

He (Jacob) had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the 'angels of God' were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham, and the God of Isaac. I will give to you & to your descendants this land on which you are lying. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I'll not leave you until I've done what I've promised you. Genesis 28:12-15



This is an interesting part in the Scriptures which tell us about Jacob's life, how it was made faithful. Yes, in the dream he had, first thing he understood was that there is a relation existing between him and God. The most unfortunate thing that can happen in our life on the earth is that we do not understand this heavenly relation. When Jacob cheated his brother Esau, he certainly would not have thought that one day he had to run for his life. Also, when he deceived his blessed father Isaac to receive his brother's blessing, he might not have felt that he would be sleeping one day in the wilderness. But there he had a dream, in which he really had received the wisdom of God and the resulting promised blessings; not only for him, his offspring's, and for the entire world.

In the vision, Jacob saw the angels were ascending and descending on a stairway to heaven from earth. The bible tells us that we are the Children of God and the worshipers of His love, grace, mercy and pity. St. Paul writes that God's angels from heaven are appointed as our helpers in our troubled life on the earth.

Do they really need a stairway to come down to earth for helping us?

No, certainly not. Then what does it mean to us? This ladder is connecting the earth and the heaven. That means, we have to get connected to Lord Jesus Christ who has been standing on the top of this stairway with the promised life (eternity in peace) to offer us. He sends his angles to serve us, so that we defeat the devil's works in our flesh

to glorify our lord. After our earthly stay we claim up on this stairway and ascend to the heaven as the truthful worshiper that is peaceful angels. The path is set and it is straight to heaven and we can not make a stopover some where for any other engagements. If we carry the worldly things, they will pull us down not to claim up on this stairway. Since we cannot see this stairway through our naked eyes, it is a faithful way. We may wonder why our spiritual life is not healthy and progressive some time. Certainly God has not forgotten us.

- ✚ He only forgets our past but not the future
- ✚ He only forgives our mistakes but not our enemies

So what's the problem?

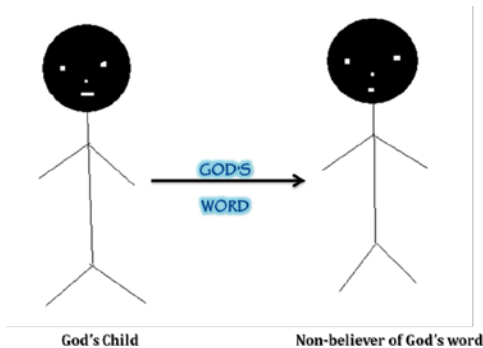
It is our lack of understanding of God's plan and negligence of God's promise, and disbelief on God's blessings, which cause serious troubles in our spiritual life.



Jacob was not all that spiritual but he had remembered God whenever he was in trouble. Do we have the same attitude? Jacob lived in a time, when the blood of Jesus was not shed to heal the sinners and give them authority to win over death (Satan); yes it was not awarded to mankind in Jesus name. But today, we are living in a graceful period, where in already Satan (**the liar**) has been defeated by our Lord Jesus Christ. And the victory is conquered over death by establishing God's Kingdom on the earth. God's Kingdom is a government established by our Heavenly Father with a King chosen. Who is the King of God's Kingdom? He is Jesus Christ. Jesus as King is greater than all human rulers and is called "the King of kings and Lord of lords," (1 Timothy 6:15). He has the power to do far more good than *any* human ruler, even the best among them. Those who believe Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God will become the Children of God by receiving the eternal life (eternity in light) in God's kingdom. Yes, some of us have come to this stage. But where do we fit in the God's Kingdom. God's ministry to the earth is to build God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom is inside every one of us (Luke 17:21).

How? The Spirit of God dwells inside our heart; thus He makes our life eternal because **God is eternal and He is Holy Spirit**. Then how can God expand His Kingdom; only through His "seed." The Scriptures say that "God's word" is that "seed." The seeded

God's word works in a believer's heart. Once faith is developed on the God's word, the Spirit of God makes it to grow. The Lord's word performs all the necessary blessings then on wards in the believer's life.



God's child is expected to communicate the God's word truthfully to a non-believer of God's word. Why? Remember, Adam & Eve believed God's word; so God blessed them to be spiritual. They had no physical problems. But when serpent (Satan) seeded the disbelief on God's word into the mind of Eve, she did not get confused but was

compelled to commit sin (disobedience). Why? She received the disbelief from Satan. Let us understand that disbelief will remove existing belief from our mind. Similarly belief will remove disbelief from our mind. How?

