



A compilation of
50

Daily Devotions

from

www.SavedByFaith.info

Volume -1

About www.SavedByFaith.info

www.SavedByFaith.info is a mailing list website, sending daily devotions since May 2007. The site has about 2000 subscribers worldwide (as on April 2008) since its one year of existence.

The daily mails are sent to those who have subscribed, to give a better understanding on the Word of God, which is lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path.

You can visit the site to access the previous mails or search for a specific topic among them in [**Archive**] and also read the testimonies of some of the subscribers in [**Responses**].

About this book

This volume has 50 selected mails from *SavedByFaith.info* specially printed on its first anniversary. This book is for those who do not have access to internet or email, to encourage and build them in the Word. Please read one every day, meditating on it through the day.

The prime purpose of this book is to help people to work towards their salvation through supply of daily Manna (*Spiritual food*).

You need to take the daily Manna (*in Hebrew means "What is it?"*) and like the Israelites did, ponder over it (*give it thought*), cook it (*see in which area it needs to be applied*) and eat it (*live it*).

Keep up the Good Job, with Him
The Redeemed of the Lord shall say so.
SEE but do not LOOK
Be Humble to be Exalted
You can not serve two masters.
The Fruit of the Mouth
The Word of God is PERFECT!
Invitation: My Father wants to invest in YOU.
Are you a slave of the flesh?
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Stumbling is Okay
Let Our Prayers be like Incense
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You shall trample the serpent
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Bitter Waters
The God 'Who Is'
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Call no man your father
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Overcome the fear of Death!
Meditate on it Day and Night to be Prosperous and Successful
Struggle between Good and Evil
JOY of the LORD!!!
Taste and See
Hope and Truth
It Budded, Blossomed and bore Fruit!
Hold Fast to the TRUTH
Alcohol, Wine and Strong drinks
Consider Your Ways
Peace, Be Still
Do not Loose your Blessings
Human nature
Do you reflect Christ?
Hear the Lord
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Jesus the Good Shepherd
Do not build bridges over the Red Sea
The Blood and the Cross - Part 1
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My CROSS is LIGHT!
To Be a Good Smith
Which is bigger a Gnat or a Camel?
Man to Man – Adam to Ishi

Get behind the Rock

Let Not the SUN Go Down on Your ANGER

Which category of believer do you belong?

Strong teaching, Spiritual milk and Solid Food

Reconciling with your brother or sister

Keep up the Good Job, with Him

'And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.' **Galatians 6:9** [AV]

The Bible in **Gal 6:9** says that we should not loose spirit or be without Spirit in our right doing. Paul really meant that we should do what is right according to God with the help of the Lord (Holy Spirit) Himself. For we as humans can not decide what is right and wrong. If we do things by ourselves it will be according to what the world has taught us. To do what is right according to God, it is only by Word of God and the gift of discernment which we receive from the Holy Spirit. Even doing what is right is only possible with His help. If we do what is right in our sight we will not reap any harvest.

Since only the Holy Spirit can guide us and strengthen us, we need to cling on to Him right to the end and He will help us sustain in our righteous journey.

[Prayer for the Day]

Lord God, we love You. We are so thankful that You are with us. You guide us in our every step and strengthen us as we walk with You. We trust that in Your time and in Your way we will reap a harvest of blessings. In Jesus' Name, Amen..

The Redeemed of the Lord shall say so.

Psalms 71:23 [AV] *My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.*

Psalms 32:11 [AV] *Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.*

The Word of God says the righteous are redeemed and they shout with joy.

We all know that we were born of sin and still sin many a times, then how can we be righteous?

Job 15:14 [AV] *What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?*

The word ‘righteous’ according to the Word of God means the one who is right according to God. God is perfect, but we can not be perfect. There was only one man on earth who was perfect and that was Jesus.

Being righteous means ‘pursuing the face and the path of the Lord’. That means your face and your direction of walk should be towards the Lord. It does not matter where you started from or on what stage you are, what matters is now, are you pursuing righteousness of God? If you are, then the Spirit of the Lord will reveal to you Jesus and you will be redeemed by His blood. Then the Spirit of the Lord will guide you on your further path and help you. Even if you slip or fall He will help you move ahead. What matters is, that you face in the direction of God and you long for Him with all your heart, your spirit, your understanding and your strength.

If you are redeemed open your mouth and confess ‘I am redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, I pursue the righteousness of God. The Lord is my guide and I am safe.’

Psalms 107:2 [AV] *Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;*

Isaiah 51:11 [AV] *Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion (fortified city); and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.*

Isaiah 62:12 [AV] *And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.*

Psalms 11:7 [AV] *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.*

If you pursue the righteousness of God, you may fall or face problems, but the Lord will help you and save you.

Psalms 34 [AV]

¹⁴ *Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*

¹⁵ *The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.*

- ¹⁶ *The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*
- ¹⁷ *The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*
- ¹⁸ *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*
- ¹⁹ *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

But the day you decide to turn your face away from God irrespective at what stage you are at, your problems will overtake you and will destroy you completely. So do not turn back but keep your face always towards the Lord and keep moving.

[Prayer for the Day]

Lord I am redeemed by the blood of Your Lamb. Jesus by His sacrifice as redeemed me. I pursue Your righteousness and dwell in Your fortified city. Nothing can destroy me, not even satan; for You have build a fence of protection around me and my dwelling. I thank you and pray that You keep in Thy path always. This I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

SEE but do not LOOK

Proverbs 23

²⁹ *Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?*

³⁰ *They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.*

³¹ *Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.*

³² *At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.*

³³ *Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.*

³⁴ *Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.*

³⁵*They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.*

Many a times we make our minds to follow God's Word and to keep away from all evil. Then slowly something pops up and suddenly we find we have fallen to sin and problems comes up. We repent and try to avoid it, but yet again after some time we fall back in it! (v.35).

In **Proverbs 23:31** the Word of God says "*Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.*" In some translations it is translated as "Look not thou upon the wine when it sparkles or when it moves", it is not of wine that we a cautioned of but the tempter working in different ways. It could be via the lust for the flesh, material or for food etc... We do not realize that temptation has been working on us in silent ways and we fall for it.

The Word of God cautions us about '*looking*' not '*seeing*'. We can not live in this world closing our eyes but when we know our weaknesses we should take caution. If we come across propagators of temptations like hoards of scantily dress women, girls dressed provocatively or an ad for latest electronic gadgets; seeing is okay, but looking is cautioned. Our Muslim brother believe once looking at women is okay but if you look twice you have sinned against her.

Looking is not seeing but observing, getting into small or great details. When we look our heart speaks to us and makes us crave for it (v.33). It may not be in the same area but when we have let our fort down an attack is easy for the enemy.

Even after falling we make our minds not to fall and yet again we fall. If we do not take caution when temptation is in its seed stage and crush it, we will find ourselves falling again and again.

[***Prayer for the Day***]

Lord Jesus, cover all my five senses with Your precious blood. Holy Spirit help me to control all the inputs that go into my being, so that my heart does not talk perverse things and I fall into sin. You are my guide, remind me, make me feel guilty the moment I am been tempted and lead me the way out by Your grace. This prayer I ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Be Humble to be Exalted**Matthew 23:10-12 [KJV]**

¹⁰*Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.*

¹¹*But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.*

¹²*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*

Like my mail the day before yesterday (You can not serve two masters) I would like you to understand that when you dig into the scripture in each word (Bible - word study) you will understand the true meaning of the scripture.

Before I get to the scripture I like to explain pride and humility (being humble) in simple terms.

Pride is being ahead of your self (thinking of your self, what you are not).

Humility is putting your self behind others not to remain there, but to push them ahead to you (lifting others).

Matthew 23 verses 10-12 tells us to resist from thinking ourselves as masters, for there is only master for us that is Christ. This does not mean that we devalue ourselves completely. For the Greek word used here for 'servant' is '**Diakonos**' if correctly translated to English would be 'attendant' – Strong 1249 (person's relation to his work /activity).

Understanding this word changes the depth of the scripture. It is like a relation of a doctor to his work. However big the doctor may be, when he does his work he does all that is necessary to get the job done. When we call Christ our master, we work for Him. And when we work for Him we need to do all that is necessary to get the job done.

That means if the Lord has blessed you greatly do not reject it, enjoy it. Wear your good suits, or best of clothes or drive in the best of the cars you can. But if the Lord tells you help a poor child on the street get off that 'expensive' car and in those very 'good' clothes get on to the street and help that child. If you need to sit on the street and feed

him, do so. Do not throw money from the window of your car and think you have done your job. Be humble in your work.

Most of us have the habit of getting someone else like a peon or a worker to get our work done and we feel satisfied that we have done our job as a good Christian. This we do for we think ourselves to be masters. Jesus warns us that if we do so, we will be humbled. So when you do the Lord's work, do not exalt yourself but humble your self in your work and you will be exalted.

[Prayer for the Day]

Lord Jesus, You were God in Heaven yet You came on earth as mere man. You humbled Yourself to the point of death to help us to receive our salvation so as to bring us to You. Help us lift others in our work in You, like You did. This I pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

You can not serve two masters.

