



## The Prescribed Life

By Malcolm Henderson, MD

*“Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ’...”*

Genesis 3:1

These are the opening words of the conversation between Satan (the serpent), and Eve which led to the fall of man. Notice Satan’s tactic here—he asks Eve if God really said not to eat from the tree in the garden. What Satan was asking Eve to do was question God’s perfection, question God’s purpose behind His commands, and thus question God’s Sovereignty! To the contemporary reader it is easy to see the abominable nature of Satan’s strategy—how dare he deceive Eve through essentially calling God a liar Who doesn’t mean what He says. But, before we pass judgment let us concern ourselves with the plank in our own eye!

As Christians in the comfort laden, deception filled, materially obsessed country of America we actually join Satan in his tactic here. Satan was attempting to deceive Eve through asking her to question God, but we continually ask the same question that Satan did to keep our deceptions effective and alive. Let us examine this claim by considering Scripture.

*Did God really ask Abraham to sacrifice his son?* Yes he did, and if Abraham had not ascended the mountain fully intending to kill his son, God could have never said, “Now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your only son from Me.” (Genesis 22:12). *Did Jesus really tell the rich young ruler to, “Go, sell all you have and give to the poor..”?* Yes, He did and if the young ruler had made that move of radical obedience then he would have received, “treasure in heaven” and the invitation to follow the Son of God. (Mark 10:21). *Did God really say, “The person who loves father or mother...son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37)?* Yes He did, showing us the degree of importance and priority that He should have in our lives. *Did Jesus really tell a man that asked to follow Him that he should be prepared to live a life of homelessness?* *Did Jesus really tell a man, who He called to follow Him, that he couldn’t go and bury his father first?* *Did Jesus really tell a man that he couldn’t say goodbye to his family before he answered Jesus’ call to follow Him?* (Luke 9:57-62). We could go on and on but I believe the point has been made that contemporary American Christianity has turned Satanic! Rather than the words of Scripture convicting our hearts and causing us to fall on our faces in repentance, prayer, and obedience, they do nothing more than drive us toward Satanic tactics as we ask, did God really say that, did God really mean that, etc. The answer now, just as it was in the garden of Eden, is a resounding YES, God means what He says and His Word demands a response, not a discussion; obedience, not a small group attempting to soften the blow of the Words of Scripture upon our hearts and lives! So I encourage all of us to fall on our knees and ask forgiveness for our willingness to reproduce Satan’s words to Eve in the garden. The unfortunate difference is that while Satan was questioning God to deceive Eve, we are questioning God to deceive ourselves. A person that intentionally takes steps to deceive himself is a lost person indeed. Allow the Word of God to do the work on your heart and in your life that it is meant to do — anything else is focused on self-preservation in a life that calls us to self crucifixion! “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” (Galations 2:20).

# CHARIS IS THE GREEK WORD FOR GOD'S GRACE

I want to start this newsletter with a sincere apology about the lack of information being relayed from the field to all of you. We had considerable internet issues that were very frustrating on our end and I apologize that we have been unable to get newsletters and Facebook posts out to keep all of you informed. With that said we are back in the states for 3 months for the holidays and I greatly look forward to reconnecting with everyone!



Destine Mavoy (our translator) and Malcolm teaching at Lilliyah's house

***Lack of correspondence definitely is not indicative of lack of activity on the field.***

Over the last 6 months we have had the privilege of watching the Holy Spirit work powerfully to an extent that we have not witnessed up to this point in our 4 year history, and I can't wait to share everything with all of you. ***Since there is so much to tell, I am going to spread this over 3 newsletters. These newsletters will be sent monthly starting with this one, and followed by two additional ones that will be sent in November and December. So let us begin!!***

The last few months in Haiti have been especially difficult. The heat and humidity were the most intense that we have ever experienced making ministry difficult as our energy was drained. There were many nights with no electricity which meant no fans. Sleeping was impossible. Also, the demonic activity and opposition are ever increasing as the demonic strongholds in Haiti do not like it when a child of God enters into ***the camps of their human agents*** bringing them the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ! ***The November newsletter will focus on the demonic opposition that we are experiencing and I am sure that it will be eye opening to many American readers, as it has been for us!*** What I would like to share with you in this letter is the incredible response that we are seeing occur through the hearing of the gospel.

