

## Kneeling Down Part 4

We continue to speak about the topic of kneeling down to worship God and the style of life that God wants us to follow in our lives in accordance to the teaching of the Word of God:

**14- “4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;” (Exodus 20:4-5 KJV)**

This is the command of the Lord to His people when He brought them out of Egypt to bring them in and give to them the Promised Land. Repeatedly mentioned to them not to bow down and worship other gods. Repeatedly God is reminding us again and again to live away from sins and from the idols of this world; and we need not to conform to the pattern of this world but to renew our minds with God’s Word so we will know what is good and perfect the whole will of God. “2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2 KJV)

**“23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. 24 Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. 25 And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. 26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.” (Exodus 23:23-26 KJV)** God required them to serve Him and not to serve other gods so that his blessing will be upon their food and water and that He will take away sickness and miscarriages and barrenness from them. In the same way today we need to avoid idols worship and throw away sins and foreign gods from our lives so that His blessing will continue to flow to our food and drinks and will flow to our families and sickness, barrenness, miscarriages and curses will go away from us.

God told them that He will send His angel ahead of them to prepare the way and to cut the nations before them, **“23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.” (Exodus 23:23 KJV)** In the same way when we worship God and serve Him and bow down to Him only, God will go ahead of us, His angels will serve us and fight for us and His Holy Spirit to lead us, our enemies will be driven out from before us and God will make us settle and blessed with peace and abundant provision.

**“35 With whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them.” (2**

**Kings 17:35 KJV)** This can be applied in this way: The Lord here commanded them not to fear other gods, which means do not be afraid to oppose them: not to bow down to them which means not submit to their teachings and doctrines and follow their practices: not to serve them which means not to spend your time and life and your effort on them: and not to offer to them sacrifices which means not to spend on them your resources including finances, make parties for them, and make yourself bound in commitment with them.

What are the idols and the sins that we need to be reminded to avoid and to repent from are the following:

A. Lust and immorality; having boyfriend and girlfriend, dating, courting, watching pornography, live-in relationship, divorce and remarriage, adultery, multiple marriages and unlawful marriages in marrying non believers, and accepting a single father or a single mother to marry someone other than the mother or the father of his or her child or children.

B. Celebrating feasts of idols; celebrating New Year and Christmas with its Santa Claus, Christmas tree, celebrating birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and death anniversaries, celebrating Father’s Day and Mother’s Day, Halloween (Harvest), All Saints Day, Valentine’s Day, Pastor’s Month, and Farewell parties. All these celebrations should be out of our lives. And you can add more to the list, for almost every culture and ethnic group had added certain idols and days for celebration, without any Biblical reason, into the life of the church.

C. Pride, boasting and showing off.

D. Greed, covetousness, and love of money.

E. Wasting and spending too much.

F. Gluttony, eating too much, loving food more than God, buying food from restaurants, loving feasts and celebrations but refusing to fast.

G. Worldliness; wasting time on TV, You-Tube and facebook, etc.

H. Slander, malice, envy, jealousy, bitterness, having grudges, anger, hatred and unforgiveness, boasting, showing off, laziness, complacency and lack of commitment to God, and serving the worldly things but not willing to serve God.

I. Homosexualities, allowing a relationship between man to man, and woman to woman, condoning transgender and homosexual attitude and actions, and allowing homosexual marriages.

**“36 But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do**

sacrifice. 37 And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods. 38 And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods. 39 But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.” (2 Kings 17:36-39 KJV) With this you need to understand that you need to fear Jesus alone, worship Him and serve Him, offer your life, your body and your resources to Him only, and follow His Word and His doctrine and teaching only. Because He is the only one who had given you eternal life by giving you His life and taken your sins away from you, and had delivered you from your enemies, Satan, sin, sickness and death.

God gave the Israelites the Promised Land and fulfilled to them all His promises to them but the people of Israel failed to abide with the Lord’s commands, “33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. 34 Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel; 40 Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner. 41 So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.” (2 Kings 17:33-34, 40-41 KJV) They were half hearted, they follow God, but they kept their idols as we mentioned in the list above. Therefore the Lord thrust them out of His presence. Do not be half hearted, but follow God whole heartedly. When you do not listen to God and continue in your idols and in your life of sin, the Lord will thrust you away from His presence and you will find yourself falling into big troubles, bondages, sins and demons controlling you, in needs, and your life is miserable with sicknesses, bondages, financial troubles, enemies jumping on your heads and so on with a miserable life because you had moved away from God toward your idols: “6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7 For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, 8 And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.” (2Kings 17:6-8 KJV) God took them away from the Promised Land that He gave them and brought them captives, prisoners and exiles in foreign land. God will do the same to those who left God and will make them pass through wars, calamities, and bound them in miserable situations because they forgot God and forgot their commitment to Him and forgot what they received from Him and forgot what they had promised Him to do and their vows, their covenant with Him and their first love.

