**TRUST AND OBEY – THERE IS NO OTHER WAY**

Having now lived on the Island for just over one year, I feel qualified to note the following issues: 1) The prince of the air over this entire area is the unclean spirit of unforgivenss. 2) Another prince of darkness over this area is the perverse spirit of hate, or lack of love – first for God, then for the saints, then for the sinners. 3) The third prince of the air is the unclean spirit of jealousy – where there is jealousy, and where there is jealousy there is every other kind of evil – envy, strife, backbiting, gossiping and false accusation. Open the door a crack and soon it will become a wicked and evil stronghold. It is time to break these strongholds of satan, so we as a congregation are joining together with the Men’s Group and there will be a week of fasting and prayer starting August 18 and going until August 24. It is time for the rubber to meet the road. We have been skidding around shiny side down – those days are coming to an end. Satanic domination is over. He has overplayed his hand, as usual, and is a loser man, as usual.

**Trust God – love people.** See notes. **Proverbs 3:4-7 ‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart (mind) and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes: Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It shall be health to your navel, and marrow to your bones.’ You will be -** Strong and vigorous; have bodily health; enjoy spiritual health; health is a form of prosperity. **‘Beloved, I wish above all things that you will prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers.’ 111John 1:2** Spiritual and physical health.

A lack of trust in God will lead to personal failures in life; a root of bitterness develops. Continuing to depend on our own minds and abilities will lead to frustration, anger, disillusionment, disappointment, bitterness and unforgiveness. This demonstrates a lack of God’s love – in the person and in demonstration to others. Not loving our brother and sister is in direct disobedience to the Word of God. God’s Word overflows with scriptures admonishing us to love others. The process: God loves us and demonstrated His great love through His Son, Jesus. Because of His love for us, we love Him. As this love grows we learn to love our brothers and sisters – the saints. Then we are in a position to love everyone around us – the sinners. Trust God, be obedient to Him and His Word and reap a wonderful harvest of blessings. Be disobedient and reap a crop of emptiness and problems. Your life – your choice – your destiny. Those who do not forgive have no part of heaven. **Matthew 6:14,15 ‘For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you forgive men not their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses**.’

Jesus teaching goes even deeper. **Matthew 5:43-45 ‘You have heard that it has been said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you. That you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven;’**

The best and greatest way to bring true forgiveness and love into your heart is to pray for the ‘problem’ individual or situation. Trust God and obey His Word – it will work for you in every situation; with every person. Unfortunately we try to use our reason and our ways to solve situations – and fail. Do it God’s way and succeed. My example of 2 months in Africa – false accusation, gossip etc. Paved the way of God to use us and continue on in meaningful ministry.

By the way, how does gossip end? With you refusing to speak of others without them present. Just as a fire goes out for lack of fuel, gossip dies and goes out for lack of words. **Proverbs 26:20,22 ‘Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and tensions disappear when gossip stops.’ ‘Gossip is a dainty morsel eaten with great relish.’**

**Be a wise man and build your house on the Rock, Christ Jesus. Matthew 7:16-27**