that it is not necessary to remove the light, but it is necessary to eliminate the cause, e.g., to refuel. However, other indicator lights might mean that we are in need for a professional help. The professional will neither remove the light nor tape it over to stop it shining. He will definitely eliminate the cause of the problem, which he can detect thanks to that little shining light. However, there are several types of car repairmen and some of them might be botchers; in fact, only the manufacturer, the God, the Creator, is reliable. Ignoring the indicator lights will damage the car and you will not cross the finish line. When our body suffers from some health issues it's like a shining indicator light in a car referring to a concrete problem, thanks to which we, the human spirits, can find the cause of such problem, just like the car driver can find the cause of the car problem. The causes of human diseases are always of spiritual nature.

We, the children of God and spiritual beings were embodied in physical bodies. Thus, the soul was created as an interconnection between the spirit and the physical body. Each of us was born into this world with the intention to understand and to purify ourselves of everything that does not reflect the image of the Creator, so that we can return to the eternity from which we came. All diseases and sorrows are meant to help us on this path as shining lights indicating the real spiritual cause of the problem – that we have departed from our path or have not been following the instructions. If we understand this, the diseases and sorrows (indicator lights) are no longer an option for us, they lose the educational reason, the lights go out, and the way to recovery, blessing and happiness will be opened. A pain killer is just a crutch that does not heal

the problem causing toothache, on the contrary a person soothed with a false self-deception of temporary pain relief can neglect the situation, not bother to visit a dentist and let the inflammation spread throughout the body. Such situation would be even worse than not taking the pain killer, which would force the person to have the tooth repaired and thus to eliminate the pain. Pain relief methods and body healing remedies should be used simultaneously with eliminating the cause, which is always of spiritual origin, in order to stop the problems from recurring. The body cannot be healthy if the soul is sick, just as the body cannot be sick if the soul is healthy.

The journey of a human spirit in the material body through this life is similar to the car driver's journey to a certain destination. If we follow the rules, we do not depart from our way, but we also need to make the right decisions at the life's crossroads. We use direction signs, a map or navigation for orientation. If we make a wrong decision at the crossroads, we will complicate our journey. We can either return, what will cause a delay, or we can get to our destination by taking a detour at next crossroads, what will cause a delay, too, and at the same time, it will bring complications and consequences resulting from the wrong decision according to the "you reap what you sow" principle. There are many crossroads on our life's path at which we must make the right decisions, and if we ignore the recommendations of the wiser Creator, we complicate our lives ourselves or even do not reach our destination. We either learn our lesson voluntarily, or, more often, we suffer due to hardness of our hearts. Suffering is like fire, it burns, but it also purifies our character, just like gold is purified in fire, but without fire we could not be clean because we have come to this world dirty, sinful. Everything we encounter is attracted to our lives according to the "you reap what you sow" principle.

The brain as an organ is a part of the material body and by means of the senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste) it can perceive only the material world, not the spiritual one. A savage living in a jungle does not understand how mobile phones and internet work, because he cannot sense the intangible electromagnetic waves. We neither see them, nor can hold them in our hands, but we can measure them with various instruments and devices. Similarly, we cannot see, smell or hold love or will, because they are intangible, but no one doubts that they are the parts of our lives, even if we cannot measure them with instruments. Until recently, prior to the existence of microscopes and space telescopes, we had no clue that miniature bacteria and viruses or distant stars and galaxies were part of our lives. And the savage in jungle still would not believe it. Likewise, the mental world and the spiritual world are the parts of our lives, and the fact that we cannot sense or measure them does not mean that they are not here. Just like the effect of invisible electromagnetic waves can be seen through devices, e.g., mobile phone, computer; the invisible mental world and spiritual world affect the visible material world much more than we can imagine. We perceive spirituality through emotion, through the heart. However, emotion and feeling are two different things. The feeling comes after (follows) emotion and as it is the product of the brain, it has nothing to do with spirituality and therefore it is deceptive. Each of us has experienced a silent inspiration – an image evoked by the Spirit of God through emotion, but (scientifically proven) in half a second there comes the feeling – the activity of forebrain, which disproves the inspiration "logically". The Bible describes this

mutual struggle as “the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh” Gal. 5:16-26. The brain is a good servant, but a bad master; it has to be subordinate to the God's Spirit. Just like in a firm, the director (the Spirit) entrusts the employee (brain) with tasks and the employee reworks (thinks through) them in detail and implements them with the help of tools (body limbs). But if an employee thinks that he does not need the director, because it is the employee who performs tasks at the end, the firm would probably bankrupt as the employee is narrow-minded and cannot see the broader context in a way the director sees it.

In addition to controlling the bodily functions, the brain activities include thinking. It stores, analyses and classifies all sensual perceptions based on previous experience, evaluates them and gives action commands. Thus, a separate kind of a controlling element, the mind, the ego is created, which is – similarly to AI artificial intelligence – limited to act within the limits of its possibilities and sensual sensors (sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste) only, and so it is dependent on the programmer, the Creator. We are the human spirit, not the ego seeking to gain the control over because it worries about its existence, since it was created by the brain of the temporary body; and this is where all bodily fears and deeds come from Gal. 5, 16-21. The ego is a false identity that creates its own world, its own bubble of illusions beyond the reality of the Kingdom of God, which can only be understood by the awakened ones liberated from the deception, from the ego. Therefore, the ego seeks to survive and thus acts selfishly for its own benefit, just like a cancer cell, at the expense of the whole, and so it ultimately destroys itself, as its activities are beyond the plan of the Creator of life, and thus it loses life, just like the artificial intelligence (e.g., robot) that wants to become independent and so it disconnects itself from the source and runs out of energy. Therefore, the Bible says that when we manage to crucify or mortify the bodily desires, i.e., the ego illusions, through which dark entities operate (when we consciously surrender to the control of the Spirit), only then we will take back the lost eternal life by conscious connection to the Source of the Creator.

Opposites are attracted to each other and should complement and unite each other. The other partner (not only in marriage, but in every interpersonal relationship) should receive from you what he or she lacks and vice versa you should receive from him or her what you lack. That's fine. That's when you both grow up. The problem is that today only few of us grow as everyone is selfish. And everyone is guided by “It takes one to know me” motto. And that's why the society is as it is. We need to learn what Jesus showed us. Love your enemies, too. And accept people as they are. The more complicated a person is, the more he or she needs to be accepted. If we have a problem with someone, that problem part is blocked in us. Jesus said:

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” (Luk 6, 41-42)

It is the centre and it is the unity, God, love. And there is a circle around the centre. And we, humans, are sinners, and therefore we are out of the centre, and thus we differ from each

other or we are completely different. And right in front of us, behind the centre, there is our shadow. So, we don't see it. That is our unconsciousness. Everything we reject, suppress, is there and it has been built since early childhood, it creates our behaviour patterns in adulthood. The more away of the centre we are, the bigger our shadow is. And that's what shapes our lives the most, what happens in our life, relationships, problems. And we don't know about the unconsciousness, that's why it's called unconsciousness. It influences our lives, our existence the most. But God means unity.

We, the human spirits have come to this school of life from eternity to learn and understand something. And we will return home to eternity. People live this life as if it was everything and nothing was to come thereafter. They make it homely here and live the life to the fullest. As if a student said to himself, he would neither go home nor learn, he would rather stay here and play with his pencil case, blackboard, or other things originally intended as learning aids. However, the student is not chained to school, he is looking forward to his home, where he will feel well. This is the school of life, and if you survive everything that comes in your way correctly, you will come to heaven, your home. Family, children, work, etc. are the parts of your life as teaching aids, not the goal of life. Everything in our lives is just a teaching aid aimed to help us understand something in life. The student can't play at school because he won't learn anything. Do not play, do not waste time in life with material things, you will not take any of it to the other world anyway. The more complicated it is, the more we need it. The harder the curriculum, the better for the student's knowledge. We need to devote more time to more difficult subjects. If we manage to pass the exam easily, we have managed to handle the subject. However, we need to devote more time to the subjects we do not manage to master easily. Similarly, in life there are issues that we manage to cope with more easily and then there are issues that we prefer to avoid, but the latter ones are those we need to devote more time to. Because if we don't pass the exam in one subject, we fail at school, even if we manage to pass all the other exams excellently. Also, in life we need to manage all the issues that life brings us, yet they are often caused by consequences of our wrong decisions taken in the past, in order to learn a lesson, to purge ourselves and to grow.

And if a student does not pass the exam, he can retake it and has to prepare better, devote more time to learning, or ask a more experienced person to explain the subject. And if he doesn't pass the exam anyway, he repeats the whole year with all the subjects, exams, including the passed ones. Thus, the student's goal is postponed. It's the grace to get another chance. But the test will not be forgiven, nobody has an exception and nobody can go further without learning. What would be the point? He would be stupid, uneducated. God is fair, equal to all, and merciful. Jesus helps us, but he will not do our part, will not pass our test, because we ourselves must go through everything in life, and we must behave properly in every test or situation in order to purge ourselves, if we want to get into eternity just like Jesus after being tempted by the Devil in the desert and throughout his whole life.

But if the student does not make use of the repeated chances, does not pass the repeated exams, not because they are too difficult, as the curriculum is set for each student to pass provided that the student prepares thoroughly not indifferently, preferring anything else

instead of learning. Then the student would be expelled from school due to his own fault. It's the same in life, we can manage whatever comes to us with faith and with the help of Jesus, but if we prefer the bodily desires (Gal. 5: 16-21), then we have failed and lost eternal life through our own fault. The tempter knows it and that is why he seduces us, lies to us, and that is why Jesus said, "be vigilant!". Let's not look at the possibility of failure. Let's just look ahead, at Jesus. There is nothing in our lives that we could not manage, everything is in our hands.

2. Creation of the world and the Garden of Eden

I accept the gospel as a unit of a spiritual warfare; how it started, then continued and how Jesus Christ came to resolve it giving us the opportunity and weapons to overcome and live victorious life.

God is the source of everything; He is eternal. All things were created by Him and without Him nothing would exist. When He created the planets, He created living beings, angels and also the highest angel, whose name was Lucifer, and he was to shine in the darkness the light of God. He was the most intelligent, second to God. He desired the same glory as God – the Creator – before whom all the dwellers of heaven bowed down in adoration. He wanted the same glory, because he was the highest in the hierarchy of angels. But he didn't deserve the glory; that could only be given to the Creator. He wanted to take it by force. He was successful and set apart heavenly beings opposed to God. He deceived them, claiming that God rules by power and not by love. Thus he defiled the name of God and ensured themselves something like "immunity". If God had destroyed him, his statement that God rules by power and not by love would be confirmed. But God knew that, when he created Satan, because He knows all things in advance. He is the absolute God. He created Satan, despite knowing what would happen later, and prepared the solution: Golgotha = Jesus Christ. That was the solution to the conflict present in the whole universe. Satan was so intelligent that he succeeded and seduced one third of the angels to oppose against God. They started to bow down before him, because it was his aim to feel like God and be adored. A third of present-day angels are demons – unclean spirits serving Satan.

When God created the Earth, He also created man, so we are the children of God just like the angels. He created the man physically, in contrast to the angels and that's why he formed us in physical bodies. The earth and the other things created by Him, were very good as it is written in Genesis. All the things He created were good and perfect and He also included the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God created Adam the first man. He made him from the dust of the ground. It is written that God made him by His own hands, while the other things were created by His word. He created him in His own image and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils and he became a living being. (1M2,7). He was not given a living soul but, literally, he became a living soul. The dust came alive at the moment when God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, which means God's power which created him as a living soul. So

through our nostrils we can receive the Spirit of God. This was discovered by yogins during their exercises and I also tell people that we have to learn to breathe deeply, because through our nostrils we can receive not only oxygen into our bodies, but also the Spirit of God. We depend on breathing. We need to breathe to stay alive. When we are stressed, we take shallow and short breaths and are not able to think properly. Doctors also recommend taking deep breaths. Deep breaths are important for the organism to calm down and cheer up. It is not just due to oxygen, as the doctors say, but thanks to the fact that the Spirit of God can work in us more.

The man became a living soul (being) and it is also written that water teemed with living creatures - the fish. (1M1,20-21). All the living creatures are living souls. When something comes alive, it immediately becomes a soul. When a man dies, his body decays into particles because "you were taken from dust and to dust you will return." (1M3,19) Thus a man decays to dust from which he was made and the Breath of God, which was breathed into his nostrils, returns to God. But it is no longer the soul which can see, nor the man able to think, act or feel, but again it is the Spirit of God - energy. It can be found in the Scripture that Jesus gave up his spirit (Mt27,50). He didn't give up his soul but his spirit.

God created a woman from Adam's rib (1M2,22) and she became a part of Adam. Actually, God says that a man leaves his father and mother, is united to his wife and they become one flesh (1M2,24 & Mt19,4-5). That woman is Adam's flesh. They are to become one flesh. They are to support each other. The differences between them are not there to have a mutual fight, but to mutually support each other. As a unit they should be perfect. God created the woman more sensitive so she could bring up children. The man was created less sensitive so he could take care of the family. The woman's sensitivity was abused by Satan when they met at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not given to us to test us, because God knows everything in advance, and He didn't need to test a man causing difficulties and hard times. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not given to us because God is love (1J 4,16) and where there is love, there is freedom. God loves people and gave them freedom to make decisions and return to His love. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represents their decision. If a man ate from that tree, he would go his own way, not God's way. That is the point of freedom. God commanded the man that he is free to eat from any tree in the garden, but he must not eat from that one, for when he eats of it, he will surely die. Satan knew this and because he wanted to harm God, he decided to harm Him through the man. I have already mentioned that Satan opposed God in heaven (Ez28,13-17) and rebelled against Him. But Satan also knows that there is no point fighting against God, because God is the Creator and he was created by Him. This is not an equal fight and Satan knows very well that he doesn't have any chance against God. Satan's power resides in the fact that if he harms and deceives people, he harms God. As parents, we love our children and if someone wants to harm us but is unable to do it, he will hurt our children and thus harms us. Satan decided to harm people, God's children, so he could harm God himself, otherwise he couldn't. He did it in the Garden of Eden, because he knew that if the man ate from that tree, he would die. He seduced the man to eat from that tree, but before that he needed to deceive him.

For this purpose he used a serpent. The serpent wasn't in the tree, as the Christians usually say, because what God created, was good and perfect. In the Bible God says to the serpent that because he did it, he will crawl on his belly and eat dust all the days of his life. (1M3,14). So the serpent was changed into the image, which we know him by today, after his fall into sin. He hadn't looked like that before. Because God created everything perfect and good, I think that the serpent was something like a bird, let's say a beautiful peacock. He was in the treetop and spoke to Eve in a human voice. Eve wouldn't have talked to something which was not nice and attractive to her. She said the fruit was pleasing to the eye (1M3,6). As a woman, she was created sensitive to bring up her children, so Satan abused her sensitivity through lust, the desire of her eyes and taste, and she fell.

Satan used the serpent, which I think was a bird, and after encountering Satan it turned into something ugly, and that means that God didn't punish an innocent bird. It is written that *you will crawl on your belly ...* (1M3,14) This is the rhetoric of the Old Testament. God doesn't punish anyone, not even the innocent animal, which was used by Satan to deceive Eve. God created everything good and perfect and Satan opposed to Him. That which is good and perfect, created by God, is destroyed by Satan. This is how I understand the Bible. I can't say that for sure, because it isn't written explicitly, but because God created everything good and perfect and it was in the treetop, Eve spoke to it and it turned into the serpent. There it is written that the change had already been done. This change leads me to think that it had been something different before.

Satan deceived Eve by asking her *if God really said ...* (1M3,1). Thus distorted God's word. Having doubts about God's word, he sowed doubt into Eve's mind. Because she answered him, she became trapped. Eve told him truly what God had said: *when you eat of it you will surely die*. But because she spoke to him, she surrendered herself to his power.

When Jesus walked the earth, the demons tried to talk to Him, but He constantly silenced them saying: *"Be quiet and stop talking."* (Lk4,35). Jesus didn't debate with evil. He didn't communicate with evil. As soon as Eve started to communicate with evil, immediately she was disconnected from God and stopped being protected by Him. That was her failure. If we get doubtful thoughts from Satan and deal with them, we consciously turn away from God and fall. We become vulnerable. Satan gave Eve the correct question and she answered correctly, but the problem was that she also communicated with him. Eve took from the tree and ate. The problem was not that she took the fruit and it was poisonous or it was as if someone had taken fruit from someone else's garden and then they had quarreled. It was something different: she declared that she wanted to go her own way. God clearly commanded them in advance not to take fruit from the tree because they would die. She took and proved that God's solution for her life was unacceptable and decided to go the other way offered by Satan. *For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.* (1M3,5). Eve preferred the way shown by Satan, not by God, declaring, according to her free will that she didn't want to follow God.

It is written that she gave some to Adam (1M3,6) and he ate it. Adam's problem was that he should have realized that God had created a woman for him and that she had opted for death because they both knew that when they ate of it they would die. When she opted for death, he could have left her and God could have created another woman for him, because God had created a woman from his rib. But he preferred his wife to God. She said to him: "Eat!" (1M3,6) and he ate. Eve preferred Satan, who seduced and deceived her. He wouldn't deceive Adam. He deceived Eve through her desires of the body and vanity. It was because of the sensitivity she had been given to bring up her children. On the other hand, Adam, who was supposed to protect his wife because he was created to do so, simply believed his wife, rather than God and ate of that tree. That was Adam's defeat. Satan still works like that. He breaks women on their sensitivity and yearnings of their bodies and men on their desire for women. He has been using these tactics until now. As they turned away from God and didn't listen to Him, they turned away from the source of life. God gave them eternal life. They were to live forever, in perfection. But because they were disobedient, they showed their preference saying "we are going our own way" and rejected God. They departed from God and disconnected themselves from the source of eternal life. It is the same as when we take a lamp out of a socket and it goes off. They depended on God. God breathed into them the breath of life and they had the glory of God – the great power of God because God's presence was in them. They had possessed the God's great protection until they rejected God. Then the destruction started. We have already mentioned that that lack of energy results in diseases and death and so the self-destruction continues.

3. People were living 900 years before the flood

They were to die immediately, but God gave them a second chance and prolonged their lives. In other words, they didn't die right after they had turned away, so God prolonged their lives. Before the flood it was 900 years. During those 900 years people were supposed to recognise what they had lost and turn back to God. In fact, God gave them a second chance. He didn't allow them to die, but kept them alive for 900 years. Because God said that if they eat from that tree, they would die immediately. Turning away from God, they separated themselves from the source of life and were to die, but God who loves people gave them a second chance. During those 900 years they should have recognised what they had lost and return back to God. Before the flood people were living an average of about 900 years. The people of the line of Methuselah and many others before him, lived about 900 years. (1M 5) Adam and Eve were 900 years old and gave birth to sons and daughters until the flood. They would die after 900 years and would receive eternal life such as Methuselah and Enoch who walked faithfully with God. If they had accepted God's way, they would have had eternal life, which was given to us in Jesus Christ. (J3,14-16) This was through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Nowadays humans live on average for 70 years, before the flood it was 900 years.

When God created a man, he let him rule over the animals and nature. He said, "rule" (1M1,28). The biblical term "rule" doesn't mean to govern and command, but to take care. Also God rules over the universe and takes care of it. He doesn't use his power to suppress but to help. Also Man was to take care of nature and animals. But because Man turned away from the source of life, he lost his eternal life and caused evil to come to nature and animals. Since then thorns and thistles started to grow and animals began to eat each other. In the beginning they were created differently, but because the man, who was to take care of them, made a wrong decision, there were visible consequences in nature and animals. If the kings of Israel had followed God, they and their people would have prospered. As the kings of Israel followed idols, they and their people didn't prosper. This was because the kings were responsible for the nation. The man was responsible for animals and nature, given into his hands by God and when he made the wrong decision, it negatively affected nature and animals. Finally, the man took revenge on himself. Thorns and thistles grew (1M3,18) and the man began to be chased by animals. The wrong decision, evil, separation from God. God didn't leave the man. The man hid among the trees of the garden from God, His presence, His glory and His Holy Spirit. Before falling into sin, the man was filled with God's spirit and His glory, he had fellowship with God and they met face to face. But because the man decided to go his own way, not God's way, as Satan misled him, he couldn't participate in God's glory. That's why God's power in him markedly decreased and he became mortal. It was not God who punished the man saying "that's why you will die", but it was the man who disconnected himself from God. It's like a lamp which goes off when you disconnect it. Another example is a computer – if there is a virus, destruction starts. The same way the man gave up the opportunity to have eternal life. He moved off. When you go away from the fire, you feel cold. The man left God's presence and destruction - diseases and death - came. When the man lived in God's presence, everything was perfect and even the animals didn't eat each other. After the fall into sin, the animals

changed because there hadn't been any death before. There had been no death for animals. God said to the man: "*Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground*" (1M1,28). That means that the man was given dominion over them and his wrong decision influenced them. Simply said, *thorns and thistles began to grow* (1M3,18). Here we have to realize "rhema", the Holy Spirit showing us the bible as a whole, that God created everything perfect and death didn't exist. It means that there was no death for animals as well. The animals didn't eat each other and when they began to die and eat each other, it was caused by the sin of the man who allowed it on earth. It can be compared to a king, who influences his villains by his acts and behaviour. Although they are not directly connected to him, his decisions have an impact on them, no matter if they are good or bad. It is the same with the man, who became the king of all creation on earth. His decision affected nature and animals. God's real power, which could flow through the man and affect the animals, made the animals tame through God's love. But because the man separated himself from God, the animals became cruel. They were no more filled with God's love through the man. The flow of God's love was cut off from them. The man cut it off, when he turned away from God and the animals became wild. Evil as the opposite of love soon became apparent because God couldn't interfere. The first animal killed by the man after sin grew in him, was a lamb to provide himself with clothing (1M3,21). It was the first death.

God was so merciful that He gave the least – one tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He couldn't give less than one. He didn't make it harder and put more trees there. He put just one tree there to fulfill the law of love – where there is love, there is freedom to decide whether to follow God or not and whether to respond to His love or not. He even warned the people what would happen when they took the fruit. God did His best to prevent evil. Some people blame God in that He knew what would happen, so He shouldn't have done it like that and so on. But it was not possible because where there is love there is freedom. There couldn't be less than one tree. And He told them clearly, which was like putting up a notice – *don't eat, you will die*. He couldn't prevent it in any other way. He didn't want to destroy the law of love and make them like robots, which do things He wants them to do without them making their own free decisions.

We have already mentioned that the man was 900 years old before the flood. During those 900 years he was supposed to recognize what he had lost, and turn back to God. But over those 900 years the man did more and more evil, as it is written people before the flood were evil and immoral (1M6,5), and then the flood came. Because God is absolute in His love and loves people, it was not Him who let them drown, but people themselves shocked the earth doing evil things to such an extent that the natural catastrophe - the flood – came. Today as well, there are natural catastrophes. As I have said before, the earth depended on the acts of people. They made wrong decisions and the earth reacted to the evil they had done over the 900 years of their lives. It was not God who punished them. He knew it would happen, because he knows everything in advance, and so he said to Noah: "*Make yourself an ark and tell people to participate in it*" (1M6,14). People refused and, at the same time they refused to be saved. But

God knew in advance what would happen. He gave people a chance to be rescued but they refused. They destroyed the earth themselves and finally were punished themselves.

That's why the end is coming; the end of the world; the second coming of Jesus Christ. And the plagues described in Revelation are not because God wants to punish people, but people will be punished because they themselves do evil things. Either wars, the greenhouse effect, famine or who knows what other things. We simply damage the Earth doing bad things and using false energies. There are earthquakes, tsunami waves, natural catastrophes, hurricanes ... It turns against us all. This is the same. God doesn't do evil things. We are the ones who do it. God gave us the Earth and made it perfect, but we destroy ourselves by destroying the Earth. It is like cutting off the branch, we are sitting on. We live on the Earth and our behaviour has a strong influence on it. So not only the greenhouse effect or deforestation can damage the earth, but also our negative thoughts because the earth was created from the immaterial. We are heaving it around and changing the course of it.

God said after the flood, that it was too much for the man to live 900 years and he didn't take advantage of it. So He decided that his days would only be a hundred and twenty years. (1M6,3). The Bible says that a man who is connected to God, can live up to 120 years. When Moses died, he was 120 years old and yet his eyes were not weak (5M34,7), because he lived with God. When we live with God and are connected to the source of life, God's power in us is so strong that there is no destruction. Humans live on average 70 years and die of diseases and accidents. When we live with God, the disease is a consequence of God's power decreasing in us, and the organ which is ill decays, dies, and so the man dies. Heart or other organs can fail ... organ transplantation is meant to replace a sick organ and it's like a component exchange.

We have already spoken about the accident, which can happen when the man is not protected by God. There were no accidents or death in Paradise; the man is protected by God and nothing like this can happen. If we were protected by God, we could hear God's voice warning us. It is the same when a shepherd leads his sheep and doesn't allow them to fall into a gap or into wolf's claws or to die of lack of water or grass. Simply said, the shepherd is intelligent and wise enough to take care of his sheep. Our heavenly Father is thoughtful enough to take care of us. When we allow Him to lead us, we don't have to be afraid of shortage or accidents. Unbelievers also have some experiences e.g. when driving a car, they hear a voice speaking to them: "Slow down before you turn the bend." And suddenly another car comes out of a corner or something falls off the lorry. There is always God's voice, but we, as the sinners are not able to hear it and so are not protected and warned. So again, the man during 120 years of his life after the flood, has a chance to hear and recognise God's voice.

God's power is the external manifestation of God's presence in us. It can be compared to burning fire – when it burns, its external manifestation is warmth. The more we are with God, the stronger is God's power in us and vice versa, the less we are with God, the less it is. When a man dies, he no longer has God's power. It means the end. Basically, we want to have the largest portion of it and this is only possible with fellowship with God. We need consistently fill ourselves with spiritual things such as a prayer, reading the Scripture, spiritual fellowship,

discussions like we have now. They give us strength, build and encourage. Then the evil cannot be manifested in us, because it is prevented by invisible radiation. The bigger it is, the less Satan's shots can pierce us. The Bible describes them as the flaming arrows of the evil one (Eph 6,16). The biblical language described it 2000 years ago.