Luke 16:13

¹³No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

When you look at this scripture it looks nice but when you go deeper in understanding you will realize the depth of it and it will change your life.

There are many words used by Jesus for 'servant' in His sayings. The Greek word used here is Oy-ket-ace – Strong 3610 which if correctly translated to English means – Domestic.

A domestic is a servant who resides in the house and serves the master of that house. A domestic can not reside in one house and serve the master of another.

If you reside in God's Kingdom you will not be able to serve satan, but if you reside in sin than you can not serve God. If you say we all are sinners, yes – we are not free from sin therefore even on the Day of Judgment the Lord Jesus will cover us with His cloth of righteousness for us to enter Heaven. But if we know that we are sinning in a particular area and continue to remain in it, we become domestics to the house of sin. Hate sin and get out of it, do not remain

in it, fight it. Be a member of God's Kingdom and serve the Lord make Him your master.

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Dear Father God, I want to serve You and dwell in Your house. You know I am weak and I fall many a times. Strengthen me and help me get out of sin for I hate it and want to overcome it. I want to be an over-comer and receive the promises I have in Christ Jesus. This I ask in His Name. Amen

The Fruit of the Mouth

Proverbs 18

²¹ *The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

There is lot of power in this scripture, but it should not be misunderstood as power in the tongue. Our lives are affected by what we speak, but it is not what we speak that affects our lives. Confused?

Let me explain (for I was thought by the Lord with great experience which I will never forget in my life and I pray you do not experience it).

We as believers in Christ when we live in the Word of God we receive long (healthy) life and prosperity.

Proverbs 3

¹ *My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
² for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you prosperity.*

But our tongue has the power to destroy that. It is not only what we speak but others speak to us. This does that mean that if anybody speak any nonsense to us it will affect us. The power to let it happen is also with us. Proverbs 18:21 says that '*the power of life and death*' is in the tongue, but the words used later is they '*will eats its fruit*'. Also Proverbs 13:2 says "*A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth..*"

Let's go a little deeper. When a flower gets pollinated it becomes a fruit. All flowers do not become good fruits, some can be poisonous.

What you or any person speaks is like flowers and your meditating on it is like pollinating it. If the flower (words) is good and you meditate on it you pollinate it and receive life. If the flower is bad and you pollinate it you will receive poisonous fruit and it will affect your life.
THE POWER TO POLLINATE IS WITH YOU.

If a person speaks anything that can harm you, just do not give value to the words. For as a child of God and person pursuing God's Word you have good life and prosperity (both spiritual and material) which no one can take away from us other than God and ourselves. If God has put His beloved Son through death for us to receive it, there is no way He will take it away. It is only we who can reject it by what we believe. For it is only by our belief in Christ that we receive all the goodness.

When any person speaks any words that can cause harm to you or to your household, please do not give importance to it. But if by any chance you have entertained those words please immediately cancel them in the Name of Jesus, claim complete protection over yourself and your household by the Blood of Jesus and nothing will happen to you or to your household. In fact the person who spoke those words will bear double portion of what was spoken and if you love that person ask them to cancel their own words.

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Lord I thank You for giving me the power to bless others with my tongue, let me not misuse it and harm them by the same tongue. I also thank You Lord for all the goodness You have made available to me, which no one can take that away from me. Help me from becoming an obstacle in receiving it by my unbelief. I cancel all the words of death and destruction which I have or others have spoken to me in the Name of Jesus and claim total protection over myself and my household by the Blood of Jesus Christ. This prayer I make in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen

The Word of God is PERFECT!

We all know that the Word of God is **Spiritually perfect.**

In **Science** is may seen odd but it has even defeated the scientist. For example human wisdom though that man came from ape, now as science is growing and through DNA research they are proving themselves that all human kind did not come from apes but from a common woman (Eve).

In **Medicine** man has now discovered stem cell technology and it is considered the greatest revolution in medical science. In the Bible even Paul knew about stem cell technology! Even today man does know where our life is, but the Bible has already answered us!

In **History**, the historians have confirmed every Word in the Bible as correct, and they take it as a reference to other events in history. Even one of the weird's event in the Bible of the world going reverse is recorded in other historical books, other than the Bible.

2 Kings 20:8-11

⁸ *Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the temple of the LORD on the third day from now?"*

⁹ *Isaiah answered, "This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?"*

¹⁰ *"It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "Rather, have it go back ten steps."*

¹¹ *Then the prophet Isaiah called upon the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.*

In **Geography**, man has confirmed that all land mass was one then latter split into continents.

Genesis 10:24-25

²⁴ *Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber.*

²⁵ *Two sons were born to Eber:*

One was named Peleg, because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.

This they found out after many, many years of digging different rock samples! They should have just read the Bible!

In **Information Technology** man is now doing research in using organic material instead of silica to make micro chips. In the Bible it is already written about their success in it!

In **Finance** man moved from Bata system, to coins, to promissory notes (money) now is using credit cards. The next, is already written in the Bible and man is thinking about it!

God's Word is also perfect in **Maths** therefore I say the Word of God is AWESOME.... wait until you read this.

Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

A: **Psalms 117**

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

A: **Psalms 119**

Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?

A: **Psalms 118**

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?

A: **Psalms 118:8**

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word! **Psalms 118:8** *"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."*

[**Prayer for the Day**]

Father God, You are perfect and everything about You is perfect. Your Word too is perfect. Father help me trust in Your perfect Word and not on my imperfect intelligence, to know Your Word better and to grow in Your Word. This I ask in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invitation: My Father wants to invest in YOU.

My Father has lots of resources, lots of powers, lots of prosperity and much more. He wants to give you the authority to use all these. He wants to invest in you, but to do that He wants to see some change in you. He knows at the current state you will not do too good, but if He finds change in you, then He will give you access to His authority.

Do you want my Father to invest in you?

The good part is, when He invests in you He even adopts you and makes you His child. You will become my brother. We have a big Brother Jesus by whom I could come to our Father. Listen to Him and change according to His instruction. He is right now busy in Heaven interceding for you, but He has not left us alone. Since you have received this invitation He has promised His Holy Spirit to guide you to become one of the family members and be like Him. He is perfect. The Holy Spirit is the secret of Jesus' success when Jesus was on earth visiting us. Our big brother Jesus on His visit did pay a heavy price so that we could receive His Holy Spirit; the Spirit which was on Him. That's why they even call Him 'Christ'. The authority was with Him and by Him, we can get it. The secret is His name 'Jesus'. As you change and become like Him the Holy Spirit will reveal you the secret to you and you will be able to invoke the authority which is in His Name and be successful like Him.

Come and Be Powerful, Be Resourceful, Lacking Nothing,
Overcoming this World.

This invitation may not last for long and has an expiry.
RSVP Jesus soon.

To contact Him do the following:-

Close your eyes and say 'Jesus, I want to receive the authority that is in your Name. I want to come closer to your Father; God. I want to become His son and your brother. I believe in You and all that You did for me. Baptize me with your Holy Spirit so that I become like You. I ask this prayer in Your Name.'

Are you a slave of the flesh?

Are you bounded in sexual desires like masturbation, a lust of the flesh and feeling bad about it?

Rejoice on your first victory. For you have got your heart to repentance, this is the stage one of the victory that you will have over your flight against lust.

Lust can be compared to a lizard. The lizard is one animal that has the ability to reproduce parts of its body (*the home lizard can reproduce its tail, the salamander lizard can even reproduce its other parts*). Try to keep away from TV or any source of propaganda of sex and still you fall into its bondage soon or later. To kill this lizard you need to smash its head.

To do this, use this procedure:

- 1) **Getting into position:** Get into your system that your body is the temple of God. If God dwells in your body, then you need to keep it sacred. God hates any one who harms His temple and will destroy the person who does, it includes you too. Fear Him when you get any temptation.

[*Scriptures to meditate*]

1 Corinthians 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.*

¹⁹*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

²⁰*you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

1 Corinthians 3

¹⁶*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?* ¹⁷*If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.*

- 2) **Tools required to do the job:** To smash the head you need a big pole with padding on one side. You need to hit the head not whacking it but hit it like you play billiard, it does the job fine and without too much efforts and destruction around. The stick is the promise (Word) of God. And the padding is the anointing of God.

[*Scriptures to meditate on*]

Romans 3

²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 2

¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

2 Corinthians 3

¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Luke 4

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me

- 3) **Cornering the lizard:** Lizards are fast and when threatened they come charging at you, so you need have him cornered. The cornering is done by the grace of God. The Bible holds a secret to receive God's grace, it comes from His mercy, and to receive mercy you need to pursue its partner which is Truth. Pursue the truth (Understanding of the Word) of God and you will receive His grace. Similarly to receive the peace of/from God you need to pursue His righteousness.

[Scriptures to meditate on]

Psalm 85

¹⁰Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

With a believing heart, take the Word of God, with His anointing operate under His grace. Do this and you will be set free from this lizard forever. For whom the Son set free is free indeed and you are no longer a slave of the flesh.

[Scriptures to meditate on]

John 8

³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Formula for Building Faith.

Romans 10:17 [KJV]

¹⁷So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This is a favorite scripture of many preachers and evangelist to build faith. They always recommend, keep hearing the Word of God again and again to build faith. Some go to the extent of asking you to read the Word of God loud so that your ears could hear and your faith builds.

