THE GOD THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER MORE.

"THE LIFE AND FAITH OF LUKE"
MARCH 05, 2023

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ANCHOR BIBLE REFERENCES

- Hebrews 13: 5-8
 - 5 God has said,
 - "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
 - 6 So we say with confidence,
 - "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mortal man do to me?"

- Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
 Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
- 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Our Focus Remains: "The House of Prayer for all Nations, Extending God's Love to all the Nations."
We are sowers (not eaters) but the sower reaps in multiple folds.

Luke 5:37-38

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined."

"Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

(This year, we must have a fresh vision of our Christian life)

As we consider the life of the leaders and their faith, let us apply the lessons and, thus, create new wineskins and expand our spiritual container to enable God to move the mountains He has planned to move for us in 2023.

- Luke was not of the seed of Israel; He was Jewish, converted to Christianity by the ministry of St. Paul at Antioch; and after his coming into Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10) he was Paul's constant companion ("2 Tim 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.").
- The key principle we learn from the life of Luke focuses on the two greatest commandments: "love God with all your heart, mind, and soul", and "love your neighbour".
- Other supporting elements include forgiveness, humility, faith, prayer and working with the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 16:6 "6Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia." (- Paul got a vision for Macedonia.)

- Today, more than ever before in the past, man is searching for meaning in life.
- If man can focus on the two greatest commandments, man will find a meaning in life.
- Brethren, we must "love God with all our heart, mind, and soul", and "love our neighbour". And have the heart of forgiveness, humility, faith, prayer and working with the Holy Spirit.

- **■** In 2 Timothy 4, Paul wrote to Timothy:
- 9"Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.... ¹⁴ Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵ You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.
- Nay it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- Brethren, why did companions desert the ministry, is because they don't love God or because they don't love their neighbour, Paul?

- No matter the answer, it is clear that the ministry of God continued to thrive without them. Paul said "17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth."
- Brethren, we shouldn't put our hand on a plow and look back:
- According to Luke 9:61-62, 61Still another said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first let me bid farewell to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."
- No wonder, Luke, hearing Jesus' response, was the only one that committed to pay the price with Paul.

- From the moment Luke was converted and he became a companion of Paul, he picked every piece and pieces of what Jesus' did, which then formed his documentation in the book of Luke.
- While Matthew, Mark, Luke and John documented the actions of Jesus, it was only Luke that took interest and documented the Acts of the Apostles. (Matthew and John were Apostles. Mark and Luke were non-Apostles who could have been position to capture the Acts of the Apostles)
- Mark, obviously, had disappeared (according to Paul) and possibly lost connection with the Holy Spirit BUT Luke was available.
- And today, by Luke standing still and available, we have the privilege of understating what the Apostles did, after Jesus left, through the ACTS of the Apostles.

Brethren, we must "love God with all our heart, mind, and soul", and "love our neighbour". And have the heart of forgiveness, humility, faith, prayer and working with the Holy Spirit.

There are many gaps we can fill if we are standing still and available. Can you imagine what could have happened if Luke disappeared or lost connection with the Holy Spirit?

Luke's way of life...

- Very educated, a researcher, a writer, evangelist, and a dedicated Christian.
- Diligent to Serve

Paul sad (2 Tim 4:11) "**Only Luke is with me**. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry."

Carefully Meticulous about the word of God and very Detailed

Luke 1:1-4, Luke wrote "1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ¹³With this in mind, since I myself have <u>carefully investigated everything</u> from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."

His way of life.../2

Very Convinced about the kingdom and very Persistence

He not only wrote the book of Luke to give account of Jesus' actions, he stood still and wrote the ACTS of the Apostles.

- Accountable In Luke 1:4, Luke said "4so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."
- He had the heart of forgiveness, humility, faith, prayer and working with the Holy Spirit. Never called himself an Apostle, though Luke wrote about one quarter of the entire New Testament.

For example, Paul may have hurt him many times but it did not deter Luke from committing to Paul's message, forgiving Paul at all stages.

- Luke ended his writing at high positive notes, signifying his personal embrace of the word and way of God:
 - Luke 24 "51 While Jesus was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God."

His way of life.../3

- ...his personal embrace of the word and way of God:
 - **Luke 24:51-53**

Luke understood that blessings come from God; it is important for us to worship God with great joy; and it is important for us to continuously praise God.

- ACTS 28:17-30 is Luke's account of how "Paul Preaches At Rome Under Guard"
- 17 "My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans... 20 It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." 30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!
- Luke understood that we must preach the word with boldness and without hindrance.

The Faith of Luke is worthy of imitation:

The greatest lesson of faith to learn from Luke is his 'Personal Conviction' about the word of God.

This will drive your

► Faith, Diligence, Commitment, Consistency, Persistence, Endurance, Work with the Holy Spirit, Boldness, Etc.

Outcome

The manner in which Luke articulated the content of the book of Luke provided him a lot of life lessons and personal conviction, and he became curious to know what happens next. This curiosity led to writing the ACTS of the Apostles, which is has become a great tool in the hands of Christians.

Writing these two books could only have been possible under the power of the Holy Spirit who provided **insights**, **guidance and direction**.