4. The Old Testament – different views

Some statements of the Old Testament are written in different ways, because people thought differently. We have already spoken about this at one of our sessions that, at that time, pagan nations burned their firstborn children as a sacrifice to gods. If God had showed people that evil was done by Satan, not God, they would have brought sacrifices to Satan. They would have started to bow before him. So God called them stiff-necked people, according to their thinking (2M32,9 & 5M9,13), and let them think that evil comes from God too. That's why the Old Testament is written this way, but God doesn't do any evil. Jesus Christ came to reveal it to people.

As the mankind developed and moved on, the time came when Jesus Christ came and it was possible to accept the truth, the light. Jesus Christ said that *"it was said 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth'. But I tell you, love your enemies!"* (Mt5,38-44). Moses' law is more or less about do's and don't's. Man was literally manipulated. People were afraid of God. They said to Moses: *"Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."* (2M20,19). People were on a lower level. Also nowadays, christianity is frequently on Moses' level: you can do this, you can't do that. Because of the level of restrictions, the do's and don't's, they were afraid of God. They would either lose eternal life or end up in hell if they didn't obey God. In the Old Testament times they were motivated by fear, but Jesus came to show that He is our friend. He says: *"You are my friends, not servants, because a servant does not know his master's business, for everything that I learned from Father I have made known to you"* (J15,14-15). Jesus came to show us freedom. We are free. Jesus doesn't restrict us in anything. Apostle Paul says to Corinthians that *"I have the right to do anything, but not everything is beneficial. I have the right to do anything, but I will not be mastered by anything."* (1Cor 6,12). Jesus moved us up to a higher level of knowing God, where there is freedom, and which was originally supposed to be Paradise. So I don't do something because I have to, or because I want to gain something, but because I realize that it is good for me. And I don't want to do bad things not because God will punish me but because I will punish myself.

Since the times of Jesus Christ, 2000 years have passed and the thinking of people is on a higher level. The Holy Spirit works in every era. Nowadays He speaks to us in a particular way which is different from that in the Old Testament 3500 years ago. For us it is hard to understand because it was a different culture, and the people thought differently. The New Testament is much closer to us through Jesus Christ. That's why it is necessary to interpret the Old Testament through the New Testament, through Jesus Christ, although it's been 2000 years, and nowadays The Holy Spirit leads us in the way people can understand.

That's why at the beginning we spoke about God's glory = God's power, energy, because today's people think on a technical level, and they have no problem understanding that there is energy. So God tries to speak to people, in every era, the way they understand. In the Old Testament times people understood pagan gods, so He spoke to them that way. In times of Jesus Christ there was helenism, the Greek philosophy of thinking, namely logic, so He spoke through freedom, but nowadays we have the era of energy, computers and God simply speaks to people the way they understand, i. e. through energy. This was gradually to bring us to Him; to Jesus Christ. While in the Old Testament time He brought them to Him through the knowledge they had, so in the New Testament times He brought them to Him, through the knowledge they had at that time. The Apostle Paul uses gods and philosophical views and streams directly to introduce Jesus Christ. He spoke to people the way they could understand. God is topical and knows what people go through. Jesus spoke in parables from people's lives: about sowing and the harvest, pasturage ... God always uses the way people understand, which means that nowadays it would be useless to speak the way used in the Old Testament or about sowing and the harvest. Nowadays people accept things in a different way. Their everyday life concerns energy. Therefore He can speak to people through that. Because the Bible hasn't been written these days, it is strange to us, but it doesn't mean that it is not correct. When Jesus came in the times of the New Testament, the New Testament had not yet been written. When the Pharisees compared Him to the Old Testament, they discovered that something was wrong. It's the same with us today when we search the Bible, there are things that we consider wrong, but they don't contradict the Bible. That's important. The words Jesus said didn't contradict the Old Testament but developed (fulfilled) it. Both Jesus and the apostle Paul said it – Paul, in the letters, where he interpreted the Old Testament texts. This was the way Jesus came to show.

Nowadays the Bible is interpreted by the Holy Spirit so that we may understand and are not like the pharisees who had blinkers on. They kept the Old Testament going and, when it was written in Genesis 5 *"Shema Israel, hear Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one* (5M6,6-7), and when Jesus came to present Himself as God, they told Him: *"As we understand the Scripture, you cannot be God and we have to stone you."* (J10,30-33) Although they referred to the Scripture, they didn't see what had been foretold, that Jesus would come, and how he would be born. Also where He will be born, what He will do, and other things were described in details. If they had read the entire Bible, they would have recognized Him like the three wise men, the Magi, who came to see Him.

Nowadays, if we read the Bible as a whole, the things which I mention like energy and God's power, they don't contradict the Bible, because the breath of life was breathed into Man's nostrils and Man accepted the breath of life through the nose. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, his face was radiant because he had spoken to the Lord (2M34,29-35). Jesus on the Mount of the Transfiguration was filled with the God's presence (Mt17,2). John also in his vision in Revelation. John, in heaven, could also see Jesus' face shining like the sun in all its brilliance (Zj1,16), and also the colours of rainbow around the throne. This means energy – God's power and he called it, directly, God's glory. Even in the Old Testament Ezekiel says that

He was sitting on the throne and brilliant light surrounded him, like the appearance of a rainbow, so was the radiance around Him – God’s glory (Ez1,26-28). The Bible talks about energy, but if we take just a part of it, like the pharisees, we may condemn the Christ himself, God Himself, and have the same problem as the pharisees at that time. So we may condemn God, who brings something new through God’s Spirit and The Holy Spirit into our life.

5. Satan fights on three levels

Satan mostly fights on about three levels. The first level is material or physical which suits Satan as it prevents recognition. People, thus, may not know anything about God or Satan and Satan wants them to be concerned only with material or physical life, and devote their time and energy to it. And not knowing God, they will miss eternal life and thus Satan has gained what he wanted and people will go to eternal death instead of gaining eternal life. We were created to have eternal life. We have lost eternal life by ourselves and that’s our inheritance. Genesis says that we inherit to the third and fourth generation. God says that He punishes children for the sins of their parents to the third and fourth generation; he punishes those who hate Him (2M20,5). We are able to pass on negative and evil things from generation to generation. This is confirmed by science. But immediately in the next verse God says: *“but I show love to a thousand generations of those who love me”* (2M20,6). That means that God is able to remove all the negative and hereditary things, including horoscopes, which we bear with us. He is able to remove all negative influences from our life. This first material or physical level suits Satan most. As we have already mentioned, at the creation we were given the spirit of God, which works through consciousness. The Holy Spirit constantly appeals to us. Both the good and the evil. Constantly, all the time. Jesus says that just as *the sun rises on the evil and the good, the rain falls on the righteous and the unrighteous* (Mat 5,45). So the Spirit of God, which means God’s love, appeals to the good and the evil. All the time.

And under the influence of the Spirit of God, Man starts to realise that there must be some kind of spiritual life and that there cannot be only a material or physical side of life. This would mean that Man is born, worries, then dies and nothing else. So they start seeking spirituality. At that time Satan comes, because it suits him to be unknown, and secretly keeps people in the dark. He comes and offers people different types of spirituality such as reiki, the Silva Method, eastern religions, positive thinking, positive laws and other rubbish, including healers or fortune tellers. Then many spiritual, even out-of-body, experiences happen, which make people satisfied. Then they build and develop their lives on it, and don’t move on and are stuck. This suits Satan because these people hadn’t found out that Jesus Christ had done something for them. Jesus Christ brought eternal life. These people are misled. They are satisfied with their form of spirituality and think that they are in a better situation than those on a material or physical level. They become satisfied and superior but deceived by Satan.

The Holy Spirit appeals to us constantly and these people find out that there must be some concrete God, not only some universal wisdom - sagacity, but a concrete being, God, who has

a concrete plan for us, is interested in us and loves us. And then they come to monotheism, only one God, revealed in Jesus Christ. Eastern religions also have only one god but their god was not revealed in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ said: *"The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me."* (J12,45), meaning that Jesus Christ came to present the real God. The Holy Spirit works in us so that we may know the real God who is revealed in Jesus Christ. Then Satan comes and says: "Well, you have decided to follow Jesus Christ but you won't receive or know the power of Jesus Christ." And that power is in the victory of Jesus Christ on the Golgotha cross. There are many Christians who speak about God and His love but few speak about Jesus Christ and His victory over Satan on the Golgotha cross. Even eastern religions speak about God and love, but the only thing Satan is afraid of is the victory on the Golgotha cross, which they don't speak about. This is the reason why Satan likes it. He purposely keeps people on the material or physical level, then deceives them on the second spiritual level giving them different spiritual experiences. Although people entered the spiritual level of knowing Jesus Christ, Christianity, Satan kept them from knowing the most important thing, the truth, which is what Jesus said: *"... you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them."* (Lk11,46&Mt23,4).

The most important thing is that in Jesus Christ, we have eternal life and that we are free and delivered from all evil. Jesus Christ did it for us on the Golgotha cross. Because Satan is afraid only of Jesus Christ, not God, Mary or some saints, his aim is to do his best to keep people away from knowing the truth. Because when people don't know the truth, he can defeat them. Therefore we can see many Christians living defeated. Although they proclaim Jesus Christ, they are not able to protect themselves against evil in the power of Jesus Christ. Satan was the highest angel, so he is too intelligent to know what to do. If he poisons the well, he will poison all those who drink of it.

After the first Christians, 100 years later, the teaching given by Jesus Christ, started to change the course. What Jesus Christ said, started to disappear and people put in their own teachings mixed with paganism. In fact, around 300 AD Constantine and the Council of Nicea mixed the pagan and Christian elements to find agreement and compromise between Christians and pagans. Till then Christians had formed the church, which was persecuted. This way their church was allowed to be "official", which made it lukewarm, taking over some pagan as well as Christian elements. So some elements carried by Jesus Christ, were omitted. Actually, that was the question of freedom and Christianity became some kind of religion, religious ritual, which was not able to offer what Jesus Christ originally intended and what He also wanted to carry out through His disciples.

Jesus Christ said that He was leaving "but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (J14,26). The first disciples, fellows of Jesus Christ, knew it. Even the people, the generation that received it from the fellows of Jesus Christ, also walked in that power (the acts of the apostles), but little by little it disappeared and became lukewarm. Satan, as it is written in the Book of Revelation, could not eat the child of the woman "then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the

torrent". (Zj12,15). In Revelation the woman had a child and the child was Jesus Christ. The woman represents the church. The child – Jesus, was born, but the serpent wanted to eat Him. He did not succeed and got angry with the woman – the church and sent the river .

Satan started to attack the church. He weakened the church so that it was not able to proclaim Jesus Christ. He made the church get into a state, which Jesus spoke about: *the blind lead the blind* (Mt15,14), when He accused religious leaders of heresy (delusions) saying that *you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering* (Lk11,52 & Mt23,13). Religious leaders, who were responsible for leading people into the right knowledge, started to lead people into destructive beliefs and Jesus Christ says to them that *you travel over the land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are* (Mt23,15). This means that the church has activities, get new church members, but what they grow into? Jesus Christ also speaks about the church, which manifests itself these days, particularly nowadays. According to Revelation today's church is Laodicea, *so because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.* (Zj3,15-17). The condition of the church today is like this: it thinks it has something but in reality it has nothing. It doesn't know that it is naked, poor and blind, and therefore it gives space to different false religions, either eastern religions, reiki, the Silva Method or different new teaching, New age, etc. Because the church doesn't fulfil what it should. The first church was able to bring people freedom, inner peace and physical healing, but all this happened under the power of God. The church today, because it is lukewarm, is not under the power of God, and that's why it isn't able to provide people these things and therefore people are seeking something new or there is space for something different. Fortune-tellers, sorcerers, healers and stuff like that. Basically, the church, itself, is responsible for those things. It didn't allow Jesus Christ to manifest himself as He did it in the first church. He wanted to spread it further and further because God's power worked through the apostles. When false doctrines began to enter, they even went too far and nowadays it is being taught that only the twelve apostles did those things of God. It is written that the Lord appointed *seventy* others whose names are not known (seventy means fullness, the number seven in biblical terms means fullness), they also did those things and enjoyed doing them because they worked (Lk10,1.17). It was not aimed only for the twelve, it was for everyone willing to receive it. The gospel of Mark refers to these signs which *will accompany those who believe* (Mk16,17). Jesus gave this power to everyone who was willing to receive it. Satan knew that and tried to deceive the disciples the same way as Eve in the paradise and turn their attention to something different, something unimportant, irrelevant, self-religion, human religion, which concentrated on what to eat, what not to eat, what to celebrate, the doctrinal points and the churches started to argue over who is right. Satan was pleased because none of the churches fulfilled what they were supposed to. They began to quarrel and compete over which of them has more people, got more church members just like political parties.

Every political party has its own manifesto and tries to address as many people/members as possible. This is also done by churches today. They have some manifesto and try to address as many people as possible and declare that they are the right ones and the other ones are wrong. They don't realize that doing these things like accusing and judging the others, they condemn themselves. Therefore Satan has fun. This is lukewarmth - Laodicea. Satan has brought hassle and split into the church. That's why when the reformers came, the light came as well. It was caused by people who were truly seeking God and through whom revival and purification came. In the Old Testament times there were people like Moses, patriarchs, prophets who were able to recognise the light, and later there was Luther, Wycliffe and many others. They recognised something, some people grouped around them and they declared, "We are this and that church" and thus different churches have been formed such as evangelical, baptist, adventist,...there are simply different churches and it is so, because when people got knowledge – the light, they received it and were not willing to move on but stayed at the same level. People and churches are at different levels of knowledge. Basically, none of them is the right one, because if they were, they would directly be the church of Jesus. And because people are not perfect, they bring into churches their imperfection. Actually, every church is somehow true and somehow heretical. They accuse each other for being in heresy and proclaim that they are the right church that will be saved. They don't realize what Jesus shows in Revelation: *you don't know that you are poor, naked and blind*. They exalt themselves not knowing their end and Satan enjoys because he has brought hassle and churches, like sects, have arguments about irrelevant things, doctrinal points. But the most important is what Jesus Christ has done and that is the good news which Jesus Christ brought into the world and which was also brought by His disciples. It was the good news, the good news of power which left something behind.

6. Charismatics + speaking in tongues

Charismatics, in contrast to other churches, were able to receive the most concerning God's power, deliverance and healing. In comparison with other churches they received the most, but since every church has some kind of human teaching, it is the same because Satan makes his effort with them... That's understandable, because when Satan sees a revival, he has got to stop it and tries to bring certain things to it. There are also many other things, which hinder that church so it cannot work properly without being hindered by something. One of those things is that speaking in tongues is highly esteemed. Pharisees also esteemed giving tithes or setting the number of steps people could make on a Saturday and so on. This wasn't correct. There are also some church members, who think that speaking in tongues is the most important thing given to us by Jesus, in the Holy Spirit. We can read in the gospels that Jesus gave his disciples authority to drive out impure spirits, to heal every disease and sickness, and to raise the dead (Mt10,1.8). There is no exhortation or mention of him speaking in tongues and even Jesus himself doesn't speak about it. But speaking in tongues was given more importance than it should. Even at Pentecost, which is the origin of speaking in tongues for charismatics, they began to speak in various tongues and the nations there, understood them in their own native language. Those were the languages as we know them nowadays; I don't know exactly how many of them are there in the world, maybe 4000 or 5000, and it is as if we spoke to them to spread the good news. The first church could spread the good news thanks to speaking in tongues, without learning any foreign languages, so that the other nations could understand and hear the gospel. This is way tongues worked, according to the Acts of the Apostles. There are also other tongues, angel tongues, which are mentioned by the apostle Paul (1Cor13,1), but these are two different things. In the gospel of Mark Jesus says that *they will speak in new tongues* (Mk16,17). He meant the tongues they began to speak at Pentecost, and they were the languages which existed such as English, Russian, Portuguese and so on. People understood them, so they could understand the gospel. Then there are also other tongues, which were given in prayer. Because they were given great attention, the apostle Paul in 1Cor 12-14 starts to put them in the right place by saying that *he himself speaks in tongues but he would rather have them prophesy* (1Cor14,1-5). Then he explains that they can go too far, when they say that if you don't speak in tongues, you don't have the Holy Spirit and thus you cannot have eternal life. They really go too far and try to determine who will be saved and who won't. This is heresy which causes you to stumble. The apostle Paul could see, at that time, that some gifts were esteemed above others and tried to stop it. One of those gifts was the gift of tongues according to 1Cor12-14 chapters. He says literally: "*If anyone speaks in a tongue, two-or at most three-should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet*" (1Cor14,27-28). There he also says that *if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand/or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?*" (1Cor14,23-24). *But if you prophesy ...* by which he highlights prophesying. Somehow, this is what hinders people.

7. The problem of hell, the parable of the rich man and Lazarus

The question of hell – posthumous life. Owing to this question, people see God more as a punishing God, which distorts God's dimension and size. God is somehow distorted and cannot work in life of a man as much as He would like to. The more we know God, the more He can work in our life. Actually, biblical teaching, development and holiness is based on this principle; the more we know Him and submit to Him, the more He can work in us. In the Parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Lk16,19-31) - there are a lot of hidden things that can be easily made clear.

As for the question of hell, this parable is the only text that openly speaks about the existence of hell. There are many other texts that negate this. The Bible cannot be contradictory and so if we speak about this parable and literally about the existence of hell, we have to take into account the whole text. One part of the text says that the rich man, who was in hell, called to Abraham so that he sent Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool his tongue because he was in agony in that fire. The image of God, which allows some of our relatives to suffer in torment in hell, and call to us who are in heaven to help them. It would not be good to be in eternity, in heaven, where we could hear the mourning of our relatives from hell calling for help. The parable is a story designed to reveal some spiritual principle, it's symbolic, containing a deeper meaning. The parable uses situations and images from people's lives. In the parables Jesus spoke to people about things they understood, either from agriculture – sowing, gathering, or pasturage – sheep and shepherd. Thus He wanted to explain to people some spiritual principles in a language they could understand at that time. That means the Pharisees had some knowledge of the existence of hell and Jesus wanted to explain them some spiritual principles through the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, about which we will speak later on in our group. This parable is not there because of the question of hell but for a different reason. The Pharisees thought that the person who was rich and healthy, was saved and the person who was poor and sick, was cursed by God. They thought that the saved person would be in heaven and the cursed one in hell. But Jesus twisted it in this parable and showed them (the Pharisees) that their imagination is completely wrong and that the one, who was rich and healthy and supposed to end up in heaven, ended up in hell and vice versa, Lazarus ended up in heaven. Here Jesus explained the spiritual principle, of which the Pharisees had a mistaken view, and for which He used the image, which they could understand, and that's the image of Abraham who was in heaven because the Pharisees considered Abraham the person, like Saint Peter in some other churches, who stands at the gate of heaven letting people in. They referred to "Father Abraham", so Jesus doesn't mention that Lazarus was with God but with Abraham. The text (parable) has many reasons why we shouldn't take it as it is written. If we took it literally, we should also take literally the mournings of the people, our relatives, and us, who will be in heaven. It would last forever and God, who is the God of all people, and loves all children, including the disobedient ones, would look at His suffering children. This would be hardly acceptable for us.

The question of hell according to the book of Revelation is the second death. *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death* (Rev 20,14). That means nonexistence. Those people didn't receive eternal life and thus they opted for eternal death, which means nonexistence. For if a man was burning the whole eternity or was in agony in hell, that would also be eternal life but in different conditions, agonizing conditions, because the opposite of eternal life is eternal death. We cannot accept hell as the opposite of eternal life, because a man will have eternal life and live eternally in different conditions. Then it is hard to accept the idea that one of our closest relatives who is ill and suffers pain, dies and has no more pains, has his death considered redemption. Although our relatives won't be in heaven with us, it is easier to accept the idea that they don't exist any more than the idea that they suffer somewhere eternally. It is hard for us to look at a person who is fatally sick and lying in bed for a few years, getting morphine injections. And now you can imagine someone who suffers like this eternally and calls to us. That would be the image of cruel God and we know that God is absolute in love, in power and that He revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and He tells us to love, to love our enemies (Mt5,44). God wouldn't be able to punish someone or allow these things to happen because we wouldn't be able to enjoy eternity. What kind of eternity that would be if we realized that some of our relatives suffered like this. The rich man in the parable calls to Abraham to send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water because he is in agony. This parable says something different. It would be useless to attempt to speculate here, because otherwise we could negate the Bible itself. This text doesn't speak about the existence of hell. This is the only text and it is a parable, not God's utterance, about it. Jesus considers dead the people who didn't receive eternal life. Jesus told one of the apostles to *let the dead bury their own dead* (Mt8,21-22), when he wanted to bury his father. He mentioned those who didn't receive eternal life and who are dead from the point of view of eternal life. It is a question of time when they die or if they will live 10 or 70 years longer, but they didn't receive eternal life. They didn't receive God. We will also speak about this text in detail later.

8. The Bible shouldn't be contradictory

Every text of the Bible has to be explained with the principles of the Bible, which are given in the revelation of Jesus Christ, the gospels and His victory on the Golgotha cross. The Bible mustn't be contradictory. Each text of the Bible must lead to Jesus Christ. We have mentioned that Jesus said *that no one has seen the Father but who has seen Him has seen the Father*. (J6,46 & J14,9), because God is not a name, God is a title – the highest Creator, Ruler and Judge. God told Moses that He had made him *like God to Pharaoh* (2M7,1). He transferred the title of the Judge on a man, Moses. God is not a name like Peter or Stanley. Moses was god and Satan tries to be the god of this world. That's why Satan isn't afraid of God; in prayer to God, he is only afraid of Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ is a specific God, who came here and did something. He defeated Satan on Golgotha and therefore we cast out Satan in the name of Jesus Christ and the power of Jesus Christ. Not in the power of God nor other saints on earth, but in the name of Jesus Christ. That's why Satan tries to do his best to prevent people from knowing and receiving this fact or truth, so he can do with them what he wants. He can attack and bind them.

9. Consequences of wrong decisions

... how? Through our lives. The first and greatest evil in our lives is caused by our wrong decisions. If I make a wrong decision, then consequences come, because there is no coincidence. Coincidence is chaos, chaos is destruction, but this all is firmly led by God. When we don't understand what happens around us, we call it coincidence, destiny, luck, bad luck ... because we don't understand the things, but in fact it all is cause – effect (consequence), action – reaction. We do something and it creates consequences. Eve made a wrong decision and consequences occurred, consequences for the whole of mankind. Our wrong decisions bring consequences, which can sometimes occur after many years. After a few years we don't understand, why certain things happened, because we don't realize that we caused them or they are a consequence of a wrong decision. For example, I choose the school which can influence my job. I choose a life partner, a wife, and that can influence my life. If I made a wrong decision, which can have a bad side, I won't accuse God or someone else. When I was a punk, I lived in darkness not being led by the Holy Spirit and I didn't allow him to counsel me. I made wrong decisions and the consequences are here, but God helps me to moderate them.

Then there are the wrong decisions of people around us. If a thief decided to rob me, his decision was wrong, but it is me, who suffers the loss. Judas decided to betray Jesus and as a consequence of his betrayal, Jesus suffered. Evil doesn't come into our lives only through wrong decisions, but also through wrong decisions of people around us. As we have already mentioned, the kings of Israel made wrong decisions which influenced the whole nation. Adam and Eve made a wrong decision in paradise and that influenced the whole of mankind. We are influenced by wrong decisions.

Thirdly, we are directly influenced by Satan, who attacks us, or by fallen angels – demons. They attack our lives and influence us because Satan stands behind them. He was behind Eve's wrong decision and also behind Judas' wrong decision when he betrayed Jesus. It is written that *Satan entered Judas* (Lk 22,3) and tries to urge and influence us to harm us and people around us. Thus he spreads evil and destruction; despair into people's lives. He tries to be unknown, unnoticed and thus to enter the gates of our lives. The Bible calls it the weaknesses and the desires of the flesh, and he can influence us and harm us this way.

10. Jesus Christ came to reveal the true God to us

Jesus Christ came to reveal the true God because He himself is God and came to show himself to us. He came to correct the wrong thinking of the then-religious community or church. His revelation was unacceptable for them. What did Jesus Christ actually do? One of the first things He did was that when He started His ministry, He read the scroll of Isaiah: "*I came to open eyes that are blind and to free captives from prison*" (Lk4,18 & Iz42,7). I quote these verses from my mind and not word by word so if anybody wanted to compare them with the Bible and accuse me of lying, I am willing to speak to them about whatever they want, based on Scripture. He entered into ministry and He named his ministry – to set free and to heal. Many churches deny this but Jesus Christ directly initiated Himself into his ministry, saying: "*Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*" (Lk4,21).

He was baptized and showed us an example of the baptism, being born again. The water symbolised the washing away of sins and the dove represented the filling with the Holy Spirit. John says, "*I need to be baptized by you and you come to me*" and Jesus replied, "*Let it be so now*" (Mt3,14-15). He simply showed us an example by Himself. Then he showed us another example. He was led by Satan into the desert where He was tempted and didn't eat anything for forty days. Satan tempted Him on the first level – materially physical, *eat! Tell these stones to become bread!* (Mt4,3). How did Jesus overcome? By knowing the Bible, He recognized Satan's attacks. Therefore it is very important to know the Bible, because then we can recognize Satan's attacks and avoid his deception. At every temptation He said, "*It is written.*" (Mt4,4), but Satan constantly tempted Him. What did He do at the third temptation? Jesus Christ showed us that He had recognized Satan's attacks, knowing the Scriptures; but that was not enough. He didn't overcome Satan. He overcame Satan when he cast him out saying, "*Away from me, Satan!*" (Mt4,10) This is the issue which might be forgotten by churches and that's why churches are lukewarm. Satan succeeded in hushing up churches on the issue of deliverance. Jesus Christ showed us that before starting a ministry, He had to go through deliverance. Actually, He didn't need it, but He showed it to us as an example, as well as the baptism.