As I grew in the Lord I could see that this formula had no strength in it. In the start it did help but I could see many, who were regulars at prayer services, at bible sharing, even ministering to others, but people of little faith. There were also others who literally lived in churches but were hard hearted. So I looked at the scripture minutely for scripture are true and do not fail. And I saw two things first a comma after the first hearing and second the words ‘hearing by the word’. So I asked to my self what does it mean ‘hearing by the word’? Then I investigated further by opening the Greek Interlinear and looked at the original Greek sentence and its word to word translation. Although I do not know Greek I noticed the script of the first hearing and the script of the second hearing they did not match perfectly. Now I asked the Lord what was the different? And the Lord gave me the understanding.

To make it simple to you: In English we have two words ‘to hear’ and ‘to listen’ which mean similar but yet are different.

The Oxford Dictionary defines: -

Hear: **1** perceive (a sound) with the ear. **2** be told or informed of.

Listen: **1** give one’s attention to a sound. **2** make an effort to hear something.

The difference between ‘hearing’ and ‘listening’ is ‘the effort’. If a person just hears he will never understand but if he listens, he may understand. The scripture ‘hearing by the word’ means; when the understanding comes.

Understanding comes, when wisdom works on knowledge. When we read or hear the Word of God it is just knowledge for us. As for wisdom there are two types; one that comes from experience and other from God (wisdom of God).

Experience comes with practice, so when we apply the Word of God in our lives we experience it and we understand it and our faith builds. Just do not hear the Word again and again for it will not help, put efforts to it, apply it, follow it and experience it, and let your faith build.

Since there are two wisdoms, there are two faiths: the faith that we build and the faith which comes from God. The faith which comes from God is given to us for the moment to get a job done, it does not remain for long. But the faith which we build remains in us and we can grow it. Grow your faith from a mustard seed to a tree that shelters others.

[*Prayer for today*]

Lord, help me as I make efforts to live Your Word in my life, so that I can grow in faith. For only by faith can I live in You and You in me. If I stumble You are there to help me, You are there to help me grow in faith. Do not let the fear of this world keep me from following Your Word, protect me at all times. I ask this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

[*Reference Scriptures*]

Romans 10:16-17 [NIV]

¹⁶But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" ¹⁷Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. ¹⁸But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did:

"Their voice has gone out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world." ¹⁹Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says,

"I will make you envious by those who are not a nation;

I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding."

²⁰And Isaiah boldly says,

*"I was found by those who did not seek me;
I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me." ²¹ But
concerning Israel he says,
"All day long I have held out my hands
to a disobedient and obstinate people."*

Matthew 13:31-32

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Stumbling is Okay

Genesis 17

¹ And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

After Abraham went through his wilderness experience of about 25 years, the Lord spoke to him and said *"I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect"*. The Lord asked Abraham to walk before Him so that the Lord could hold him up if he fell and teach him to be perfect.

In the Bible the Lord has always assured us of help if we stumble. We can stumble only when we walk, standing in one place and falling is not called 'stumbling' but 'collapsing'. There is no scripture in the Bible where God has assured us help when we collapse.

Psalms 116

*⁷ Be at rest once more, O my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.
⁸ For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
⁹ that I may walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.*

We all have the fear of falling but worst is not moving in the fear. Also help is not assured if we walk in any direction but towards only

one direction, that is towards the Righteousness of God. We have help already via the Book of Instructions (Bible – The Word of God).

Proverbs 3

- ²¹ *My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment,
do not let them out of your sight;*
²² *they will be life for you,
an ornament to grace your neck.*
²³ *Then you will go on your way in safety,
and your foot will not stumble;*
²⁴ *when you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*

Proverbs 3

- ¹⁰ *Listen, my son, accept what I say,
and the years of your life will be many.*
¹¹ *I guide you in the way of wisdom
and lead you along straight paths.*
¹² *When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;
when you run, you will not stumble.*
¹³ *Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;
guard it well, for it is your life.*
¹⁴ *Do not set foot on the path of the wicked
or walk in the way of evil men.*
¹⁵ *Avoid it, do not travel on it;
turn from it and go on your way.*

Making mistakes is okay, for there is no human in the Bible except for Jesus who did not make mistakes. Do not stand in one place out of fear of falling, also do not fall standing in one place and expect help from God, for help will not come if you collapse. Keep on walking.

Let Our Prayers be like Incense

Psalm 141:2

*May my prayer be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.*

The Psalmist compares prayer to incense and lifting up of hands to evening sacrifice.

To get a better understanding of prayer we need to understand incense. Incense has two properties one is visual (smoke) and the other non-visual (aroma). The first is optional but the second isn't.

In the old days and even today incense is offered to God. As the incense burns it releases a sweet aroma along with smoke, this is very pleasing to whoever smells it. If the incense has no aroma but just only smoke then it does not please any person, but on the contrary it will offend the person. This is the same with our prayers. The audio part of our prayers is like the smoke and the feeling or emotions that go with it, are like the aroma. If we just speak words without meaning them in our prayers, then you are not offering incense but just smoke to God. As smoke again and again with offend any person so also it offends God. Even if we do not speak words, let our heart speak sweet aroma to the Lord. Let us lift up our hands as a sacrifice of praise; a late sacrifice for we did not lift our hearts to the Lord from the start.

Our own prayers can do wonderful things to our prayer life other than repeating a said prayer. In the start we all need it therefore Jesus gave us the prayer 'Our Father', but when He gave it He said '*This, then, is how you should pray*' not 'what you should say'. He gave us a format of how we should pray not just a prayer to be by-hearted. A one 'Our Father' can be more powerful than ten 'Our Father's'; if we do not mean what we say and nor do it.

Prayers written by others may have been good for them, but it is not necessary it will be good for us too. Our hearts are not the same nor are our conditions. How then can our prayers be same? Even if our aromas may be different but make sure it is there and is sweet. God does not need physical burning of incense but the incense that are offered in prayer.

[Reference Scriptures]

Matthew 6:5-15 [NIV]

⁵*"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.*

⁶*But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to*

your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹"This, then, is how you should pray:

" 'Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

¹⁰your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread.

¹²Forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.' ¹⁴For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Fasting – Nailing, Building and Receiving.

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. (Matthew 17:19-21 KJV)

Fasting and praying is like a blast of fuel to the fire (faith) that builds and strengthens it. Fasting and praying does not drive away evil spirits but drives away doubt. It loosens the hold of the flesh on your being, therefore loosens the hold of evil spirits on you.

Fasting does not mean going on hunger strikes. Just depriving your body of food is not called fasting. Fasting is more spiritual than physical. To learn the true way of fasting, learn to build tents.

*"Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,*

*do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.” Isaiah 54:2 [NIV]*

This scripture gives a perfect procedure of fasting.

To build a large tent the first thing you need to do is put strong poles (as many as possible) firmly into the ground. Strong poles are like pillars and these pillars are available in the Bible, they are the Promises of God. In **Genesis chapter 28** when Jacob had a vision, connected to the Heavens, he made a pillar and anointed it. He was not worshiping any pillar but he had worshiping God for the promise that God gave him through his vision. The promise was that God was going to open the heavens which were once shut for mankind, for him and his descendants.

Take two or more of these pillars / poles from the Bible to build your fast around. Taking them in different areas of your life will make your tent larger. After firmly placing these poles (believing from your heart) spread the tent curtains on it, which are your prayers, praise and thanksgiving through out the fast period. Prayer does not mean residing any text or scripture with your mouth, but saying it from your heart, your mouth can be just a confirmation of the words of your heart. But if your heart is not saying it, your mouth movements do not count. You do not need to lock yourself in a room. Do your routine work while doing all this in you heart (mind).

At the end of the tent curtains have long cords, the longer the better. The cords represent ‘hope’ or ‘expectation’. Fasting without great expectation is no fast at all. Tie these cords to pegs which are nailed into the earth. A large tent does not stand firm by one or two pegs but requires many. Just sacrificing food (which is the quickest way of nailing your flesh) does not do the job, fasting requires sacrifice in other areas too, areas that can bring your flesh (carnal nature) into control. Like self sacrifice, service to others; like bringing them to God (sharing God’s Word, testimonies, praying for others etc... not just social service), setting yourself as a good example of a child of God, ministering the sick, helping the poor (not just by giving alms) etc...

A peg can have many cords tied to it but it would be foolish to have many pegs tied by one cord. Make large tents that can hold more and

more of spiritual receiving. Do this process regularly so as to keep bring your flesh (carnal nature) into control (for it tendency of popping its head up often). Try it weekly then things would be better for you. Do not build tents by your own capacity; build large tents with the help of God's grace. Before you start your fast pray for God's grace.

If you keep fasting in a standard procedure (in the same areas of your life), you will get used to it and land up doing it by your own efforts. Such fasting should be stopped. Fast only with God's grace, in areas you are weak and without God's help you can not do it.

Doing a fast in secret, as much as possible is very important. So as to not receive only in the flesh (which is temporary) but in spirit (which is permanent). What you receive in spirit is not only for you, it even benefits your generations.