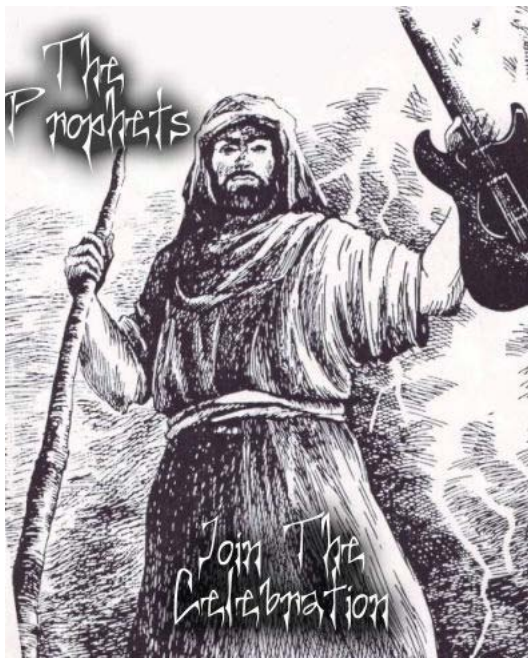
Satan trusted himself i.e. in his wise, intelligence potential, and believed that he could able to seed disbelief into the mind of Eve. Scriptures say that Eve was deceived but not Adam. The God Almighty trusted His arms, Word and Spirit and believed they could seed the belief into the mind of virgin Marry. Exactly it had happened. Marry told Gabriel: As God wanted, let it happen in my life. Eve was deceived by Satan, when she had received the word of disbelief from him. Marry was blessed with "God's seed - Jesus Christ," the Son of God, when she had received the word of belief from Gabriel. Now, Let us know: Where does virgin Marry fit in the God's ministry? Remember, her mission was completed, the moment God declared Jesus as "**Christ-the Messiah,**" meaning, "**Anointed One,**" the blessed Son of God, on the bank of Jordon after he was baptized by John, the Baptizer. That's why, Jesus told Marry in Cana: Women my time has not yet come. Virgin Marry had received the mission from God like Hannah, who had the assignment to bring Samuel, a judge to the Israelites as per God's plan. Then what happened? God blessed Hannah with more children of her own. Similarly virgin Marry had to bring the Messiah by faith and after that she was blessed with other children of her own.

We all must understand that God has a mission for every one of us.

- ✚ Believers
- ✚ Worship leaders
- ✚ Preachers
- ✚ Pastors (Shepherds)
- ✚ Evangelists
- ✚ Prophets

✚ Disciples (Lord selected 12 disciple)

St. Paul was the last disciple to be selected by God for the Gentiles. But the Scriptures say that the eleven disciples cast lots on Barsabbas alias Joseph and Matthias; the lot fell to Matthias and so he was added into eleven in place of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:23-26). If we carefully study, our Lord Jesus Christ had asked the eleven to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit, who would anoint them on Pentecostal day. Christ Jesus did not ask his disciples to fill up a vacant post. Indeed our Lord had selected 12 disciples to preach God's kingdom. As Jacob had considered the children of Joseph as his inheritance, Paul was added by Lord Jesus Christ as "the twelfth one," through whom, the Gentiles have received the inheritance in God's land. St. Paul lived up to the God's call and totally committed his life for Christ ministry.



Undeniably, once Paul had learnt that Jesus was Christ, the blessed messiah, immediately he started witnessing Christ love and his sufferings to humans. Also he wanted to join other apostles but they had refused to accept him. Paul had to climb up on the stairway to heaven; at one stage Peter witnessed the wisdom, Paul received from the Lord Jesus Christ. Peoples who want to serve in God's mission must follow St. Paul. He did not waste any time after learning the truth and worked very hard to reach different positions on the stairway. God had performed immense miracles through him. Today, we the believers do not understand this spiritual logic. God wants to employ us from believer status to prophet gradually. Let us consider Samuel. He served God first under Eli; learnt God's word; served the

temple by cleaning and maintaining its materials. God lifted him slowly to the level of prophet, seeing his faithful and truthful nature. If we see someone today as an evangelist, preaching the good news, we forget to see how he has come to that level on the stairway to heaven. The more we love God, the fast we move on the stairway and the distance between us and the Lord, who stands up on the top of the stairway then reduces. Indeed we can better understand our master, if we are nearer to Him.

Every believer of God's word gets this ladder; but many don't understand they have to climb up on it. This is due to the reason that they do not understand: Where can they fit in the God's ministry? If we do our worship and service, He will promote us to the next

level as worship leaders; because worship leader must know first how to conduct worship to the Holy one. If we do perform well as the worship leaders then God will take us to other places to preach the "good news" and share our worship experiences. From preacher, the next position is the Shepherd. Worship leader is placed just for a small prayer cell. But the Shepherd is the one, who train the flocks and responsible for the souls under his supervision.

If a sheep cries then the Shepherd must feel his sheep's pain.

A very emotional role the Shepherd got to do. From Shepherd, God will gradually lift up to evangelism. It is a greater role in the gospel of Jesus. The good news must be preached to the multitude. Prophets are anointed God's people, who are selected for God's specific mission. God can invite/select anyone according to His will. It is therefore, we got to know that God wants to use every believer of His word. And He would like to fulfill His promises in every one of our lives. Until then, He says: "I will not leave you or forsake you."

- ❖ **Role of a believer:** He/she must display belief on every God's word. Never display any disbelief.
- ❖ **Role of a worshiper or worship leader:** He/she is the witness to God's love and promises.
- ❖ **Role of a shepherd:** Live as a sacrifice like Christ Jesus and stay in Christ sufferings for others to receive Christ blessings.
- ❖ **Role of a preacher:** Bring the required faith on God's word in the mind of non-believers by preaching the good news.
- ❖ **Role of an Evangelist:** Target the nation/country/state/large gathering/public meeting/believers to establish God's ministry to support different congregations /denominations.
- ❖ **Role of a Prophet:** To work on a mission mode
For example:
 - * Building Churches/Training Missionaries
 - * Forecasting God's plans to Churches, Nations.
 - * Prophesies the God's word (Missionary)

God has got the flawless plan for the earth to expand His Kingdom to fulfill His promised blessings. He will certainly use His children in any one of the roles mentioned above; as well promote them from one level to the next according to their commitment for His plan.

Amen,
Praise the LORD.