If we, who are born again, want to work and exist on God's vineyard and not to be destroyed by the enemy, we need to overcome him. Jesus showed us the principle, when He cast Satan out of his life. And permanently, when Satan attacked Him, He cast him out. It was

not a disposable action taken for the whole life. When he spoke to Him through Peter, *"This shall never happen to you,"* what reply did Jesus give? *"Get behind me!"* (Mt16,21-23) Jesus permanently resisted the influence and attacks of Satan and thus showed us the only way, in which how we can overcome. It is in the power of Jesus Christ to resist the attacks of Satan and to cast him out directly by His power.

Jesus Christ depended on God, the Father and thus he was able to overcome. He showed us his example that if we depend on Him, we shall be able to overcome.

11. The Ten Commandments in Hebrew

In the Ten Commandments in Hebrew there aren't words like don't murder, don't steal or so on with exclamation marks or the future tense. There God says that *if I am your God, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not commit adultery* (2M20,1-15 & 5M5,6-21). This is a continuous tense meaning that when I am with God, those things don't come into my life. They are strange. They represent separation from God. They don't have to enter my life immediately, they can be visible after a certain time, such as in the case of David and Bathsheba, when he slept with her (2Sam11,3-4). Their sin expanded and in the end David sent Uriah, her husband, to death. (2Sam11,15). He told lies, murdered, committed adultery, because his relationship with God had previously been disturbed. That was openly revealed. We can't see into the hearts of people but God can. People can appear to us as righteous like the Pharisees, who seemed holy, but Jesus could see into their hearts and that they were like whitewashed tombs (Mt23,27-28) - they looked beautiful on the outside but on the inside they were full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

The Ten Commandments are not meant to be commands such that, as a christian, I am not allowed to do this and that. Furthermore, I can't do it with my own strength. But when God comes into my life or when I allow God to enter my life, He can deliver me from the evil one and the evil cannot be revealed in me. Such are the Ten Commandments in my life. As a christian I don't have to try to fight with my own strength, but I have to come to Jesus Christ and He will defeat the evil in me - some evil things in my life caused by demons. He is able to deliver me from it. It doesn't matter if it is an addiction or something else. The apostle Paul writes about it in his letters.

The letters of the apostle Paul are similar to the Ten Commandments. They refer to what a Christian is supposed to do and what he isn't. If I make an effort to imitate them in my life, I will get into the same situation as the apostle Paul in the letter to Romans, Chapter 7, where he says that *"my mind knows what to do but my body does something different"* (Rom7,22-23) and he repeats it over and over again. It makes him inconsistent and he says that, in his body, he is happy with God's law but another law makes him a prisoner of the law of sin. *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?"* (Rom7,24) The apostle Paul realizes on the basis of sermons and God's word, what he should do as a Christian, but he knows that his body does something different, that he loses, fails and

doesn't have strength. He isn't able to fulfill the law and realizes, in Chapter 8, that although his body does the things which he doesn't want to, he accepts in his mind that Jesus Christ has overcome in his life, and that he is the winner because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. And then he began to overcome his body; he stopped focusing on the things he shouldn't do and focused on Jesus Christ and then he allowed Jesus Christ to work in his body. Not by himself, because he himself, the apostle Paul – the man, isn't able to defeat another law, which makes him a prisoner; because it is Satan, who keeps him tied up through the desires of his body. That's why the body does something different, but Jesus is able to defeat Satan. Therefore the apostle Paul stopped fighting with the negative qualities and the sins he had committed, and focused on Jesus Christ (Rom8,1-4); exalted Jesus Christ; who overcame on Golgotha his sinful deeds, and thus allowed Jesus Christ to take away the evil from his life and defeat it.

12. On Golgotha Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself

And let's go back to Golgotha. We have mentioned that Jesus Christ was resurrected because death didn't have any power over Him. He took sins upon Himself, but He was not a sinner. He was separated from God, because He took our sins upon Himself and therefore he cried out, *"My god, why have you forsaken me?"* (Mt27,46) He personally felt, under the burden of sin, that God was far away. But God, the Father, was not far away. It was He with sins that separated Him from God; we separate ourselves from God by our sins. Then Jesus was raised because death no longer had any power over Him. He was the first-born from the dead and thus He has the power to raise anyone, who accepts His sacrifice. He made this exchange and is able to rise from the dead. When we experience the first death, it is like a sleep. It is not terminal death. We will be raised if we accept this change in Jesus Christ. Our resurrection will be just like his.

Another thing, that happened on the Golgotha cross, is reconciliation with God. Our sins separated us from God and Jesus Christ offered from God's side forgiveness, exchange and He comes to us and says, *"I forgive you."* If we accept His forgiveness, we are reconciled with God, and if we are reconciled with God, He becomes part of our life. Then evil, I mean demons, who cause evil in my life, flees away – when Jesus Christ dwells in me. Diseases and adversities are caused by demons. This is what Jesus Christ came to reveal. It means that evil flees out of my life when God – Jesus Christ - is part of my life and thus I am free from demons. When I am free from demons, who cause adversities and diseases in me, I am psychically and physically healed.

What a beautiful sequence. When I accept forgiveness in Jesus Christ, I am reconciled with God. When I am reconciled with God, I am delivered and when I am delivered, I am physically and psychically healed. The biblical term *"forgiveness"* does not mean that *"I am not angry any more"*, or *"I've forgotten"*, but it means – *I've been healed*. When Jesus healed a paralyzed man, he said to him, *"... your sins are forgiven, get up and walk"* (Mt9,2.6). He demonstrated that forgiveness is connected with healing. At first, the man needs to accept that forgiveness and be reconciled with God. Simply, this is sanctification, growth in grace, development of

character. When Jesus Christ died for us 2000 years ago, He forgave us and when He defeated Satan and demons 2000 years ago on the Golgotha cross, He also defeated them in our life. We were healed 2000 years ago. God will not heal me because I beg, go on pilgrimage or keep this or that commandment, this is not the basis on which God heals me, He has already healed me in the past. Jesus Christ will not die again on the Golgotha cross to defeat Satan, demons or any diseases in my life. He did it 2000 years ago. Now I can exercise my right. I would compare it to a letter in a postbox announcing the inheritance. If I don't pick it up, I will die poor and the letter will remain undelivered for 2000 years. If I pick it up and make use of it in my life, I will become an heir. In fact, in Jesus I have forgiveness, reconciliation with God, deliverance, psychical and physical healing, material blessing – this is what I have in Jesus. I have gained it and it's up to me if I make use of it. There are people who forgive and receive eternal life, but die of a disease, in hardship, because they only received in faith forgiveness and were not able to receive physical healing, because either no one explained it to them or they weren't able to receive it. We will speak more about this in connection with the prodigal son who had to realize his situation, make a decision and move. On the one hand, people have to understand that there is the chance given by Jesus, offered directly by Him; He died for it. On the other hand, they have to decide to receive it and make a move, in faith.

Jesus said to ten men who had leprosy *"You are healed, go and show yourselves to the priests"* and as they went, they were cleansed. (Lk 17,14). They had no disputes about it. They simply went. Leprosy is a visible disease, but they didn't look at themselves saying, "Well, we still have leprosy, Jesus was mistaken or He even deceived us." It was certainly not like this. They received their healing and went ahead! As they went, they were healed. Their faith healed them, they stopped looking at their problems and their feelings. They acted in faith and relied on the words said by Jesus. Jesus Christ says, "I healed you, I died for you, I forgave your sins, I did it for you ..." (J15,13). When I grasp the promises, they will become reality in my life. And that's it! I have to receive it by faith. We don't have to fall deep into the ground by experiencing problems and adversities and then decide to receive from Jesus what He voluntarily came from heaven to pay for us. Our ego must fall first. If our ego falls before we physically fall, like the prodigal son, and we fight it out by prayer, then through the falling of our ego and giving everything to Jesus Christ, we don't have to experience adversities at all.

Jesus says, *"Take up your cross daily and follow me."* (Lk9,23) What is your daily cross? Jesus carried the cross and says, "Follow me!" What did Jesus do on the cross? He carried His cross and what happened? He died. He died on the cross he had carried. We also have to carry our cross on which we are supposed to die for our desires and weaknesses of the flesh (Gal 5,16-21), such as Jesus Christ did. And thus evil can't be found in our life because if we are dead because of our desires, evil won't be found. Because we are dead. There are no problems, diseases, worries, the cross - as it is called by Christians. The cross is a tool on which we kill the desires of the earthly body and through which evil enters our life. Therefore Jesus says, "Take up your cross daily and follow me." Jesus died on that cross.

He died and was raised. When we die this way every day, we are born again. We die to our weaknesses and desires of the flesh and also to the relationships like mother, son, father,

daughter. Jesus says, *“Anyone who loves their father, mother, son, daughter or field more than me is not worthy of me.”* (Mt10,37-38) We need to die to this world. Literally to this world. The field means work. We need to die to all things at morning prayer when “entering” a day. Thus evil cannot be revealed in things or situations and these cannot abuse us just as in the case of Job, because they are dead for us. And if they are dead, Jesus Christ can enter and protect us in these areas, where He can work and bless, because they are dead. Then Jesus Christ can enter them because we don’t hold them firmly in our hands any more. I simply gave Jesus Christ my ego and relationship to my wife and He enters this relationship which is more blessed than if I had it in my hands. We will get to that later. Jesus says, *“Do not worry, saying What shall we eat? or What shall we wear? but seek first the kingdom of heaven because your heavenly Father knows what you need and all these things will be given to you as well.”* (Mt6,31-33) We will get to that later.

This is how it is put to death; for you it is dead; you stop dealing with it, being worried about it and believe that Jesus Christ will resolve it for you. He had already resolved it 2000 years ago and you can apply it. The same as with the manna, which God provided by raining down (2M16,10-36) through night, and those who went out, took it, but those who didn’t go out, they stayed hungry in their tents. So Jesus Christ did it 2000 years ago and it’s up to you, up to everyone, if you take it or not, if you take it every day or just once a week, once a year, once a life. The Lord provided the manna every day except for Sabbath, but double manna fell on each Friday (2M16,29) and we also can receive these blessings every day. It’s up to us. If we receive it randomly, we needn’t wonder that then we are like a plant that is watered from time to time and dries up. We need to be fed every day. Jesus says, *“I am the vine; you are the branches.”* (J15,5) If the branches are 24 hours in the vine, then they bear much fruit. Some 30, some 60, some 100, but if they are not in the vine every day for 24 hours, it is no wonder they dry up.

It is not enough to go to church for two hours once a week. We need to have an everyday relationship with Jesus Christ. People are mistaken if they think that they will be fed in church. We have to go to church to praise God for what He is doing in our lives, to exalt Him and not to be fed. Otherwise the church looks like this: people come in a miserable condition, they just sit and wait for the preacher to make a miracle, to feed them, lift them up and the preacher is frustrated from what he can see. He tries to fulfill some liturgy, the Sunday obligation is fulfilled and we go home as wretched as before.

Have you caught the immensity of what happened on Golgotha? There are several aspects to what happened on the Golgotha cross = victory of Jesus Christ, deliverance and forgiveness. We are forgiven but if we don’t understand the process and what happened there, we can hardly receive it.

13. What a tithe is

How did the tithe originate? The churches refer to Malachi (Mal3,8-10), where it is written: “Will a mere mortal rob God?” If we read Malachi, I think that there God talks about three things. If we want to apply the tithe to the present day, we have also to apply the other things that are written in Malachi. The first one is a classical offering (Mal1,6-14), the second and the third are a heave offering and a tithe. (Mal3,8). No one applies the first two. Only a tithe is applied, because it fits. But there are two more things mentioned in that verse (Mal3,8) – a tithe and a heave offering. But today the heave offering is withheld and is thrown out of context and only the tithe is demonstrated. There is no other mention about the tithe to be paid, not even in the Old Testament.

The tithe started with Abraham, who won and gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything (1M14,18-20). It was a disposable tithe, not given on a regular basis. Moses introduced it to be given on a regular basis. If anyone refers this to Abraham, he is in trouble.

And for example, Jacob said that if God was with him and protected him and he got back to his father’s house in peace, he would give Him a tenth of everything. It was not on a regular basis like a tithe given every month. Jacob simply offered it, by himself, and made a decision, “God, I promise I will give you a tenth of all that you give me” (1M28,20-22). It wasn’t a regular payment as it is in the churches these days – people think that if they first give a tithe to God, He will bless them; it is not like putting a coin in a vending machine, and it gives you a product.

The regular payment started with Moses. Why with Moses? A simple answer: the priest system started. Moses introduced the sacrifice, the Levites, and said (5M18,1) that the priests, who are Levites, should have no allotment or inheritance with Israel; they should live on the offerings of the other tribes. The Levites, who were the priests devoted to spiritual activity – sacrificing animals for the sins of the whole community - couldn’t earn their own living; that’s why this system started. It is similar to paying taxes nowadays so that the state can function properly. Besides offering sacrifices, the Levites also taught all Israel. They brought culture to the nation. They lived on the tenth things. And even the Levites gave tithes, of their tithes, to the priests. Thus the Levites lived and Israel functioned on this system. These sacrifices were important as a precursor of Jesus Christ. Because the Levites and the system of sacrifices were necessary, they had to live on tithes.

But those tithes were not financial, they were natural, from their fruits (crops) and pasturage. Take note to how the tithe worked: “every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod” (3M27,32). That means if someone had 19 sheep, they didn’t give 1.9 sheep, but one sheep. Every tenth animal. It isn’t a tithe as we understand it today, but simply every tenth thing.

If we want to talk about tithes, we have to consider the Bible as a whole not just to pull out what fits us. Otherwise Satan can abuse it and there is no wonder that God’s power and His blessings are somehow hindered. They are hindered by our wrong understanding. For what purpose did the tithes serve? We have already said: so the Levites can live. They lived but

bought neither cars nor buildings. They had a bowl of grain and a half of a sheep, and lived on it. They didn't have any money. They didn't have tithes as they are nowadays with the pastors who buy new cars, petrol and build temples or buildings. They literally lived to serve God and that makes a big difference. The temple was built with completely different money during Solomon's reign; it was during the time of Moses with Egyptian money. Egyptians drove them on. These are two things in reverse. Let's go back to the Levites. They lived to bring sacrifices for the sins of Israelites – to be saved, as a precursor of Jesus Christ, the lamb.

At that moment, when Jesus Christ was sacrificed and the system of sacrifices was fulfilled, the curtain of the temple was torn (Mt27,50-51). The system of sacrifices was finished with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ once and for all. Thus the system of Levites finished and so the need to support the Levites by the tithes. That system fell completely and a new one was introduced: voluntary gifts of the disciples; God had put it in their hearts. Golgotha changed it. When giving tithes, we have to understand their purpose, which was completed by Golgotha.

To take something out of the Old Testament and force people, literally to blackmail them, accusing them of robbing God - this is a blasphemy! Look at the pastors who preach these things - how they live! They oppose God like the Pharisees and that's very serious! Because they have the key to knowledge, they themselves do not enter and hinder those who are trying to. (Lk11,52 & Mt23,13). In fact, they feed people with something that is poisonous. They don't give people what they need, but even torment them. These people are oppressed and when they lose their job and have nothing to support their families with, they have to give a tithe from "nothing". They become frustrated and then Satan abuses it and wins them over. Then they say, "We gave a tithe in obedience to God, even if our children died". But this has nothing in common with God. As we have mentioned, Satan enters the church to poison it and that's why there are different teachings. Simply said, the enemy abuses it. If someone gives tithes voluntarily as a gift to God, that's all right, but if someone fails in faith because of giving it forcedly, that doesn't bring glory to God.

14. The Bible must be taken as a whole

Each part of the Bible can be explained, but we must take it as a whole. There is everything in the Bible and those, who are seeking, can find it. The Bible is most often studied in such a way that people accept some kind of opinion, identify themselves with it and try to find biblical verses to confirm it. Thus they can get trapped in a heresy, like the Pharisees. But if I let the Bible speak to me and die on the Golgotha cross not only every day, not only for my family, not only for desires of my body but also for knowing God better, He may newly build me up. Then I can grow. But if I am spasmodically kept to what I have known so far, I will become like a 5-year-old child that has little shoes and trousers, grows up and at the age of 10 says to itself, "I will keep on wearing these shoes and trousers because they fit me. I don't want to change them." This is how many Christians have become stunted.

They haven't realised that as we are spiritually growing, God is giving us more light. This is what the apostle Paul calls *milk and solid food* (Heb 5,12). A little child grows up on milk because solid food could kill it. You cannot give potatoes to a six-month-old baby, or else it would die. But when growing older and approaching a certain age – 2 or more years, – mums know it better – you can gradually give your child gruel, later solid food and so on. You can't say to your child, "Because milk has been good for you so far, you don't need any solid food." Your child would become stunted and die. Inevitably you have to go on to solid food. But in the beginning there must be milk food, because solid food could seriously harm your child. However, this doesn't mean that your 15-year-old child, being on a solid food, will blame you for feeding him with milk. Milk was important for a certain period of his development.

It is the same spiritually. For a certain period of time we need to know certain truths or knowledge that change over a period of time, because in the beginning we wouldn't be able to accept them. But they gradually become clear as we are growing in God (just like Abraham went out of Ur). I either want to stay in Ur and be satisfied with what is around me, with neither blessings nor God's protection, being attacked by Satan because I gave him a chance, or I will decide to follow Jesus Christ closely and be aware of the fact that I might not be accepted in the church because of the knowledge and light that I've received. I have to decide if I want to stay a child. The apostle Paul blames the Jews, "*In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!*" (Heb 5,12) On the one hand, I want to serve God and lead others to Jesus, but I also stay on milk food, which means that I haven't grown up yet. Your knowledge of God can change every day. I die to know God more and more every day. He builds me up more and more and if He wants to change something in my knowledge of Him, He will do it. That's why I repeat over and over again: what I say is what I am currently receiving and it is based on knowing and experiencing Jesus Christ according to His word—the Bible, and according to experience in my practical ministry. I don't spasmodically keep to what I've said before. I don't have to defend what I've said if someone says, "You've said it differently" and I will feel ashamed and admit, "Well, I've been mistaken." No, no way. I am growing like a child that needs new clothes every year. Those old clothes weren't bad, they were necessary to protect

a child while he grew. But if I want to keep on wearing the old clothes, they will hold me tight, like a bandage.

15. Forget the old things (Jac 5)

In the early church it worked like this (Jacob, chapter 5): “Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.” (Jac 5,14-15). . Nowadays, if anyone is sick, he goes to the doctor’s. It was a common practice that the early disciples called the elders of the church to pray over the sick. They were not officials, but people strong in faith and the sick were delivered and healed. Why did communities of priests originate? Because people needed to have this kind of disciples among them to be at hand, like Africans need their medicine-men (shamans). They needed to have their “shaman”, someone who could help and heal them. They needed to keep the disciples. They fed them with the words like “don’t go away, we want you to be here with us”. The disciples were able to meet their needs with God’s power over both soul and body; they also taught them like the Levites in the Old Testament. So people were happy to feed them. But as time passed, the power of God disappeared because the disciples, from generation to generation, didn’t receive the right light and their position gradually degraded. The power of God disappeared and then it wasn’t necessary to keep the priests/ disciples any more among the people, because they had no more power. And because the priests/disciples wanted to survive, they began to create doctrines. They started to build temples which were more and more splendid over the centuries (the second and the third) and drew money from people, telling them, “You have to give because God wants it.” No, God doesn’t want anything. He only wants us to come to Him. It is Satan that switched and distorted it completely. This is the grace and these are the sacrifices. In Isaiah God says, “The multitude of your sacrifices – what are they to me? For I desire your mercy, not sacrifice...” (Is1,10-17) We can see that there is mud despite efforts to come out of it, but Jesus says, “No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one ... and no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins and the wine will run out.” (Lk5,36-37) What a pity ...! Isn’t it better to take the new garment or new wine? To build new knowledge on the old one – that’s like to build a house on sand (Mt7,26-27), it will fall with a great crash. Simply said, to bury the old things, die to them and allow the new things (new knowledge) to come. Then it is firm like the house that has its foundation on the rock and won’t fall. (Mt7,24-25).

I need this sort of attitude for every day. Because if I want to keep the old things like Pharisees and Nicodemus, the things which I have known so far, but I also like what Jesus says (J3,1-21) – that’s not possible. Jesus says, “You have to be born again.” (J3,3) Jesus spoke to him openly. You cannot combine a part of your old knowledge with a part of your new one. The disciples simply left everything and followed Jesus. They couldn’t retain a little part of the old things because Jesus said, “You cannot serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other... (Mt6,24). Simply said, either – or. This is the way of a christian life, this is the way of a victorious christian. There is no space for lukewarmth, as in Laodicea, or what the

church of today is called. Neither hot nor cold (Zj3,16). Either I will decide to be hot or I will rather stay cold because those who are cold can be spoken to. Jesus was able to speak to pagans, but not to the Pharisees who had some kind of knowledge and it was hard for them to receive the new things above the old ones. But not so with the pagans who didn't have any knowledge and were able to receive.

I understand it like this. I spoke about it in our home group. Mostly, when I speak to unbelievers, they receive the gospel, become believers and the power of God is manifested in their lives and they start to live a completely different life. They follow Jesus. But it isn't so with the believers. When I meet with them, I have to explain a lot of things, they are not able to get rid of the old things and so the power of God cannot be revealed in them and in the end they say, "That was useless, nothing unusual happened," and continue living their old way of life. They blame the Lord and also the person who spoke to them. That's why I tell them, "At least now, during your deliverance, take the things as they are spoken to you so that the power of God can be revealed and then you will see."

16. Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial

What I'm going to explain now concerns the things that the apostle Paul spoke about. He felt *free in eating food sacrificed to idols* (1Cor8), but some people had a problem in accepting it. In Corinthians, chapter 6, the apostle Paul says that: "*I have the right to do anything, but not everything is beneficial; I have the right to do anything, but I will not be mastered by anything* (1Cor6,12). And a few chapters later he repeats himself, he duplicates it – and when the Bible duplicates something, it is important for us. What a man does, he should do it freely and not forcibly. What does the apostle Paul mean by this? I can think that something is good for me, but it doesn't have to be beneficial for me. If someone does a certain thing, he can feel free in doing it, but in fact, it isn't beneficial for him. This is your attitude and in reality, you don't have to think that it isn't beneficial for you. But someone else, who talks to you about it, can see that it isn't good for you, according to the level of your growth and development. There is also another "but", because the one who tells you this, has to consider how to present it and what to expect from you. We have spoken about the prodigal son (Lk15,12-13); when he was leaving, his father knew it wasn't good, but didn't say a word about not going away or even not giving him his share of the estate. The parable says: *A farmer went out to sow and the seed fell on this and that kind of soil* (Mt13,3-8)... this must be said. If someone, for example the leader of a group or community, thinks that someone is like this, let him pray about it. When we pray together, we have to pray for the best for us, and not to force someone and impose conditions, otherwise it can cause strong negative reaction. In fact, the seed is sown in you. You might keep on doing the same thing for a week, a month, a year or so, but the Holy Spirit will be working in you. And someone should pray for you intensively, so you can recognise in the spirit, what is really good and what is wrong for you.

Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial (1Cor6,12). You will realise that the thing you have done for ten or twenty years is not good and the more you grow in the Lord, the faster you will realise: "I don't need it any more." For example me, when I was on alcohol, listened to punk music, trained karate ... I read the Bible and as a christian I grew in Jesus and did those things, and, fortunately, I had neither a pastor nor a preacher, who told me not to do those things. It was the Holy Spirit who gradually worked in me and told me more and more "no, no, no!". And I said "yes" because of the freedom of knowing the Lord not because the preacher told me not to do it any more. If you stop doing something wrong, it is good, but you must grow into it, otherwise you are like an apple picked too early and not yet ripe. This is how Satan can abuse abnormally. It is better for the man to go on doing a certain thing and to grow at the same time. If he grows into a certain level, he is like an apple that is ripe and falls off the tree by itself. But if you are like an apple that is picked too early, your time hasn't come yet, you haven't grown up and it is your preacher who decided, not you. This is a bad mistake, which is a problem for many churches. Let us avoid this in our group, because when we meet, we have to discuss and express our opinions so that everyone can benefit from being led by the Holy Spirit. Actually, you need certain information, but it's up to you what you do with it. No one can force you or blame you, otherwise it's something negative and Satan can automatically abuse it. Whoever makes you do something, he should, instead of forcing, use the power of God and pray for you and if he masters the power of God, he can directly cast it out of you. If you are tempted by the demon to do this and that, you need a prayer for deliverance. If you recognise it, you'll get a different dimension and a great experience of victory. If you stop doing something or you start doing something, like giving tithes, just because you are expected to do it, then it is worse than doing nothing. I can guarantee you. It's not true at all that you'll cope with it in time because it's painful and might be easily abused by Satan. Therefore I've said that Jesus Christ gave us freedom and He also helped people to make a decision, neither to force nor to blackmail them. Not many churches do like Him.

It can really be as follows: you have a higher position and you are seen doing something which shows you in a bad light and thus cast an unfavourable light on the church. It also happened in my church: if someone did something unusual, we had to expel him, otherwise other people would think that we all did the same things and we were not allowed to cast a bad light on the church. Well, but that person became lost after being expelled. This sort of issue can't be concretely resolved. This sort of issue can't be resolved because it's true. You haven't grown up enough to stop doing those things. People around you can think that it is normal when you dare it. They don't see your spiritual growth. In addition, they think that they protect the church. That's why I've said that I don't want to set up a church, because this is how I am: absolutely free. I need neither to defend any church nor to force people to do something by breaking them. I leave it to God. This is the advantage I have. The home groups also have total freedom where everyone has a chance to grow in Jesus at their own pace. I am only responsible for giving them "the right food"; to give them the right food and to pray for them whether they receive it or not. Jesus wasn't responsible for being rejected by people and the Pharisees. He did his best and the decision was theirs. He didn't cry, but kept on helping the others. He said to His disciples, *"If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that place and*

shake the dust off your feet". (Mt10,14 & Mk6,11) If they don't accept you, don't cry and try to persuade them, not at all, keep on going. There are other people who are ready. But their lives can be changed only by the power of God. People are very well informed nowadays. They have a lot of theories, a lot of information. God's power gives them consciousness or victory so that the information can become a part of them, the bread can be absorbed and the man can live and grow by them. It mustn't only be information about what I have and don't have.