[Reference Scriptures]

Matthew 17:14-21 [KJV]

¹⁴And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,

¹⁵Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

¹⁶And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

¹⁷Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

¹⁹Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

²⁰And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

²¹Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Genesis 28:10-13,18 [KJV]

¹⁰And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

¹¹And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

¹²And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

¹³And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

¹⁸And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

Isaiah 54:2-3 [NIV]

² "Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

³ For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
your descendants will dispossess nations
and settle in their desolate cities.

You shall trample the serpent.

"You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life." **Genesis 3:14 [NIV]**

When God cursed the serpent that he will crawl on his belly and eat dust all the days of his life, were serpents before that not crawling? Did God make the serpents before that to hop around or fly in the air?

The serpents before that used to crawl and even now do the same. God cursed not serpents but a specific serpent named Satan. It is not that Satan is a serpent but his character or nature is that of a serpent, very deceiving. When a serpent travels from one place to another he does not travel straight but in a zigzag direction. He is full of venom and wants to discharge it into those he hates. Even today serpents live in dust but they do not eat dust.

This serpent is also referred to as the dragon.

Revelation 12 [KJV]

⁷*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

⁸*And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

⁹*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

The curse that God put on him was that he (and his whole lot) will be bounded of their powers and will have to live on earth all their life.

Revelation 12 [KJV]

¹*And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

²*And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

God has bounded Satan till the last days from using his powers. Today we who live in faith are given authority over him and his powers. We too can rebuke Satan and bind his powers like God did from working over us and our family members and all areas of our lives. For it is written, the one who seek the righteousness and truth of God will trample down the serpent.

Psalm 91 [KJV]

¹³*Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.*

Those who live in Christ can rebuke him and cast his forces to hell (abyss) as Jesus did. Jesus has assured us of this power.

Mark 16 [NIV]

¹⁷*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, do not be afraid of Satan and his works for he has no powers over you. God has bound him from doing so only if you believe in God's Word and live by it.

Confession (*say this and act on it to claim it*)

I am a child of God and I live by the Word of God and Satan has no powers over me. I rebuke Satan and his works and bind him from working in my life and all areas of my life. I claim the protection of God and His Angels, for I pursue the righteousness and the truth of God.

I am the True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." **John 15:1**

Jesus said that He is the true vine and we need to be like Him. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit"* **John 15:5**. The vine was Jesus referring to, was the grape vine.

In the Bible including the Old Testament grapes are referred to in many places. In the Books of Moses they were etched on the drapes used in the Tabernacle, on dresses of the Priest and many other places. Was it because God loves grapes? No. Not the fruit but the nature of the fruit. To understand this you need to understand how good grapes are grown.

Grapes are a watery fruit but are best grown in places where the climate is extreme and lacks water. You will find the sweetest grapes coming from these regions. People knowing to grow grapes will never put extra water to the plant so as to get good sweet fruit; else you land up getting watery but not so sweet grapes.

The plant being a vine does stand by its self and is supported from above. The farmer makes a frame and hangs the vine by the frame. As the plant grows, he takes the branches and by a string pulls and ties it in all directions. He does not pull it too hard so as to break it but does this so as to enable the vine to grow in all directions.

Grapes represent self sacrifice.

Only when you become like a vine grown by Jesus' Father (Holy Spirit) who is a perfect farmer, will you be like Jesus.

So like Jesus, depend totally on the Holy Spirit standing only by His grace. Not asking for prosperity of this world but living by the needs necessary. Stretching out to do the Lord's work, not by your strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit. By doing this we will be as sweet

as Jesus said in **John 15:8** “that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples”.

[Prayer for today]

Lord Jesus, help me to surrender myself, my wants and my needs unto You. Help me die to my flesh and live by Your Spirit, that I may bear fruit as You did. Lord I do not ask for prosperity, my desires or this world but to be like Jesus. Take me by Your hands, prune, mold me and make me like Jesus. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Bitter Waters

“Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.” Exodus 15:25 [NIV]

Although I am in the Lord since some a few years, baptized by the Holy Spirit, I still was going through trouble in some areas of my life. So I asked the Lord what do I do to set my self free? And the Lord gave me these scriptures.

Exodus 15 22-27 [NIV]

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.)

²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. ²⁶ He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

I had previously read this scripture and used to wonder what type of wood did Moses throw in the bitter water to make it sweet? Was it the acacia of which the Ark of Covenant was made? Or cedar used by the Israelites in their sacrifices?

But, now as I was meditating, the Lord showed me the wood like He showed Moses the wood. This log of wood was not a particular type but a particular log. We too need to put this log in bitter water to make it sweet.

Do we have bitter waters? Yes. Our lives are the bitter water when sin is in it. It is of no worth to God or to any one else including ourselves. We, ourselves do not enjoy it.

What do we do to make it sweet?

Put the log like Moses did into the water to make our life sweet.

What log?

The log of wood which we refer to as the Cross. That is the log which we need to immerse into our life to make it sweet.

God did not tell Moses to just dip it into the water. For example if you are having sweet lime water. You have put lime in water and it is bitter, so you put sugar in it and drink it. Not unless you stir it will the lime water become sweet. So is the case with our lives.

If we want our lives to become sweet, do not just dip the Cross (sacrifice of Jesus) in it or float it on the top for others to see. We need to immerse it down deep and stir with it in every area of our lives.

As you know wood float on the top when dry and less when it is wet, it is the same is here. It will not be easy in the start to pull down this log to the lower areas of our lives. But as we keep stirring the log becomes wetter and easier. We too become a part of the Cross dieing with Christ and resurrecting with Him.

Sweeten your bitter waters everyday by stirring your life with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. And like the Israelites came to Elim a

place of twelve springs and seventy palm trees, so will we come to our Elim, which is the Kingdom of God.

[Prayer for today]

Lord, I thank You for open my eyes to see this bitter waters. I also thank You for make available this log to make my life sweet. Lord help me stir my bitter waters with Your sacrifice on the cross. Give me the strength to apply it to every area of my life turning it inside out, so as to receive the sweetness You bring to it. I thank you Lord Jesus. Amen

The God 'Who Is'.

Revelation 1:8 - *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Take a moment and meditate on the nature of God. Notice that "who is" comes before "was" and "is to come." God's name in Exodus 3 is "Yahweh," the sacred name that derives from the Hebrew verb for "to be." God simply IS. He told Moses to say that the "I Am" sent him. He is the root and cause of all other beings - but He himself had no beginning and will know no end. He is eternal, unlike you and me who live a period.

When Jesus said that "before Abraham was, I AM," the Jewish religious leaders were greatly upset, and rightly so if Jesus was just a man. They accused him of blasphemy, making himself to be God and debasing the sacred name. For those who know Jesus is God Incarnate, it is not blasphemy but an appropriate use of the "family name." Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is before all things and after all things.

This truth is, and can not be denied even by Satan and his evil bunch. This scripture along with Revelation 5:13 are the greatest deliverance scriptures. Nothing can and will stand before this truth. Speak this truth to everything that puts it head before the Lord and it will not exist.

[Prayer for the Day]

Father, we have little sense of Eternity but we know You are the uncreated Creator; the one without beginning or end; the infinite and Eternal One. Reveal your glory to us and increase our faith in You; the Almighty God. Amen.

[Reference Scripture]

Revelation 5:13

¹³ *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

[Scriptures for Deliverance Revelation 1:8 with 5:13]

My Lord is the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. Every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, will bow their knee and say 'Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sit upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever'.

The Great Exchange

"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" - II Corinthians 5:21 NIV.

If you've accepted Jesus as Lord and Master of your life, you are the righteousness of God! That means you are an extension of His virtue. You are approved by Him. You are in right-standing with Him. Jesus not only paid the punishment for your sins, the Bible says He actually became sin. He took it upon Himself so that you could take God's righteousness upon yourself and His blessings into your being. It's the great exchange. Don't let sin hold you back any longer. Don't let the enemy lie to you and make you feel guilty and condemned. **First John 1:9** says that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If there is anything in your life that is holding you back today, confess it to God. Let Him cleanse you and make you new. Remember, He paid a precious price so that you could be His righteousness. Let that sink into your heart today. As you meditate on the truth that you are

righteous, you'll begin to change how you think and act. You'll reflect more of God's character, and you will move forward into the life of victory that He has in store!

Do this great exchange in every area of your life and see how curses are broken, diseases are healed, problems are sorted, broken hearts are repaired, minds are renewed, and great wonders will take place in every area you apply to.

Print the sinner's prayer and stick it where your eyesight often falls – on your desk, on the kitchen wall, on the toilet door, next to your bed etc... so to remind you to apply the great exchange as new areas are made known to you.

[**Sinner's Prayer** – take every single area that needs healing to mind and confess this prayer]

Heavenly Father, I am a sinner and unworthy of You. But because You loved me You sent your only Son Jesus to save me. I thank You for cleansing me and making me new by the Blood of His sacrifice. He humbled Himself for me, He suffered and died on the cross for my sins. Jesus I thank You for making me Your righteousness by washing me of all my sins, for healing me and making me whole. Show me if there is anything in my heart that is displeasing to You, that I may open that area to receive your healing touch. Lord Jesus I choose to honor You with my whole being all the days of my life. By your Spirit lead me and mold me to walk in your footstep and to be like You. I ask this in your mighty Name. Amen....

