

We all know that lying is wrong. But when we intentionally try to injure our neighbour, by spreading rumours, false reports, slander against his character and make it sound as though it is true, when it is not, to destroy his good name or his property, we have broken this commandment. This may also occur when others are accusing our neighbour of something he didn't do, and even though we know he is innocent, we remain silent. The term neighbour in this commandment is understood to be human being, whether he is considered a friend or enemy. Exodus 23:1 says *"Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness."* Not only should you not bear false testimony against anyone, neither should you help anyone who does. Meditate on the following scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to show you if you have broken the 9th commandment and repent.

Proverbs 14:5 *"A truthful witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies."* Proverbs 19:5, 9 *"A false witness will not go unpunished and he who pours out lies will not go free."* ⁹*"A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish."* Proverbs 21:28 *"A false witness will perish and whoever listens to him will be destroyed forever"* Proverbs 25:18 *"Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is the man who gives false testimony against his neighbour."* Malachi 3:5 *"So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers (false witnesses), against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice but do not fear me."* Says the LORD Almighty.'

Day #10 – "You shall not covet..."Exodus 20:17

Have you ever wanted something that someone else had; maybe a house, car, someone else's husband or wife, another's looks, talents or gifting? I'm not talking about one just like it, but the very thing that someone else has. Well, that is coveting and the breaking of the last of the ten commandments. Exodus 20:17 *"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."* This sin of coveting, often leads to the breaking one of the other commandments; like stealing, committing adultery or even murder. Meditate on the following verse and ask the Lord to reveal any covetousness in your heart, and then repent.

Deuteronomy 7:25 *The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God.* James 4:2,3 *You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.* Pray through the following scriptures for yourself, your family and your community. Psalm 119:36 *Turn my heart towards your statutes (word) and not towards selfish gain.* Proverbs 21:26 *All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.* Proverbs 28:16 *A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment, but he who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long life.* Make a commitment before the Lord to turn from coveting others' possessions. Ask Him to help you.

REPENTANCE GUIDE



10 DAYS OF REPENTANCE LEADING
UP TO THE NATIONAL DAY OF
REPENTANCE, AUGUST 26

¹² **"Yet even now" -it is a declaration of ADONAI - 'Turn to me with all you heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting.'**

¹³ **Rend you heart, not your garments, and turn to ADONAI, your God. For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abundant in mercy and relenting about the calamity due." Joel 2:12, 13 (TLV)**

Dear Praying friends,

We, the people of Papua New Guinea have both, a great need and a great opportunity ahead of us. Without a doubt, our greatest need is the intervention of the Most High. On the other hand we have a great opportunity through our repentance during this year's National Day of Repentance to make way for Him to intervene **"to hear from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land."** (2 Chronicles 7:14). Just as the High Priest would only go once in a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) and sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat for the cleansing of the sins of the nation of Israel for that year, this is our window of opportunity to go before the throne of grace for the forgiveness of our nation's sins.

This is the season to **'shuv or teshuvah'**, the Hebrew word to **"turn to Adonai"**, **"to return to Him"**, or **"to repent"** and it also means **"the answer"**. In this "month of mercy" it is true that **THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS AS A NATION, IS TO REPENT** and **"... return to the LORD for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love..."** Joel 2:13

This is the 14th year of National Repentance and our 49th year as an independent nation. Like the process of growth to maturity, our repentance must lead to change in individuals, communities and as a nation as a whole. As we look to our jubilee year, please be serious in your repentance, for it will lay the proper foundation for the next fifty years.

"Adonai bless you and keep you! Adonai make His face to shine on you, and be gracious to you! Adonai turn His face toward you and grant you shalom!" Numbers 6:24-26

Your friends at the National Community Transformation Network

All scriptures are either from the TLV (Tree of Life Version) or the ESV (English Standard Version)

WHY NATIONAL REPENTANCE?

Most of us recognise the fact that repentance is an important part of an individual entering the kingdom of God, but few recognise the importance of community wide and even nation wide repentance. There are definitely sins that we as individuals need to repent for; but in the same way, there are also community sins and national sins that need to be repented for.

