



Message Date: 26/04/2026 Lighthouse Meeting Date: 28/04/2026	Message Title: God's Chosen Vessel Minister: Pastor Chuka Nwafor
Key Texts: John 16:8; Luke 7:30	Sub Text: Psalm 25:9; Acts 20:32; Isaiah 37:31; Philippians 2:5-11
<i>Please read the entire document and bible texts before you begin to discuss and answer the related questions. This will help you grasp the overall context of the message, however, remember the bible is not a discussion book but a decision book. God honours empowers your decisions not your discussions.</i> INTRODUCTION: In this study, we will explore the heart posture required to truly receive God and walk in His purpose. Scripture shows that God often speaks and works through vessels we may not expect or prefer, and many miss His purpose not because He is silent, but because offense, pride, or familiarity blocks their reception. We will examine how true spiritual maturity is revealed through humility, teachability, and a tender heart; not by age, experience, or position. The study will also address the danger of unaddressed offense, how it quietly grows, and how it can separate us from God's Word, His people, and our fruitfulness. As we open God's Word, we will learn to receive correction as grace, allow our roots to grow deep through surrender and humility, and embrace reconciliation as part of spiritual growth. This study calls us to guard our hearts, grow deep in God, and faithfully steward what He gives us, so our lives can bear lasting fruit for His glory.	
(1) KEY 1: God's Purpose Often Comes Through Unexpected Vessels Core Truth: God may use people we do not prefer, expect, or admire to bless and shape us. God often delivers His instruction and blessing through people we may not expect or naturally prefer. Scripture shows that familiarity, bias, or judging the vessel can cause believers to miss God's purpose. We are called to develop spiritual discernment and humility, learning to receive God's voice regardless of the packaging through which it comes. Scriptures: Luke 7:30; John 1:45-46; Matthew 13:55-57 Key Insight: - Rejecting the vessel can cause us to miss the purpose. - Familiarity, background, age, or past failures can become grounds for offense. - Even Jesus Himself was rejected because people thought they "knew" Him. Bible Study Question: What "packaging" has caused people in Scripture, and in our lives; to miss God?	
(2) KEY 2: Pride Is a Greater Threat Than Sin Core Truth: Grace covers sin, but pride blocks repentance. Pride is presented as a greater danger than failure, because it prevents repentance and blocks grace. While God provides forgiveness for sin, pride hardens the heart and resists correction. We are called to embrace humility as the gateway to growth, restoration, and continued alignment with God's purposes. Scriptures: Hebrews 6:4-6; James 4:6; Proverbs 16:18 Key Insight: - There is no sin that shocks God; atonement has already been made in Christ. - Pride and arrogance prevent humility, repentance, and teachability. - The Pharisees missed God not because of ignorance, but because of pride. Bible Study Question: How does pride subtly show up in spiritual maturity or leadership?	
(3) KEY 3: True Spiritual Maturity Is Marked by Receptivity Core Truth: True spiritual maturity is not measured by age, position, or length of faith, but by a growing ability to receive instruction. As believers mature, their hearts should become softer and more teachable. We are called to yield ourselves willingly to God, allowing humility and teachability to mark our growth. Scriptures: Proverbs 12:1; Psalms 25:9; Matthew 18:3-4 Key Insight: - Spiritual maturity produces a softer, more tender heart. - The more mature a believer is, the more teachable they become—even by "unlikely" sources. - Yieldedness is synonymous with growth. Bible Study Question: What makes receiving correction difficult, even when it is godly?	
(4) KEY 4: Offense Is Progressive and Destructive Core Truth: Unaddressed offense grows and eventually leads to separation and loss. Offense rarely appears suddenly; it develops quietly through disappointment, withdrawal, and resentment before leading to separation. Scripture warns that unresolved offense damages relationships and spiritual fruitfulness. We are called to guard our hearts, confront issues early, and choose peace rather than allowing offense to take root. Scriptures: John 6:60-66; Hebrews 12:15; Matthew 24:10 Progression of Offense: - Silent displeasure - Internal withdrawal - Legalism / hyper-spirituality - Withholding (time, service, generosity) - Departure (spiritual or physical) Key Insight: - Offense cannot remain hidden forever. - Withdrawal always precedes departure. - Offended people often become critical and legalistic. Bible Study Question: How can we detect offense early, before it matures?	
(5) KEY 5: God's Word Brings Both Conviction and Grace Core Truth: Conviction is not condemnation, it is grace in action. God's Word brings conviction as a form of grace meant to heal and transform, not to condemn. The response to conviction determines whether it produces repentance or resistance. We are called to receive God's Word with meekness, allowing discomfort to lead to growth rather than bitterness. Scriptures: John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 7:54-60 Key Insight: The Word may feel uncomfortable, but discomfort often precedes healing.	

- Conviction can lead to:
 - Repentance (Acts 2)
 - Rebellion (Acts 7)
- Response, not revelation, determines transformation.

Bible Study Question: How do we usually react when the Word exposes something in us?

(6) KEY 6: Tenderness Is Evidence of Growth

Core Truth: The longer we walk with God, the more tender, not harder, we should become. As believers walk with God, their hearts should become increasingly tender and sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Hardness of heart signals stagnation rather than strength. We are called to maintain a responsive and soft heart, despite disappointment, correction, or time.

Scriptures: Ezekiel 36:26; Psalm 95:7-8; Colossians 3:12-13

Key Insight:

- Hardness of heart indicates stagnation, not strength.
- Tenderness enables humility, forgiveness, and responsiveness to the Spirit.

Bible Study Question: In what areas is God calling us to soften our hearts?