Have a Jesus Filled Day Today and Every Day of your Life! God Bless!

[**Reference Scripture**]

1 John 1:5-10

⁵ *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

- ⁷ *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
- ⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
- ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- ¹⁰ *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*
-

Call no man your father

Matthew 23:9 “And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.”

Today being celebrated as Family Day is also the right day to understand our relation as a family. The Bible gives a lot of importance to relation between the family. In **Matthew 15:4-6** it is again affirmed from the Book of Moses **Exodus chp. 20:12, 21:15 & 21:17** that God gave great importance to relationship between the children and parents. In short a person who does not respect or love their parents (of this world) whom they can see then how will they love their Heavenly Father whom they can not see? If they say so they are liars.

But there are a few scriptures like **Matthew 23:9** and **Matthew 19:29** which may seem to contradicting the relationship of a family. If the real meaning is understood then one will understand no two scriptures in the Bible contradict each other. The word used for father in **Matthew 23:9** is also used for ‘provider’ and secondly the word man is not part of the scripture but has been added (words written in italics in KJV are added to make it readable). What Jesus meant is no one should call any person (including his or her parents) as a provider. God the Father is the sole provider and people are just the means or vessels through whom God provides. Even as a father I do not provide for my family it is God is my source and makes the provision. Parents should not take pride in being providers. If you claim to be working hard to make ends meet it is only because of the lack of knowledge of God’s Word you do so.

Again in **Matthew 19:29** the Lord tells us that more importance is to be given to our relation with God then between us and our parents. If

we love our parents more than we love God then we can not be true disciples. It does not mean that you need to physically leave your family; it means to keep your family second to God.

Let us today make our real family with the head being God and the parents representing Him; through whom the children are provided their physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

[Prayer for the Day]

Lord I thank You for being the head of my family. Help us be the role model You have set before us in your Word. Guide us and take charge of all affairs in my family, mend all relation between all members that our love grows in You as a Church. I ask this in your precious Name, Amen.

[Reference Scriptures]

Matthew 15:4-6

- ⁴ For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.
- ⁵ But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;
- ⁶ And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Matthew 19:28-29

- ²⁸ And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- ²⁹ And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Exodus 20:12

- ¹² Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Exodus 21:15,17

¹⁵ *And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.*

¹⁷ *And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.*

There is Power 'IN' the Name of JESUS

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches."

Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. - Acts 19:13-17

If you reflect on the scripture you will understand that it was not the first time that these Jews were trying exorcism in the Name of Jesus. They did not know Jesus personally but they knew Paul and saw that Paul could manifest the power by the Name of Jesus. They may have been successful before, but that one day it was not their day. Although they spoke the Name of Jesus the evil spirit questioned their authority.

There is lots of power in the Name of Jesus so much so that every being (excluding God) in Heavens, on the Earth, under the Earth (graves) and in the Sea (hell) bow in the Name of Jesus. The Name of Jesus is lifted above all names (excluding God's). We can tap in this power only if we know Jesus. The authority is given to those who are of Him. For example if a person comes to you to extort money in the name of a very big gangster you may be scared of the gangster and pay up. But if that person does not look like a gang member or someone who would remotely know him, you will question that person. Similarly we can take the authority in the Name of Jesus only if we have His character. To tap into the power of the Name of Jesus, first be like Him or else one day it might not be your day.

[Prayer for the Day]

Lord Jesus, You have given me authority over the enemy and over all things that could go against me. This authority I can evoke in your Name. Lord Jesus, help me to be like You so that I can exercise this authority. Let your Name be magnified in me. I ask this in your precious Name. Amen.

[*Reference Scripture*]

Revelation 5:13

¹³ *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

Philippians 2:10

¹⁰ *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*

Overcome the fear of Death!

And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. - Romans 6: 8-10

Because of Christ's death and resurrection, His followers need never fear death. That assurance frees us to enjoy fellowship with Him and do His will. This will affect all our activities--work, worship, play, Bible Study, quiet times, and times of caring for others. As the truth gets into you that you have received eternal life through Christ Jesus and physical death is just an instance in your life, you don't fear death and you will experience a new vigor in life. That does not mean you wait for death, no, you should want to do more of God's will here on earth than any other thing and death has to wait till your job has been done. Christ has truly set us free!!

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Heavenly Father, we are so grateful that we have You! May we live life in Your will and using the gifts You've imparted to us to bless others. May we grow the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us that marks us as disciples of Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Meditate on it Day and Night to be Prosperous and Successful

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. -- Joshua 1:8

We need to be reminded, just like Joshua and the Israelites, that God gave us his Law to be a blessing to his people. The Law was given to help Israel live the will of God in their daily lives. If they would live God's way, he promised they would be blessed. In addition, God is the Creator. He knows the best way for humans to live in harmony with the principles of his universe. His Law was not intended to hinder or interfere with the happiness and experience of his people. Instead, it was to help them prosper and find success in life. As Paul repeatedly reminds us in Galatians, we are no longer under Law. But, as we live by the Spirit, the character that is produced reflects the character of Jesus, the one who fulfilled the Law and brings us the blessings God has intended all along. Bottom line: Following God's will and living his character is a blessing to us!

[Prayer for the Day]

Loving Father, thank You for speaking your will in human words so I can better know how to live for You. I know obeying your will blesses me and those around me. Empower me with your Spirit so that your character and grace will be fully realized in my life and my example. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

Struggle between Good and Evil

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. - Romans 7:21

It is a thin and rather smooth coin of common knowledge that the human race has lost its symmetry and tends to be lopsided in almost everything it is and does. Religious philosophers have recognized this

asymmetry and have sought to correct it by preaching in one form or another, the doctrine of the "golden mean." Confucius taught the "middle way"; Buddha would have his followers avoid both asceticism and bodily ease; Aristotle believed that the virtuous life is the one perfectly balanced between excess and defect. Christianity, being in full accord with all the facts of existence, takes into account this moral imbalance in human life, and the remedy it offers is not a new philosophy but a new life. The ideal to which the Christian aspires is not to walk in the perfect way but to be transformed by the renewing of his mind and conformed to the likeness of Christ. The regenerate man often has a more difficult time of it than the unregenerate, for he is not one man but two. He feels within him a power that tends toward holiness and God, while at the same time he is still a child of Adam's flesh and a son of the red clay. This moral dualism is to him a source of distress and struggle wholly unknown to the once-born man. Of course the classic critique upon this is Paul's testimony in the seventh chapter of his Roman epistle.

God has given the Holy Spirit to believers not just to be our moral compass but our spiritual power. Submitting to the Spirit's control in daily life enables us to overcome the evil nature and live consistent with the new.

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Lord, I try to fight evil but I always fail, I know by my strength I will not succeed. But In Your strength, O Holy Spirit, I dare to battle foes within and foes without. Only in Your strength. Always be with me, strengthening me and guiding me. This I ask in Jesus' Name. Amen

Note: Brothers or Sisters who are not baptized in the Holy Spirit can take the divine exchange (sinner's) prayer sent on the 29th Dec 2007 (if you do not have it in your mail log on to the website and find it in the Archive) confess it many times till it gets written in your hearts and then ask the Lord for His promised Spirit (the Helper) by confessing Luke 4:18 "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for God Himself has anointed me*". Then watch the anointing come upon you and the re-birth of your life, you will not be the same.

JOY of the LORD!!!

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." - John 15:11

True 'joy' is not being 'happy' as to the standards of this world. Happiness does not last but true joy can not be taken away. The secret of this joy is given in Red Letters (the sayings of Jesus), in all the places where Jesus mentioned the word 'JOY' He used the Greek word '**chara**' (*khar-ah`- strong 5479*) this word joy is more concentrated on the cause then the feeling.

The secret is that we should rejoice and have that joy not because of our situation but because of the Lord. Our focus should be on the Lord and should not get diverted, the only way we can loose this joy is when our focus gets diverted to this world or our situations. This true joy, real joy, comes with having a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In Him we can deal with anything that may be thrown at us without sinking into depths of despair and hopelessness. Even in our darkest moments, we are able to hang on and not despair due to the joy of the Lord in our hearts.

This joy is contagious between believers and very annoying to Satan, his gang and people of this world. They will try anything to steal this joy from you. Their idea is to get your focus away from the Lord. So let us laugh out loud, let us not be afraid to smile at a stranger. Our spirit, our merriment cannot be destroyed no matter what adversity we may endure. Not because we are strong but because our Lord is perfect, He is, was and is to come. He will never change and He is the source of our joy.

Let nothing steal this truth from you.

[Prayer for the Day]

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the real joy that you give. The joy, we receive through Jesus Christ. Let that peace and joy reign over our lives, for You are always with us. Let this joy spread to all the people near us, specially our family members. Thank You, Dear Lord. Thank You, Dear Jesus. Amen.

