\*ARE YOU FORSAKEN OR HATED?\*

The bible says:

\*"Whereas thou has been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal Excellency, a joy of many generations".\* 🙏🏼Isaiah 60:15.

Being forsaken is not joy at all. It means being rejected or being ignored by your friends, family, colleagues or people around you.

Everyone of us must have experienced the feeling of being forsaken or hated while growing up.

Although, it is more of a psychological thing; affecting the mind of the victim: who knows when people are against him or her.

 \*However, there are times the haters come on you with threat and curses for doing what is good.\*

Without doubt, it is an unpleasant, shameful and fearful experience, but on the other hand; it's a testament that you possess something that others do not have.

The aim of this message is to \*encourage\* every one out there who is already feeling forsaken or hated, that there is light at the end of the tunnel; \*you are not alone.\*

You are being forsaken and hated because of your God given gifts and talents that others see as threat to their position or their being relevant in the scheme of affairs:

 \*Although, the brothers of Joseph envied him for his coat of many colours, but he was forsaken and hated more, particularly because of his dreams;\*

Gen 37:3-5.

It must have been tough for Joseph knowing his brothers hated him so much.

The Psalmist also knew how it feels to be hated and forsaken;

\*"For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me".\*

Psalm 69:9.

Similarly, doing the work of God is good but it comes with great challenges and obstacles, particularly when you do not compromise the word of God.

" \*You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved".\*

Matthew 10:22.

It is not unusual for a believer to be forsaken or hated by fellow Christians. It is a symptom of being envied.

People will be critical of you, if you are different from others or when you stand by the truth.

In fact, our Lord Jesus was not accepted either by His own people at Nazareth.

However, being forsaken and hated for doing the work of God are signs that you are out to please God and you are not a men pleaser; who enjoys flattery words for following the societal norm of doing the work of God.

The disciples were forsaken and hated by the Priests and Scribes because they did the work of God in the manner that was different from the prevailing practice at that time.

 \*Acts Chapter 3 4&5.\*

While I was meditating on Matthew 10 recently; the Holy Spirit elucidated the word of God to me again. He revealed more reasons why believers go through persecution.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

' \*But don't be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all".\*

Matthew 10:26.

The word of God is truth and the truth is not meant to be whispered; though the truth hurts, say it out nonetheless for all to hear. 📢

It does not matter if people like you, the approval of God is what matters most in everything that we do.

 \*Col 3:23&24.\*

The same set of people that shouted Hosanah to Jesus before, screamed; crucify Him some days after.

\*Mark 11:9 & Mark 15:13.\*

When David killed Goliath,the bible recorded that the women came out dancing and singing: Saul had slained his thousand and David his ten thousands

\*1 Samuel 18:7.\*

That incident made King Saul very angry and he obviously hated David from that moment:

 \*"So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David".\*

1 Samuel 18:9

Hatred usually stems from jealousy or insecure feeling.

Such was the situation with the Scribes and the High priests during the days of the disciples.

They began to feel uncomfortable the moment the disciples started to spread the Gospel of Christ.

 \*"Let us threaten them that they speak henceforth to no man in this name"\*

Acts 4:17.

The disciples did not allow the threat to deter them from exercising their divine mandate;

 \*"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard".\*

Acts 4:20.

\*I went for bible study lately and the preacher could not hide his displeasure about the low turnout of people in attendance; it just goes to show how the word of God has been relegated to the back burner.\*

As it was in the days of the Disciples so it is now.

 \*It is pathetic; to know that people can be threatened for doing the work of God.\*

However, it is a thing of joy; the disciples rejoiced about it;

 \*"The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus"\*

Acts 5:41.

A true child of God, should be concerned when there are glaring deviations in the manner the work of God is being done.

Elijah felt forsaken and hated:

 \*"I have been very zealous for the LORD God of Hosts, but the Israelites have abandoned Your covenant...".\*

1Kings 29:10

 \*Believers; I beseech you not to seek approval from men, it does not matter if you do not get support of other people, so far your views are enshrined in the word of God, it will get approval some day.\*

Despite all the hatred, the disciples said:

 \*"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”\*

Acts 6:4.

I admonish you with the words of David to his son: Solomon:

\*"Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God my God is with you, He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of God is finished".\*

1 Chron 28:20.

In conclusion, Jesus has assured us of His presence through it all;

 \*"Surely, I am with you always; even to the end of the world".\*

Matthew 28:20.

Perseverance is a necessary virtue you need to conquer and withstand being hated and forsaken.

Joseph persevered and he eventually fulfilled the purpose of which his brothers hated him.

\*Genesis 38\*

Continue your good work in the might of the Almighty God; enduring the trials of your faith, for it will not last forever.

Hear the good news from God:

\*PRAYER\* :

Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours in Jesus name. 🙏🏼

Isaiah 61:7.

Shalom.

\*JESUS Reigns\*

Signed, Bro Cole