



KINGDOM DOMINION  
MINISTRIES INT'L

# THE CHURCH

**THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT**

PART 3

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***“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.” (Psalm 23:2 KJV)***

We have an adage where I come from which says, ***“If you see a man or woman running in the midst of thorns, if (s)he is not pursuing something, something must be pursuing him/her.”*** My friend, to be candid, this saying is true all over the world! We are always in pursuit of our ambition, career, money, politics or power, and in doing so, many have met their Waterloo and ended up in strange and uncomfortable places. Indeed, some people's pursuit of happiness continually delivers disappointment to them as they have nothing to show for all the 'rat races' they've been engaging with. On the other hand, many of those who are deemed successful in this pursuit (by the world's standard in terms of cash stockpiled, affluence, cars and other earthly possessions) have paid a very dear price for these things. Some of them do not have a stable home; for some, their marriage is in shambles; some have kids on drugs; some have terrible health conditions that are not public knowledge; and, of course, ultimately, their relationship with God is just lip service at best.

Perhaps you are asking, ***“Who then can have great success?”*** I am glad you asked! The simple answer is that anyone can achieve great heights without all these encumbrances. The Bible tells us that it is ***“the blessings of the Lord that make people rich without adding sorrow” (Proverbs 10:22)***. This is a scripture that naturally awakens my curiosity; it makes me want to know — how possible is it indeed for someone to have a decent success without any regrets? The Lord showed me the answer in Psalm 23:2 — ***“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.”*** There you have it! This simple scripture completely revolutionized my thinking and pursuit. It is God that will MAKE you lie down in green pasture — not your skill, power, connection, or money. What's more? It is this same God that will LEAD you beside the still water!

I love to pay attention not only to what the Bible says but also to what it doesn't say by reason of what it says. So if the Bible says that there's 'still water,' then it goes without saying that there must also be some 'turbulent water!' Boy, when I saw this I jumped! Truly there's a lot of turbulent and noisy water in the world system around us, aren't there? But thanks be to God Who is able to make us lie down in green pastures and lead us beside still waters. And who gets to enjoy such blessings from the Father? Psalm 23:1 tells us — those to whom THE LORD IS THEIR SHEPHERD! So my question to you today is simply this: ***“Is the Lord your shepherd?”***

If you have given your life to Jesus and accepted Him as your Lord and Savior, then you have a shepherd and you should be hearing His gentle voice as He leads you to the still waters on a daily basis (for it is, indeed, a daily thing). If you are, however, not born again, then you cannot hear His voice because you don't know each other. Permit me to introduce this amazing Savior to you by simply saying these words from your heart — ***“Lord Jesus, come into my life. I receive You today. I confess my shortcomings before You; please accept me as I am. I will follow You from now on.”*** My friend, you are now born again and qualified to begin to hear His voice as your Shepherd. If you want to rededicate your life back to Jesus, there's room for you also. If you are doing this for the first time, please let me be the first one to welcome you to the Kingdom of Christ.

### **THE CHURCH (Part 3)**

If there's a place to be in 2022, it must be in the church of God. Besides dwelling in our heart individually, the church is where God dwells corporately when God's children come together — and there's always strength in numbers! Imagine what happens in wrestling when you can tag team with your partner; the result is always outstanding. The scripture tells us that the Lord opens His hand and fulfills the desire of every living being (Psalm 145:6). If God wants to fulfill the desires of everything He created, I can assure you that the church is on top of that list. God will always ensure that those who dwell in the house of God are well taken care of.

### **THE 'MOBILE' CHURCH**

So far, we have considered the image of “the church in the wilderness” — a church without a better covenant but which still enjoyed amazing dimensions of God. Last week, we looked at another image of God's church on the earth — “the church on water.” God instructed Noah to build an ark, and thereafter came a massive flood on the earth in which everything on the planet was destroyed — everything except the people and creatures in the ark with which God started a brand new world.

Today, let's look at another image of God's church. The Lord asked Moses to build an ark in keeping with an established pattern — God always asks men or women to build Him 'a place.' The Ark of the Covenant which Moses built became a symbol of God's presence. Oh that, like Moses, the Lord will choose you in this season to build a place for Him! Of course, this need not mean that God will ask you to start a church or ministry; it may simply be that the Lord will ask you to support a church planting project or, like the words of that favorite carol, “let every heart prepare Him room.” In any case, we do know that the Ark of the Covenant became a symbol of God's church for wherever the ark is, there's always God. For example, 1 Samuel 4:5-6 says

***“And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD came into the camp.”***  
***(1 Samuel 4:5-6)***

When the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth RANG. There was so much power that it created an earthquake and their enemy understood quickly that the battle dynamics had changed — just because the ark came into the camp.