[Reference Scriptures]

Matthew 25:19-21

- ¹⁹ *After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*
- ²⁰ *And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.*
- ²¹ *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*
- ²² *He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.*
- ²³ *His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

Luke 2:10-11

- ¹⁰ *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*
- ¹¹ *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

Matthew 13:19-20

- ¹⁹ *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*
- ²⁰ *But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;*

Matthew 13:44

- ⁴⁴ *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

Taste and See

O taste and see that the LORD is good – Psalm 34:8

In life we have the attitude of first checking out and assuring ourselves before we accept or receive. If we go to shop we will first see the product well, we will even try it out before we buy it. We have tuned ourselves that way because we know that we can not blindly trust man or man made products. When it comes to God the same approach does not work. When we try the same approach with God we become the losers. **Psalm 34:8** does not say ‘O see and taste that the Lord is good’ to receive the Lord and His blessings we first need to taste Him and then only will we see He is good. To taste we need to take in our hands open our mouths and eat or swallow. That means make the efforts to take God’s Word (believing it will do the job even if we have not seen it happen) confess with our mouths and believe in our hearts, only then will we see the glory of God in us.

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Father God, forgive me for many times You wanted to bless me abundantly yet because of my lack of faith I did not receive it. Hence forth Lord I make my mind that I will not doubt your Word. Your Word says I am healed by your sacrifice of The Lamb, I believe it and I will see it manifest soon. I thank You in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

[*Reference Scriptures*]

Psalm 34:8 [AV]

⁸ *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

1Peter 2:24 [AV]

²⁴ *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

Hope and Truth

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; -- Hebrews 6:19

The journey from Egypt to the promise land was of a few days but because the Israelites could not fight the thoughts that came to their minds, that journey took about 40 years. This gives a true example of how important it is to fight our thoughts. Thoughts come from the input that is received knowingly or unknowingly into our minds. Thought are good if they help us grow or bad if they are out to destroy

us. What is their purpose and where are they leading us to, is what should be given importance. For hope itself is a thought that keeps us anchored to receive our salvation in Christ.

Thus to be steadfast in spirit we need to keep the thought of hope of our salvation always active and alive in our minds.

Bad thought are like waves of the sea which try to un-anchor us from our salvation. When we get the truth of the Word of God in us we become aerodynamic and these waves have less effect on us. The more the truth gets into us the more aerodynamic we become and lesser the effect of the waves. Thus less the chances of us loosing our salvation are almost eliminated. Therefore it is said when we know the truth the truth shall make us free (**John 8:32**). That does not mean problems or temptations will not come, but that they will have little or no effect on us. It is the truth and the hope that keeps our ship anchored and floating.

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Lord it is this hope that You have put into me by your victory over sin and death that I can live eternally. Lord by your Spirit reveal the truth in us that I may be able face the current of temptation and destruction that comes to get me. I ask this prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.

[*Reference Scripture*]

Hebrews 6:17-20 [AV]

¹⁷ *Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

¹⁸ *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

¹⁹ *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

²⁰ *Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

John 8:32 [AV]

³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

It Budded, Blossomed and bore Fruit!

And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. - Numbers 17:8

The rod of Aaron was a staff, a dead wood that had budded again to life and bore flowers and fruit. We, before being born again are like the dead wood destined to be burned in hell. But when the Lord selects us, and we are born again, we are called to be Priest at His service. We become like Aaron's staff budding back to life and bearing flowers and fruit for God's glory. It was only after this that fear came into the Israelites for speaking against God (**Num 17:12-13**). When we are born again, baptized by the Holy Spirit, murmuring against God or distrusting Him should bring about the same fear that came upon the Israelites. Grieving the Spirit of the Lord (not letting Him work in our lives) or not giving Him true reverence (worshiping Him) should bring the fear of death in us. For it is only by the Spirit of the Lord that we are born again. This rod of Aaron was kept in the Ark of Covenant as one of the three Testimonies of the Lord (**Hebrew 9:3-4**). Similarly being born again should be kept as a testimony in our hearts in the most precious place the Throne of our hearts.

[Prayer for the Day]

Dear Lord, I thank You for giving me new life. I have received your Holy Spirit, let me be born again like the rod of Aaron; budding, blossoming and bearing fruit. All this Lord for your glory, that I may not grieve your Spirit by not letting Him work in me. I ask this prayer in Jesus Name. Amen.

[Reference Scripture]

Numbers 17:1-8 [KJV-AV]

¹ *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

² *Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod.*

³ *And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers.*

- ⁴ *And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you.*
- ⁵ *And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.*
- ⁶ *And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.*
- ⁷ *And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.*
- ⁸ *And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.*
- ⁹ *And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod.*
- ¹⁰ *And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.*
- ¹¹ *And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he.*
- ¹² *And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish.*
- ¹³ *Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the tabernacle of the LORD shall die: shall we be consumed with dying?*

Hebrew 9:3-4 [KJV-AV]

- ³ *And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;*
- ⁴ *Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;*

Hold Fast to the TRUTH

Hold fast that which is good · 1 Thessalonians 5:21

The Word of God is revealed to us slowly and His Spirit is also given to us with greater anointing as the years pass. His Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and it is His Spirit that reveals the truth to us. We may be holding on to the lies of this world but when we receive the truth we have to make a decision to keep holding on to the lie or leave the lie and hold on to the truth. We can not have both of them together. Vice versa, if we have been holding on to the truth and lies come our way, we should continue holding on to the truth and not forsake it for the lies.

Now the question come how do we know what is good (truth) and what are lies? This we know by the Spirit of Truth (Holy Spirit) and the Truth (Word of God). It is the truth that is revealed through the Word by His Spirit that we should hold on to. Any teaching, thought or action that goes against any scripture (with understanding) of the Word of God should be rejected.

The center scripture of the Bible is **Psalms 118:8** *"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."*

So bottom line is do not trust man more than God.

[**Prayer for the Day**]

Lord, this world is full of lies for the ruler of this world of flesh has filled it with lies and his messengers of lies. Lord I do not know what to do and whom to believe. But I know You are true and your Word is truth. Reveal your Word to me for it is a lamp to my feet and light on my path. I ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

[**Reference Scripture**]

John 14:16-17

¹⁶ *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

¹⁷ *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

1 Corinthians 13:9-12

⁹ *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*

¹⁰ *But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

¹¹ *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

¹² *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

Alcohol, Wine and Strong drinks

Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! - Isaiah 5:11

The word wine has been very misunderstood in the Bible. With it, people make an excuse to get drunk or become a so called social drinker. The best excuse used is the miracle of Jesus converting the water to wine (**John chpt. 2**). To clear this I will take you to the truth of the Word (therefore this may be a little longer).

The Bible – Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew with a few chapters and a few verses in Aramaic. The New Testament was mainly written in Greek (except for a few Aramaic words).

In Hebrew the word ‘wine’ is well defined, there are totally 7 words used in the Bible in Hebrew for wine.

Word - *pronunciation* - (Strong’s lexicon reference number) - meaning – **i.e. Scriptures used in**

Yayin - *Yay-in* – (Strong 3196) - fermented wine – **Gen 27:28, Joel 1:5, Proverb 23:30**

Tiyrowsh - *Tee-roshe* (Strong 8492) - fresh grape juice – **Gen 27:25**

Shekar - *Shay-kawr* (Strong 7491) - Alcohol or strong drink or spirit – **Num 28:7** (only scripture)

Chamar - *Kham-ar* (Strong 2562) - an Aramaic word for wine – **Ezra 6:9**

Mamcak – *mam-sawk* – (Strong 4469) - spiced wine – **Proverb 23:30**

Cobe – *so-beh* – (Strong 5435) - getting drunk with strong wine - **Isaiah 1:22**

Aciyc – *Aw-sees* – (Strong 6071) – fresh wine not fermented – **Joel 1:5**

Enab – *Ay-awb* – (Strong 6025) – to bear fruit or grape as a fruit or wine – **Hosea 3:1**

In Greek there are totally 3 words used for wine.

Oinos – *oy-nos* – (Strong 3631) – wine in general whose fermentation levels may vary to from mild to medium – **John 2:10, 1 Tim 3:8, 1 Tim 5:23**

Gleukos – *glyoo-kos* - (Strong 1098) – high fermented wine – **Act 2:13** (only scripture)

Parvinos – *Par-oy-nos* – (Strong 3943) – given to wine or getting drunk with wine – **1 Tim 3:3**

If you read the Old Testament scriptures, fermented wine was not recommended and alcohol was not at all allowed. The only place the word was used was when it was used as a part of a sacrifice to the Lord. It was used highly concentrated, in pure spirit form and represented prayers.

In the New Testament even the miracle that Jesus did was not make water to strong wine but normal wine who's fermentation level could be from mild to medium. Even this miracle was done only out of respect for His mother, her faith and the faith of the other people instructed by her, but not of His own free will. For every other miracle Jesus did was only to glorify God not Himself or any other person. But by this miracle His glory was manifested. Therefore Jesus first said '*my hour is not come*' the hour to manifest His own glory.

If you read Paul's letter to Timothy, he clearly specifies that the Bishop (Priest) who is chosen to lead the congregation should not be a person who drinks strong wine. Even the mild wine was recommended by Paul when one was weak or tired that too in regulated quantities.