The first thing that must be said before we discuss all of the fruit that we are witnessing on the field is that this is only possible through God's grace. This grace is the vehicle through which we are allowed to see and experience the fruit of any evangelical work. It must be remembered that God is not compelled in any way to reveal the fruit of this work to us,

and many great men of God worked tirelessly throughout their lifetimes and endured, despite seeing no fruit. Consider God's words to His prophet Jeremiah at the beginning of his ministry, ***"...you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you."*** (Jeremiah 7:27) In 1 Kings, chapter 19, we see Elijah praying that his life be taken because he was tired of Israel not turning to God in response to the message that he brought from God. Even Jesus reveals that many prophets and great men of God longed and prayed to see God's plan play out in their generation, but they never did, ***"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear, for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."*** (Matthew 13:16-17). So I fully realize the grace that this ministry is existing in and I don't take it for granted!



There are countless stories to tell, and at times like this I feel a book would be more appropriate to send out than a newsletter. I am going to share 4 stories with you for the sole purpose of revealing what simple obedience to God's calling on our lives can result in. This isn't being written out of pride, but rather out of thanksgiving and humility as I continually incorporate the words of Scripture, found in Luke 17: 10, into my life, ***"In the same way, when you have done all that you were commanded, you should say, 'We are good for nothing slaves; we've only done our duty'."***

As Christians we should always keep in mind that our glory is not received on earth and we are reminded of this in ***Isaiah 42:8, “I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another...”***. Our existence here on earth is solely meant to glorify our God—we receive our glorification in heaven, after our time on earth is completed, ***“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21).***

## CHURCH @ LILLIYAH'S HOUSE

In the last newsletter I briefly relayed a story to you about a woman named Lilliyah. Just to jog your memories, Lilliyah was a woman who was trapped under rubble after the earthquake and lost the use of her legs. Her husband was tragically killed under the weight of the debris leaving this unfortunate woman with virtually nothing. The government relocated her to Sud Est and placed her in a very small house on a bare mountainside in Tessae—which now happens to be behind our home. Joy made initial contact with Lilliyah during the first week we were back in Haiti. After another woman in the area told Joy that she wanted to know Jesus Christ, we began to discuss evangelism of the people living on the mountain behind our home. We decided that it would be best to start a Bible study at Lilliyah's house since she wouldn't be able to attend a study anywhere else secondary to her disability. So we initiated this study, outside of Lilliyah's small home, sharing the gospel of Christ with her and others from the community. What started with around 7-10 people began to grow rapidly, and before we left for the States our last study had 60+ people show up who almost all have given their lives to Christ!! This group of new believers consists mainly of older people with a scattering of middle aged individuals and children. They are very simple people, most of whom can't read, but they have a desperate thirst for the Word of God, and I am honored to study, teach and discuss the Bible with them as the Holy Spirit speaks through me.

I am daily humbled in Haiti by the power of the gospel!! As a Christian missionary I have an urgent passion for evangelism of unreached people. God has anointed my wife and I to carry the gospel to Haiti, but we are in full realization that we are Americans, and thus our passion extends into the borders of our own country also. With this said it is my ongoing prayer that everyone who claims Christ as their Lord and Savior experiences the power of the gospel, the power of Christ, and the power of obedience. Paul states it perfectly in Romans 1:16 as he writes what should resonate with every Christian, ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone.”*** The gospel of Christ is a great power that is unequalled by any power that exists in the universe and it exists within the heart and mind of the Christian—this is profound. This is so profound that Paul is led in the book of Colossians to say, ***“...the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints...Christ in you.” (Colossians 1:26-27).*** The greatest mystery in the world revealed to us in

“Church at Lilliyah's” began with 7-10 people gathering each week



Our most recent Bible study at Lilliyah's house had 60+ people

this period of post redemptive history summed up in 3 words, “Christ in you”!! How truly blessed we are! If we Christians can think of this truth (that we must have complete faith in), as a weapon to fight Satan and sin we should then know that we have to simply show up to the battlefield since we don’t carry our weapons—we are the weapon because what we fight with is already in and with us (Christ in us with the gospel message to share).

One thing I love about Scripture is how so many aspects of the Old Testament serve as symbolic harbingers of New Testament truths. As I write this my mind goes to one such case in the Bible. In 2 Chronicles chapter 20 we read the story of King Jehoshaphat, the King of Judah at the time, who was afraid of the armies of the Moabites and Ammonites who were greater in number, stronger, and more skilled than the army of Judah. The Ammonites and Moabites were coming to Judah to wipe it out and Jehoshaphat’s fear caused him to cry out to God. God graciously answered him, through the prophet Zechariah, with the following words, **“Do not be afraid nor dismayed, because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, Who is with you.” (2 Chronicles 20:15b-17a).** King Jehoshaphat obeys this set of commands and the miraculous occurs as evidenced in this passage, **“So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.” (2 Chronicles 20:24).** God had slaughtered the entire army, and all Judah had to do was show up with their weapons in hand!