I haven't been educated in any theological school, I didn't study to be a pastor, I am just led by Jesus Christ. I have freedom in Him and He doesn't force me to do anything. I simply pass on other people what I experience with Jesus Christ. He doesn't force anything on me, He just shows me how things should be and it depends on me when or whether I accept them. This is basically the same in each fellowship, in each assembly. When you become a believer, it takes time Jesus has an impact on you and you have a desire to help other people and you want them to believe. All the pastors and those who are eager to help, should realise that it takes time to put up a good fight and overcome and not to expect from others to resolve their problems immediately just because they think that they are right. We don't give enough freedom to others and don't have patience. We would like new believers to come immediately into the church and become Christians functioning one hundred percent. That's what they would like to see first. But this is human thinking. Because when someone forces you to do something, it's negative and decreases the power of God, which Satan normally abuses. This is the opposite of what should be done. Jesus even says, "*Love your enemies and pray for them*" (Mt5,44). This is what he spoke about enemies, not fellow-brothers. We should support our fellow-brothers even more. But the support has to be in power and if there is no power, the only things which are left, are a stick and a rod. But if we have the power, we don't need to force anyone because we know that the power of God can do it. It is the role of Jesus Christ, not the pastor's, to lead you. The pastor should be a spokesman.

It was the same with Elihu in Job. When Job was under the pressure and didn't hear the God's voice, he was under the pressure of sin; God's power was very little. But Elihu, who was with God (= El), he simply became a medium; just like a bird in the paradise, that became a medium of Satan. Elihu became a medium of God and spoke to Job in human words that helped Job. This means that the preacher, the pastor, the teacher, but also you – a disciple, a member of the church, you are a medium of the Holy Spirit, so you have to speak and sow. And the power of God, not the man, will bring the growth. The preacher can do his best, but if God's power is not there, the opposite will happen: hardening of the heart.

17. The prodigal son (Lk 15, 11) + growing in faith

The Holy Spirit doesn't give us guilty feelings. Guilty feelings mean a state, when we depart from God and feel like missing something in our life; this is the pressure of the enemy. God doesn't blame us. The prodigal son left his father, but the father didn't blame him for anything. There are two different issues. The Holy Spirit teaches and leads (shows), and doesn't give us guilty feelings. Guilty feelings are a torment when a man feels worries and oppression, and this is not how the Holy Spirit works. He simply signals a problem. It depends on you what you'll do with it. Guilty feelings are not given by God, but they are given by moving away from God, because you didn't do something that would have moved you closer toward God. A guilty feeling is a consequence, just like when you move away from the fire and feel cold. You are not warm; you moved away from the fire because you haven't done something on the way while you have been walking along and you have delayed your decision. It's like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, moving from one place to another. When you are growing, there is always a decision in front of you – the crossroads of life. Like Adam and Eve. You accept either God's solution or a human solution. The human solution is closer to you, because Satan tells you so and describes it as an attractive and delicious path. But if you don't accept the God's solution, you are like a sheep that has gone astray - not following its shepherd. And you will start feeling it without God's interference. This is the natural consequence of departing from God. And there is a big difference if it really is God who gives it to you and why you feel it like torment and sin from God. Because feeling like this you put on God something that he never does – accuses. It all depends on how you know God. We analyse the details to see the right image of God; to know His share of the work. Satan likes to attribute his traits to God. If our image of God is deformed, God cannot work in our life as He would like to. That's why it is important to recognise it. You might say, "That's the detail, guilty feeling ... I don't care if it's God who gives it to me or if it's a consequence of going away from God ..." But that's relevant because otherwise you can't realise how God works and how he brings you up.

At the beginning we spoke about pastors who say something and we need to distinguish what is true and what is believed to be true. This is because the pastor might not have knowledge of certain things. He himself grows in knowledge. For example, one of you spoke about the Sabbath. If it wasn't revealed to your pastor, you wouldn't accept it, but if it was revealed to your pastor, you would accept it obediently. This is not the right attitude. You have to understand things and not just accept them because your pastor said them. And this is what is called "the authority of the church" which somehow I don't like, and as I said in the beginning, some people might oppose. It's necessary to be careful to whom you say this, otherwise it might sound like rebellion.

Simply said, the prodigal son made a big mistake leaving his father and also the way he did it. (Lk 15, 11) He was a rebel. He was named *the prodigal son* and his father didn't prevent him at all from doing it. The Father knew that it was his son's inner attitude and if He forced him to do something, he could make things worse. And the son realised by falling to the bottom, "Well, my father is really good ..." But if the father preached to him and blamed him, the son wouldn't

get a new dimension and view of his father as a good one, even at the cost of making a wrong decision. This is the totally merciful God – merciful father ... Later the son realised that he had made a wrong decision but the father didn't blame him and didn't say, "Don't come back again, you aren't my son any more." The son himself found out, "I am no more worthy to be called your son". In fact, the father behaved completely different. According to the Bible, this is an extreme behaviour pattern but we can see that if God behaves like this toward us, so we - as God's disciples and God's tools - should behave the same to other people.

And therefore, *not many of you should presume to be teachers because you will be judged more strictly* (Jak3,1). We are responsible for what we give to other people, what we sow. It doesn't mean that we are responsible for their decisions. We don't have to blame ourselves and sleep badly because of people's wrong decisions. It's what we sow that counts. But if we sow something wrong, that's bad. For example, you were told for many years "Sunday, Sunday"" and then you were told "Well, then Saturday." This is wrong because your pastor could have admitted, "At the moment, I receive it like this ..." and let people make their own decisions. But because he pressed on you and then suddenly said, "Well, in the end that's completely different and many of you were right when you spoke about Saturday..." This is dangerous. The pastor should say, "This is how I perceive it in the Holy Spirit ..." He is just human and his perception may vary according to a certain level; he is a fallible human just like the Pope or any other preacher or pastor. That's really brave to say something wrong in the most holy faith and thus break a bruised reed (Is 42,3 & Mt 12,20); that person will not be responsible for the man he broke, but for what he had done. Because *if I say to a brother "You fool!" and I am subject to judgment* (Mt5,22), what more responsibility I will bear for putting people down by false interpretation or persuasion (urging). I am able to put down the person for whom Jesus Christ died! Do you know what will happen? The pastor put himself into the hands of Satan like the Pharisees and – finished. He can go on pastoring like the Pharisees – to travel over land and sea (Mt23,15), but not under the power of the Holy Spirit.

Parents sanctify their children. The prodigal son was a grown-up man. He decided to go his own way. His father didn't have to give him money because it was the inheritance, and due after death. He simply knew that he couldn't do anything by force although he took a risk that his son would die of hunger. But the temporary life is not the point - whether he dies of hunger or not. The eternal life is the point. And the Father = God, knew that the son had to go through certain things until his ego fell, otherwise it would be useless to keep him at home. Later on the story refers to the older son, who lived with the Father and served Him, without being saved. He said to his father, *"All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends."* (L15,29). Although this son was close to his Father, he missed his salvation. The Father knew that it was useless to keep and protect the son who didn't receive salvation. The son learned a lesson from his failure being away from his Father. Even the apostle Paul says in Corinthians, *"If anybody sins, hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord."* (1Cor5,5). If you keep a fire smouldering at all costs, you will slip into traditional lukewarmth. Do not keep anyone lukewarm, that's not good. But nowadays

churches are like this. You have to be either hot or cold. Because if you are cold, you might return home like the prodigal son.

We have to understand the lesson of the parable: the son wanted to leave God – the Father. This is the point the story illustrates; the son decided to leave God, to despise God and so he chose death, for God is life. He went the same way as Eve in paradise did – the way of death. And the Father knew it would be useless to prevent him unless he, himself, finds it out. He didn't accept his father. From the beginning he saw his father as the one who is strict and to whom he had to slave in order to be given something. And the Father tells him, "*You are always with me, and everything I have is yours.*" (Lk15,31). Actually, the older son had been slaving for his father for many years and didn't understand who the father really was. Everything the Father had, was also his. He considered his Father to be strict and thought "I have to work and be entitled and that's why I didn't break any commandment..." as if living a moral life helped him to become an heir. The older son didn't know his Father at all. He lived with Him physically, but didn't know him. Neither did the younger, prodigal son, who expressed it by rebellion and departure. The older one gritted his teeth and said to himself, "I'll make it somehow, the Father will die and I will inherit all this." The younger one showed rebellion by leaving home. Thus he became cold and that was his salvation. He was thrown out and thus realised something. His ego started to die. And then he noticed that his Father was completely different – merciful, forgiving and giving his property back to him. And that was what the older one didn't like. He thought that when his younger brother had left and squandered his part of property, the part that was left would automatically belong to him – the older one, because they were two. And when he saw his younger brother coming back and getting his property again, he rebelled against it and it became clear that he stayed with his Father for the sake of property. He thought that the Father had given his younger brother from the part that belonged to him, the older one. And the division was not: the younger one and the older one, because all that was the Father's – God's. That everything belongs to God. God gives it to us. I don't deserve God's favour like the older son, who lived a religious life.

Most Christians think they deserve eternal life or avoid torture in hell by living a correct religious life. There are two motives. Either to gain or to avoid torture in hell. Many are motivated like this. But they don't know the real God and therefore Satan can break them. They are not built on the rock, strong and secure – Jesus Christ. Their fear means turning to evil and thus they cannot avoid the attacks of the enemy. They calculate and do things out of self-interest. This is what the parable of the prodigal son illustrates about the older son. He expected something and when his younger brother came home, he didn't call him brother but "*this son of yours who squandered your property with prostitutes*" (Lk15,30). He had a motive and calculated to avoid damnation, not knowing God as love. And because he didn't know God as the loving Father, he wasn't able to give this love to others and thus he judged and condemned them.

Unfortunately, this is being done by many believers and even by preachers and pastors, who judge and condemn others. But Jesus says, "*Do not judge, or you too will be judged.*" (Mt7,1). For if you judge others by seeking them this way, you've condemned yourself.

Whoever looks down on you, because of something you do, you shouldn't do it and he is right, he will get into trouble; for Jesus says *"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"* (Mt7,3). Whoever looks down on someone for whom Jesus Christ died (because he has a small amount of knowledge and deeds), he gets into the same position as the Pharisees – he hardens his heart against the Holy Spirit and thus no longer becomes a tool of God, despite being a religious person or an active church member or even a leader. Actually, he acts and says what he has learnt in school and what he thinks and considers to be right. But it is not like this with the Holy Spirit who leads zig-zag, like a shepherd his sheep. There are no straight lines to follow. If you don't walk in the Holy Spirit, you go your own way thinking that it is right – in your eyes. This is what the Pharisees did. Their knowledge was based on the law and they knew what was good and therefore condemned prostitutes and sinners and thus hardened their hearts against God. They might have led a pure religious life - to fast twice a week, to give tithe offerings and to sit in synagogues every day, but they were estranged from God. They were estranged from their neighbours by their attitude – as in the parable of the good Samaritan (Lk10,25-37). Jesus spoke of that principle many times.

The apostle Paul also says, *"You have been saved by grace and this is not from yourselves"* (Eph2,8-9). Our relationship with Jesus Christ must be visible in our behaviour; we are saved. And when I am saved, I rejoice and Jesus Christ works in and through me. It is a big mistake to think that I have to do something to be saved and deserve God's favour and His blessings. There are exact situations which Jesus and the apostle Paul spoke about. It is inconspicuous and you don't have to realise source of your motivation.

This is what I have experienced. I read the scripture and searched for Jesus in spite of training in karate, evoking spirits, drinking alcohol, fighting, listening to punk ... But despite all these things, I could experience Jesus Christ, grow in Him and be physically healed. I realised that it was not me and my behaviour, which helped me to obtain the favour of God, but that my behaviour was the result of how I knew God. I realised that God is merciful, helping and loving me, in spite of all the bad things I had done. Then naturally my evil desires were put to death. This is a completely different order. The pastor would have initially said, *"You shouldn't do punk and stuff like that ..."* Fortunately, to begin with I didn't attend any church so no one could break me. I felt free and grew like an apple that is ripe and falls off the tree by itself. I stopped doing evil things with joy and praising God. But I stopped gradually, not at once. If there is also something in you that is firm and strong because you have done it for many years, you stick to it. It doesn't have to be right. Right ... that's not the correct expression. I think this is something that hinders you, makes it more difficult for you to make progress toward knowing Jesus. The apostle Paul says, *"...rather train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things"* (1Tim4,7-8). I also built my strength with dumbbell exercises, karate ... I gradually got to the moment when I realised that it would be better to devote my time to something better and also that some of my activities were like obstacles preventing me from moving forward. Let's say the 1st, 2nd and 3rd school years are alright

but you are prevented from going on to the 4th and 5th. If you want to grow spiritually, some things that have been “okay” so far begin to hinder you and you should quit them.

For example, the Israelites in the wilderness – they did some things wrong but God tolerated them. What was He supposed to do with them? The Israelites wanted a king and He told them, *“The king will take your sons to war, your daughters to make them serve and he will take a tenth ... but they refused to listen and said, “No, we want a king over us and be like all the other nations.”* (1Sam8,11-20) Well, they decided to have their king, so they had him. But where did the kings lead them? To destruction. But what was God to do with them? God is simply like the Father of the prodigal son. He says, “This is a risk,” as He also said to Eve in the paradise, *“When you eat from the tree you will certainly die.”* (1M2,17) He explains and lets you know, but the decision is up to you. If you don’t obey, you go against yourself. If you don’t want to enter Canaan, you will stay in the wilderness to your own detriment. God will not persuade you. He knows it’s no use. If you learn a lesson in the wilderness, you will say, “Oh, the Lord God, you were right. I won’t do this anymore.” This is what He needs. He needs us to realise that we were wrong - like the prodigal son. He will stay with us in the wilderness so that we may not die. Unlike God, we are not all-knowing; we see things differently (1z55,8). At that time people exalted the cult of the body and were allowed to do everything. The same as it is today when models and body-builders spend a lot of time on their appearance. And God says, *“Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things”* (1Tim4,7-8). It’s a waste of time, the devotion of time to a useless activity which doesn’t work for your salvation or spiritual development. He says you should do spiritual training.

The Bible says that the women should dress modestly...*not adorn themselves with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes* (1Tim2,9). In old times adorning was rather the domain of prostitutes. And when a holy woman adorned herself, this could have been provoking. She could see it as innocent – “This is just an adornment.” (As the apostle Paul says about food sacrificed to idols ...) (Cor8,1) And especially when someone new came into the church and saw the woman wearing accessories or ornaments, he could have understood it in a bad way (the same as with speaking in tongues) (1Cor14,23). And thus this person doesn’t see the church as the temple of the Holy Spirit, but as a brothel, because of women’s adornments.

As for me and my experience with different kinds of people, when certain things are explained to them correctly, in the power of God, and with praying, then they are willing to accept those things rather than being told, “I am the authority telling you this and that, also the Bible tells you so and if you don’t do it like this, you are mistaken.” Thus Satan can induce resistance in them, harden their hearts which means that they either become hardened or feel guilty but not excited. It is important how you explain it to them. I think patience is very important here, although it takes a long time. This sort of a gentle method is something completely different from that one when the pastor is very busy and speeds things up. First he calls someone for 10 minutes and then someone else for 10 minutes, giving them a lecture. This is a certain kind of a community which is closed, has its own barriers to protect you. But those barriers can also hinder your growth. Two opposite functions – to protect and hinder at

the same time. They protect you from outside and you cannot go outside, you are still inside – in your thoughts, opinions and teaching. In the beginning it is good because you are protected; like a little child protected by its parents. It is protected in a wooden cage, walking around. But the child is growing and needs more and more freedom so that it can have its own experience, grow and develop. Later it also needs solid food (1Cor3,2) and begins to feel restricted. In a functioning family a child is protected by the parents who bring them up and the older the child is the more independent it becomes and able to leave its parents. It is similar to a church community which protects a spiritual child, brings it up and the child becomes more and more independent and needs adequate food. Not only milk. Its spiritual growth depends on its food. The pastor has the responsibility to recognise it and give the child suitable food so that it may grow and not become stunted or vice versa. Don't give it solid food when milk is needed, otherwise he could choke it. I realise how hard it must be in communities where there are many people and where the pastor is very busy. This is the disadvantage of the communities with a large number of people where they must be fed to develop themselves. When the person is spiritually mature, he should be independent and lead other people to the Lord. If he goes to church, he should go there to praise Jesus and encourage the others. He doesn't need to be brought up anymore. It is based on the Bible – the Acts of the apostles (Acts 2,42-47) and these people should be divided like the cells, set up other churches and lead people to Jesus, so that the salt (Mt5,13) may be spread all over the earth. This is how it should be done. (Mk16,15).

As we are here, you grow and the Lord leads you to reach out to others and you will have some kind of a community, a group or so ... Like the cell which is divided into two parts – then they are divided into four parts and then it is multiplied – sixteen times and multiple times ...and then a new life is created – a man. This is how I see it in spiritual life and how it worked in the churches in the past. They didn't grow into a large communities and become stunted. They met in houses. But there is a risk whether we can call "a risk" something that isn't completely consistent. For example, the churches are worldwide, such as adventists, baptists, etc. They have their headquarters, for instance, in America and their teaching should be the same all over the world, i.e. in Africa, Europe, Slovakia, Brezno, Banská Bystrica,... It should be the same in all parts of the world. They have to be organised, which takes a lot of time, money, effort and persuasion. I feel that in the freedom of the Holy Spirit people grow up at their own pace and so there are the differences among them. We needn't be afraid of the differences because they are for our mutual benefit – like one body with many members (Rim12,4-5) a hand, a leg, an eye, a nose, a heart – they do not all have the same function but form one body. The same with the churches either here or there, if they can be called "churches". I don't want to say it loud because they can be confused with the classical churches; they are congregations – groups of christians that are led by the Holy Spirit. Their leader has some spiritual level and allows the Holy Spirit to use him so that he can give to others. Each group is somehow specific because there are different leaders with different experience levels and they can't say about the others that there is something wrong with them.

18. What fellowship is

It is necessary to explain this. If we understand fellowship to be a church, then everything outside the church is sick or not correct. But if we understand fellowship as Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”* (Mt18,20), then that’s what we’re about - the gathering of two or three, there the Holy Spirit works and people can mutually grow. The Holy Spirit leads me and I have several groups; I meet new people all the time and when there are two or three of us, there is a new fellowship. This is the way the gospel is spread. In the time of Jesus, the Pharisees formed a fellowship – the official church. If the disciples and many others hadn’t left that fellowship, christianity wouldn’t have started. At first, there were two or three, who joined Jesus but later on the number grew and then there were twelve and many more. I cannot say that the fellowship must be like this or that, otherwise the Holy Spirit couldn’t lead it. There wouldn’t be evangelicals (who originated from the catholics) and later other protestant churches, if they hadn’t kept to *“not giving up meeting together.”* (Heb10,25). Thus we can see, on the basis of the Bible and the historical development of the church, it is not possible to understand it this way – not to leave a fellowship=church. Otherwise there would not be any revival. But people understand these things differently and think they are right. Therefore they select to form groups - churches, where there are people of the same opinion.

I’ve learnt to feel free in Jesus and, as I have freedom in Jesus, try to set other people free. I can meet with them and talk to them, spend time with them, and speak about Jesus. It could be anyone, regardless of their social groupings. I don’t mind. It is important for me, that we are united in Jesus, to whom we give room at that moment so that He can build us up. And because I am free and not responsible for anyone, there is no need to persuade people, to judge them or so on. I don’t feel like this. I speak about things openly, I sow and let the Holy Spirit work. Then I eagerly pray for them because I know that’s how the Holy Spirit works. This is his job. How people receive it or understand it - that’s not my business. I need to be God’s tool and support them in prayers. That’s why I pray for those people persistently every day so that the Holy Spirit can lead them. The Holy Spirit gives them understanding the way they need it at that moment, so that they can move forward. I don’t know what’s inside them and what they need to improve in their growth. But the Holy Spirit knows it, because he can see it in advance. I need to give room for Him and not to solve it in my human way. We need to be patient and it is risky because of the diversity of people’s characters. As we have already mentioned, the Father took a risk with his prodigal son. People are in a hurry and want to resolve everything as soon as possible. The church has become a production line where all the people share the same opinion. Things are made fast, people are being persuaded, their freedom is restricted and they get into a situation when they are able to name the doctrinal points and find them in the Bible, but they don’t know what it is to experience Jesus Christ personally. They think that to live with Jesus is to go to church, to do certain things or not, to keep the ten commandments, not to do bad things... they think that this is the life with God, but they have no personal experience with Jesus Christ. They think that if they do certain

things, they will be saved, because they obey God. But it isn't about obedience, it is about being united with God.

We have to be united with Him; be a part of Him; abide in Him and then we can be saved. Not because we do something or not like the Pharisees. They could be a good example for many of us concerning adherence to religious values and practices. They were really able to keep them. But where did they get? So I tell people over and over again: Jesus Christ is the basis. Don't worry about what you have or don't have to do or things like that. Jesus Christ is the basis and the Holy Spirit will gradually lead you to quit things hindering you from coming close to Jesus. Not because Jesus will be angry to see that you have disobeyed His commands, but you personally will start to feel a shortage – a desire to come closer to Jesus; a desire for living water. As Jesus said *we would be thirsty again* (J4,13); it will draw us towards Him and we will willingly get rid of things that mean a lot to us. In my case it was karate, punk ...and I couldn't imagine life without them. You will happily quit those things, because Jesus will give you better things, and this is what the churches nowadays are missing. Jesus never took away from people anything they had - even the bad things: before giving them something better and they themselves "dropped a snake and took bread". They did it by themselves; if we want to take a snake from people's hands and not to give them a compensation, they will fight for it because they don't know anything better. We need to pass Jesus on to them and they will become persuaded by the power of Jesus Christ and their own inner experience. They will come to a decision that it is beneficial for them to get rid of the things, they couldn't have imagined doing without before. No-one, not even the pastor, knows when this will happen. The main role of the church leaders is to feed these people; to feed with Jesus Christ in the power of God. This is their only role. Thus they can put things forward. The more we water the plant, the faster it grows. People cannot be overdosed. You cannot overdose them when you pray for them, because prayers are the only thing we can give them.

In James,5 the elders prayed – ***call the elders of the church to pray over those who are sick.*** (Jak5,14). The elders are not the ones who tell people what to do and what not to do, but first of all those who have to pray. This is the main role of the elders. They have to take care of the flock, to immerse them in the power of God and prayers. That's the point. Nowadays churches are restricted because they concentrate on studying and preaching the word, telling people what to do and what not to do. We have already mentioned the fact that there is a lot of information but not the power of God. The power of God can persuade people. We read in the gospels that Jesus didn't explain much but acted, and the power of God persuaded people. The proportion of Jesus's ministry involving deliverance and healing was larger than that of preaching. These days there is more preaching in the churches than the power of God. Why? Because they are not under the leadership of God, the power of God, and so they only preach having no power. Some churches are completely without God's power. They say that God's power is when people come to church. But even the political parties are able to agitate people! Jesus said *to teachers of the law and Pharisees that they travel over the land and sea to win a single convert and make them twice as much a child of hell as they are* (Mt23,15). It is not a victory when people come to church. The victory is when they receive Jesus Christ.

19. When an evil spirit comes out of a man (Matthew 12, 43 – 45)

We read in the Bible, **Matthew 12: 43 – 45**, When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, “ I will return to the house I left.” When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it 7 other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation. .

Jesus points out that when an impure spirit comes out of a person – when a person is delivered – (and He himself gave us an example of casting out Satan from his life so he could be blessed), it goes through arid places, where there is no water or rest. We also need to be delivered like this. At that time people didn't understand energies and, of course, the spirit doesn't need water or rest, because he doesn't have a body like we do. We have already spoken about how man fell into sin, and separated himself from God. He started to miss God's presence, energy. This energy - God's power - grows in God's presence (in a prayer, reading the Bible or having spiritual conversation). 1/3 of angels - fallen angels, who were seduced by Satan and thrown down to the earth, separated themselves from God's presence and they missed this energy, the presence of God. They try to look for this energy or be parasitic on people taking the power from them.

Doctors and healers treat diseases in such a way, that they pitch water out of a leaking boat but don't patch (cover, fix) the hole. That means water runs back into the boat and the core of the problem isn't removed. They don't understand the point. Whereas the doctor can see the pathological changes in tissues, bodies, the healer can see through energies. He sees the organs that are energetically weak, having no energy, and that's why they become ill; which the doctors can also see. But the healer can see it beforehand, charges them with energy, and the organs are healed. The doctor usually heals people using medicaments or surgeries (operations). But neither of them, the doctor or the healer, are able to remove the root of the problem. They don't even know why the organs are energetically weak. When they are weak they become ill and decay, which means inflammation, disease and so on. And the reason is an evil spirit – a demon. This happens because he needs that energy for himself, so he sits on the liver, for example, and starts to take energy out of it and the organ becomes energetically weak, which can be seen by the healer. When the organ is physically ill, it can be seen by the doctor, but they neither are able to remove the root cause – the reason which is caused by the demon. Jesus cast out many demons – blindness, deafness, impurity, which is leprosy, etc. They are not able to remove the root cause/the reason. Jesus pointed out that there were concrete reasons that caused diseases and He removed them by casting out demons when healing people.

