

Psalm 116:12-14 GNT What can I offer the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will bring a wine offering to the Lord, to thank him for saving me. In the assembly of all his people I will give him what I have promised.

2019 is the end of another decade or the end of our teen years so to speak.

- When we get born-again we are infants in Christ
- As we grow and develop we go through our pre-teens then our teenage years.
- As a church the last 5 years have been the close of some exciting teenage years, now we significantly come to the end of these teen years, the end of a decade entering into our adolescent years of 2020

💎 When one speaks of 2020 we think of perfect eyesight referred to as 20/20 vision - the clarity with which one sees.

💎 2020 is the year of clear clarity and vision

💎 The number 20 on its own speaks of completion, perfection and clarity

- According to the Bible, the number 20 also refers to redemption/strong spiritual power/cycle of completeness/the perfect period of waiting - labour that is compared to a trial of suffering.
- Jacob waited 20 years for his wife and property to be released. Gen 24 29-60
- In Hebrews the number 20 is the word Kaph and the word kaph means an open palm or covering hand. Living life as believers, we should live generously with an open hand as we live and give, and a covering hand as we protect and help. This word signifies in Hebrew giving freely with the palm up or covering sin with the palm down.

This is the picture of the way in which Jesus loves us. How much has Jesus given to us and served us and loved us. This much....

Transforming us from darkness to light with him in eternity Colossians 1:19

Forgiving our sins and healing our diseases Psalm 103

Created us for good deeds Ephesians 2:10

With 7 thousand more promises

How do you thank a God who loves by giving as opposed to a god who rules by taking?

What could we possibly render to a God who loves so openly and so completely and compellingly?

The story of Jacob communicates this so clearly

Born inferior being different to Esau, being misguided by his mother becomes a usurper.

#THROWN INTO A WAY OF LIFE UNWILLINGLY

A story of a brother's inheritance stolen, a dad being conned, with a dissatisfied mom, Jacob was - GUIDED BY THE WRONG PEOPLE

Fleeing to his mother's brother Laban for refuge, he Falls in love with Rachel and is tricked on



his wedding night by consummating with Rachel's sister, for the benefit of keeping Jacob another seven years, his wages changed 10 times, carrying all the responsibility of a herdsman.

ACCEPTING HIS LOT AND DOING THE TIME

He sucks it up because he feels he deserves it but at the same time works hard at trying to become a better man.

Having fooled his dad Isaac, usurped his brothers birthright and blessing, inherited the identity of a usurper he works off his name, he works hard at rectifying this.

Retribution happens when Laban does to him over time what he had done to his brother. He...WORKS HARD AT GETTING OUT OF THE MESS.

GOD SEES THE LABOUR OF YOUR TRIALS - GOD APPEARS TO JACOB

When Jacob was leaving Laban God appeared to him in a dream, a messenger appears, Jacob wrestles with THE ANGEL until he received his birthright for which he struggles for and receives a new identity - God names Him Israel,

This is significant for us that we as a church were prophesied over exactly two years ago to be called Israel – God's House and the house of Bethel (Jacob is a picture of a man who struggled with His identity and who he is, he works hard for to receive what God always intended for him to have. THERE IS ALWAYS A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT FOR SALVATION finally he gets what he asks for (you have to want what God has for you! although he has freely given you us the gift of life, changing things in the natural or as we refer to it as the flesh and it's ways can be a tough discipline) God sees this struggle and gives us an IDENTITY in Him, He renames Jacob from usurper to the place where God lives - Israel. Israel is also known not only as a geographical location but spiritually as God's church where we find SALVATION. This happens when we come to Christ and we receive God's identity, not without the wrestling of the flesh and the Spirit. God changes his/our name to Israel.

From someone who TAKES to someone who now has RECEIVED and too can GIVE - the open hand OF GOD

REDEMPTION AND HARD WORK BRING PEACE

20 years of hard labour in the trials of life, but committed to an expected out come through a spiritual struggle. When he receives his birthright and is able to move forward with his life, he conquers his biggest fear of facing His brother from whom he TOOK every blessing from, he goes to meet his brother, GIVES him gifts to makes peace with Esau who FORGIVES him completely - a picture of God's grace as he escorts Jacob, his family and his livestock back to the land of his birth.

THE LABOUR OF OUR TRIAL - COMPLETION

A PROCESS OF 20 years before Jacob could go back to his land of birth. God's promise came to pass that He gave at the place of Bethel.



God always completes what He has started.

If we look back at what we have been through, when we have wrestled with God, when we have fought the best we can in our trials and labour of suffering, considering what we have almost lost, everything else in the process perhaps even been sold for a fool with the ones we love by the ones we have loved. We may think it was pointless. But in the Spirit we have gained. We have grown from one level of glory through God's perfection He has reflected His glory in us.

SO WHAT SHALL WE RENDER -

Jacob was in that process; what could he offer God, what was there of which he could render? All that he could offer God was himself completely, for the process to change him from being the usurper of his brother's birthright to someone who earned and was accepted. To be in a place where having wrestled with God for his identity, developing who he really is in the process. By rendering himself, he comes through a changed person.

💎 20 is a number of perfection and completion

God has seen the labour of yours and our trials over the years. It's been a hard and a demanding process on our lives but because of our perseverance to go please God, the one thing He is pleased with is our hearts rendered to love Him

What shall we render unto Jehovah this year?

There is nothing more we can offer Him that could possibly please Him more, than give Him all of ourselves our heart all that we are.

The word render means - to produce or display an image

In computer terms it can be one of the most demanding processes for a computer especially when it's done in real time. When one wants to convert a 2D file into a 3D HD file with a higher resolution or quality definition or finish.

We call it RENDERING

In building it is a process of applying a mixture to the external or sometimes internal walls to achieve smooth or textured surfaces.

Render has waterproof and fire qualities but is also used for aesthetic purposes.

Waterproof - the word that washes

Fire - the life force of God HIS BREATH THE FIRE

Surface - the finished or completed product of the Holy Spirit in you

So what is it that we should render to God for what He has done for us?

When we realize that in spite of everything we have gone through, from the time we received salvation when we only had a 2D resolution finish;

Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit we find ourselves having gone through a demanding hardware process of our lives, as we have rendered ourselves to the Holy Spirit in order to grow.

Now that we have gone through the process of being fully rendered we ask ourselves have we given enough to God. What is it that we can possibly give Him that would be pleasing in



His eyes?

All He wants is our hearts; all He wants is for us to truly want to give ourselves all to Him.

This year as we endeavor to decrease so that Christ can increase we render our whole selves to God

John 3:30 GNT He must become more important while I become less important.

NB! God says look after My house and I will look after yours

This year as we put the spiritual needs of God's house at the foremost of our minds and hearts by honouring Him with our fast in the beginning of the year, we are putting His needs first, in order to know what He wants for His church, our lives and the community.

We want to see more saved and more healed and more serving in the Kingdom, we don't want to be wasting any more time with carnal things, the harvest is ready, souls are starving out there, we NEED to get them saved.

This year will be one of clarity vision and perfection of the things of God in our lives in order to see His kingdom complete, the Groom is coming for His bride

John 3:28-30 GNT You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him. 'The bridegroom is the one to whom the bride belongs; but the bridegroom's friend, who stands by and listens, is glad when he hears the bridegroom's voice. This is how my own happiness is made complete. He must become more important while I become less important.

