

April 26 UPS- Live in the Zone Lev. 26; Ps. 37: 23-29

God is the originator of UPS. He will Uphold us, He will Preserve us and He will Sustain us.

UPS has as part of their motto to “synchronize” the world commerce, that everyone everywhere would use UPS

May we as farmers synchronize, principles and practices with the word of God; because His word does not return void. We all, as farmers, are looking for a return. We all want a harvest on the seed we plant. Let's do it UPS style; lets synchronize our seed planting with the word of God, stop going with the world's idea on how to get a return. Can we start being value driven and not opinion driven? How can we have marriages and households that God blesses if we our thought patterns and decisions are not based on the Word? God spells success; f-a-i-t-h-f-u-l. If we want to be successful farmers we need to be faithful farmers; it's the call of God on our lives. In these last days we dare not cater to our itching ears. We need to be seeking pastors and teachers who speak to us only after God has spoken to them. There will be times of testing and trying when it seems that Jesus is sleeping, but we need to remember His word to us because His word does not come back empty. He is Master of the storm. **Luke 8:22-25**. We think God is in something only when everything goes well, and it's the devil when things go awry. But He allows trials to come in order to develop character.

Soldiers, athletes and farmers all undergo hardships, they are disciplined lifestyles, yet we want our Christianity to be comfortable, to fit into our schedules. Some of God's children are running around like spoiled little brats because they don't ride out the storm, they won't take his corrections. **Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:8**. What do we value as individuals? Our values as Living Way are clearly stated; Study of His word, worship, relationships and evangelizing. We encourage everyone to get connected to a CARE Group. To give up a couple hours of our time to a half dozen other people once a week; to invest in others. **Prov. 27:17**. Saints, you have wisdom that you need to share with the next generation so they too can gain the victory, for the glory of God. **Titus 2**. We can't look to the pastor to have all the answers; we are all ministers unto God.

True worship is giving up our will for the will of God. Commitment separates doers from dreamers. Some spend their lives dreaming but never walk into the reality of those dreams. Soldiers, athletes and farmers are all doers; they are committed. They have learned that to be in authority they need to come under authority. To believe otherwise is to be rebellious. Success by God's standards comes only with sacrifice and separation; separation from the world's way of doing business, and the willingness to personal sacrifice. Those are lifestyle changes that happen as we meet with God. As a born again Christian to make plans without involving God is to have an affair on Him. Are we committed to God? He will uphold us, preserve us and sustain us. Decisions are what makes or breaks us. Lev. 26:1-13 God says, “If you will...I will...” v.14 “But if you will not...brings drastic results. We need to slow down and learn to trust in the Lord, to delight ourselves in Him, to commit to Him, to be rest in Him and to wait for Him. **Ps. 37:3,4,5,7,34**. If we know Jesus as Saviour then He is Lord and we

need to obey Him for no other reason than He said so. We don't like to be insulted or offended. Let's realize that to continue to enjoy the benefits of God while rebelling against His word is insulting and offensive to Him. If we want to make right decisions and live in the zone- the victory zone, we need to: be committed, be focused, to stop looking for excuses when He calls us to a task, to remember the big picture-it's all about Him, to not settle for second best but go for all He has in store for us, to take God's directions seriously and honour Him with obedience, to be consistent, strengthen relationships, and most importantly to make right decisions and live in the zone that God has designed just for us we need to embrace change.

What right does God have to ask us to live our lives the way He does? Because He sacrificed everything for us. It's time for us as born again Christians to start being a voice to the world and not an echo of it. We have a message to live. When was the last time we sought to serve, to give, to sacrifice? Real sacrifice starts when it begins to hurt.