In these verses Jesus points out that the demon tries to enter the life of a man, because he needs man's energy to survive. This is as if he needed water. And the demon can move in the human being, which means that when you are healed by the doctor or the healer, your healed organ can become ill again or another organ can get ill or you will have a bad luck in your life,

because evil is present in your life. He either acts on a physical level, which is demonstrated by a disease, or on a mental level, which means the soul. But he is present all the time in the life of that person and the healer cannot cast him out because he can only be cast out in the power of Jesus Christ. That demon is only afraid of Jesus Christ. (Phil 2,8-10). When Jesus heals, He not only pitches water out of a leaking boat, but first He patches the hole and that's why it takes a longer time – the gospel and the whole process, because it's like building a house on the rock (Mt7,24). It isn't just a short time, and the results are different. That person's life is completely changed, he becomes stronger and protected before bad influences because he is in Jesus and the evil powers can't influence him any more.

But the demon makes an effort to return and when he arrives and finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. That means the conditions for living are ready, but the one who cast that demon out, Jesus Christ, isn't there. When a person experienced deliverance, Jesus Christ always said, "You are well again – stop sinning!" (J5,14) Nothing evil returned into lives of people, who were delivered, healed and kept on living with Jesus. Once they lived without Jesus, the evil returned because there was no reason not to. This is important to know - that it isn't like taking pills, being healed and living the same way of life as before; when we live with Him and He lives in us, the demon doesn't return because it is afraid of Him. Next He points out that even that demon is friendly and not only him – the impure spirit, returns - but 7 other spirits more wicked. In the Bible, the number 7 is a symbol of fullness and that means an infinite amount - that's fullness. Jesus cast 2000 demons out of one man. They can occupy one man in that number. They represent 1/3 of all angels; they are the fallen angels – demons. Billions and billions of them – a huge number. They can enter a human life in large numbers. There are a lot of them, lurking around; they need to be parasitic on humans. The one demon can open the doors for the others. If you don't have your inner peace, it's the demon of discomfort, who attacked that area of your life; he is followed by the demon of alcohol addiction because you solve your inner discomfort by alcohol; then there comes the demon of a murder or suicide. There is a sequence, one following another; consecutively; and the triggers are often inconspicuous. People overlook them and we try to find out about them, to find the basis of the problem. To cast it out means not to allow it to return. It is the same with psychologists who try to go back to your childhood and look for the causes of some traumas and events that may serve as a triggering mechanism resulting in an individual's inability to cope with certain events. There are certain triggers or so-called gates through which demons can enter. The Bible points out that the triggers are our weaknesses and evil desires (Gal5,19-21 Jk1,14-15). This is what demons can make use of. It was the same with Eve when Satan made use of her weakness and got her. This tactic is still valid.

Although the Bible was written many years ago, it's still topical and real because it relates to the things that happen today. The Bible is able to name these things and offer the solution on how to resist. It is also written that the final condition of that person is worse than the first – completely destroyed. Now we can see the main cause of problems and thus we know how to resist. Jesus cast demons out. Thus we can concentrate more on Him. We already know

what the point of His ministry was, because He showed it to us by what He did. In His forgiveness we are saved and delivered.

20. Our Father – the Lord’s prayer (Mt 6, 8 - 15)

Jesus points out how to resist the demon of unforgiveness. Let’s start to read the Bible, **Matthew 6, 8 – 15**: “Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.” For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

The prayer starts with “your Father knows what you need before you ask him”. The prayer doesn’t mean to inform God about our needs or to persuade Him to fulfill them, because He knows what we need; in the prayer we come to Him so He can bless us and help us to fulfill it. Then follows the Lord’s prayer, which may sound like a cliché, because some people pray it with just their mouth, but if we understand it, we have understood the whole Bible. In the Lord’s prayer there are amazing things, but now there is no space to analyze it, we will analyze it later in our prayer groups. There are also good things in the original Greek version. What is important here – is verse 12, where it is written Forgive us our debts; in the Greek original the past simple tense is used: He FORGAVE; for us it is the past tense, because it happened 2000 years ago on Golgotha. Not now we ask God to forgive us, He forgave us 2000 years ago in Jesus Christ, in Jesus Christ’s death. Verse 13 in its original version doesn’t say: lead us not into temptation, which uses the future tense, so I ask God not to lead me into temptation, but again the past tense is used – He DIDN’T LEAD us into temptation. This is a completely new view of God, because it is written in the letter of James that God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone (Jak1,13). The Bible shows that there is no temptation on God’s side. God doesn’t tempt anyone. Although we can’t know the original versions, the Bible is understandable if we take it as a whole. It’s not true that if you don’t have the original, you cannot know the real God; the Bible is interpreted by itself. It’s important how we read it, because, unfortunately, most people read the Bible trying to prove their beliefs on any subject. It is only human nature to take ideas out of context. While reading the Bible, it is good to let it speak to us, let it help our actual need; as we grow, we have different needs, so let the Bible talk about the need that we have.

Actually, it is the past tense – He didn’t lead us into temptation and He has delivered us from the evil one. Not only: He didn’t lead us into temptation but He has already delivered us from the evil one! The original meaning of the word “evil” is “causing pain” or something like this and the final word is Satan. God has delivered us from all evil! There is a slight difference in translations, because the original languages, like Hebrew and Greek, are foreign languages

and to translate them properly is not easy because they are old. Hebrew is 3500 years old and Greek or Aramaic, in which the New Testament was written, are 2000 years old. There are the differences in the translations; the original word may have 8-10 Slovak meanings and the person, who translated it, had to choose one word. He chose the word which he considered the most suitable; actually, translation of the Bible is its interpretation. The translator used the word he thought was correct. I discovered this reading the Book of Revelation, chapter 3, verse 19, where Jesus says: "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline" (the Slovak translation uses the word "punish" instead of "rebuke and discipline") (Zj3,19), and it didn't suit me, because I know God as loving and forgiving, revealed in Jesus; so how can He punish those whom He loves? So I opened the Greek original and I saw the words "Those whom I love I bring up, lead encourage, take out and (the last word was) punish." There were many words that change the original meaning. He is like the father taking care of his child whom he loves. The translator used the last word which was there – "punish" and so I said to myself that it's necessary to read the entire Bible because when we do it, and don't have the original versions, the Bible itself is opened up to us as a unit and then we won't take out only some things like some churches are used to doing. The Bible as a whole will give us the correct view. It is written in the letter of James: God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone (Jak1,13). Though I know it doesn't fit in the Lord's prayer and I didn't have the original, I am able to find it in other parts of the Bible. Therefore it is good to read the Bible as a whole; the Bible shouldn't be contradictory. One thing cannot contradict or deny another. If it sounds like this, then there is a problem in interpretation. The Bible mustn't be contradictory. There are the arguments between the churches just because they take to heart different parts of the Bible ... and have arguments among themselves. They don't see the Bible as a whole leading to Jesus Christ. When we understand the Bible properly, then the result is Jesus Christ. The gospel of John starts "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (J1,1) And this Word is Jesus Christ. When we say the Word or the Word of God, we mean Jesus Christ. These letters should lead us to Jesus Christ. And the real knowledge of the Scripture or God is Jesus Christ. He is living and that's why the Scripture is read through the Holy Spirit so that people can understand it for their momentary life. Thus people grow and develop. Doctrinal points, created for years or maybe decades, can bind them.

After finishing the prayer, Jesus comes back to forgiveness. He considers this issue very important. If the Bible duplicates or points out something, it is very serious. Jesus goes back to forgiveness after the prayer and says that if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Mt6,14-15). Our sins were forgiven 2000 years ago. It doesn't mean that God won't forgive us, but what will happen? If I forgive other people, I am able to receive God's forgiveness, because God forgave me 2000 years ago. But if I do not forgive others their sins against me, there is unforgiveness or hatred in my heart and thus I am not able to receive God's forgiveness. Thus I harm myself. If I am able to forgive other people their sins, I am able to receive God's forgiveness. Jesus explains this through the parable (Mt18,21-35); there was a king who had a servant who owed him a lot of Money. The king cancelled the debt and that servant grabbed one of his fellow servants, who owed him less

money, and began to choke him. When the king heard about this, he called him in and said: “I cancelled all that debt of yours, and you didn’t have mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you? I also won’t forgive you!” Here Jesus points out that principle. In Him we have much more in forgiveness; we gain eternal life. We need to forgive, lest other people sin against us, so we can receive God’s forgiveness. My explanation is simple and goes like this: it is as if I had a black spot on my heart and unless I remove it – forgive someone and settle the things down - I won’t be able to receive more; something is blocking me. There is much more in God’s forgiveness. In the other place Jesus says, “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at an altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar (which means a prayer). First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. (Mt5,23-24) Jesus points out that if there is something against other people in our heart and we pray, our prayer is useless. Because when we come to God on the prayer, we receive from Him what we need for the day. But if there are the things we haven’t settled in our heart, we are not able to receive anything from God. Those prayers are empty and Jesus called them babbling (Mt6,7). Then we say that God doesn’t want to give it to us or even say that God wanted this to happen to us. Thus we believe Satan who told us those things and twisted the truth. We simply didn’t understand the principle, the reason why this happened. We have already mentioned that people don’t understand the things happening around them and call them fate, accident, luck, or bad luck, just because they don’t understand what’s going on. But Jesus Christ shows us what’s going on; there is a reason-result relation, action and reaction. Nothing happens accidentally. Accident means chaos and chaos is destruction. It’s our thinking and acting that influence the things coming to our life, the things happening to us. We need to make correct decisions, but first we need to understand things so we can make correct decisions. We need to know the truth, the Word of God, the living Word, not just the letter, because the letter can be explained by everybody, but Jesus Christ is the Word of God; it’s not about the knowledge of the Scripture, but about the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We have mentioned that the disciples didn’t know the Scripture, but they knew Jesus Christ and had all of it.

21. The demon of unforgiveness (Mt 5, 44)

Jesus shows us the way to forgive. It is in the gospel of **Matthew, chapter 5, verse 44**: Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who persecute you.

It's a good verse, isn't it? Some people would rather remove it! To love enemies, even to pray for them, do good to them ... and this is the key verse. Jesus points out that every negative thought is harmful. Jesus goes to extremes when He says that we are to love our enemies. No room for negative thoughts! To love means to have a positive relationship with them. We have read about forgiveness; Jesus told us to forgive our debtors. The biblical concept of forgiveness is not that "forgetting is forgiving", but the biblical concept of forgiveness is to be free from the demon of unforgiveness; you might have encountered that you forgave someone and when this person hurt you again, you were reminded of the previous experience – it came back. It was not real forgiveness because if you forgave the way Jesus spoke about and loved your enemy, it would be forgiven forever and it wouldn't come back, because you have a positive attitude towards that person. Jesus really goes to extremes when He says, "But I tell you, love your enemies and bless those who curse you..." To bless means to invoke divine favour on someone; Jesus says that you have to bless people, who curse you and wish you bad things. Do good to those who hate you. He speaks about the activity; if you have a chance, do good to people who hate you, pray for those who persecute you. He showed us a great principle. This is one of the most important things. At the beginning, we spoke about your boss, who thinks negatively about you and thus hurts you. Some of you can ask how to prevent this. Jesus says that if you pray and even bless that person, blessing is more powerful than prayer, blessing is second after deliverance. If you start blessing this person, you not only protect yourself, but at the same time you put out the fire of evil in this person. Because when you pray for that person, you put the Spirit of God into him by praying, and when God is present in him, he stops doing evil things. You put the evil to death. You kill two birds with one stone; you protect yourself and put out the evil in that person. This is the way you can defend yourself and also stop that person doing bad things, not only to you, but also to other people. When you pray for him, you turn him towards God, towards faith in Jesus Christ. I have had several experiences, for example at work, when there were people who wanted to hurt me and I started to pray for them, and they became believers.

Jesus speaks about positive activity at all times. At those times the Romans were the enemies who killed and murdered. At present we don't have an enemy like them. I think that we don't have the same problem for Jesus to solve as those times. It means that we have to think positive not negative at all times. When we think positive, we also have a positive life; when we think negative, we have a negative life. Here we understand not only that a parson wanted us to love our enemies but also why we should! First of all, it is for our good; we need to love our enemies so that we may not hurt and weaken ourselves. This is the real way of forgiveness. When we are able to forgive people this way, then we are able to receive God's forgiveness in which we have eternal life, health and material blessing. Many people pray, do

good deeds, sit in church every day, evangelize into microphones but there is something that hinders them and doesn't allow them to move forward. They don't know that trigger is somewhere else, that they didn't forgive someone or had a sin. Thus they prevent themselves from receiving God's blessings in their lives. Then they become tired of christianity and say that it doesn't work because it was not truly explained to them what they should do.

22. Put on the full armour of God (Eph 6, 11 - 12)

Ephesians 6, 11 – 12: “Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

How to forgive enemies? The Bible offers a solution. You should understand it and share with others on the basis of the Scripture. Ephesians 6, 11 – 12: Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. The devil is a deceitful tactician, cunning and sneaky, trying to deceive us. But he won't deceive us if we stay with Jesus Christ and the Scripture. I must emphasise that with Jesus Christ not just with knowledge of the Bible. He points out: “Put on the full armour of God“ and says why: “so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.“ We need the full armour and not just part of it. You surely know christians who overcome in some areas of their lives. They can even be role-model christians, but they fail in some areas of their lives because they didn't put on the full armour of God. The apostle Paul names the parts of this armour: the helmet, the shield, the breastplate and so on ... and points out that if you don't fully wear armour of God, and for example, your hand isn't protected, the evil one can hit you with his flaming arrow and immobilize you. You can be 90% with Jesus Christ, but the evil one still has 10% of you and can cause problems. Therefore the apostle Paul says that it's the best to wear the full armour of God. That means to give every part of your life to Jesus Christ. Every part, not just some, to protect yourself against injury.

And Paul continues: For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. The Bible clearly says what flesh and blood are. Flesh and blood are a man. He says that we don't struggle against a man but against spiritual forces = the devil and his demons. What does that mean? If there is someone who hurt you and you have a problem with forgiving him, on the basis of this text you could realise that it was not him who hurt you. In fact, he didn't hurt you, he only became a tool of Satan to put you both in opposition. Satan wants to benefit. It is written that Satan entered Judas (Lk 22,3) to betray Jesus; Satan or his demon can enter anybody, who doesn't have the full armour of God, and provokes a conflict. The conflict between them reduces God's glory and this is what Satan wants to achieve – to separate us from God. Satan doesn't care who wins because he's got you both. The person who is in conflict with you, is actually a God's child, like you. He is a child of God used in ignorance by the enemy to create a conflict. When you realise that it is a spiritual struggle, you won't let

yourself be provoked; you are on top of things and understand what's going on: it's a spiritual struggle and the devil – tactician and cunning – tries to use people so he can create conflicts. And he tries to do his worst in the lives of the believers, because those who belong to the world are already his. He artificially tries to create a conflict; then you find that some people are being unjustly hurtful toward you... Satan simply wants it. He doesn't care. Just as Judas betrayed Jesus and unjustly hurt Him. Satan needs it for his purposes and so will create conflicts in your surroundings. If you stand firm in Jesus, He will not touch you. There is the proof that if you are in Jesus and pray for those people, they cannot be used so much by the enemy to hurt you. There is God's glory in them. When you pray for them, you allow them to understand.

Another thing is, and you certainly have had this kind of experience, that when people wanted to hurt you and you didn't let them provoke you, they stopped. They were surprised by your reaction, because you had a different reaction to that which they expected, not evil for evil. The apostle Paul says that we have to overcome evil with good and doing this, we will heap burning coal on their heads (Rom12,21). He points out that when we use God's weapons and do not repay anyone evil for evil, it's like heaping burning coals on their head. Thus we can stop them, make them think about their behaviour and life. It doesn't necessarily have to happen immediately. We mustn't be disappointed; it's important for us to understand what's going on and not let the enemy get us down, because he works like this.

We can program our mind and when we pray and believe that a particular person is healed, we really allow that person to be healed by the prayer. But if we think of this person as ill, we will program him to be ill. If we think that our boss is bad and strict, we program him to behave according to the pattern in our mind – to be bad and strict. But if we take the view that he is saved and happy in Jesus and that Jesus loves him the same as He loves us, then we send a positive signal to him and he will gradually start to behave in the way we have in our mind; we will prepare him to receive spiritual words. We really form our neighbour with our mind and the more we are in Jesus, the stronger we become and our prayer has more power and influence. We read in the Bible that Elijah stopped the rain for three and a half years (1Kings 17,1 & James 5,17). This is the real power of the prayer.

The demon of unforgiveness is the worst thing preventing us from receiving God's forgiveness. If we don't have God's forgiveness, we don't have salvation. This is a very important thing and that's why Jesus pays a lot of attention to it.

23. The demon of materialism (Mt 6, 19 - 34)

Now I am going to speak about another demon – the demon of materialism. Let's read from **Matthew 6, verses 19 – 34**: “ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

This is the longest extract to read. Jesus speaks about things that might not be easy to begin with: you cannot serve two masters. We are concerned with our mind with material, earthly things, which is the first level of Satan's attacks because he tries to draw people's attention to it. If we are involved with material things, we cannot receive Jesus Christ. We cannot understand spiritual things. He points out that we have to be concerned with spiritual things and this is a problem because the enemy tries to switch our attention to what to wear, what to eat, etc. If we live materially, i.e. in a body, we need those things; we need to wear or to eat. Satan makes an effort to draw our attention to them, but Jesus says that we cannot add anything to our lives with worries. He refers to worries, which mean negative thinking, that are no help. If we have a problem, whatever it might be, we cannot solve it being worried about it. What is more, we can even make it worse because our attention is devoted to it. Jesus Christ points out that we should trust God ... He calls it “your heavenly Father knows that you need them.” In other words, He says that we don't have to worry and think negatively, but devote our attention to God and He says “seek first the kingdom of heaven and all shall be added.” The concept of the kingdom of heaven is Jesus Christ himself, because He came to show us the heavenly kingdom. He said, “If I drive out demons with the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Lk11,20) If we devote our attention to Jesus Christ, then we allow Him to solve the problems that make us worry. He has such power to multiply bread and fish

and feed thousands of people (Jn6,1-15). When it's necessary, He is able to do things like that, but it is a biblical paradox. Instead of being worried about problems and trying to solve them on my own, I have to trust that Jesus Christ solved them 2000 years ago. Even the very hair of our head are numbered. (Mt10,30). He knows what we need and thus we allow Him to give it to us. I repeat it again so you may understand: if you worry that you don't have something in your life, your negative attitude reduces God's glory and thus prevents God from helping you; but if you seek Jesus Christ, you make God's glory bigger and thus give Him space to help you. How does it work in everyday life? Trusting Jesus Christ, you are the right person at the right time in the right place, because you are led by the Holy Spirit, you meet the right people and get the right information about work and other things you are concerned about. This is how God leads and protects you. If you stop being concerned about the things that prevent God from helping you, you will do the opposite – you will make them dead, let them be, but not in a relaxing chilled out way but trusting Jesus Christ and then you will recognise His voice the same way I do. I get a lot of information spending several hours in prayer and thus I know how to move forward ... this is the way I am protected and blessed in my life and it works in practice.

And Jesus goes ahead and says, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." He points out that we don't have to worry about tomorrow, about our tomorrow's work, food, exams and things like that, because they cause negative thinking. As a result, we won't do them because of our negative thinking. He says that we have to live for the day, we have to live for today to the full. We have already spoken about it. The way we think today, now, at this moment, is the way we build our tomorrow. If you trust Jesus today and rejoice in Him, praise Him, you will build up God's presence and the next day when you take an exam or face a problem, you will overcome and make it. Because today you will change in Him, feed and make yourself full. The more you look at Jesus, the more He can work in your life. Thus you allow Him to work in your life because of God's strength – God's power is the lateral manifestation of God's presence. You shouldn't aim to make it bigger. This is the consequence. It's like the fire that burns and gives warmth. That's natural law. Where fire burns, there is light and warmth. When there is God – Jesus Christ in our life, the lateral product - manifestation or activity – is God's glory; God's power. For your better understanding – this is just the manifestation of God in us. The important thing is to have Jesus in our life. This has something in common with positive thinking which is widely discussed in some streams of life; but there is a difference because that kind of positive thinking has a certain limit and cannot go forward. We can think positively and make God's glory bigger; some people mistakenly call it the aura or biofield and become successful practising it. But positive thinking doesn't prevent them from being possessed by unclean spirits that can paralyse and destroy them. Those people are deceived and get into serious trouble. I have been visited by many people involved in positive thinking, who wanted to jump out of the window because of deception and disappointment. They did well in a certain part of their life and said to themselves in front of a mirror how great they were... They were successful in doing certain things but later they weren't able to protect themselves from evil and didn't understand what had happened. In this case it is necessary to rebuild the whole foundation and build on Jesus Christ. I got to know God revealed in Jesus Christ and I know that He is absolute in His power,

absolute in His love and there is no “positive thinking” in Him. He won’t give me anything I can’t handle because I know that He is able to help me with any problem I might have, and I know that He loves me unconditionally. He even gave His life for me. He will definitely help me and won’t disappoint me.

Having hope of eternal life, I rejoice because I have eternal life which is a strong motivational factor of positive thinking. I know that there is something better and if I struggle with something, I know for sure that it’s temporary and something better will come along and it gives me strength. Because it gives me strength to think positively by receiving Jesus Christ, I will allow evil to be changed right now not some time in the future. This is how I create my future. I can’t change the past which is over. It doesn’t make sense to worry about the past (Isaiah 43,18-19); it can only weaken us and to worry about the future also doesn’t make sense because it concerns the future. What we have to solve, is our current life, at this moment. Our current life can build our future because we are able to influence it and change.

24. The demon of adultery (1Cor 6, 12-20)

The demon of adultery. **1 Corinthians 6, verses 12-20:** “Everything is permissible for me – but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me – but I will not be mastered by anything. Food for the stomach and the stomach for food – but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become flesh.” But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.”

Paul says, “Everything is permissible for me - but not everything is beneficial.” He speaks about freedom and permission. This is a new dimension brought in by Jesus Christ. We have heard that at the time of Moses people were of low intellectual level and so God prohibited and commanded them, but at the time of Jesus, Jesus says, “I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (J15,15) Jesus explained everything to us and let it be our choice, because God is love and where there is love there is freedom and we are free to make decisions. The apostle Paul says, “Everything is permissible for me - but not everything is beneficial,” which means that consequences are coming to our life. He repeats it again when he says, “Everything is permissible for me but I won’t be mastered by anything.” God doesn’t prevent us from doing anything, but there are things that can cause

problems in our life and master us. Then he also speaks about food and then continues with adultery. The demon of adultery can master people nowadays.

He points out that of all sins there is only one sin against the body and that is adultery; man and woman were created as one body. Alcoholism and drink won't become one body, but man and woman will become one body. You won't become one body with a bottle of alcohol. In Getsemane Jesus prayed for unity (Jn17,21); when unity is broken, it is like the body that is torn apart. From the simplified point of view it is as if a sheath protecting us – God's power, God's glory in us – had a hole. When a man commits adultery, God's glory becomes weak and thus the demons, whatever they are, have an easier way to enter human life. Jesus Christ says that He has forgiven everything. Some churches say that adultery is an unforgivable sin, but the Bible says that Jesus has completely forgiven everything. Forgiveness is given by our ability to receive it. There is no problem on God's side, whatever it may concern. We need a lot of strength to receive it, but when we commit for example adultery, we lose this strength and become more vulnerable to evil, whatever it may be. Thus we become uselessly weak, because our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor6,19 & 1Cor3,16), and when we destroy this temple, we actually tear the sheath by committing adultery with someone; we shouldn't do that otherwise we become vulnerable, and that is dangerous. Satan can attract people's attention, as he did with Eve, through desire of the eyes, lust, something very attractive, which is short-term and makes people weak from a long-term point of view.

The good news is that whatever happens in our life, when we are with Jesus, we are protected. This is what we have already spoken about: when we are with Jesus – we are sufficiently protected and God's glory, God's power is sufficiently strong to protect us. When we are with Jesus every day, it isn't possible that a house can be found unoccupied, without Jesus (Mt12,43-45), because we are protected by Him against evil. If you understand this, so it's better to avoid those things and not to make yourselves uselessly weak because otherwise it's like walking with a point-detonation fuse in your pocket not knowing when it can explode and thus you can make more and more holes and become weaker and weaker.

25. Power to cast out demons (Mt 10, 1 - 8)

The Bible says in **Matthew 10, 1 – 8**: “He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: “The kingdom of heaven is near.” Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”.

It is written at the beginning, that Jesus started to go with His disciples and in chapter 9 it is written that He saw the problems of people, healed the whole villages and had compassion on them. He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” (Mt9,36-37 & Lk10,2) He realised that He couldn't do it on His own and prepared the disciples for it. It is written that He called them and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. There He clearly said how they were supposed to work. He gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. If someone says that God allowed a disease to bring him up, that's nonsense and rebuke him. It is clearly written here that the disciples are supposed to heal every disease and sickness by driving out evil spirits.

Then there are the names of the twelve apostles. Here it is first written what the disciples were to do and then what their names were. That was written deliberately so that we could see that it isn't important what churches are doing today, showing their identities, their doctrinal points, their boundaries, but more important is what they should do. What they should do for other people, that's important. The name of the church is not important ... it isn't important what the names of the apostles were but what they did: drove out and healed. This is what counts; but nowadays the churches do it the other way - conversely. They need to promote themselves: we are like this, we have this plan and that intention. What they really have to do – to help people, to deliver and heal, is put aside. But Jesus knew it would be forgotten in the course of time. We have already mentioned that if the Bible considers something very important, it duplicates it and Jesus says a few verses later the same, “... go and preach the message the kingdom of heaven is near.” He says that first it's necessary to preach the gospel and then heal the sick, cleanse those who have leprosy, raise the dead, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Jesus points out that the gospel without God's power is dead. He says that what He did during His ministry - He preached, healed and delivered people. His disciples are to do the same. You cannot separate God's word – preaching the gospel – from God's power. It's the power of God's word that delivers people. When Jesus walked the earth, people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. (Mt7,28-29). They recognised that Jesus' words were not like their beautiful sermons, but simple and proved by God's power. It was exactly what people needed so their lives could be changed. Although the Pharisees and the teachers

of the law were able to preach beautifully, their words gave nothing to the listeners. That's why Jesus, who was different from them, gave His disciples the same authority so that they could do what He did. He repeated it again, duplicated – this is your mission. If anybody says that only those twelve were assigned and today it doesn't work anymore, I can tell you honestly that's not true because it's still working today.

