A MESSENGER.....

What is Christmas? Questions, questions, questions. Is that all we have? Always seeking answers (eating from the TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL). Surely, we shall not die if we eat the fruit of this tree, but our eyes shall be opened and we shall be as gods. So what is this tree, and what is its fruit? The tree is having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof. And the fruit is ever learning (eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil) and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The wages (earning) of sin is death, but thanks be to God for His GIFT is eternal (unchanging, unconditional, abundant and NOW LIFE). For God in His Sovereign plan, had already made the provision and begun the wheels in motion to UNFOLD His great PLAN OF THE AGES. For in the midst (center) of the garden (relationship) was also THE TREE OF LIFE. For, before the fall, man is in the relationship of delight with God, and after the fall, there is also a potential in man, to have a relationship of delight with God.

So if the tree of knowledge of good and evil represents and is, the ever searching quest of mankind to know, the tree of life is FAITH IN GOD and the fruit of this tree is to apprehend Godliness and God life. So whilst appropriating and eating from the tree of knowledge takes us further from faith in God and separates us from His consummating purpose, eating from the tree of life draws us closer to apprehending, laying hold of God like life. To make this point clear, we would share with you these examples from Holy script:

<u>Mark 11:22,23.</u> This narrative speaks of the time when Jesus cursed the fig tree. There are quiet a few spiritual lessons we can learn from this passage of scripture, which we shall not delve into at this time but would like to focus our attention to the commandment that Jesus gives, "have faith in God" (eating from the tree of life) and then He proceeds to say the most amazing thing. The consequence of eating from the tree of life (having faith in God) is laying hold of the power of God to say to the mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea and seeing it come to pass. Believing God to fulfill His purpose.

<u>Luke 1:38, 45</u>. Mary believed the word of the angel and believing (eating from the tree of life) was able to bring forth a performance of that word.

<u>Romans 4:18-21</u>. Abraham, who against hope believed in hope and staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith (ate from the tree of life), giving glory to God and being fully persuaded, he was also able to perform the word that came to him.

Dear friends, we truly hope that as we continue to speak the truth in love, God will urge and move your hearts and your minds and begin to give you grace to have the faith to receive from this reservoir of faith that is found in the person of Jesus Christ. And that this person is no more a figure in a narrative but is alive and dwells richly within you from whence He comes to judge the living and the dead (thoughts). Remember, the letter kills, it is the spirit that gives life. To be continued.....