

## OPPORTUNITIES

23/1/24

*When God offers you an amazing opportunity but you don't know how to do it; make your mind up to step out in faith... then ask God how to do it! The word 'opportunity' was a term first used by sailors of wind driven ships and had a particular application. Its main usage came when the wind changed its direction and started to blow towards the harbour. This was the best time to head for safe and controlled mooring.*

*The root word for opportunity is the word opportune...  
Latin... opportunus 'favorable,' from the phrase  
... ob portum veniens 'coming toward a port,'*

*In reference to the wind, from ob 'to  
or toward' + portus "harbour".*

*Opportunity based skill sets...  
Awareness of weather patterns and their signs,  
Navigation experience,  
Good vision,  
A sense of timing... wisdom and boldness.*

*Sailors also had their own particular skill... they were much more aware of weather and small changes than we are today. The same is true of the church today, we see things that the world can't, thus we step forward in faith and offer our skills.*

*Firstly, they had to work together, not independently (fellowship: also, a nautical term meaning fellow travellers in the same ship. Between all of them, they filled the whole range of jobs needed to sail the ship and adjust for change or emergency in unison. **1JOH 1:3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. & **1COR 12:27** Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. Christians and sailors are alike... we have signed up for the journey knowing the risks of navigation and the dangers of the sea... but most importantly; we all know our destination. Unlike the sailors, we have a guaranteed destination we will reach.*

*The scriptures tell us that spiritual opportunities are planned by God and are not the result of accident or mistake. It is our wisdom and skill to learn from the Spirit and allow the differing gifts to raise our standards (a nautical term for a triangular flag... from Old French estandard, flag marking a rallying place, from Frankish \*standhard, probably originally meaning standing firmly, steadfast).*

*The following are three bible examples of opportunity.*

*A natural opportunity is offered. **LUK 22:3** Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. **4** And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. **5** And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. **6** And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude. Cold and calculated betrayal was offered... he used his skills and greedy heart for personal gain. He saw Jesus as a means of becoming rich. **JOH 12:5** Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? **6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. He left himself physically and spiritually shipwrecked... without remedy. He was only there for the money.*

*Encouraged to look for opportunities. **GAL 6:9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. **10** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Interestingly, the Greek word for spirit is also the Greek word for wind, 'pneuma'... spiritual winds are always favourable. There are little bits of string on sails called 'telltales'... these show the airflow over a sail and whether it is set efficiently or not.*

*God offers far better opportunities than the ones the world offers us. **HEB 11:13** These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. **14** For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. **15** And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. They set their course for a new port of eternal life. **16** But now they desire a better country (a better opportunity), that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. That should be the final port of call for all of us.*