From the start I was against alcohol. My father (who is no more) suffered due to the same but by God's grace was set free completely from it, before he died. I was recommended by so called friends to have it to put on weight for before I was very slim (thin). I needed to put on weight to get married cause I was just 45-50kgs at that time and I was about 29yrs old. I tried drinking beer but did not like it so

used to add soft drinks to it to force my self to drink (and to keep others happy). I even tried alcohol but just did not like it. It was all God's grace that I was kept away from alcohol. Today when I am baptized with the Holy Spirit not a drop of alcohol, beer or even mild Champaign is agreeable to me. A drop or even the smell of it makes feel drunk. The Spirit inside me can not stand the spirit of this world. In fact, I try to keep away from get-togethers where alcohol is served.

We become the temple of God, when we are baptized with His Holy Spirit. How can one, place alcohol on the altar of the Lord?

Let the truth set you free. If you have the weakness for the spirit, ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit and you will be free from the spirit.

[*Keep confessing with your mouth to be set free*]

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for God Himself has anointed me. I eat the Body of Christ and drink the Blood of Christ. Christ dwells in me. My body is the temple of God and I will keep His temple pure.

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Father God, You gave to me your Spirit. Fill me with your Spirit that I may be free from this dangerous substance that can harm my spirit. I love You more than any thing including alcohol. You have set me free from this bondage and I thank You in Jesus' Name. Amen.

[*Reference Scriptures*]

Gen 27:25-28

22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice *is* Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau.

23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.

24 And he said, *Art* thou my very son Esau? And he said, *I am*.

25 And he said, Bring *it* near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought *it* near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine <3196>, and he drank.

- 26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.
- 27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son *is* as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:
- 28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine <8492>:
- 29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed *be* every one that curseth thee, and blessed *be* he that blesseth thee.

Joel 1:5

- 5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine <3196>, because of the new wine <6071>; for it is cut off from your mouth.

Proverb 23:29-30

- 29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?
- 30 They that tarry long at the wine <3196>; they that go to seek mixed wine <4469>.

Num 28:6-7

- 6 *It is* a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.
- 7 And the drink offering thereof *shall be* the fourth *part* of an hin for the one lamb: in the holy *place* shalt thou cause the strong wine <7491> to be poured unto the LORD *for* a drink offering.

Ezra 6:9

- 9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine <2562>, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which *are* at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:

Isaiah 1:21-23

- 21 How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.
- 22 Thy silver is become dross, thy wine <5435> mixed with water:

23 Thy princes *are* rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Hosea 3:1

1 Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of *her* friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine <6025>.

John 2:3-11

3 And when they wanted wine <3631>, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine <3631>.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine <3631>, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine <3631>; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine <3631> until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

1 Tim 3:3-9

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

- 3 Not given to wine <3943>, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;
- 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;
- 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)
- 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
- 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
- 8 Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine <3631>, not greedy of filthy lucre;
- 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

1 Tim 5:21-23

- 21 I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.
 - 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.
 - 23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine <3631> for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.
-

Consider Your Ways.

Haggai 1:3-7 - *Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! Thus says the LORD of Armies; Consider your ways.*

This message is bang on target to all of us today. We live a life and are never satisfied. We may be happy for the moment but we have no joy. We struggle to let ends meet, we struggle to satisfy our needs and our pleasures, we struggle to satisfy our desires, we struggle to satisfy our security, but yet things just take a U turn all of a sudden!

The reason is the same. We are not taking care of the Temple of God. We as believers of Jesus Christ become priest to God. We also

become substitute Head priest to a Temple: which is our body. Our hearts (our minds, our will, our nature, our conscience & our throne) is the inner Temple where God dwells. We all are more concern of our bodies and fulfilling its desires but ignore our inner Temple. Since we do this we fail to have the joy and satisfaction in our whole being.

Let us not give so much concentration to our bodily needs but more to strengthen, purify and decorate our inner Temple. This we can do by building ourselves in God's Word, by sanctifying ourselves and by increase in the fruit of the Holy Spirit (which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control).

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Lord, You dwell in me. I am your Temple. I am sorry that I did not take care to cleanse this place. Lord I make my mind from today that I will start this process. For this I would still need your help, without which I will fail. I ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

[*Reference Scriptures*]

Galatians 5:22-23a

- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control;

Acts 20:32

- 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified

Peace, Be Still

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm – Mark 4:39

Jesus by the event which is narrated in **Mark 4:35-39** and **Luke 8:22-25**, shows us how by faith we can overcome our situations. But what interested me was that in Luke the Sea of Galilee is referred to as a

lake, and that there was a storm in a lake? The Sea of Galilee is in fact a fresh water collection which is about 13 miles long by 8 miles wide. It had a depth of up to 150 feet. This lake is connected to the north by the Jordan River.

Why did Luke use the word 'Lake' while Mark identified it as a 'Sea' for this event? The Holy Spirit wants to tell us something special through the Gospel of Luke. A lake is normally identified as a collection of fresh water larger and deeper than a pond. A lake also has the property of having lots of fish water fish breeding in it, if it regularly gets fresh water from streams, small rivers and rains.

In Luke the Sea of Galilee (Sea of Gennesaret - **Luke 5:1**) is called a lake here because it is odd to have a storm and high waves in a lake. But this lake being very large and the meeting of cool breeze with the warm on it shores, it does happen all of a sudden even today. This lake is to be identified as a Christian. A person living a good life. He is like fresh water collection, rich in fish and having good plantation around him. A Christian remains a lake only if he gets a regular refill of fresh water (Word of God). Even under these circumstances he can go under a test where a storm will suddenly come in his life. At these times he needs to be in peace and know that he has authority over his situation. He needs to know his God and talk to his problem to be still.

[*Prayer for the Day*]

Father God, make me like a lake always full of fresh water with regular refills and abundant in life. But Father give me the presence of mind to be at peace like your Son Jesus when the storms come, to know the authority I have in You. Help me talk to my problems to be still like Jesus spoke to the storm. I ask this in Jesus' might Name, Amen.

[*Reference Scriptures*]

Mark 4:1, 35-39

- 1 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.
- 35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

- 36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.
- 37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.
- 38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?
- 39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Luke 8:22-25

- 22 Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.
- 23 But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled *with water*, and were in jeopardy.
- 24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.
- 25 And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Do not Loose your Blessings.

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses.. – Exodus 4:14

After Moses' experience in the wilderness running from Pharaoh after killing an Egyptian, he encountered an Angel of the Lord in the form of a burning bush. The Lord spoke unto Moses via the Angel asking him to speak to Pharaoh to release His people – the Israelites. Moses here thought that he did not have the ability of a good orator to do the job. Even though a great and wonderful sign of God's power were shown to Moses, he depended not on God's ability but his own to do

the job. Since he knew he lacked the ability he asked the Lord to send someone else. This failure cost Moses and his generations a lot. If Moses had said yes, Aaron his brother would not have been in the picture. It would not have been Aaron's sons who would be called to become priest. There would have been a high possibility of Moses sons being selected, who do not project in God's marvelous work. Moses and his generation lost the blessing due to a 'NO'.

As Christians we are called to give the Good News of salvation to others. How many times have we said 'NO'. Do you have any idea to the loose of blessing as an individual and your generations have lost? If you do not figure in God's plan of salvation what is the worth of this life? This world will end and all things will cease to exist, then the only thing that counts is your part in God's plan.

Ask the Lord today; whom does He want to send you to, to give the message of salvation, words of encouragement, words of love, words of hope, words of comfort?

[Prayer Starter]

Lord I am sorry in the past I said no to You. Lord today I stand in front of You, let not the fire be on the bush but in my heart. By the power of your Spirit not by my ability will I go to do your mission. I make this prayer in Jesus' Name, Amen.

[Reference Scripture]

Exodus 4:10-14 [KJV-AV]

- 10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I *am* slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.
- 11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?
- 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.
- 13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand *of him whom* thou wilt send.
- 14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, *Is* not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

Human nature

To define human nature I would simple put it as a fruit bearing tree. This tree can bear different type and variety of fruits. If the tree bears mostly good fruit then it is considered a good tree. But if the tree bears sour fruits then it is considered as a corrupt tree. As the sour fruit multiple it destroys the ability of the tree to bear good fruit. The sour fruit get worms in them, these effect and destroy even the good fruits. Concentrating on the good fruit is called walking in righteousness and concentrating on the sour fruits in called living by fleshy or carnal desires.

Human nature grows like a tree grows: the trees grow and the fruits multiple, human nature grows and its goodness or evils too grows. Like tree has branches which bear leaves, flowers and fruits; so does our nature; it is build around our works, what we profess and our fruits.

Matthew 7:17-20

- ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
- ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
- ¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
- ²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

To overcome our fleshly desire or carnal desire we need to deprive nourishment to the sour fruits. They will soon or latter dry up and fall. It sounds easy but isn't because even at the last minute if the fruit get a little nourishment it can become plump again. The strength to fight comes from the trunk. God knows that man by himself will never be able to fight therefore He took us from the tree called Adam and grafted us to the tree called Jesus Christ. Only when we abide in the tree called Jesus Christ we can draw strength from Him and shake of our sour fruits. For some this job gets done easily but for others it takes time.