26. How to cast out Satan

When Jesus started His ministry after being baptized, He was immediately tempted by Satan in the desert. He showed us that from the very beginning of our journey with Jesus Christ Satan will attack us. We need to cast him out if we want to overcome him, otherwise he will attack us constantly. But the Bible doesn't recommend it in the beginning when we are weak, because demons can jump on and overpower us as it happened to seven sons of Sceva in the Acts 19,13-17. When we aren't in Jesus, we are too weak to cast demons out, because we are not under the power of God and demons can overpower us. First we need to be stronger because it isn't about the words, it is about our inner condition – our inner state. It's not the words, magic formula, that count, but it is our heart, our faith. The bigger faith we have and the more we are in Jesus, the more power is revealed and thus we can help other people more and solve harder things. Demons have different power, says Jesus (Mt17,21), and sometimes we can help other people immediately, sometimes later on or so ...

The prayer of faith is about joy and giving thanks.

27. The meaning and significance of baptism

Based on what the Bible says, we have to distinguish between water baptism and baptism by the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist baptized with water - it was a baptism of repentance. Do you know what repentance is? When people realize that they have made mistakes and the conscience in them starts to work. The Holy Spirit works through their conscience. Then this person repents and gives it to Jesus Christ. Even before Jesus Christ entered His ministry, John the Baptist already performed this baptism in the Jordan, same as Jesus later on. Notice that the baptism of repentance that John did was of great importance to people because Jesus himself went through the same type of baptism. Some would say that what John did was not as great because it was not like the baptism that Jesus Christ gave but that is not true - Jesus himself went through the same baptism that John the Baptist did. And when John tried to deter him, telling him that it should be the other way around, Jesus told him that it was of great importance that the Lord Jesus is baptized by John (Gospel according to Matthew 3, 13-17).

Why was it done with water? The Old Testament has been dealing with this since Moses - the book of Leviticus was intended for the Levites - for priests. There were various ceremonies and amongst them also cleansing ceremonies. And one of those ceremonies was when someone was to enter a temple - he needed to wash himself, his hands up to the elbows and that symbolized that he washed his whole body and that was not just symbolism: because now we know that hygiene back then was not that common. God already led people to hygiene - to wash their hands but that was also to wash their hands from impurity - as from the evil, not just from dirt as such. Washing your hands in running water also washes away anything negative - the bad. Because a person catches it during a day, during life, either by shaking hands or by grabbing various objects because those things are here. So actually, the baptism of repentance - by the fact that the person was completely immersed, baptized, he was actually cleansed from the bad and emerged as clean.

This is mentioned in the Old Testament (2 Kings 5, 1-19), when Naaman of Syria, who was a pagan prince and was leprous, could not heal him. And a Jewish girl - a servant who was in his captivity told him that in their country there is a prophet Elisha who has power from God. And Naaman believed it and traveled great distance with gifts and came to the prophet. It happened that this prophet Elisha did not come to meet him but sent his servant. Naaman took offense to that he travels far to see him, brings him gifts, and he does not even bother to go out to see him, to welcome him and only sends him a message through his servant: "*go to the Jordan and immerse yourself in the water 7 times and you will be cleansed*". And Naaman, in his anger and insulted that the prophet Elisha did not come out to meet him, said: "*Are not our rivers of Damascus better than the rivers of Israel?*" Why did he travel so far to immerse himself in this water? He wanted to go back. And then his servants told him that since he had already traveled so far, it is not so much to immerse himself in that water 7 times, so let him do it. And when he dived the seventh time, it is written that he was immediately healed of leprosy. So, he was healed by his faith. But there is actually shown that the water cleansed him because leprosy means being unclean. And there it was shown, the symbolism, that the water cleansed him of

that leprosy. There, it didn't matter if the water was dirty. It can be seen there. Because some asked me before if the water is dirty, and I say that it doesn't matter how the water is - the important thing is that Jesus is there with us and Jesus has no problem healing anything, so there is no danger at all and the water would not harm anyone. Actually, even this story in the Old Testament points out that the possibly dirty water actually cured him of leprosy, which was incurable at the time. But God's power did it, at the instruction of God's prophet, Naaman actually obeyed God and that's why he was healed. And it wasn't about what the water was like and it wasn't about immersing yourself 7 times or doing anything else - you just have to obey God.

So, when we take by faith what Jesus gives us, Jesus is doing things. And when Jesus gave us this message to go through this holy baptism, so He will act. So it's not important at all how cultural it is. That's why I lead people to nature because Jesus did it in those days in nature and actually some people do it in the bathtub, in the pool. And it seems to me that people usually bathe there, so they take it as an ordinary thing and the fact that we are here in nature already gives you such an atmosphere that it is something different, that it is not something common, that it helps you to open up to it - to the fact that it's not a common thing. It's nature - it's running water. Jordan was a flowing river. Because baptisms in churches are mostly done in swimming pools and I prefer running water. Because running water, as we have already mentioned, gets rid of the evil, the negative things, and during the baptism, when God's power is at work, just like when evil is expelled from a person during the deliverance prayer, the water, symbolically speaking simply, helps to remove it, to wash it away, connect to each other.

People often experience attacks before baptism. But that is actually a kind of confirmation that Satan wants to stop it because he is afraid of the baptism. And when he is afraid of something, it means that he knows that a person can only gain in Jesus. That's still an encouragement. But there's no need to be scared, you just have to fight for it. What I mentioned is that even if people come to me because of the gospel, because of Jesus, and they come for the first time and they don't know what they are getting into - initially for healing and then I tell them about Jesus and those people have problems along the way. Satan is trying to prevent them from learning about Jesus at all. And I say to them - this is your confirmation, a sign that you are on the right path, and Satan is afraid of this and that is why he is trying to prevent you from knowing Jesus. And in the Bible, we read a lot of things, when Jesus or God in the Old Testament did something, Satan tried to discourage the people.

And this is the thing that Jesus promises. This is a really important thing, so there is no need to back down on this matter. You have to fight for it, because Jesus says: "*today when you hear my voice, follow me*" (*Gospel according to Matthew 4, 17-22 and 9, 9*) and we read the Gospel, when he called his disciples, he said: "*Come*" and they immediately went. They didn't speculate "*I'll sort things out*" and so on... but they went right away!

So we, when Jesus shows us something, we must do it immediately. Because as soon as we put it off, then we harden our hearts against the Holy Spirit. In other words, by putting it off, we actually cause that we gradually do not respond to that voice, that we actually harm ourselves

not only for that specific thing but for the overall communication with God because we allow Satan to discourage us, so that Satan has the final word. Jesus tells us something and we still speculate about it or put it off... (Letter to the Hebrews 3,7) And then, it can happen that we learn to listen to Satan and not to Jesus and then we are surprised our answers do not come - that God doesn't help us. Just because we prefer someone else. You have simply to fight for it. You know that I am talking about the spiritual battle – keep fighting. The Bible often talks about spiritual warfare. It is still a struggle and it is within us.

In the garden of Gethsemane when Jesus was praying... (Mark 14:32-39) *To fight... Should I go to Golgotha?* He knew that it was God's will but from a human point of view he would have preferred to avoid it and thus fought until he sweated blood (Luke 22:44). So, there is a fight inside us. I simply know: this is good for me but the desire of the body, (be it regarding eating or various other addictions and other things). Satan is simply inciting it through us, and now it's about what we prefer. If we prioritize Jesus, He will help us fight it because we are not fighting it. We are just fighting over who we will listen to - like Eve in paradise - whether we will listen to Satan, a snake, or whether we will listen to God's word, when God said before that you shall not pluck and eat from that tree. Then Satan came and started telling her something else (1st book of Moses 3rd chapter).

So it's up to us to fight for it, with this baptism it's the same. And it's a serious thing and that's why many times Satan attacks it to make it worthless. Therefore, we are now going to explain baptism on the basis of the Bible, as Jesus explains it. I usually ask people if they want church baptism or biblical baptism. Because church baptisms are about a person agreeing to the points of faith of the church he joins, and when he agrees to that, he is baptized as a sign that he is becoming a member of that church. I lead people to the fact that we follow the Bible and that it is important that we become part of God's kingdom. Regardless of whether we become a member of a church or not. What is important is that we become a member of God's kingdom.

So, we open the Gospel according to **Matthew in the Bible, chapter 3, from verse 13 to verse 17:**

" Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

We see here that Jesus himself came to John to be baptized. The Lord Jesus himself considered it necessary to show us this. And John recognized Him and tried to convince him saying: "I need to be baptized by you and you come to me?". John recognized Jesus was the anointed one.

Jesus said to him: " *Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.*". That's when he left him. So, John told him what he thought but then he didn't resist anymore and obeyed Jesus. And actually, Jesus showed that it is important because he showed us the path that He was walking. And when Jesus, who did not need to be baptized, was passing that way, and John, who was filled with the Spirit of God in the service of baptism, said to Jesus that: "*you do not need to be baptized*", then Jesus tells him that it is necessary. So he emphasized that it is necessary for all of us to embark on this path.

Notice that Jesus took this path at the very beginning of His ministry. Not in the middle or at the end. Because first he was a carpenter and when he was 30 years old, he started like that. But the first thing he did was this baptism. And what happened when he was baptized? He immediately came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove on him. Here is the important thing. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up from the water. This means that he also had to enter the water, so it was a baptism not by sprinkling, as it is done in some churches, by sprinkling little ones, a child, is not baptism. He was simply in the water and was immersed in the water. That is baptism by immersion, that is biblical baptism. After the baptism, when he completed it, then something happened. Heaven opened. So, John tells him, "*You don't need to be baptized*", but nevertheless, He gained something from that baptism - the heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. He was also led by the Holy Spirit before but during that baptism the Holy Spirit was even closer - he descended. And actually, God also confessed to him, when he was talking about a voice He heard. This is how God confesses to us as well, and during baptism the heaven are just as happy about it as in the case of Jesus.

And we see, when Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God, he was led into the desert. And in that desert, he was tempted. (Matthew 4,1-11) You see that Jesus, when He suddenly went through baptism and was strengthened because he was filled with the Spirit of God and could think "oh, nothing can happen to me anymore " but we see that then a big temptation came upon Him - a threefold temptation, which we explained before. But we know that Jesus endured because he knew the Scriptures. He recognized the attacks, and on the third attempt, he commanded the devil to leave—cast him out. And with that, Jesus showed us that even after baptism, when we are members of God's kingdom – God's family Satan can attack us. This does not mean, as some churches say, that Satan can no longer attack you. We see that Jesus himself was attacked, so who are we to think that we would get away with it? Jesus was attacked by Satan but on the basis of knowledge of the Scriptures, firmly standing on the Scriptures and on the basis of the fact that He cast him out, He drove him away from himself. Jesus showed us the way, just so that we are not surprised various attacks come after baptism or even later. So that a person is not disappointed "oh the baptism didn't work, it didn't help because I have attacks..." This is not true. We see that Jesus went through that and yet he was so strengthened by God that he withstood that test, that temptation and then went to serve. And we already read what He did - He healed, liberated, raised the dead - He already served. And thanks to that power He received, he was able to resist and win.

So, open the Gospel according to **Mark 16, 15-20**:

“He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.”

So, this is again the conclusion of Mark's gospel. Jesus tells His disciples: *"go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* So they were to preach the gospel and verse 16, which is about of our baptism, *"he who believes and is baptized will be saved and he who does not believe will be condemned"*. So, on the basis of that gospel - the preaching of that gospel, people believed. But not only that they believed. Jesus says: *"and if they are baptized, they will be saved"*. He seems to be pointing out that baptism is very important for a personal salvation. Maybe it's very new and surprising to you but you see the Bible says - Jesus himself says about it that whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. And he goes on to say: *"and who will not believe, will be condemned"*. He balances it out with this verse because some will say to themselves: *"what about someone who didn't have time to be baptized and died? For example, some kind of tragedy, accident, etc.."* So here Jesus says that it is not the one who believes and is not baptized that will be condemned but the one who does not believe. That is, when someone believes, he is saved through faith, even if he did not have time to be baptized.

Jesus calls for people to be baptized. We see that Jesus showed baptism by his own example and then people also applied it. They were baptized. It can be said that immediately after belief. Not a few years after accepting Jesus but immediately after believing. Whoever believes and is baptized will then be saved. We see that here the Lord Jesus pointed out the importance of baptism.

And he continues in the **17th verse**: *" And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*

He points out that those who believe and are baptized will be accompanied by these signs. When Jesus was baptized, he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and then he went to work. He served people. He cast out, healed, raised the dead... And he says that even those of his disciples, his followers, who will believe and be baptized on the basis of that gospel, will also manifest these gifts in their lives. What we have listed. So, you see that people are strengthened and empowered by that baptism to make God's power manifest more in their lives. For their good and not only for their good - God's power then manifests itself to other people as well. And here we then read: *“After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.”* So, Jesus fulfilled this word in them. By the fact that they went to preach the gospel, He confirmed their words with His power and God's power went through them. This accompanied the believers, those believers who believed and were baptized. So, when some

also desire to have gifts and to help, to serve, you see that the way to do it is to go through that baptism. Jesus showed this and then led his disciples to do the same.

So now we open the Gospel according to **John 3, 1-10**:

"Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

The Gospel of John is different from the previous three Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke... It is more spiritually focused. It is not written chronologically. And here he points to the depth of the essence of baptism. Nicodemus was a Pharisee - a teacher. He was like a theologian nowadays. He was supposed to teach other people and he came to question Jesus. And he came to Him at night, secretly, so no one would see him. The Spirit of God guided him, he just came secretly because he did not want others to see him. Because these rabbis condemned Jesus. And he confirmed: *"we know that God is with you"*. It's like Nicodemus believed Jesus. He said: *"we know that God is with you"*, and he also says not that I know but we know. He also spoke for the other people who, although they knew, just didn't come to him and that was a mistake. Because it is one thing to know Jesus as God, and another thing is to come to Him, that is, to be with him. How the disciples came, for example. It is not enough for someone to say, for example, *"I believe there is a God."* That's not enough. You have to live with it, to live by God because it is written in James that even demons believe that there is God and tremble (Letter of James 2:19). Even the demons know that there is a God but they are in opposition - they tremble before him. So, it is not enough to say *"yes, I believe there is a God, I am a believer because I believe there is a God"*. You have to live with it. You have to live with it every day. Then it can manifest itself in our life. Nicodemus - the prince came to him and said: *"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."* Here Nicodemus points out that Jesus is like a teacher and that teaching has been confirmed by heaven, that he received power from heaven for the miracles he performs. He rabbi as a teacher said: we know that you are a teacher sent by God because God himself confirms with those wonders and miracles that he sent you. And yet he was not educated in their schools, in which they were.

God's power, when it manifests itself in your life, confirms God's words, as we read a while ago in Mark, when we read that Jesus confirmed the words of those disciples with his power, even though they were not trained in rabbinical schools. They were taught by Jesus in simplicity but he confirmed their words with power, that they are sent from God, that God is with them. That they are not human words, but that they are God's words.

Even today, there may be different sermons, there may be different teachers, theologians but God confirms the words with his power, according to which we know whether they are sent from God or not. And Jesus says to him: "*Amen, I say to you.*" So, he confirms it twice: amen, amen. It gives it seriousness. "*Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" And here he is already talking about birth, about rebirth. He points out to him that he needs to do something in his life. As if Jesus was pointing out to him that this can also happen in your life - what you highlight about me, that I am sent as a teacher from God because God confirms this with power, so this can also be manifested in your life. Because Jesus also gave this to his disciples. And it can be manifested in the life of Nicodemus but he needs to be born again. When he becomes part of God's kingdom, these gifts will be manifested in his life. But he must first be reborn into that kingdom. And here is another serious thought that he cannot see the kingdom of God. This means that he will not be saved unless he is born again.

It is indeed necessary to be born again. And he then asks how. Whether he can enter the life of the mother. And Jesus answers him: *Amen, amen* - he confirms it again, considers it important: "*I tell you, unless one is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*" Do you see? Twice he said he could not enter the kingdom of God. He then confirms again. Do you see how serious Jesus puts it? And he tells it to the teacher - the teacher of the law. He actually teaches it. He added, as it was, what they lacked, that this is an important thing - to be born again. To be born again of water and the Spirit.

And he continues: "*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to Spirit.*" He points out that a normal birth, what Nicodemus thought, if he is to enter the mother's body again that he is to be born again, then He says that it will not help because that's a body - it is a carnal birth. Jesus speaks of spiritual birth - what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. "*You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'*" He speaks of spiritual birth, and yet speaks of water baptism. "*Unless one is born of water and the Spirit*". Yeah? Waters. Born from water. Why does he speak of being born of water? It has to do with immersion. It's actually like a watery grave. The old man sinks into the water and the new man emerges, and that is rebirth. He was born again - the old remains there in the water, it is washed there, cleansed like the leper Naaman, and a new man emerges. The prince was no longer a leper, sick. (2 Kings 5,14) Leprosy was a deadly disease, and not only that, a leper was excluded from society, he was driven away. And him as the king's loyal military commander driven away? Whole life completely ruined and waiting in pain until he dies. He was born again; he got a second life.

And that's how we receive too. When we dive into the water, that watery grave - we die there, our old self dies with all the bad that is in us, it dies and it stays there in that water. The running water takes it, washes it during that prayer, during that baptism it leaves us and a new person emerges who is already born into the kingdom of God - born again. He says that what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. We said that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit during baptism as soon as he came out of the water. So mostly or almost always during water baptism we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us. Because by the fact that it is also a baptism of repentance, that we actually repent of our sins and surrender everything to Jesus, we open our hearts so that the Holy Spirit can fill us and we can be cleansed.

28. Go and preach the gospel (Mk 16, 15 - 20)

The gospel of Mark, chapter 16, verses 15 – 20: He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, and it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

These are the words Jesus said after being resurrected, glorified and ascended into heaven. This is the message that has to be preached to all. He said, “Go into all the world and preach the good news.” He starts by saying that the good news has to be preached; that’s why deliverance without the good news is worth nothing. If people don’t understand, don’t receive and don’t know Jesus Christ, then it’s useless, because demons return, as we have read before (Mt12,45). People need to understand what it’s about.

“Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved.” Salvation is based on faith. “And whoever does not believe will be condemned.” He says that whoever does not believe will be condemned, not the one who is not baptised. That means whoever believes and isn’t baptised, will be saved. We are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. Simply put: if you receive Jesus Christ, you receive His vitality. He becomes part of you. Paul says, “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” (Gal2,20) When you are united with Jesus Christ, you receive eternal life because you have become part of Him. It is not because of your deeds or polite behaviour, but because you are able to receive Jesus Christ. If you receive Him like a criminal on the cross, at the last minute, you have eternal life anyway. You need to be united with Him. He said, “And these signs will accompany those who believe.” He doesn’t say “some”, He said that all who believe will be accompanied by these signs: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” He points out that through all people who believe and receive God’s power, not just the special ones, healing and deliverance will be shown. This is what Jesus Christ said when He was leaving. And we can see they obeyed Him and went to preach the good news. Preaching the gospel – this is the human activity. God’s activity is confirmation of the gospel by miracles and wonders. For example, I preach the gospel and when people are healed or delivered, that’s Jesus Christ’s activity. If you receive it by faith, as you were told, then it will surely happen in your life; you will be delivered and healed. People are saved on this principle. It’s up to everyone whether they receive it or not. It’s voluntary. It can be compared to university studies. Everyone can go to university, if he wants, but not everyone will finish it. Everyone can choose this ministry, but not everyone will decide to receive it and not everyone will learn about this opportunity, because it’s not preached from behind the pulpits. That’s why many people don’t learn about

this opportunity and thus they are not within this kind of ministry and these gifts cannot be shown in their lives. Therefore not many christians are blessed or delivered. Because whoever is in the ministry of deliverance, then he himself is delivered.

It goes like this: the apostle Paul says in Hebrew – milk not solid food (Heb 5,12). It's milk that a child needs so that he can grow. If you gave him solid food, he could die; but then the moment comes when the child needs solid food and if you continue giving him milk, he will stop growing and die. Then you won't say that milk was useless. Milk was inevitable for a particular time of his life. Then he grows and moves on to solid food. It is the same with spiritual food. Here the apostle Paul speaks about spiritual food which means that there are certain things that a christian needs as milk; he means something simple, something basic. As he grows, he needs solid food, firm spiritual food. The firm food can somehow differ from the basic, that he was taught to begin with, but it doesn't mean that the beginnings were bad. Those beginnings were inevitable, otherwise a spiritual child couldn't grow up; but he needs a different sort of food for his growth. This is why we say to little children that they were brought by a stork. That's nonsense, but we cannot explain them how it is really, because they are not able to understand it. As they grow up, they are able to understand more. This is how Jesus Christ leads us. He tries, through the churches and through different teachings, to bring us to Him so that we may receive Him with firm foundations and then He moves us further to heavier and heavier food, i.e. to the things that can give us more in our life.

We can compare it to school education. Someone is at primary school and learns to read and write. He can or cannot be satisfied with this knowledge; he can continue, but if he continues, he has to go through further classes so that he can understand more. If he went directly to university, he wouldn't understand many things. He will arrive at a certain moment when he has to leave primary school and go on to secondary school because primary school is no longer sufficient for him. Also pastors and teachers can give only what they have received; that means to a certain level. Then they are not able to give more. Also a teacher at primary school can give only what he himself is able to do. But if a pupil at primary school would like to know more, he has to change school and go to secondary school. He has to change school and teachers. Secondary school teachers can give you more knowledge, but you could become dissatisfied with it and want to go on, so you go to university. So you have to change school and teachers again, because they can give you more than secondary school teachers. That doesn't mean that primary school teachers are worth nothing, or are weak and unworthy. Not at all, because they gave you the foundations so you could continue.

It is the same spiritually; people go through different teachers, churches, and subjects to go forward. It's not necessary to lament someone who is at this or that level. It's simply development (growth). We are on different levels. We musn't judge, condemn or compare each other. If we compare ourselves to other people, we find out two things. We'll either find out that we are better than the others and thus become proud, or we'll find out that we are worse than the others, that we are lacking something, and thus become frustrated and faint-hearted. We always need to look at Jesus Christ, and never at people around us. Thus we are able to grow because we are fed by Jesus Christ.

29. Always look at what is in heaven, not on earth (Col 3, 1-5)

When you are with Jesus, it can be that first you go to this church, then you go to that church, then you meet that person and so on. Thus you move on; it doesn't mean it's bad. When you are in Jesus, you grow. Jesus gives you the right teachers on your journey; they can lead and move you ahead, as we have already mentioned before.

Colossians 3, 1 - 5: *“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”*

Here Paul points out, that Jesus also said, that we have to look at what is in heaven, not on earth. Thus we direct our attention at what Jesus said, *“Seek first the kingdom of heaven and all shall be added (Mt6,33)*. At a certain moment we can only look at one thing. Either what is in heaven or what is on earth. We cannot look at them both at the same time. We have to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things and thus put to death whatever belongs to our earthly nature. And we know what that earthly nature is; Paul also names some negative qualities. He also says that we cannot overcome evil when we stand against it and say to ourselves that, for example, we don't want to get angry or commit adultery, but he points out that when we focus on Jesus Christ, He himself with His light is able to overcome, because *the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (Jn 1,5 & Eph 5,8)*. He is capable of removing evil from our life, the demons that tempt us to do evil, as I personally experienced to begin with. Me, as a christian, I didn't have to say to myself that I mustn't smoke, listen to punk, fight or so on. I didn't have to say that to myself. I simply wanted to be more and more with Jesus Christ and He naturally removed those things from my life. He put them to death. Exactly as it is written in Colossians. Paul says that we have *to put to death the misdeeds of the body* and he speaks about a process; a procedure (Rom8,13). This is not an “immediate” event. For God it isn't a problem to do it immediately, but we have a problem receiving it immediately. It is a gradual process similar to taking pills, which gradually help your disease go away. In the same way, Jesus gradually removes evil from our life. We don't have to be afraid of first falls and failures. A child also falls over when it is learning to walk. It is more often on the floor than on its legs. When it doesn't give up, it will learn how to walk. We simply need to go forward. You all also learned to walk. You all can walk, because you didn't give up. It is the same in our spiritual life. We need to make progress. The more we look at Jesus Christ, the more He is visible in our life. But Satan tries to do the opposite. When Jesus walked on the lake (Mt14,22-33), Peter also wanted to walk on the lake and so he asked Jesus. Jesus replied, *“Come”*. Peter believed and walked on the water. But when he saw the wind, Satan caused him to sink; he was afraid and began to sink. That means that Peter stopped looking at Jesus and started to look at the raging storm. He began to sink because he didn't look at Jesus Christ.

Satan tries to blow wind into our lives through different problems, people, circumstances. When we start to deal with them, we stop dealing with Jesus Christ, and then we begin to sink and become overwhelmed. Therefore we have to learn from Peter, who, when beginning to sink, looked at Jesus Christ, cried out for help and was saved. We have to learn to look at Jesus Christ in all our problems. If we are afraid of those problems and deal with them = look at them, we will certainly sink in them, because we have put Jesus Christ aside. To look at Him means to allow Him to enter our life. It is the same when we read about worries (Mt6,25-34). These principles are valid throughout the Bible. It is the same all the time: we are either filled with the Holy Spirit and protected by Him or we allow the circumstances to overwhelm us and thus have no protection.