However at the same period that God judged the northern Kingdom, in the Kingdom of Judah there was more fear of the Lord. Hezekiah led the revival of God: “1 Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. 2 And he did

that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. 3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them. 4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street, 5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place. 6 For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned their backs. 7 Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel. 8 Wherefore the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes. 9 For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this. 10 Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us. 11 My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense. 12 Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites: and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehalelel: and of the Gershonites; Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah: 13 And of the sons of Elizaphan; Shimri, and Jeiel: and of the sons of Asaph; Zechariah, and Mattaniah: 14 And of the sons of Heman; Jehiel, and Shimei: and of the sons of Jeduthun; Shemaiah, and Uzziel. 15 And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD. 16 And the priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD, to cleanse it, and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it, to carry it out abroad into the brook Kidron. 17 Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD: so they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end. 18 Then they went in to Hezekiah the king, and said, We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, and the altar of burnt offering, with all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread table, with all the vessels thereof. 19 Moreover all the vessels, which king Ahaz in his reign did cast away in his transgression, have we prepared and sanctified, and, behold, they are before the altar of the LORD. 20 Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD. 21 And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, for a sin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer them on the altar of the LORD. 22 So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it on the altar: likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar: they killed also the lambs, and they sprinkled the blood upon the altar. 23 And they brought forth the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them: 24 And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the

altar, to make an atonement for all Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel. 25 And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. 26 And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. 27 And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. 28 And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. 29 And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped. 30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped. 31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings. 32 And the number of the burnt offerings, which the congregation brought, was threescore and ten bullocks, an hundred rams, and two hundred lambs: all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD. 33 And the consecrated things were six hundred oxen and three thousand sheep. 34 But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests. 35 And also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings, and the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order. 36 And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly.” (2 Chronicles 29:1-36 KJV) King Hezekiah achieved a series of events, he opened the temple, brought in the priests and the Levites, purified and consecrated the temple, and made a covenant with God, initiated the worship to God by offering sin offerings and burnt offerings and the worship ended up by bowing down to God, “28 And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. 29 And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped. 30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.” (2 Chronicles 29:28-30)

**My Dear and Beloved:** From the action of Hezekiah you will learn that you need to cleanse your life from idols, foreign gods and practices that contradict the Word of God, “**5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.**” (2 Chronicles 29:5) Throw away all the idols and the sins that we spoke about earlier. Resist

the temptations of the devil as Jesus did: “**8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.** ” (Matthew 4:8-10 KJV) Do not be tempted with the worldly pleasures and views that are around you with all their idols. All these are vanities and are perishing. Do not bow down to and worship them for they will take you to hell. Kick the devil out of your life and tell him, go away from me in the name of Jesus, I will serve and worship Jesus alone.

“**11 My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.**” (2 Chronicles 29:11) My spiritual sons and daughters, my brethren, the disciples of Jesus, do not be negligent, God chosen you, Therefore you need to consecrate your life to live for the Lord and to stand before the Lord, to serve Him, to serve others, to pray for others, to reach others, to help others, to snatch others from fire, to evangelize and make new disciples, then you are in worship and bowing down to Him at His feet in full submission to His will, and in full trust and adoration to Him.

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear Word to me, and thank you for the rebuke and the correction that I received from your Word.

Come now to the Lord and renounce all your sins, trespasses and the idols that you are still keeping and loving more than God. Cleanse yourself from all idols and defilement for you are the temple of God.

Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I am throwing now all the following idols \_\_\_\_\_.

Give me self control to continue to resist devil and its temptation. Lord receives me back I am coming back to you, cleansed with the blood of Jesus and in clear mind coming back to serve you, bowing down at your feet, listening and attentive to your commands and instructions. Lord I am willing to stand before you, minister and serve others in your name. Lord restore me back to your service and your ministry.

Lord I thank you for all my brethren who repented and came back to you. Lord refill them once again with the Holy Spirit and use them to stand for you and to pray and to reach others and serve them, and help them to know you, follow you and serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to reach your people especially those who had gone in their wrong ways and done their own, to help them and lead them into revival to come to you, to throw their idols and to start once again to serve you. Lord help us to reach new people, to evangelize and to make new disciples, Lord add to us workers and faithful

*servants of yours. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name Amen.*

Kneeling Down Part 4. Exodus 20:4-5. Romans 12:2. Exodus 23:23-26. 2 Kings 17:35-39, 33-34, 40-41, 6-8. 2 Chronicles 29:1-36. Matthew 4:8-10.

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