The more my family and I perform mission work, in obedience to God’s calling on our lives, the more we draw direct analogies from this passage. We, as Christians, have the gospel to share and people need to hear it. For it to be effective though, the enemy has to be beaten, and not by you, but rather by Who is in you! In missions we are called to reach the unreached, and they are unreached for a reason. They live in countries that are difficult to live in, and villages that are even more difficult to reach. They live in areas where the demonic rules in the form of vodou, Hinduism, Buddhism, witch doctors, vodou priests, shamans, etc., whatever you want to call it, it doesn’t matter because it is all the



same enemy with different names. All one has to do is go to Haiti, or any other demonically controlled country, and he/she will undoubtedly begin to empathize with King Jehoshaphat. We see the enemy force that we are up against, in the form of poverty, demon worship, and disease and it appears spiritually and physically so overwhelming that our faith in the efficacy of the Christian message that we bring, begins to wane, and we are defeated before we even begin. We feel that there is no way we will be able to make inroads in the country that is so dark, and so demonically controlled and overrun. But this is when King Jehoshaphat’s story becomes glaringly relevant. In the passage God told the King exactly where the enemy was and, therefore, the King knew exactly where he was supposed to go. That is representative of the specific calling on our lives—God tells us exactly where he wants us to go, **“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10).** God called us to Haiti, and He told us exactly where He wanted us to go. God then tells the King that the battle is not his to fight, but he does have to go, he has to be prepared with weapons, and he has to position himself—but after all that, just stand still and watch the salvation of the Lord! I have learned that we have to go, we have to be prepared (with the knowledge of the gospel and the Word of God), and we have to position ourselves wherever God tells us on any given day. So, when I go share the Word with a vodou priest, and position myself directly in front of him,

all I have to do is stay still and watch the salvation of the Lord work—I am just a conduit of His will. I am physically there, but God does all the work and salvation comes through Him and only Him. I just simply wield the sword of the gospel, but I never have to swing it because as quickly as the words hit the ears of the vodou priest the Holy Spirit begins the slaughter, the slaughter of the priest's fallen nature and the slaughter of the demonic power present on that property. If I could only see with spiritual eyes, I am sure that I would witness what King Jehoshaphat did that day as he stood looking at the bodies of his enemies spread all over the battlefield. How powerful is our God! You can also rest assured that if the person you are witnessing to is not responsive, it is not your problem. Our job is not to coerce people into faith—that is impossible. Saving faith is a miracle performed by God in the heart of a person leaving us with the simple job of sharing the truth of the gospel. Don't dare try to step beyond that because if we do, we are attempting to enter Holy ground that only belongs to the **“Author and Perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2)**. So don't be afraid to go where God is calling you, because if He is truly calling you the battle isn't yours, but rather His and you will find yourselves witnessing victory that you just simply showed up to witness. So be bold knowing the power that goes with you is not able to be defeated!

## WORDS OF LIFE FOR AN EAVESDROPPER

Cereste is a vodou priest who lives in Tessaie near our home. He was brought to my knowledge by my wife and children who walked past his peristil (vodou temple) one day while they were doing evangelism in the area around our house. So I went to him and had a good initial conversation about the gospel, religion, denominations, vodou, etc. While we were talking there was a young man named Danny who was listening with curiosity and interest to what the Holy Spirit was saying through me. At the end of that initial meeting I asked Cereste if it would be ok if I came back to begin studying the Bible with him that Friday. He agreed, so the appointment for Bible study was set. When I returned on Friday not only was Cereste present, but about 20 additional people were on the porch waiting for us. Danny not only wanted to hear more himself, but he was so moved by what he had heard about Christ that he had invited everyone that was sitting on the porch that afternoon. What Danny had brought them to hear was the good news of the gospel and that religion is not saving, but faith in, and a relationship with Jesus Christ is! To make a long story short, we now have Bible studies 2-3 times a week, the average attendance is around 40-50. Kids are coming and Joy sings hymns with them. Two young men and a young lady have asked for private Bible studies so they come to our home twice a week to study



The man in the middle, wearing a hat, is the vodou priest named Cereste.

the Bible. This is an amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the hearts and lives of these men, women and children. Unlike many groups that I sit with, this one is unique. Almost everyone is educated, and they ask tough, yet very good relevant questions. I've had to tackle questions about Seventh Day Adventist theology, why the Catholic Bible contains more books than the Protestant Bible, is philosophy better to believe than religious doctrine, etc. So I greatly look forward to teaching this group every week, and the growth we are seeing is beyond expectations, and to think that it all started from a simple conversation with a vodou priest and a curious young man sitting on the porch eavesdropping!