The book of Jonah holds great hope for the cities and nations of the world. Though the prophet Jonah, is often remembered for his disobedience, the message that he preached was so effective, that it brought about a reformation of the heathen city of Nineveh. When Jonah brought the warning of judgment, the whole population of the city, humbled themselves with

cleansed. Yeshua took the 7th commandment to another level and said you are guilty of sexual immorality even if you only lust. Matthew 5:28 **"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."** Meditate on the following scriptures and repent..

1Corinthians 6:18 **Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.** Romans 13:13 **Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Thank God for His forgiveness through the sacrifice of Yeshua on the cross. Pray through the following scripture for your family, and your community.** Hebrews 13:4 **Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.** Psalm 51:10 **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.** Hebrews 10:22 **let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.** Ask the Father to purify your heart and expose even the wrong thoughts that lead to sexual immorality.

DAY #8 "You shall not steal" Exodus 20:15

Leviticus 19:11 "Do not steal. "Do not lie. "Do not deceive one another.

Have you ever taken anything that did not belong to you? No matter how small it might have been it is considered stealing. Whether it is money, another's ideas, maybe somebody's trust or even God's glory; it still stealing. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you if you are guilty in past or present of taking what does not belong to you; if so repent, make it right, then thank God for His forgiveness. Zechariah 5:3,4 **And he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished. The LORD Almighty declares, 'I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones.'" Romans 2:21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?**

Pray through the following scriptures for yourself, your family and your community. Ephesians 4:28 **He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.** Malachi 3:8 **"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. John 10:1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2Samuel 15:6 Absalom behaved in this way towards all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel. Ask God to allow you to see every form of stealing as He does and turn from it.**

Day #9 – "You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbour" Exodus 20:16

with a curse.” As a parent you may need to apologise to your children. As children, you may need to reconcile with your parents ask the Father to help you always honour your parents.

Day #6 “You shall not murder” Exodus 20:13

In *Matthew 5:21, 22*, Yeshua told the people that murder begins in the heart. *“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again anyone who says to his brother “Raca” (empty headed man) is answerable to the Sanhedrin But anyone who says you cursed fool! will be in danger of the fire of hell.”* Yeshua took the sixth commandment further by saying, in times past, judgment was reserved only for the one who murdered; but now God is not only punishing the outward act of murder but searches the hearts, minds and speech of men to judge them. If you have taken the life of another, repent before God and be ready to do whatever He requires. Maybe you haven’t actually been involved in murder, but your words and actions toward someone needs to be dealt with before God, so repent. Our words are powerful and can wound and even kill. Consider the words of 1John 3:15 *“Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.”* Please also be aware of the murder of unborn babies (abortion) that maybe taking place in your community and repent.

Exodus 21:14 *“But if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from my altar and put him to death.”* Genesis 9:5,6 *“And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man too. I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.”*⁶ *“whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. Romans 13:9,10 ‘The commandments, “Do not commit adultery “Do not murder.” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.’* 1John 4:20 *If anyone says “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.”*

Day #7 “You shall not commit adultery” Exodus 20:14 (fornication/adultery)

1Thessalonians. 4:3 It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

For some people, sexual immorality has to do with lust, pornography or sexual fantasies and is in the area of the mind. For others, sexual immorality is either a part of their past for which they may still carry some guilt, or they are presently in a sexual relationship that is out of God’s will. If your situation is any one of these, you must know that God wants to forgive you, cleanse and give you victory over this sin. Leviticus 18: 24, 25 says *“Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.”* Sexual immorality defiles the land and so much of our land needs to be

fasting, put on sackcloth as a sign of mourning, and repented. The king made this decree, *“7 Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.”*⁸ *But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.”*⁹ *Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”* The Bible then records these words, *“10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.”* Jonah 3:7-10 In other words, their repentance changed the course of history, and their city and nation were spared. If the course of a heathen nation, who didn’t know right from wrong, can be changed through humility and repentance; how much easier should it be for a nation with such a large Christian population like Papua New Guinea?

Which is why we need to repent as a nation more than ever. If we were a nation founded on any other religion, we would not be as guilty. But, even our constitution clearly declares that we are a Christian nation. However, out of all the nations in the pacific, we have the biggest problem with law and order, the highest number of HIV and AIDS cases, the worst corruption index, the most violent crimes, etc. We the people of Papua New Guinea have clearly blasphemed the name we bear and need to repent.