This ark has witnessed many great demonstrations of God's presence, for example when Jordan was parted. In fact when the ark was seized by the enemies, it defended itself! And how shall we talk about the Ark without mentioning Obed-Edom? Obed-Edom was a simple man who was not known in the community and probably had a quiet and easy-going family. It happened that while, out of fear, a 'dumping ground' was being sought where the ark could be dumped, Obed-Edom's name came up. The ark was abandoned in his compound and he became the custodian of this symbolic box for three months! Here's how the scripture described this family after only 90 days of being exposed to the ark:

***“And the ark of the Lord continued in the house of Obed–Edom the Gittite three months: and the Lord blessed Obed–Edom, and all his household.”*** (1 Samuel 6:11)

Wow! The ark continued in his house and the Lord blessed ALL HIS HOUSEHOLD — that's powerful! In other words, not only those who lived in the house physically were blessed, but every member of Obed's household irrespective of their geographical location! He suddenly became the envy of his people and the talk of the town. One of the ways God blessed Obed-Edom was in giving him many sons—eight to be exact. First Chronicles 26:4–6 lists them and their own sons, along with their father, as gatekeepers in God's temple. Even David, upon seeing Obed's miraculous transformation, made arrangements to move the ark to the City of David.

In summary, the ark is like a mobile church — a house fellowship of some sort. This begs the question, ***“Are you allowing your house to accommodate God's ark? Is your home suitable for a house fellowship?”*** Obed is a perfect example of how God is moving from one house to another, blessing His people. Your house should also be His dwelling place! If you have not considered your house to be a designated center for a house fellowship, I will encourage you to do so. The only way to get the ark into the corners of the earth is to allow your house to be used to host His ark and you will never regret that you did. May God bless ALL YOUR HOUSEHOLD as you obey this simple instruction and make room for God; He will make rooms for you, too, in Jesus' name.

### **ANCHOR TEXT**

The Psalmist revealed to us the mind of God about why the church was invented. Psalm 16:11 reveals that the path of life can only be discovered in the presence of the Lord, wherein dwells fullness of joy and all the pleasure we will ever desire to have. That's why King David's assertion in Psalm 122:1-2 has been an apt anchor text for this series:

***“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.  
 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.”*** (Psalm 122:1-2 KJV)

### **PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH**

David was our perfect example and He wrote many things which have become a guide for us to follow in this dispensation. One of his many writings encouraged us to always pray for Jerusalem (Zion). This week, our prayer for the church is in Matthew 16:13,15 —

***“When Jesus came into the coasts of Cæsarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, whom do men say that I the Son of man am? . . . He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”*** (Matthew 16:13,15)

1. Pray that there will be an increase in the knowledge of Jesus Christ amongst the people of the world.
2. Pray that there will be a revival within the body of Christ, that we will not perish because of a lack of knowledge.

### **THE REASONS WHY THE CHURCH OF GOD IS THE SAFEST PLACE ON EARTH**

We have been highlighting some reasons why the Church of God is the safest place on earth. We have considered two points so far:

#### **1. THE CHURCH IS THE SECRET PLACE OF GOD**

## 2. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNUSUAL POWER

We continue from there today.

### 3. THE CHURCH IS WHERE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM ARE DELIVERED TO US FOR FREE

***“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:16-19 KJV)***

To gain access to anything in life, you need a door or a gate and its key! The good news is that we can find both of these in the church. Prophet Isaiah prophesied,

***“Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: and I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.” (Isaiah 45:1-3)***

Reading these few verses will give you the reasons why you must abide in the church; the breakthrough it promises can only happen when we abide in the church.

About the door, Jesus who's the bridegroom of the church, made a categorical declaration in John 10:9-11, viz:

***“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” (John 10:9-11)***

Anything that you need in life is in the church; quit running around! The Lord promised to give us the KEYS to the kingdom and the corresponding power to operate in all realms of affairs; abide in the church and receive it.

### CALL TO ACTION

Are you doing business with God?  
 Is the Lord your Shepherd?  
 Are you in a green pasture?  
 Is your water still or turbulent?  
 Are you hosting the ark in your house?  
 Are you praying for the church?  
 Are you operating with the keys for all access?

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE”**  
***“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6 KJV)***

These three are needed for any breakthrough to happen, and Jesus provides it all in the church. The way to your breakthrough, the truth about the circumstances that will get you there, and the life you will enjoy after the breakthrough are all in the church. Come in and stay in. Shalom.

### PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, release unto me the Keys to the Kingdom in the name of Jesus.
2. Father, make my home your place of abode in the name of Jesus.

PS: Remember to reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom of God in your area. God bless you as you do so. Amen.