# LIGHT IN THE DEPTH OF DARKNESS

## FIGHT IN THE DEPTH OF DARKNESS??

Sanon (pronounced Sah-no), is a young 34 year old man who I met as a result of God leading me where I wasn't planning to go. I was actually going down a dirt road on which 6 vodou priests/priestesses reside and I was planning to visit all of them. I eventually arrived at the home of a vodou priestess who lived on this road, and I had a good initial conversation with her. At the end of our discussion the Holy Spirit led me to ask her if there were any priests in the area that, in her estimation, would benefit from a visit from us (of course I know that they all need a visit from us to hear the gospel). She immediately said yes and pointed into the bush where, she told me, 3 malefactors lived (a malefactor is a very evil vodou priest who only practices black magic involving dark Satanic practices, and the community usually lives in great fear of these individuals due to their purchased relationships with evil, powerful, ancient demons). So we immediately went to one of them.

When we arrived at this property, deep in the bush, we were standing in a cleared area in which a small grave had been erected. I quickly recognized this typical demon grave that I had seen in other evil areas, so I knew that we were on demonic territory which prompted an immediate prayer covering my team and I in the blood of Christ and asking for an army of angels to surround us. This man then presented himself, and said his name was Sanon. People always ask me, **"How do you start a conversation with a vodou priest?"** It varies according to what the Holy Spirit is prompting me to say, but what I was told to say on this particular occasion surprised me, but I obeyed. When we sat down I looked at Sanon right in the eyes and said with boldness, "Why are you giving God reason to destroy you where you sit right now because of how you are living?" I was curious to see how he would respond to what I felt led to say, and his reaction was surprising. As soon as he heard my words his head fell, he appeared completely broken, and he didn't say a word. Immediately I sensed God at work in Sanon's heart and I hadn't spoken a word of Scripture yet! Through his actions he was telling me that he knew, well before I arrived, that he was not living right and when he heard these words it just turned his subconscious guilt into conscious conviction. Simultaneously his shame pushed his head towards the ground and his embarrassment in front of us, God's servants, silenced his mouth. Instantly 2 Corinthians 7:10 popped into my mind, **'For godly grief produces a repentance not to be regretted and leading to salvation..'** I knew right then that this young man was elect, his heart was being regenerated before my eyes, and he would be saved, so my assignment was now to jump on board with what God was already doing in this man's heart, and I willingly did!

This initial 1-2 minutes was powerful and my heart was greatly blessed and humbled by what God was allowing me to witness! I went on for the next 2 hours sharing the gospel with Sanon and answering his many questions about heaven, hell, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Lucifer, demons, and all of the inter-relationships between them. His hunger for this knowledge was palpable, and so I asked him if he had a Bible and if he could read. He answered no, and yes, respectively. So I promised him that I would bring him a complete Bible and that I wanted to start meeting with him 3 times a week (this high frequency of meeting was secondary to the fact that I met him 3-4 weeks before we were scheduled to leave for the States). Overjoyed, he accepted the offer. So I went and purchased a Bible for him and brought it to him 2 days later. When we arrived there were several of his family members with him, and we all sat in the bush, using the demons 'grave home' as a seat, and studied the Word of God for 3 hours.



Weekly Bible studies at Cereste's House



Malcolm standing with Sanon who is holding his new Haitian Creole Bible

Sanon was so excited to have a Bible, and he wanted to turn to every single passage of Scripture that I was using to study from. The presence of the Holy Spirit was powerful, and everyone present that day was engaged, listening intently and interacting. Following this meeting I began to bring Joy with me to study with him as I wanted her to witness what I was witnessing, as she knows well the power and notoriety of malefactors in Haiti, and this was a miracle! Joy sat next to him and highlighted every area of Scripture that we would study so that he could re-read it that night. Well, after 9 studies in 3 weeks we had a group of 20 people consistently coming to study, and we have had people in the community approach us and thank us for bringing God into this young man's life and bringing his evil practices to a halt. What greatly blesses my heart is that every time we pass Sanon's home on the way to another priest or priestess we see him sitting on his porch pouring over the Bible—he can't get enough of it! He now calls me 2-3 times a week, despite the fact that I am in the States, and he has told us that he wants to follow me around everywhere I go when we return! What a win for the gospel of Christ in which we had the honor of seeing Acts 26:17-18 materialize right in front of our eyes, **"..I now send you to them to open their eyes so they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that by faith in Me they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified."**