SEVEN MAIN REASONS FOR NATIONAL REPENTANCE:

1. GOD’S PURPOSES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future.” Jeremiah 29:11 The Most High has a dream for Papua New Guinea; a master plan. And when we fulfill His plan, it will lead us into our destiny as a nation. In order for the Nation of Papua New Guinea to fully move into God’s destiny in this generation, repentance is necessary to remove everything that holds us back from fulfilling His heart’s desire. Dealing with our past holds the key to moving into our future.

2. GOD’S PRESENCE

Sin is the only thing that stands in the way of the Presence of the Lord from descending on our nation and the Glory of the Lord covering the nation as the waters cover the sea. Repentance is required to remove all that is offensive in His sight so that we will make Him welcome in our midst. Acts 3:19 *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”*

3. GOD’S PROMISES

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 holds a great promise for the nation of Papua New Guinea. This promise is both of national forgiveness and of national healing. The requirements for this promise to be fulfilled, are that we must first, humble ourselves, pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. The healing of the land that has been promised will be seen in both

the healing of the physical land but also the healing of our society as a whole. For example our political system, economy, social structure and spiritual life will go through the healing process.

4. GOD'S PATTERN

God's pattern for national healing and even revival is laid down in Joel 2:12- 32. Firstly, the nation is called to repentance, from the leaders to the children, from the newly married to those who minister before the Lord. Secondly, as a result of repentance, God has pity on the people, the nation's enemies are dealt with and the land is restored to maximum fruitfulness. Every last thing that their enemies have taken from them is restored, even the time that has been lost. Lastly, comes an outpouring of God's spirit on the people of the nation and He restores communication with His people through prophecy, dreams and visions.

5. GOD'S DELIVERANCE

Zechariah 12:10 *"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child..."* As a result of the spirit of grace and supplication being poured out, and because of the revelation of Yeshua the one whom we have pierced; repentance will follow, each clan by itself. Because it is our sin that gives the powers of darkness legal ground in our lives, our families, our communities and our nation; national repentance will begin the process of national deliverance. According to Zechariah 13:1-2, *on the day of repentance, a fountain will be opened up and will cleanse the land from all her impurities. Furthermore, the Lord himself will remove the idols principalities/ruling spirits from the land, and they will be remembered no more.* (Zechariah 12:10-13:2.)

6. GOD'S STANDARD

God gave His Commandments as the standard to which all of society must live up to, in order to be a righteous nation. *"And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."* Deuteronomy 6:25 The very standard by which He will judge the people of the world, is His own Law. Transgression is the word that the Bible uses to describe the breaking of God's law. ⁴⁰ *Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin and so shall they not be a stumbling block to you.* ³² *For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!*" Ezekiel 18:30, 32 In the New Testament, the Apostle John writes *"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is law breaking/lawlessness."* But you know that He (Yeshua) appeared so that He might take away our sin/lawbreaking. And in Him is no sin/lawbreaking. 1 John 3:4, 5. Haven't we, the people of Papua New Guinea broken God's law? THEN WE NEED TO REPENT.

7. OUR COVENANT WITH THE GOD OF ISRAEL

Our late former Prime Minister signed a covenant with the God of Israel, making Him also the God of Papua New Guinea. Because we have not kept this covenant with its terms and conditions, and have continued to serve other gods as well as break his commands with every

foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant- ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be a house of prayer for all nations." Isaiah 58:13 *"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honourable, and if your honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."* The mouth of the LORD has spoken. Mark 2:27 *"Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."*

Day #5 "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land that the LORD your God has given you." Exodus 20:12

One of the biggest reason for the lives of this young generation being cut short through drugs, alcohol, suicide, cult movements, and ethnic clashes can be traced to the breaking of this commandment. Parents have been given the authority over their children by God, to do what is best for them, to provide and protect, to nurture and train them up in the way they should go. When children rebel against, speak against, dishonour or disrespect their parents, they are rebelling against God himself.

Your parents are not perfect and are not always loving and encouraging. You can either blame them for all their mistakes, or you can choose to forgive them and improve upon the opportunities they have given you. To honour means to hold in great respect for, have high regard for, look up to, think highly of, to value or cherish. It is God's desire for children to honour, respect and value their parents. This command is not just for children still in the home, but also for adult children who have left home and need to appreciate and value their elderly parents. Consider the following scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to show you if you need to repent for dishonouring your parents.