30. Carry your cross and crucify your passions and desires on it (Gal 5, 16-25)

Galatians 5, 16 - 25: "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

It starts again with the spiritual struggle for our mind; that is our first priority. We have been given free will. We either give priority to the flesh = sinful nature desires, (this is what Eve did in paradise), or to the Spirit. Our preference is demonstrated in our life. There is tension. Either the first will be proved or the second. It depends on what we prefer. I, as a christian, live with Jesus Christ every day, but I never live with Him to the full. We are simply not able to do it. Some day we are with Jesus 30%, another day 60%, 70%, but the rest is always the flesh, maybe desires of the flesh. Therefore we need to put on the full armour of God as it is mentioned in Ephesians (Eph 6,12-17); we need to be with Jesus Christ as much as possible. To look at what is in heaven (Colossians) means to pray, read the Bible and have a spiritual fellowship (1Tim4,5-6). We can get a real boost out of these three things. This is what we have to apply in our everyday life. It shouldn't be a problem for us to pray and read the Bible every day; to have a spiritual fellowship is also possible, because when we meet and talk, we have spiritual fellowship (Mt18,20 & 1Cor14,26)and that is what fills us up. We need to learn to be fed by them. If we want to exist physically, we need to eat three times a day. It is the same spiritually; we need to be fed spiritually so that we can stand and make haste.

Someone may ask if they have to pray from morning till evening, if they can't go to work or do anything else ... Spiritually it works the same as with the food. We don't eat from morning

till evening. We eat and the meal lasts a certain period of time. Then we eat again and again and we live on it. This is how it works in a spiritual life. We feed ourselves with prayer and then we can go to work or do different activities, then we feed ourselves spiritually again and thus it works, so we don't have to pray constantly. We need to eat a real meal; if we only ate chaff, we would be hungry. It is the same in a spiritual life. Similarly, we need to eat a real spiritual meal so that we can stand.

There is a long list of the deeds of the flesh. We have certainly encountered many of them in our life. Paul says, "and the like," which means that there would be many more if he had to name them all. Then he names the fruits of the spirit = manifestation of good. The verse 24 is very important here, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires". They have crucified their flesh and thus evil cannot be revealed, because the flesh is dead. When you crucify your flesh, even evil can't be revealed. What does that mean to crucify the flesh? To put to death. To crucify means to put to death, to kill, because crucifixion was used to kill. I'll give you a hint. What did Jesus have in mind when He said, "Take up your cross daily and follow me"? At that time crucifixion was a method of execution and crucified people were executed, murdered and Jesus was also murdered on the cross; He had to carry His cross by himself. He said to His disciples, "Take up your cross and follow me" (Lk9,23&Mt16,24); He took up His cross, was crucified on it and died; He said to His disciples that they have to take up their cross daily, they have to die on the cross, they have to crucify their flesh. And it is the text we have read – "those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires". To crucify means to put to death the flesh, its desires, passions, and physical things. With our own strength, we can do nothing. If we follow only Jesus Christ, we can do it because Jesus Christ can do it in us. This is the text where the apostle Paul says, „I no longer live, but Christ lives in me“ (Gal 2,20); we become united with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ died on the cross and so we also die on the cross and are born again. This is a concept which charismatics like to use. To be born again, we need to allow old things to die and let new things be born. The old things must die, they must be crucified. We often forget it. First of all, the old things, false imagination, false thoughts about God, about ourselves and about different things must be crucified, dead, and only then can something new come. This is the true born again experience, but Jesus used the word "daily" , which means that we have to be born again every day.

For example me, when I get up in the morning, I pray for one hour and then I go to work. That's why I set my alarm clock in the evening for half past four, because for me it's better to pray for an hour than to sleep an hour longer. This is how I put to death my flesh; I have fellowship with Jesus Christ who leads me during the day and that day has a different quality because I am with Jesus Christ. The Lord gives me the wisdom of how to do things, and so He makes my life much easier. This is how we have to crucify the flesh with all its desires and passions. It's necessary to do it every day, it's not a disposable event. We need to be with Jesus Christ every day. We have to put the flesh to death so that He could work in our life; it mustn't be the flesh that predominates. If the flesh predominates, the spirit cannot be revealed. We have to put the flesh to death so that the Spirit of Christ – Jesus Christ - could prevail. "To go to

Golgotha.” But how to fulfill it? It’s possible. I can compare it to a child that learns to speak or walk, and then it’s able to apply its skills more and more ... and then the fruit, the achieved results are worth it.

There are the certain things that people are not told. It’s logical that Jesus died on the cross, where He was murdered. So why to put in something that Jesus didn’t say. In another place of the Bible there is written that we have to cast all our anxiety on Him because He cares for us (1Pt5,7). The Scripture says: give it to Him and don’t carry it by yourselves. The most important point in reading the Bible is to read in context and then something won’t be wrongly explained to you. If you know the Bible, you won’t listen to a person who says things in contrary to the Bible, but if you don’t know it, you will lap everything up.

Jesus goes further and says, “Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields (which is work) for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.” (Lk18,29-30 & Mt19,29) He points out that we need to put to death, to give up relationships with people. He doesn’t mean that we have to quit them but that they cannot be more important to us than Jesus Christ. Otherwise Satan can come, twist and abuse it, destroy the relationships and scatter us and even our salvation. But when we give our wife and children to Jesus Christ at prayer in the morning, that doesn’t mean we don’t like them. We love them, but we know that in Jesus Christ they will do much better. And the relationship goes like this: me, my wife, Jesus Christ. You might have heard that in the churches there is an order (hierarchy) who is the first, the second, the third ... Everyone says that God is in the first place, the wife or children or work in the second, etc. The hierarchy is made like this, but I say that in the first place is God – Jesus Christ, in the second place is Jesus Christ and my wife, in the third place is Jesus Christ and my children, in the fourth place is Jesus Christ and my work and so on. Satan doesn’t have a problem changing this order, but because each starts with Jesus Christ and despite Satan’s effort to change the order, it always starts with Jesus Christ and Satan cannot overcome. This is one of the places where many people fail, because those people are their relatives, they live and talk to them. Jesus Christ is so invisible to us. But He even says harder things: Everyone who doesn’t leave father, son, daughter, wife, husband and follow me, is not worthy of me.” It is as if He shows out that if we don’t leave these people, we have nothing in common with Him. This is all about the principle which we spoke about: if we follow Jesus Christ, He works through us and even for the benefit of those people or family; but if we don’t follow Jesus Christ, and prefer for example our family, evil (the fleshy desires) can be shown and thus the family can be broken. This is a biblical paradox: if you want to live, you have to die first and if you want to have correct relationships, you have to put them to death first. Thus it is correct in God, in your marriage, in your relationships, everywhere. Where there is Jesus Christ, the relationships are being built, developed, put on a firm basis and evil cannot come in to scatter and destroy them. It’s necessary for two people to share the same foundation – Jesus Christ (Eccl 4,12); because they both grow up, support each other as one flesh (1M2,24 & Mt19,5). But if one of them is not based on Jesus Christ, the enemy can easily bring strife, conflicts, point-detonation fuse through him and their relationship isn’t good. If neither of them is based on Jesus Christ, then it is very bad and Satan

can destroy it easily. We see a lot of divorces nowadays and when a couple doesn't get divorced, they don't live a normal life. The enemy abuses it. We need to have the right foundation, firm basis and then the life is completely different in every way. This is what we have spoken about; that we need to give to Jesus Christ every area of our life, not only something, but everything and then our life is completely different.

31. Don't worry about it any more, Jesus will resolve it (Rom 7,15-25, Rom 8,1-4)

Do you worry as well when you realise that something is good but you cannot carry it out? It starts in Romans, chapter 7, from verse 15 and continues in Chapter 8, verses 1 – 4; this is for you to know. The Bible was not divided into chapters, as we know it today. It was some kind of a unit. Unfortunately, someone split it up, but its verses belong together.

Romans 7, 15 - 25: *"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin."* **8, 1 – 4:** *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."*

The apostle Paul seems to repeat the same thing over and over again; in his mind he knows what is good, but his body does evil and he constantly deals with it. When the Bible repeats something, it is considered to be important. The apostle Paul points out what Christians encounter. He struggles as a believer and says that he knows what is good according to the law, but he cannot live by it, as if he wasn't able to fulfill it and struggles with it over and over again. He realises that it is as if another force was keeping him in slavery. He finds out that from behind the pulpit he has understood by his intellect what he as a Christian is supposed to do, but he cannot carry it out in his life, because there is another force, much stronger than him, and that's evil – the Devil keeps him in slavery, which means that he hasn't been set free. He got depressed when he said, *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body*

of death?” He gets a deep depression and thinks about committing suicide. He is down on his uppers. There are many christians who got into this situation when they knew what they were supposed to do, but they didn't have the strength to do it and became even more frustrated when their “good” brothers said, “You as christians shouldn't do this and that.” They didn't give them a solution or any other way out. They didn't put their hands on them and set them free. They just told them how unworthy they were. Fortunately, the apostle Paul realised that he was saved in Jesus Christ; he had a moment when he stopped dealing with failure and started to praise Jesus Christ. He says in the verse 25: *“Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”* He finds out, despite his failure, doing the things which are not good, that he stopped being worried about it and rather praised Jesus Christ, for He is with him. This is also my sort of experience, when I didn't know at all what the Bible was about. I enjoyed being with Jesus Christ and at the same time I was addicted to alcohol, listened to punk, trained in karate and was a sinner. Fortunately, there was no christian who could tell me what I had to do. I praised Jesus Christ and He gradually removed those evil things from my life. I didn't get depression, I wasn't disappointed because there was no reason. The apostle Paul feels like this and stops being worried about it and starts to praise Jesus Christ. Praising Jesus Christ, he gets into the state, which we have already read about: *“Look at what is in heaven and not on what is on earth and thus put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature (Col3,1-3).* He stopped dealing with diseases, poorness, mistakes he had made, because they meant looking at what is on earth, and instead of it he looked at what is in heaven – at Jesus Christ; as we have read where Jesus sits – on the right hand of God. So we have to look at Jesus Christ who puts to death earthly nature. We can see that the Bible speaks about the same things all the time – Jesus Christ puts to death our earthly nature.

If you know about doing something that you don't want to , and you still do it, stop being concerned with it, stop worrying about it, but instead praise Jesus Christ for being saved and free in Him. Praise Him and you will gradually gain such strength that God's glory will increase and the evil will be expelled. You will gradually put it to death and win. This is a gradual process as if you poured water on fire to put it out. This is how it works. If you keep worrying about the problem, you will never overcome it, because only Jesus can overcome and cast out Satan who is not afraid of you but Jesus. If you allow Jesus to come into your mind by praising Him, Jesus will cast Satan out. Because reconciliation means to join God and then evil comes out of your life, you become free. You don't have to cast out Satan literally, but when you join Jesus Christ by praising Him, He becomes alive in you and then evil leaves your life.

32. Look at the giver and not the gift

There are certain triggers that are revealed in such a way that one spirit is followed by another. (Mt12,45). Fear is just a consequence or result of something that you have experienced before: inner restlessness, being unsettled with God, or a misunderstanding of things; they consequently cause fear. It could also have been some event = a trigger. This has a lot in common with healing. Christians make a mistake, when they only want to heal a particular thing. When they focus on a disease or an organ, which is ill, they don't look at Jesus Christ. That's easily done. If we look at the gift and not at the giver, we are not able to receive the gift. If we look at the giver, we shall also receive the gift. We mustn't focus on the gift, however holy it may be – healing, blessing, or salvation. Whatever it might be and we set our sights on it, we don't focus on the Giver – Jesus Christ. That means if we are praying for healing and at the same time looking at the hand or whatever is ill to see if it's healed, we focus on the gift and find a problem. But if we believe that, we are healed in Jesus...

There is a story about when Jesus healed ten men with leprosy (Lk17,11-19). He told them they were healed and told them to go and show themselves to the priests; as they went they were healed. That means they first believed and then were physically healed. Do you understand this? First they believed they were healed, went to show themselves to the priests, as it was necessary at that time, and then they were healed. This is how it works. When we first believe in our mind that our body is healed, then we will gradually be healed. We have already read in Galatians, that the spirit desires what is contrary to the flesh (Gal5,17). If we believe in the spirit that we are healed, then our body simply surrenders as well. It has to capitulate. When we believe that Jesus healed us on the cross by His sacrifice and gave us blessing and eternal life, then it shows our life and we can praise Him for it. When I personally pray for something, I ask for it once and then just give thanks. Although physically I am not healed, I give thanks to Jesus for healing. It's as if I programmed my mind and it believes and then my body is really healed because my mind allows God's power to be shown and my body to be healed; it's all about my mind. It's the same when I pray for anybody else. I believe that Jesus Christ healed them, because we have read that Jesus gave *His disciples authority to heal every disease and sickness* (Mt10,1). When I am able to believe and pray for someone and they also believe, because Jesus said *your faith has healed you* (Mk5,34 & Mt9,22), then they are healed, whatever it may be. People have been sent from hospital to die at home and they were healed. I have several testimonies like this. It's always through faith; the harder the thing, disease or problem is, the stronger the faith is needed. Faith is revealed through the person that prays and also through the person for whom you pray.

I can imagine a simplified version, which goes like this: there is a certain disease which weighs 50 kilos. We need to lift 50 kilos. The person who prays for you, can lift 20 kilos by faith, which is not enough for 50 kilos. You cannot be healed, because you were not able to receive enough God's power. If you are not able, so you will call your friend and he will help you and you will lift 50 kilos together. Your friend has to lift at least 30 kilos, otherwise another friend would be necessary.

This is the way it usually works in faith. If God's power is to be shown in a concrete case, it's necessary to have a certain amount of faith. If a person is not able to receive it by himself/herself by prayer, directly from Jesus Christ, he/she needs someone else's help. Therefore Jesus gave this authority to His disciples, because they were stronger in prayer and able to help in individual cases. I need to lift the rest of weight; but if the weight is, let's say, 100 kilos and I only have a capacity of 50 kilos, I need also to encourage the faith of that person to lift 50 kilos by talking to him/her, and thus make sure this will happen. That's why there's such a long dialogue about Jesus; so a person can believe and receive Jesus Christ. This way many things can be fulfilled and evil can't return (Mt12,44). The gospel is very important indeed so we can understand things properly.

What does faith really mean or what is a quantity of faith and how can it be gained? Jesus told his disciples, when they couldn't heal a boy with a demon, *"You unbelieving and perverse generation, how long shall I stay with you?"* (Mt17,17) They asked Him, *"Why couldn't we drive it out?"* (Mt17,16) He replied, *"This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting"* (Mt17,21). He showed them that demons are of different strength and that's why I used the example of weight. Sometimes you are sufficient for something, sometimes not, and the disciples were simply insufficient for that. Fasting means fasting but not the way some people like: no eating, going on a diet to be slim and at the same time being hidden behind spirituality. Fasting simply means separation from the world, to which also food can belong, but it's not just about food. It is separation from the world. You know what a prayer is – coming close to Jesus Christ, when the power of God can be revealed. The faith of the disciple, through whom people are healed, is also important. Try to avoid situations when you say, "O, God didn't want you to be healed," because there are some people, who said this when they were praying and that person wasn't healed. This is a complete nonsense! As we have read in the Bible, the Lord said every disease and sickness has to be healed, so He gave us healing 2000 years ago and we need simply to apply it through faith. When I don't have sufficient faith for that, there is someone else who can help me and if we cannot do it together, God cannot be blamed for anything. We simply weren't able to accept, take hold of the blessing. We need to grow in faith or call for someone else. We will also arrive at it later in James, where it's written, *"... call the elders of the church to pray"* (Jak5,14). The elders of the church have to be stronger in faith and in prayer. The elders of the church are people who are really strong in faith, not like the church functionaries as they are today.

33. Faith is courage; our response to God's calling

How does faith grow? Jesus said to a centurion, "*I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.*" (Mt8,10) How great the centurion's faith was when he met Jesus for the first time. He was able to receive his little knowledge fully as great faith. What is faith? To know and subsequently receive. Some people have great knowledge and don't receive it, because their faith is small. We need to receive knowledge. Some people have little knowledge but receive it to the full and that's better for them than with those who have great knowledge but don't receive it. They can know the whole Bible by heart, but because they don't live according to it and haven't received it, they are in a worse situation than those who don't know the Bible very well, but they know Jesus Christ, and live according to little knowledge they have. Simply said: an honest catholic knows little about the Bible, but he lives to the full according to what he has received and what he knows, and is in better situation than the one from the protestant church, for example some charismatic, who says that he knows everything but doesn't live according to it.

Another definition of faith is – our response to God's calling. Don't believe that faith is a gift and that God gives according to His will. If it were like this, I would have to say that someone was given little faith or no faith and thus condemn him to eternal death because of a lack of faith. In the beginning we spoke about the truth: "*Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free*" (Jn 8,32), which means that in Jesus Christ we get to know the truth. The more we know Him and receive Him, the larger faith we have (Jn14,6).

Another definition of faith is – courage. Abraham had courage to go out into the wilderness (1M,12), into the unknown, Peter had courage to step out of the boat. Abraham was in Ur (1M15,7) where he lived in some religious community, and had courage to follow an unknown God into the wilderness, which meant death. His courage was rewarded. Also Peter had courage to get out of the boat into the lake (Mt14,28-31). He gained experience, when he began to sink but he overcame in Jesus turning to Him; he became a strong apostle. It's necessary to have courage to go forward into the unknown, even taking the risk that we may stumble. Jesus will always raise us up. We have to follow Jesus even into the unknown, into the wilderness. "*Manna will fall in the wilderness*", because God takes care of us. But people are afraid of leaving certainty, of the church in which they are. We need to follow Jesus Christ into the unknown, even into what might cause fears. Then we gain blessing, Canaan, as God promised the Israelites. Faith is courage. It has nothing in common with anxiety or sheepishness. Faith means courage – not to be afraid, but to seek and test. The apostle Paul said that we have *to seek and hold on to what is good* (1Tes5,21); actually to seek. Likewise a child, when learning to walk, goes into the unknown. You also went into the unknown when you changed schools but it was worth it. People need to seek and go ahead in their lives. That's life, the life of faith. Not to stay in the same place, to ossify, to cover with concrete, in some church. It's necessary to walk with Jesus, to go where He goes, although through dangerous things. Jesus is the Shepherd (J10,1-18) and we are His sheep. The Shepherd protects His sheep and many times they don't know where the Shepherd is going. He doesn't show them a map

to get orientated. The sheep need to trust the Shepherd, because if a sheep says to itself, "I know a shortcut" and goes aside, a wolf may catch it easily.

34. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5,13-20)

James 5, 13 - 20: "Is any among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins."

Here it is said that if someone is in trouble or sick, let them call the elders of the church. We have already said that the elders of church were strong in faith and they were not just church functionaries. He says that prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. Then he says "*confess your sins to each other and pray*" and he says again "*the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*" Repeating it he duplicates it. The prayer of a righteous man and the prayer of faith are the same. The prayer of faith is a powerful prayer. The righteous man is actually the man of faith. Abraham was the father of faith and he was made righteous by faith. He points out that we have to confess our sins to each other and that means if you have a problem, you have to tell it to someone who can help you, but it doesn't mean that you have to share it with anyone. You need to tell it to someone who cares and can help you with it. The catholic system started with it very well, I mean with confessions. People came and told a priest = the elder of the church, stronger in faith, what problem they had ... and the priest placed his hands on them and cast demons out. But priests have lost their power and so they came with an idea to forgive sins. But we know that our sins were forgiven 2000 years ago. We need to say to the elder of the church, "I have a problem and I need help..." and he prays and casts it out. Originally, it was a good idea to confess, but later it was overthrown. It is clearly written that if someone is in trouble or sick, let them call the elder of the church and tell him about their problems – this is confession; but not to anyone, just to someone who can help you, otherwise when you talk to someone about your sins, you create adversity. When you talk about it to anyone, you harm yourself. You have to say it to someone who can help you. The priest won't help you. He will send you home the same as you came. When you go to confession once a month, does that mean you live with the sin, evil all the month? Jesus says, "... *do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.*" (Mt 5,23-24 & Ef4,26) You have to go into your room, in secret (Mt6,6), every day, before you go to bed, and give to Jesus what you have experienced during the day. Then your soul is at peace and your sleep is restful. That's why we

may see people who go to confessions all their lives without changing. This is how it works in people's lives.

As we have said, we need to forgive from our heart, if we haven't forgiven someone and got rid of every sin we have in our heart. Sin creates a barrier and blocks God's blessings. When we get rid of it, there are no barriers to receiving God's blessing into our life. James encourages us with Elijah, who was a man suffering like us, and he also points out that Elijah, Abraham and Moses weren't especially gifted people. They were human beings as we are, they had problems like us, but they were able to fix on God, so that their prayers were powerful, and even able to stop rain for three and a half years. (1Kings 17,1 & James 5,17). James encourages us: if Elijah stopped rain for three and a half years, it shouldn't be a problem for us to be healed by prayer. He encourages us not to have a problem with it. He doesn't say that every fifth or tenth will be healed. At that time it was normal practice for people to go to the elders of the church when they had a problem, either physical or psychological, and they were healed. Nowadays we automatically go to the doctor's. That sort of power has gradually disappeared because people have stopped being so lively in Jesus. It was during the first generation after Jesus. Then it disappeared because Satan made his effort to separate the church from Jesus. Then there were human teachings; rituals without any of God's power. Nowadays God is pouring out the Holy Spirit abundantly (Acts 2,17 & Is 44,3 & Joel 2,28), as it was in the beginning, and His power is starting to be shown but only through people who are allowing and believing in it. If we understand and allow it, God's power will be revealed.

35. What Jesus looked like (Rev 1,12-18)

We have already mentioned that the closer we are to Jesus, the more we get to know Him, the greater faith we have. This faith is revealed by power. The more we are in Jesus, the greater protection from evil we have = the greater God's glory and power. When we pray for someone, we also protect him and this is the sign of God's presence; this powerful energy will heal him or protect him from something concrete. The apostle Paul says, "*rejoice and give thanks*"; the prayer of faith is not about begging and crying, because if we ask for something that means we haven't got it yet, but if we give thanks for something that means we have already got it. When we give thanks in prayer for healing, like the ten men with leprosy (Lk17,14), we actually believed that we would be healed. God's will that we should be healed, has already been revealed to us; that's why we don't need to persuade God to heal us or anyone else. We have to give thanks in faith that God has healed that person and then it becomes reality. It will be revealed and become reality. It's not "*babbling and many words*", as Jesus called it (Mt6,7), not anymore, but it's the real prayer of faith, which works by being visibly demonstrated in people's lives. We can gradually grow in faith and improve our prayer life.

Which God do we pray to? We spoke about it at the beginning and we know that the real God is revealed in Jesus Christ. It is described in Revelation what Jesus Christ looks like. When we pray, what Jesus Christ do we imagine? **Revelation 1, 12 - 18:** *I turned round to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash round his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."*

Nowhere else it is written what Jesus Christ looked like (Is 53,2). Neither do the gospels describe what Jesus Christ looked like. This is intentional so people don't pray to Jesus, who was here in His earthly body and not glorified. The images to which people pray are useless (2M20,4 & 4M4,16). His appearance is once mentioned and that can be found on the mountain of the transfiguration (Mt 17,2), where He shone brilliantly and was glorified. In the Book of Revelation as well as in the Old Testament – in Ezekiel, it is written what Jesus looked like. Because He is a spiritual being, it cannot be expressed in earthly material language. John expressed it using the words such as - *a golden sash round his chest* - like the duke, the victor. His face was like *the sun shining in all its brilliance*. We cannot see what His face looks like, but we know that it shines brilliantly. The same with His feet which are like bronze glowing; that's brilliance as well. We may feel that Jesus Christ is a being that shines brilliantly. God's glory, the radiance around Him, is revealed like the colours of the rainbow, in the Old Testament (Ez1,28). We can think of Him like this. Although we cannot see His face directly, we know He

is smiling because He loves us; His arms are open and He calls us, “Come” as He places His right hand on John saying “Don’t be afraid”. When we learn to pray to this Jesus Christ, our prayer will be full of power. This is energy and radiance. When we pray for someone, we have to imagine this person being with Jesus Christ, surrounded by His radiance, smiling, happy and healed. When we imagine that person being with Jesus, our prayer simply works and heals. This is the prayer of faith. We need to imagine Jesus Christ like this: we are in Him, in His radiance and in His protection; He is happy with us and in the same way, we have to imagine people for whom we pray. This is the way prayer really works.

36. Summary

Opposites are attracted to each other and should complement and unite each other. The other partner (not only in marriage, but in every interpersonal relationship) should receive from you what he or she lacks and vice versa you should receive from him or her what you lack. That's fine. That's when you both grow up. The problem is that today only few of us grow as everyone is selfish. And everyone is guided by “It takes one to know me” motto. And that's why the society is as it is. We need to learn what Jesus showed us. Love your enemies, too. And accept people as they are. The more complicated a person is, the more he or she needs to be accepted. If we have a problem with someone, that problem part is blocked in us. Jesus said:

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” (Luk 6,41-42)

It is the centre and it is the unity, God, love. And there is a circle around the centre. And we, humans, are sinners, and therefore we are out of the centre, and thus we differ from each other or we are completely different. And right in front of us, behind the centre, there is our shadow. So, we don't see it. That is our unconsciousness. Everything we reject, suppress, is there and it has been built since early childhood, it creates our behaviour patterns in adulthood. The more away of the centre we are, the bigger our shadow is. And that's what shapes our lives the most, what happens in our life, relationships, problems. And we don't know about the unconsciousness, that's why it's called unconsciousness. It influences our lives, our existence the most. But God means unity.