## A 'HEALER OF THE LEAF' RECEIVES HEALING

The last story I will tell you involves a mambo named Esther (mambo is Creole for vodou priestess). When Destine Mavoy and I first arrived at Esther's home there was no doubt that we were on a mambo's property. A big peristil (remember this is Creole for vodou temple), multiple drawings of demons everywhere, bottles and bags hung in the trees to feed the demons, a large 'iron' in the entrance (an iron designates allegiance to Lucifer—when one becomes a vodou priest/priestess they dismember a live animal and bury the body parts 4 feet underground and place the 'iron' in the ground over the corpse). When we met this woman she told us her name is Esther (yes, spelled the same way the book of the Bible is), and we sat and talked with her for about 3 hours. The interesting thing about this initial meeting was her reaction to us when we first met her. She acted surprised, and appeared almost happy. Upon inquiring about this, as we spoke with her, she relayed an amazing story to us. The day that we arrived to speak with her she was supposed to be in Jacmel (big city in the South of Haiti). The night before though, she had a dream in which a man came to her and told her that two men would be coming to her with a message that she had to hear, so she should stay home. She listened to that dream and that was the reasoning behind her reaction to our arrival.

In Haiti, I am seeing that God and Satan speak to many people through dreams and visions, and you would be hard pressed to find a Haitian that hasn't had an interaction with Christ, or demons, (the latter being much more frequent), through visions and dreams.



Joy standing with Madam Esther

Esther has progressively grown more convicted as she gains more Biblical knowledge that is revealing to her the level of offence that she is involved in toward God. Esther is tough to teach though because she really believes that what she is doing is good. **Esther is a healer.** In Haiti you see the deceptive nature of Satan as demons are healing people every day (and healing is good, right?). She also says before any ceremony that she performs she calls on God, who then sends the spirit down to heal people. So she believes that the demon coming down is a result of God's approval of her and what she is doing. So teaching her involves revealing who Jesus is. **John 14:6 says, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but through Me."** Additionally, **1 Timothy 2:5 states, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus.."** So I always tell her that without Jesus, the god you are calling on is none other than a demon who is deceiving you.

Teaching Esther really makes me study ways to make more difficult Biblical doctrines easy for her to understand. God is so good though, and over several months Esther has completely turned her life around. She doesn't perform ceremonies any more, and as a result she is struggling in all aspects of life (*"..all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" - 2 Timothy 3:12*). Also, since she is refusing ceremonies, the vodou community around her is persecuting her heavily as cursed objects and animals are being thrown onto her property. But through all of this she has told Joy and I that she is with us until the end and she is not going to turn back. I have helped her with food, water and some other necessities, but please pray for Esther. She is undergoing heavy persecution in an attempt to tempt her back into vodou—but to date she is remaining strong. The one thing that she really needs to do is destroy all of the demonic imagery and items that are on her property, as I believe that this is leaving a certain level of demonic legal authority around her.



A mission team from Indiana closes their Bible study with Madam Esther in prayer

As I end this long newsletter I want you all to know that every word that I write I take very seriously. My prayer is that through seeing the fruit that can occur through simple obedience you all will be inspired by the Holy Spirit to either go yourselves or get involved with missions through prayer and financial support. I'll end with 1 Peter 2:9, and I pray that this verse truly reveals to you how God sees us, and what He expects to see when He looks down on those of us who claim to be His sons and daughters. God bless you, and look for the newsletter next month which will be revealing to all of you. We love and thank you all for your ongoing prayers and support of CHARIS—God's ministry in Haiti!

***"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."***

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#### **Mission Statement**

CHARIS operates in complete obedience to God, giving Him His rightful place in determining the path and goals of His ministry that He has, by grace, allowed us to perform. Thus, CHARIS, primarily focuses on the unseen spiritual needs in Haiti, and secondarily on the seen physical needs, always remembering that our success is completely dependent on the will of God, the gospel of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working effectively through us, His willing servants.