Exodus 21:15,17 *Anyone who attacks his father or his mother, must be put to death. "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.* Lev 19:3 *"Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.* Proverbs 1:8, 9 *"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.* Proverbs 15:5 *A fool spurns (refuses) his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence (wisdom)* " Proverbs 20:20 *"If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness."* Proverbs 23:22 *"Listen to your father, who gave you life and do not despise your mother when she is old."* Malachi 4:5, 6 *"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land*

Luke 6:42 *How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye,* Luke 6:46 *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"* Romans 2:23, 24 *You who brag about the law, do you dishonour God by breaking the law? As it is written; "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."* Isaiah 52:5 *And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD. "For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule mock, "declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. ⁶ Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that I who foretold it. Yes, it is I."* Ezekiel 36:22,23 *Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations to which you went. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name and separate it for its holy purpose from all that defiles it--My name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them--and the nations will know, understand, and realise that I am the Lord [the Sovereign Ruler, Who calls forth loyalty and obedient service], when I shall be set apart by you and My holiness vindicated in you before their eyes and yours. 1John 3:18 *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.**

The third commandment has huge implications for the nation of Papua New Guinea. The constitution declares that we are a Christian nation. When we look at the statistics, however, it gives a very different picture. Out of all the nations in the Pacific, we have the biggest problem with law and order, the highest number of HIV and AIDS cases, the worst corruption index, and the most violent crimes, etc. We say we are a Christian nation and yet we still hold onto many gods. We need to repent as a nation for bearing Christ's name in vain.

Day #4 "Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy" Exodus 20:8 "And God blessed (spoke good of) the seventh day, set it apart as His own, and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all His work which He had created and done." Genesis 2:3 (Amplified)

"Sabbath" in Hebrew means to "cease, desist, or rest but it also means to celebrate". There is no indication that God was tired and needed a rest, but after seeing all that He made was good, He ceased from His work and He celebrated. After celebrating creation, He set the day apart for Himself. He also wanted His people to honour Him by honouring the day that He set apart. Unfortunately, many of us violate the day by using the day for work or sports or for buying and selling or any other activity. In other words, we have set the day apart for our own use, like any other day and not in honour of the LORD our God. Meditate on the following scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to show you if and how you have violated the Sabbath.

Lev.23:3 *"There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD. Isaiah 56:2,6,7 "blessed is the man who does this, the man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, an keeps his hand from doing any evil. ⁶ And*

kind of sin, we as a nation are required to repent and make ourselves right with our God.

So you see, national repentance causes change to begin. It sets in motion God's forgiveness, His cleansing, His favour, His healing, an outpouring of His Spirit and eventually will lead us to accomplish His purposes, which in turn leads us into our full destiny.

IDENTIFICATIONAL REPENTANCE

Identificational Repentance is a fancy term for identifying with others and confessing their sins. There are four examples of this in the scriptures; they are found in Ezra 9, Nehemiah 1 & 9 and also in Daniel 9. In these passages these godly men began to confess their own sin and then also the sins of their fathers (ancestors), their kings, princes and prophets. Because each one was an Israelite, they had both the right and responsibility to confess the sins of the Israel as a nation. Because they were the sons of their father, they could confess the sins of their fathers. And because they were both men and leaders, they had the right and responsibility to confess the sins of the leaders of their nation.

Ezra 9:7 *From the days of our forefathers until now, our guilt has been great. Because of our sins, we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today. Nehemiah 1:6b I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. Nehemiah 9:33 In all that has happened to us, you have been just; you have acted faithfully, while we did wrong. ³⁴ Our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the warnings you gave them. Daniel 9:7 "Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame--the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.*

Those whom you identify with in your family, your community and your nation; you have a right and responsibility to not only pray for, but also to confess their sins. When you confess the sins of your community, mention those people that the Father brings to mind. This does not mean that those who are still alive do not have to come to repentance, but rather it opens a way for them to do so.

10 DAYS OF REPENTANCE

There are ten days between Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Years) and Yom Kipur (The Day of Atonement). For the Jewish people these are ten days of repentance leading up to Day of Atonement which serves as their national day of repentance. Our 10 days of repentance begin on August 16. This is a guide for individual and community repentance.