“That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17,21)

If we learn to accept everything that is different from us or our ideas (on the opposite side, beyond the centre, things we have pushed into the unconsciousness, to the shadow), then it is no longer unconsciousness, because we integrate it into ourselves, we accept it, it becomes a part of us, we are united with it and thus we move to the centre, to unity, to love, to God. It is

no longer a shadow when we illuminate it with the light or love, because Jesus is the light, the love, He accepts everything and everybody. And so, it is no longer overshadowed. It does not organize our lives secretly any more. It is no longer a hidden enemy that organizes our lives in an undesirable direction. It is not the enemy, because it makes us aware of the problem. And when we accept it, we grow and gradually, as a student at school, we go through all the subjects, pass all the exams, all the years or difficulties. That is why we came to this world, as if it was the school, and when we succeed (that is, we behave correctly in every situation) we get to God in eternity. This is what Jesus preached; and he even accepted death. He knew he was going to die. He accepted it, absorbed it with love out of the love for God and out of the love for us, and thus he defeated death and was resurrected. Whatever the love absorbs, it triumphs over it and thus unites with it. For love has no boundaries (we are a unity), the ego has boundaries (I, you, mine, yours). We need to accept everything, even diseases and everything we think is wrong. Everything we reject is pushed into the shadow of unconsciousness. As soon as we fight against it, it strikes back. Pressure creates counter-pressure. The medicine is going forward, many top devices were invented. In spite of that, there are more and more diseases and new worse disease variants. How are the humans swept by their bad health? The humans are on the wrong way. They do not understand the spiritual causes of diseases. On the contrary, they fight the consequences, not the causes. The mankind is armed to defend itself and to prevent war, but this is how they incite war. That, what we want to prevent, will come to us. That is the spiritual principle. What we consider bad and want to get rid of, it will return like a boomerang. We should not solve problems of humanity; we should solve the problems of ourselves. Whatever comes to your life, simply accept it, just like Jesus accepted everything from God. Also, the fact that he was about to be tortured to death, as he said:

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done!" (Luk 22, 42)

Let's accept what the life gives us in order to learn from it and thus it will not become our enemy. It is written in Rim 8, 28:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Accept everything with love as shown by Jesus, by Daniel in the lions' den, by three young men in the fiery furnace, etc. If we accept everything, even that what we think is bad for us, and we accept it humbly, with love, then God, the love, fights and solves the situation for us in a completely different way and with different results.

Jesus said: "Love your enemies (Mat 5, 44) and love your neighbour as yourself!" (Mar 12, 31)

Everyone is our neighbour, accept them and engulf them with love. When you divide something, 2 opposite halves are created. Our world is duality. God is unity. But we live in duality, with matter, time and space. We were created as a man and a woman, there is darkness and light, coldness and heat, positive and negative magnetic poles, disease and health, war and peace, etc., e.g., human behaviour, properties. That's duality, polarity. And people always

prefer one of the two halves and the other half is automatically pushed away. If we consider something as bad, we push it into the shadow, which is actually a part of us, whether we want it or not. We're like an ostrich sticking its head in the sand and pretending the bed is not here. But it is here and it affects us to a greater extent. Consciousness is a much less important part of life than unconsciousness. And we wonder what is entering our lives. It's psychology, or yang and yin. Psychology can be easily complemented by what Jesus says. And Jesus went even further. He solved everything through love, because love unites. We are separated and love unites us.

How it was in paradise? God created the man in his image as a unity first, but then divided the man into masculine and feminine polarities. Man and woman are one body. Everyone has a feminine and masculine principle. A man has more of the masculine principle, but he also has the feminine principle. And on the contrary, a woman has more of the feminine principle, but she also has the masculine principle. When a man and a woman unite mentally, spiritually in God (not just physically as is usual in today's world influenced by the devil), they complement the missing parts of each other and become united in God, which is the real and lasting happiness. So, the differences between a man and a woman should not lead to fights, they should rather complement each other and create a connection. A man represents polarity, "I, the Ego", whereas God represents unity, "We".

In order to rule the world through suffering, the Devil needed families established by God in paradise as the basis for the upbringing of children and thus the foundation of society, to disintegrate. The Devil influenced men to oppress women instead of protecting them. At the same time, women began to fight for independence through various activists, especially in the last century. Women began to work hard and became independent, they were paying less attention to children, that's why distorted personalities grew up, the family function deteriorated and divorce rate rose rapidly. The women responded to the fact that men would rule over them after falling into sin. They solved it as human beings, as the tempter told them, just like he had tempted Eve in Paradise. They did not deal with the oppression as Jesus showed them, that is, with love and acceptance, what would give room for God to deal with the issue supernaturally (we will discuss this issue more in conclusion). The woman's qualities include submission and acceptance; she is sensitive to be able to raise children. The man's qualities include activity; he is less sensitive but stronger to be able to protect the family. However, women turned into "men". Women have to handle work, family, everything. But they lose their femininity in turn. How does the body, the consciousness, react to the loss of femininity? E.g., by female diseases, exhaustion, suppression of the feeling of love, irritability, conflicts, etc.

Today we have a high standard of living. We want a lot of things which we often don't really need. We have fallen into a trap. Many debts, a mortgage, because we want to have the standard offered by this world. 100 years ago, people in the family were humble and whole families lived in one room. And, unlike we today, they didn't think it was a problem to live in a small shack. They were happy with what they had. And they lived like that for thousands of years. It was the tempter and the industrial revolution that made us become more consuming, demanding, wanting to own a lot; thus, women must work hard and families fall apart under

such pressure. And if a woman is left alone with children, she replaces the man, too. In order to develop in a healthy way, children need the example of both, mother and father. We don't have to live like in matrix these days. Jesus was not the part of the world. He said in Revelation 3, 21:

“To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

His body was in the world, but he did not accept the thinking and the slavery of this world. Jesus said:

“Carry neither purse, nor money, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.” (Luk 10, 4)

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” (Mat 6, 25-26)

Jesus showed how it worked. Heavenly Father feeds sparrows, too. It might look like an extreme. But I want to show that what we accept as a matter of fact since being born to this world, that green is green and red is red, that we need to attend a good school, to have a good job but not to work hard, to earn as much as possible and then to be able to buy what our heart desires, to have this and that – that's all the Satan's deception. This is the third temptation in the desert when the Satan speaks to Jesus (Mat 4, 8-9):

“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour and he said: All this I will give you if you will bow down and worship me.”

It has also affected the church. Therefore, Jesus called the last church Laodicea, i.e., lukewarm. Rev 3, 17:

“You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”

Even the church has been drawn into this world's thinking. And when someone is like a voice in the desert asking others to follow Jesus thoroughly, as John the Baptist had been asking, and when you tell them this, they would say the Bible has been written 2,000 years ago and it is no longer true, that no one can live like that today. As it would not be possible. Indeed, we can. There's nothing extreme about it, we just have to separate out hearts from the world, just like Jesus. We will get everything that we need for life. Today, there is an “I have to” undertone behind almost every word: I have to ... go to work, to school, I have to pay, I have to do it in time ... I have to, I have to, I have to. A man is a slave. I don't mean it like Jesus when he told Peter: stop fishing, come, follow me. (Mat 4, 19)

However, you should separate from the matrix world with your, consciousness, your heart. Go to work, but don't do it only because you have to. That would mean bear responsibility towards the one who controls the matrix. The Slovak "robit" meaning "to work" comes from the Russian word "rab" meaning "a slave", or "rabotat" meaning "to work like a slave". When there's nothing but I have to, I have to, I have to, it kills us spiritually, binds us, brings unrest, fear, diseases, death. Everything we do must be done with love, joy, thanksgiving for the Lord and it gives us strength, blessings.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3, 17)

Love absorbs fear. You can either have love or fear. Fear is the opposite of belief.

Matthew 8:26: "He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm."

Mark 4:40 "He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

2Tim 1, 7: "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

Although majority of people worry about something, we have to fill ourselves with the love of Christ. When looking at the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, which he did out of love for us, you will be filled with love and will overcome fear, sorrow, pain.

As mentioned above, the two halves need to come together in duality. Do not look for an easier path, but for the right path. Even in a complicated person we should appreciate the fact that thanks to him we accept what we lack, what we have pushed into the unconsciousness, what puts us out of the centre, so that by such acceptance we could get to the centre, to the unity. Jesus showed the way in Mat 5, 39-42:

"But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

Since we live in the body, we can perceive spirituality only through the body. As we already said, what we perceive as bad – the opposite of the good, unhappiness – the opposite of happiness, disease – the opposite of health, etc. are the polarities, which teach us where are our shortcomings (abused by Satan) and they move us forward until we come to true self-knowledge, when our eyes are open and we are united with God and see everything real without distorting the mind of our Ego. Unity, no polarity, that is, true happiness, freedom, peace, health that only God can give.

Don't defend yourself! When we learn to accept the other side, because love has no boundaries, the darkness is absorbed. Jesus absorbed death. At first glance, from a human

point of view, he lost, but in fact he won. He did not avoid death. And he could, he had the power. By accepting death although being innocent, absorbing it with love, the death lost the power. He was resurrected and gave eternal life to everyone. Those who accept Jesus by following him and those who accept everything with love, they spread love and help save people. Mat 16, 24:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Not only you should confess that you accept Jesus, you should also follow Jesus' path to the end, to death. Whatever encountered on that path, it must be accepted thoroughly, just like Jesus has been accepting everything. He could have a vision about an easier path, he was only 33, all life ahead, and no one would want to die such a death. But he chose the God's path, that means love, which is the right path for everybody. On the other side, the ego looks only at itself, how to be well. And that's what we should learn. We are not in the same situation; we will not be tortured. But we should accept everything that comes to our life with gratitude. The harder the test, the greater the progress. This life is like school, you don't have to worry about life, you can enjoy it as much as possible, as if nothing would follow. We, human spirits, have come to this school of life from eternity to learn and understand something. And we will return home to eternity. People live as if this life was everything and nothing was to come thereafter. They make it homely here and live the life to the fullest. As if a student said to himself, he would neither go home nor learn, he would rather stay here and play with his pencil case, blackboard, or other things originally intended as learning aids. However, the student is not chained to school, he is looking forward to his home, where he will feel well. This is the school of life, and if you survive everything that comes in your way correctly, you will come to heaven, your home. Family, children, work, etc. are the parts of your life as teaching aids, not the goal of life. Everything in our lives is just a teaching aid aimed to help us understand something in life. The student can't play at school because he won't learn anything. Do not play, do not waste time in life with material things, you will not take any of it to the other world anyway. The more complicated it is, the more we need it. The harder the curriculum, the better for the student's knowledge. We need to devote more time to more difficult subjects. If we manage to pass the exam easily, we have managed to handle the subject. However, we need to devote more time to the subjects we do not manage to master easily. Similarly, in life there are issues that we manage to cope with more easily and then there are issues that we prefer to avoid, but the latter ones are those we need to devote more time to. Because if we don't pass the exam in one subject, we fail at school, even if we manage to pass all the other exams excellently. Also, in life we need to manage all the issues that life brings us, yet they are often caused by consequences of our wrong decisions taken in the past, in order to learn a lesson, to purge ourselves and to grow.

Gal 6:7: „Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”

Jacob 2,10: “For whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”

And if a student does not pass the exam, he can retake it and has to prepare better, devote more time to learning, or ask a more experienced person to explain the subject. And if he doesn't pass the exam anyway, he repeats the whole year with all the subjects, exams, including the passed ones. Thus, the student's goal is postponed. It's the grace to get another chance. But the test will not be forgiven, nobody has an exception and nobody can go further without learning. What would be the point? He would be stupid, uneducated. God is fair, equal to all, and merciful. Jesus helps us, but he will not do our part, will not pass our test, because we ourselves must go through everything in life, and we must behave properly in every test or situation in order to purge ourselves, if we want to get into eternity just like Jesus after being tempted by the Devil in the desert and throughout his whole life. The cheap grace, often preached by today's churches, says that if you commit a sin, you will be forgiven as if nothing has happened, and you can continue living often in sin ... and yet the whole Bible is about true deep repentance, regretting our sins, leading to a change in life and correction of mistakes and wrongs against neighbours, and to purging the blemished name of God, e.g., the prodigal son, Zacchaeus:

Luke 19:8: "But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

But if the student does not make use of the repeated chances, does not pass the repeated exams, not because they are too difficult, as the curriculum is set for each student to pass provided that the student prepares thoroughly not indifferently, preferring anything else instead of learning. Then the student would be expelled from school due to his own fault. It's the same in life, we can manage whatever comes to us with faith and with the help of Jesus, but if we prefer the bodily desires (Gal. 5: 16-21), then we have failed and lost eternal life through our own fault. The tempter knows it and that is why he seduces us, lies to us, and that is why Jesus said, "be vigilant!". Let's not look at the possibility of failure. Let's just look ahead, at Jesus. There is nothing in our lives that we could not manage, everything is in our hands.

"And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." (1 Cor 10,13)

"But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt." (Genesis 19,26)

"Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (Luk 9,62)

Let's look at Jesus! He decided for the hardest path. He says: I went that way, you will manage it, too. I will smooth it for you, I will help you to arrive to your destination, but I cannot do it instead of you, that's why you should follow me.

Everything we consider as a problem in our lives must be accepted. We need to get through this. Because that's how we can get better and stronger. The Pharisees were rational. They knew a lot of things at theoretical level only. They were able to interpret the Scripture

beautifully, but they could not experience God in practical daily life, so they were on the wrong path. We should also accept “the bed” in life with humility, gratitude, because if we stand it, if we behave right (we pass the test), we win. Let’s absorb everything with love and do not call it bad. It’s only us who call it like that. And that’s how we push it to the shadow, to the unconsciousness, where it will affect us the way we don't want to. It’s all in our heads. But if we change the attitude with love, if we accept situations and people as they are, they will start to change. Love absorbs the bed, it integrates the unloving into itself, and turns it into love. Jesus changed people with love. As for vibrations, frequencies, love is much higher than anger, fear. And since it is a higher frequency, love absorbs all the lower frequencies. Jesus was filled with so much love that nobody could hurt him even if they wanted to, and the hungry lions didn't eat Daniel. Their anger and hatred were simply weaker than he was. And those people controlled by anger will suddenly cease to be controlled by anger, because anger is absorbed by love. In other words, as Jesus preached, the demon of fear, aggression, etc. is pushed out and stops controlling people. Fill yourself with love and do not worry about things of an earthly nature. Under any circumstances remain in the love of Jesus. Sow love everywhere and you will be protected and you will grow and gain eternal life.

Ask yourself a question: why do I want to be happy, healthy, blessed? There is only one right answer if you want to achieve this - that is to be filled with the deeds of God. So, what’s the answer? To give love to everyone and in every situation as our greatest role model, Jesus Christ, the Lord. If you understand this, you win and you will gain much more than you can imagine. But if you don't understand it, you will waste your life uselessly. Allow God to restore your heart to pure, direct and humble one, and your body will become the temple of the Holy Spirit, that is, healed to perform the deeds of God.

The goal of our being is to understand this, to become conscious, to return home to the Creator and to help others, the strayed ones, to understand this goal. Everything else that is a part of our lives are just means to achieve this goal.

The Matrix movie trilogy roughly shows the struggle between the mind bound by the matrix (agents-demons, Satan) and the liberation by Morpheus and Neo (Jesus), the free ones in the Zion. It is helpful to recognize inspiring similarities with the biblical spirituality, especially the world system that has been bounded by the devil by means of lies and liberation and persecution. It's time to wake up. It is self-deception to think that we act based on our free choice. We are manipulated-seduced by the evil. Only the one who was liberated by Jesus can be free.

The Creator created us and the world, as a programmer (God) creates software, which a hacker (Satan) infects with viruses (sin, demons) and then the software works incorrectly, i.e., it does not fulfil its purpose. An antivirus program (Jesus) is needed to fix it. The disease is a result of faulty software. In order for the software error (disease) to materialize, it affects our lifestyle and behaviour through our mind and thus it is manifested on material level, it somaticizes, e.g., as an illness, injury, life problems. The law of sowing and reaping.

Notes

This summary presents views from several point of view, even the “non-traditional” ones, in order to appeal to the widest diverse group of seekers possible. Jesus also used parables from everyday life to explain spiritual truths to his contemporaries, who understood the parables well. Some topics may seem challenging at the first glance (good to read them several times), such as doctoral thesis and sometimes even unbiblical, but they are intended to point out that materialists consider today's modern in-depth psychology as a substitute or an alternative to the biblical teaching as regards the mental aspect of people; and it is says that Jesus has been looking for the solution for the mental aspect of people 2,000 years ago, but he did not need to analyse it in a complicated way, to analyse it in depth, to look for the causes. But unlike today's psychology, he has given simple solutions to heal the whole person, including the soul and body.

And there's more to it, it goes even further and points out that everything so-called “bad” begins with dark creatures who live from our “suffering” and Jesus defeated them on Golgotha with his love, thus showing us and giving us the only way of salvation. Eternal glory to Him.

Let's break down the words “simple” and “complicated”:

Simple, (“Jedno-duchý” in Slovak) means one (jedno) spirit (duchý), that is, united in one Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, the unity of love without limits.

Complicated (“Zlo-žitý” in Slovak), means evil (zlo) and living (žitý), that is, the evil in our lives brings evil consequences, that is, we deviate from the centre, from God, love, unity.

Verses used in the text

The testimony of brother Stano

Matthew 7,7-8 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Mark 11,23 “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

Matthew 10,19-22 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Matthew 10,1 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Mark 6,13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

John 14,26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2. The creation of the world and the Garden of Eden

Genesis 2,7 Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 1,20-21 And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 3,19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Matthew 27,50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

Genesis 2,22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

Genesis 2,24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Matthew 19,4-5 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’ ?

1 John 4,16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Ezekiel 28,13-17 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

Genesis 3,14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

Genesis 3,6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Genesis 3,1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Genesis 2,17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Luke 4,35 “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

Genesis 3,5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3,6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

3. People were living 900 years before the flood

Genesis 5 This is the written account of Adam’s family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And

he named them “Mankind” when they were created. When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died. When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died. When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died. When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died. When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died. When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died. When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died. When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. He named him Noah and said, “He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed.” After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died. After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

John 3,14-16 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Genesis 1,28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 3,18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

Genesis 3,21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Genesis 6,5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

Genesis 6,14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

Genesis 6,3 Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

Deuteronomy 34,7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.

Ephesians 6,16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

4. The Old Testament – different thinking

Exodus 32,9 “I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people.

Deuteronomy 9,13 And the LORD said to me, “I have seen this people, and they are a stiff-necked people indeed!

Matthew 5,38-44 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Exodus 20,19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

John 15,14-15 You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

1 Corinthians 6,12 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.

Deuteronomy 6,6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

John 10,30-33 I and the Father are one.” Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?” “We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

Exodus 34,29-35 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai. When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the Lord’s

presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.

Matthew 17,2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Revelation 1,16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Ezekiel 1,26-28 Above the vault over their heads was what looked like a throne of lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

5. Satan fights on three levels

Exodus 20,5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Exodus 20, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Matthew 5,45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

John 12,45 The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.

Luke 11,46 Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

Matthew 23,4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

John 14,26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Revelation 12,15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

Matthew 15,14 Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.

Luke 11,52 “Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

Matthew 23,13 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

Matthew 23,15 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

Revelation 3,15-17 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

Luke 10,1-17 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.” The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

Mark 16,17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

6. Charismatics + speaking in tongues

Matthew 10,1-8 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town

of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

1 Corinthians 13,1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

Mark 16,17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

1 Corinthians 14,1-3 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

1 Corinthians 14,27-28 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

1 Corinthians 14,23-24 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all,

7. The problem of hell, the parable of the rich man

Luke 16,19-31 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' " "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Revelation 20,14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

Matthew 5,44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 8,21-22 Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

8. The Bible shouldn't be contradictory

John 6,46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

John 14,9 Jesus answered: “Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Exodus 7,1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet.

9. Consequences of wrong decisions

Luke 22,3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

10. Jesus Christ came to reveal the true God to us

Luke 4,18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

Isaiah 42,7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Luke 4,21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Matthew 3,14-15 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

Matthew 4,3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Matthew 4,4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4,10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Matthew 16,21-23 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside

and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

11. The Ten Commandments in Hebrew

Exodus 20,1-15 And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal.

Deuteronomy 5,6-21 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

2 Samuel 11,3-4 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

2 Samuel 11,15 In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

Matthew 23,27-28 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Romans 7,22-23 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

Romans 7,24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

Romans 8,1-4 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

12. On Golgotha Jesus took our sins upon himself

Matthew 27,46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

Matthew 9,2-6 Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!” Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

Luke 17,14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

John 15,13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

Luke 9,23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Galatians 5,16-21 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Matthew 10,37-38 “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Matthew 6,31-33 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Exodus 16,10-36 While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud. The Lord said to Moses, “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’” That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’” The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone

had gathered just as much as they needed. Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.” However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. He said to them, “This is what the Lord commanded: ‘Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the Lord. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’” So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. “Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a sabbath to the Lord. You will not find any of it on the ground today. Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.” Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. Then the Lord said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? Bear in mind that the Lord has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out.” So the people rested on the seventh day. The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey. Moses said, “This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.’” So Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the Lord to be kept for the generations to come.” As the Lord commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved. The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan. (An omer is one-tenth of an ephah.)

Exodus 16,29 Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out.”

John 15,5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

13. What a tithe is

Malachi 3,8-10 “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse —your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Malachi 1,6-14 “A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the Lord Almighty. “It is you priests who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’ “By offering defiled food on my altar. “But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ “By saying that the Lord’s table is contemptible. When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering

them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty. "Now plead with God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"—says the Lord Almighty. "Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the Lord Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands. My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty. "But you profane it by saying, 'The Lord's table is defiled,' and, 'Its food is contemptible.' And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the Lord Almighty. "When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the Lord. "Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the Lord Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations.

Malachi 3,8 "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings.

Genesis 14,18-20 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Genesis 28,20-22 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Deuteronomy 18,1 The Levitical priests—indeed, the whole tribe of Levi—are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the food offerings presented to the LORD, for that is their inheritance.

Leviticus 27,32 Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod —will be holy to the LORD.

Matthew 27,50-51 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split

Luke 11,52 "Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering."

Matthew 23,13 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

14. The Bible must be taken as a whole

Hebrews 5,12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

15. Forget the old things

James 5,14-15 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

Isaiah 1,10-17 Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah! "The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations —I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

Luke 5,36-37 He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old.³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.

Matthew 7,26-27 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Matthew 7,24-25 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

John 3,1-21 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak

of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3,3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

Matthew 6,24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Revelation 3,16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

16. Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial

1 Corinthians 8 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

1 Corinthians 6,12 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.

Luke 15,12-13 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

Matthew 13,3-8 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Matthew 10,14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.

Mark 6,11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."

Matthew 5,44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

17. The prodigal son + growing in faith

Luke 15,11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

Isaiah 42,3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

Matthew 12,20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory.

Matthew 5,22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 23,15 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

Luke 15,29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

1 Corinthians 5,5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

Luke 15,31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

Luke 15,30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!

Matthew 7,1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

Matthew 7,3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

Luke 10,25-37 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Ephesians 2,8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

1 Timothy 4,7-8 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 Samuel 8,11-20 He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.” But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

Genesis 2,17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Isaiah 55,8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

1 Timothy 2,9 I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,

1 Corinthians 8,1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.

1 Corinthians 14,23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

1 Corinthians 3,2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

Acts 2,42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Matthew 5,13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

Mark 16,15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Romans 12,4-5 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

18. What fellowship is

Matthew 18,20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Hebrews 10,25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

John 4,13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

James 5,14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 23,15 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

19. When an evil spirit comes out of a man

Matthew 12,43-45 “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

Philippians 2,8-10 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Matthew 7,24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

John 5,14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”

Galatians 5,19-21 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

James 1,14-15 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

20. Our Father – the Lord’s prayer

Matthew 6,8-15 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

James 1,13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

Revelation 3,19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

John 1,1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Matthew 6,14-15 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 18,21-35 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Matthew 5,23-24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 6,7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

21. The demon of unforgiveness

Matthew 5,44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

22. Put on the full armour of God

Ephesians 6,11-12 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Luke 22,3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

Romans 12,21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Kings 17,1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

James 5,17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

23. The demon of materialism

Matthew 6,19-34 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Luke 11,20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

John 6,1-15 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces

of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Matthew 10,30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Isaiah 43,18-19 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

24. The demon of adultery

1 Corinthians 6,12-20 "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

John 15,15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 17,21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

1 Corinthians 6,19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

1 Corinthians 3,16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Matthew 12,43-45 "When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

25. Power to cast out demons

Matthew 10,1-8 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 9,36-37 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

Luke 10,2 He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Matthew 7,28-29 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

26. How to cast out Satan

Acts 19,13-17 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

Matthew 17,21 He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer (and fasting).

28. Go and preach the gospel

Mark 16,15-20 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Matthew 12,45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

Galatians 2,20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Hebrews 5,12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

29. Always look at what is in heaven, not on earth

Colossians 3,1-5 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Matthew 6,33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

John 1,5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Ephesians 5,8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Romans 8,13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Matthew 14,22-33 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 6,25-34 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field,

which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

30. Carry your cross and crucify your passions and desires on it

Galatians 5,16-25 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Ephesians 6,12-17 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1 Timothy 4,5-6 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

Matthew 18,20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

1 Corinthians 14,26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

Luke 9,23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Matthew 16,24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Galatians 2,20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1 Peter 5,7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Luke 18,29-30 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come, eternal life.”

Matthew 19,29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

Ecclesiastes 4,12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Genesis 2,24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Matthew 19,5 and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’

31. Don't worry about it any more, Jesus will resolve it

Romans 7,15-25 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 8,1-4 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Colossians 3,1-3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

32. Look at the giver and not the gift

Matthew 12,45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

Luke 17,11-19 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Galatians 5,17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Matthew 10,1 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Mark 5,34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Matthew 9,22 Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

Matthew 12,44 Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order.

Matthew 17,17 “You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.”

Matthew 17,16 I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.”

Matthew 17,21 He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer (and fasting).

James 5,14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

33. Faith is courage; our response to God’s calling

Matthew 8,10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

John 8,32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 14,6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Genesis 12 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land. " So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev. Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you." When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

Genesis 15,7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

Matthew 14,28-31 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

1 Thessalonians 5,21 but test them all; hold on to what is good,

John 10,1-18 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not

understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father —and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life —only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

34. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective

James 5,13-20 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Matthew 5,23-24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Ephesians 4,26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

Matthew 6,6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

1 Kings 17,1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

James 5,17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

Acts 2,17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Isaiah 44,3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Joel 2,28 “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

35. What Jesus looked like

Revelation 1,12-18 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Luke 17,14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

Matthew 6,7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

Isaiah 53,2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

Exodus 20,4 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

Numbers 4,16 “Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest, is to have charge of the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the regular grain offering and the anointing oil. He is to be in charge of the entire tabernacle and everything in it, including its holy furnishings and articles.”

Matthew 17,2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Ezekiel 1,28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.