(7) KEY 7: Roots Must Go Down Before Fruit Comes Up

Core Truth: Fruitfulness requires humility, death to self, and depth. Lasting fruitfulness requires roots that grow deep through humility, surrender, and obedience. Spiritual visibility should never precede spiritual depth. We are called to embrace dying to self so that our lives may produce enduring fruit that glorifies God.

Scriptures: Isaiah 37:3; John 12:24 Galatians 5:22–23

Key Insight:

- Deep roots precede visible fruit.
- “Dying” looks like humility, submission, and obedience.
- The fruit of the Spirit flows from a life rooted in surrender.

Bible Study Question: What does “going downward” look like practically in our walk with God?

(8) KEY 8: The Power of “I’m Sorry” and “Forgive Me”

Core Truth: Spiritual growth is revealed in reconciliation and humility. Healthy spiritual growth is reflected in the willingness to apologise, forgive, and pursue reconciliation. Saying “I’m sorry” and “forgive me” demonstrates humility, not weakness. We are called to prioritise relationships over pride and obedience over our emotions.

Scriptures: Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18; Philippians 2:5-8

Key Insight:

- Apology does not require feeling—it requires humility.
- Words can lead emotions; obedience often precedes feeling.
- Relationship matters more to God than personal vindication.

Bible Study Question: Why is apologising sometimes harder than being right?

CONCLUDING REMARKS: PROMISES OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

- 1) **Promise:** God will not withhold His purpose from you if you remain humble and receptive. “The meek He guides in justice, and the meek He teaches His way.” Psalm 25:9
- 2) **Promise:** God promises grace, lifting, and restoration to the humble. “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6
- 3) **Promise:** God promises to teach and build those who are willing to learn. “The wise will hear and increase learning.” Proverbs 1:5
- 4) **Promise:** God promises stability and peace to those who refuse offense. “Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.” Psalm 119:165
- 5) **Promise:** God promises life, freedom, and transformation through His Word. “The Word of God is living and powerful.” Hebrews 4:12
- 6) **Promise:** God promises a soft, responsive heart to those who stay close to Him. “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” Hebrews 3:15
- 7) **Promise:** God promises lasting fruit to those who grow deep in Him. “Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish.” Psalm 92:13
- 8) **Promise:** God promises blessing, restoration, and unity where humility is practiced. “Blessed are the peacemakers.” Matthew 5:9
- 9) **Promise:** God promises fruit, increase, and reward to faithful stewards. “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Matthew 25:21

PRAYERS: PRAYER POINTS OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1) Prayer to Receive God’s Vessels

- Father, give me a humble and discerning heart to recognise Your voice, regardless of the vessel You use.
- Remove every bias, familiarity, or judgment that hinders my ability to receive from You.

2) Prayer Against Pride and Arrogance

- Lord, uproot every form of pride and self-reliance in my heart.
- Teach me to welcome correction and depend fully on Your grace for growth.

3) Prayer for Spiritual Maturity and Teachability

- Father, let my growth in You be evident through a tender and teachable heart.
- Help me to learn willingly from every source You choose to use.

4) Prayer for Freedom from Offense

- Lord, guard my heart from bitterness, resentment, and silent withdrawal.
- Give me grace to address offense quickly and to walk in peace and love.

5) Prayer for Right Response to God’s Word

- Father, help me to receive Your Word with meekness and obedience.
- Let conviction lead me to repentance and transformation, not resistance.

6) Prayer for a Soft and Tender Heart

- Lord, keep my heart soft and sensitive to Your Spirit.
- Prevent my heart from hardening through hurt, disappointment, or delay.

7) Prayer for Deep Roots and Fruitfulness

- Father, help my roots grow deep in humility, surrender, and obedience.
- Let my life bear lasting fruit that glorifies You.

8) Prayer for Humility, Apology, and Reconciliation

- Lord, give me grace to value relationships above pride.
- Make me quick to apologise, forgive, and pursue peace.

9) Prayer for Faithful Stewardship of God's Word

- Father, help me to live out faithfully the truths You have taught me.
- Make me a good steward of Your Word, able to **bless and build others**.

What did you hear?

What point in this message was most impactful for you?

What do you think?

How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?

What will you do?

How will you put into practice what you have learned today?

Please note that the bible is not a discussion book but a decision book. God honours and empowers your decisions not your discussions. This is the most important part of tonight's meeting The Holy Spirit awaits your decisions.

From this day forth:

(1) I will....

(2) I can.....

(3) I must.....

General Prayer points:

- ✚ Prayer regarding Lessons learnt today
- ✚ Pray for special needs of LightHouse Care Group Members
- ✚ Pray for your Pastors, Leaders and Workers in God's vineyard
- ✚ Pray for increase and the ability to reach your neighbours and winning of new converts to Christ through the Lighthouse Fellowship

Seven things we must seek whenever we come to the presence of God - Lighthouse Meeting:

- (1) The knowledge of God, Jesus Christ & the Holy Spirit through the Word.
- (2) Is there any sin, transgression or iniquity (habit/attitude/ mind-set or behaviour) that needs to be repented of, confessed and forsaken?
- (3) Is there any promise to be claimed, any inheritance to be possessed?
- (4) Is there any instruction to be obeyed, direction to be received, and guidance to be followed?
- (5) Is there any example to be followed/emulated or any example to be weary of and discontinued?
- (6) Is there any battle against the enemy to be fought and won?
- (7) Is there any relationship that needs to be healed & restored, or any that needs to be terminated and separated from?

For further information please contact the admin office or visit (admin@rccg-iccuk.org / 07514 011221)