Day #1 – Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me"

Idolatry is the sin that God hates the most. In this verse, the preposition that is used in the Hebrew language for the word “before”, could also be translated as “beside or along side, above or beyond”.

1) Firstly, We are not to put any other god ahead of the One True God in our lives. In other words, we must not spend more time and energy and affection on any other thing than Him.

2) Not only that, but we must not hold on to any other gods while worshiping Him. In Matthew 6:24, Yeshua said we can not serve two masters. We can not serve both God and mammon (Money), or God and ancestral spirits, or God and power or fame or any other thing. Our relationship with God is exclusive, like marriage between one man and one woman.

3) Thirdly, we must not put any other god in a more important position or place of authority than God himself. In other words, God must be consulted about every decision, His will must be our deepest desire and our submission to His kingdom rule must be complete. His word must take the highest priority in our lives as it is not only instruction for life, but it contains His very heartbeat.

Read the following scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to show you any idolatry in your own life, your family or your community and repent. Jonah 2:8 *“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.* 2Kings 17:37 *You must always be careful to keep the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands he wrote for you. Do not worship other gods.* 2Kings 17:41 *Even while these people were worshiping the LORD, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.* Matthew 4:10 *Yeshua said to him “Away from me satan! For it is written, worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”* 1John 5:21 *“Little children, keep yourself from idols. Amen.* Joshua 24:14,15 *“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.”* ¹⁵ *But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”* Declare your dependence on God alone and that you will serve Him alone. Ask the Lord to help you put your trust in Him alone.

Day #2 “You shall not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything in heaven above, or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them” Exodus 20:4, 5a

When God created man, he placed within him, His own creative ability, which is seen today in architecture, art forms and all kinds of technology. This creative ability was not given to us, so that we could make objects of worship with our own hands. The only One who is worthy of our worship, is the original Creator, who spoke all things into being. Even the things we design with our minds, speak with our mouths or make with our hands, must glorify the Most High. Many times in Papua New Guinea our traditional art forms (for instance, carvings, dances and songs) are connected with the spirit world. It is time for us to evaluate whether or not these

things honor the Most High. The dictionary defines an idol as an icon, representation of a god, image, effigy, statue, figure, figurine, fetish, totem; graven image, false god, or golden calf.

You may think that it is only those who carve an image out of stone or wood that are guilty of idolatry. Throughout our life’s experience, we must also be careful not to set up images in our mind of God who is much less than the God of the Bible. For instance, if in our minds we set up an image of god, that is only loving and merciful, who is not Just, Righteous or Holy, the image we have made is not really the God of the Bible at all, and we have made an idol. Consider the following scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to show you any idol you may have set up and repent. He may also require you to burn anything in your possession that does not honor Him.

Isaiah 42:8 *“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.* Deut. 27:15 *“Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of the craftsman’s hands and sets it up in secret.”* Deuteronomy 4:23 *Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden.* Jeremiah 25:6, 7 *Do not follow other gods to serve and worship them; do not provoke me to anger with what your hands have made. Then I will not harm you.* ⁷ *“But you did not listen to me, declares the LORD, “and you have provoked me with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves.”*

Day #3 “You shall not misuse (bear) the name of the LORD your God. For the LORD your God will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.” Exodus 20:7

We tend to think that taking God’s name in vain, just has to do with using his name as a swear word, but that is only a part of what it means. We are not to blaspheme His name or use His name lightly, profanely or for our own profit. But it also means that when we bear His name, such as the name Christian, our attitudes, speech and behaviour must honour, exalt or reflect the One whose name we bear. To bear/take His name in vain is when our actions or behaviour don’t match up with the words we speak. God is not impressed by our outward appearance, in fact he hates a double standard. In Isaiah 29:13 The Lord says; *“These people come near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.*

Yeshua had nothing good to say about hypocrites (a pretender or play actor). Matthew 23:27 *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.”* In other words someone who is not living the truth but is pretending to be someone they are not. If you are in the church but don’t really know Yeshua, then you are merely acting. If people think you are righteous because of the things you say and do, but you are involved in sin, you are a hypocrite. If you live a double standard, you are breaking the 3rd commandment. Meditate on the following verses and ask the Holy Spirit to show you in what areas you living a double standard and are blaspheming His Holy name.