John 15:5-8

- ⁵ I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- ⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.
- ⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Being grafted in Jesus we need to bear good fruits but if we bear sour fruit or no fruit we get broken off.

[Prayer Starter]

Father God, graft me unto Jesus forever that I may abide by Him and become like Him bearing good fruit. Let the nature of Adam that is within me die and the nature of Jesus which is your nature come alive in me. I ask this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Do you reflect Christ?

Exodus 4:16 - *thou shalt be to him instead of God.*

This scripture indirectly is what got Jesus out of trouble. In **John chapter 10** when Jesus said He and the Father are one, the Jews got very upset. They came to stone Him to death.

John 10:33-36 *The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?*

Jesus referred to **Psalms 82:6** *I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.*

Today we too are called to be sons of God. Like Jesus represented God on earth and Moses represented God to Aaron, we too are called to represent God to those who do not know Him, can not

communicate with Him nor experience Him. To do this we ourselves need to live a righteous life only then like a mirror we will reflex God to other. We call ourselves Christians which actually means little Christ. But ask ourselves do others see Christ in us? Do I change the lives of people that come in my contact like Jesus Christ did? When they saw Jesus they saw the Father, what do people see when they see us?

[*Prayer Starter*]

Father God, make me like Jesus your Son. Help me to continue his work on earth to bring his sheep unto Him. Change me inside out and all around. I ask this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Hear the Lord

O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever! - Deuteronomy 5:29

The Lord manifested Himself on Mount Sinai to prove to the Israelites that He spoke from Heaven so that they follow the Commandments given by Him. The manifestation bought about so much fear in the Israelites that they approached Moses asking him to be a medium between God and them (**Exodus 20:18-19**). They feared that if they heard the voice of the Lord they would die. This fear was true, the voice of the Lord kills; it kills the flesh and builds the spirit. The Lord knew the Israelites from within their hearts and knew deep within they had some area that they did not want to change. If they heard the voice of the Lord it would affect them and change them.

We all have the tendency to put others in between the Lord and us to be a medium in between. Deep within we have some areas in our lives which have placards 'Out of bounds' even for the Lord. We tell the Lord chance me all over but this area, please do not touch. I am afraid it may change my identity or change my life completely. Therefore we do not make efforts to hear God directly, once we hear we know it will do its job.

Please do not protect any area of your old inner man, for when problems come or when you are tested, this area will pop its head and overtake your whole being. Crush it when it is small or asleep so that you do not struggle too much, latter. Hear the voice of the Lord, prayer to Him, read his Word, keep your heart still and you will hear Him.

[*Prayer Starter*]

Lord, You know I am weak and scared, scared to change completely. But You know Lord I love You. I want to hear your voice, speak to me. Change me Lord by your Word but be gentle with me like a small baby in its mother's bosom. I ask this prayer in Jesus' Name, Amen.

[*Reference Scriptures*]

Exodus 20:18-19

18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw *it*, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

Deuteronomy 5:28-29

28 And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken.

29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Do not be the Grass of this Garden

1 Peter 1:24 *For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*

This scripture is taken with understanding from the book of **Isaiah 40:6-8**. Human creation is like a garden which God has created. You will not find a garden made only of grass; they are called playgrounds not garden.

God's love for man made Him create a garden therefore when God created the world He first created a garden; the Garden of Eden. We

all believers, non believers etc ... are all part of this great big garden called mankind which God has created. The man purpose of man made gardens is flowering plants, but in case of God's garden is the fruit bearing plants. To add beauty to the plants God created grass. Like the grass in a garden, in the human garden too the grass is regularly cut, burnt and replaced but the fruit bearing trees are well looked after so that they bear better fruits. The main purpose of flowers is not only beauty but for pollination and formation of fruits, which bear seeds and more fruit bearing trees. The wisdom and the achievements of man are like the flowers of the field which do not pollinate and become fruit. The Lord says that all these will be destroyed and soon forgotten, but the fruit bearing plants will be a remembrance forever.

Becoming a fruit bearing plant or not is a choice given to you. If you want to become a fruit bearing plant abide in Jesus Christ and you will bear much fruit.

[*Prayer Starter*]

Father God, make me a fruit bearing tree in your garden. Help me abide in Jesus Christ and your Word so that I may bear much fruit. Protect and help me grow the fruit of the Holy Spirit which You have planted in me. I ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen.

[*Reference Scripture*]

Isaiah 40:6-8

- 6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodness thereof *is* as the flower of the field:
- 7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people *is* grass.
- 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

John 15:6-8

- 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

- 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
-

Jesus the Good Shepherd

John 10:11 - I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

God gave us a Shepherd named Jesus whom we should follow. He is the only one who can lead us to our heavenly Father. There is no other way even if it is in the name of God. For it is written many will come in disguise but they are wolves dressed as (sheep) shepherds, their intension is to devour the sheep. But the Good Shepherd loves his sheep very much, as to give even his life for his sheep. In the sheepfold are three categories; lambs, sheep and goats.

The most loved are the lambs, whom the Lord holds up in his bosom. He does not let any harm or inconvenience come to them.

Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.

But the Lord does not want that they be lambs forever. He had being assigned to lead the sheep not lambs. So He wants the lambs to become sheep, therefore when Jesus was asking Peter if he loved Him, Jesus was also giving instructions as to how we should take care of his sheep.

John 21:15-17

- 15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."
- 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."
- 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all

things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

The three instructions were 'Feed My lambs', 'Tend My sheep' and 'Feed My sheep'.

We should deal very delicately with the poor in spirit, the ones who have just come to know the Lord and are weak. We should feed them the Good News; the Word of Salvation, our testimonies, words of encouragement, give them love or any kind of help which will bring them nearer to the Lord. Then comes the time for them to become sheep, at that time the Lords starts to work on them. Although they are loved they are made to experience discomfort or changes in their situations. At this time we are not to give importance to feed them but more to tend to them. Support them as they go through this process. Once they pass through this phrase we have to feed them. Their feed now is not the spiritual milk which is given to the lambs but solid food, deeper understanding of the Word; getting the inner revelation of the scriptures.

If we who are called to be shepherds like Jesus; do not work in this fashion, become the biggest enemy of the sheepfold. If we love the lambs but do not let them become sheep then it is not love. If we keep on feeding the sheep the lamb's food we are not benefiting the sheep or the purpose of God.

The Lord loves each and every sheep and will go to any extend to keep it in his folk.

Matthew 18:11-14

- 11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.
- 12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?
- 13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

In the sheep fold are also goats which follow the Shepherd but unlike the sheep they have not surrendered themselves fully to the Shepherd. The goats have horns which are the evil in their hearts which they do not want to get rid off. They have rejected the grace of God to cover them. They want the world and the things of this world as well as Jesus. These goats at the time of judgment will be dealt with more severally then those who are not in the sheepfold.

Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46

- 31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:
33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:
46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Become a sheep and like the Good Shepherd bring sheep in to his sheepfold, not goats or just lambs.

[Prayer Starter]

Lord Jesus, You love me very much and tend to me very dearly. Let your Spirit work in me and make me in to sheep from a lamb. Nourish me to become a healthy, mature sheep. Help me to imitate You as a Good Shepherd. I ask this in your mighty Name, Amen.

Do not build bridges over the Red Sea

Proverbs 3:5-8

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct

thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

I have a precious sister of mine in the Lord who's good heart to change people from doing evil, started finding ways solutions of bring step by step changes in them. She tried to bring good meaning to the bad nonsense called tradition. For this I had to rebuke her. (*Not all traditions are bad but those which take you away from God are, therefore all traditions should be questioned and probed. If not helpful to build you in Spirit should be kept at arms length.*)

I had to rebuke her not for what she wanted to do but the way she wanted to do it. Like her, we too have the tendency to create bridges over the Red Sea. When God delivered Israel from slavery, He did not build a bridge over the Red Sea, but tore the sea apart for them to cross.

The Red Sea (as called by the Romans) was during the time of Moses called the Reed Sea - because of the high reed vegetations in and around the sea. Reeds are like weeds non profitable plants that eat away the richness of the soil. Traditions too like weeds take away the good relationship we can have with the Lord. Like no plantation can be 100% free from weeds, so also life from traditions. The lesser - the better.

Like Moses was led to lead the Israelites across the Red Sea by parting it, with the power of God, so also should we. Please do not try building bridges, you will not deliver them, you will not see any change in heart, you will only keep them entertained for some time until Pharaoh's (Satan's) army will destroy them.

[**Prayer Starter**]

Lord, Your Word is life. It is like a double edged sword splitting bone from marrow; flesh from spirit. This process may hurt but it is necessary for change. You have given us a Comforter to comfort us during this process. Give me the courage to use Your Word like the staff Moses used over the sea to part it and deliver your people. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

[*Reference Scripture*]

Exodus 14: 15-16, 21-27

15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

The Blood and the Cross - Part 1

I would like to share in brief with you over multiple mails about the Blood and the Cross.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul has made clear distinguish between sins and sin.

Sins are the wrong doings that we do.

God is Holy and due to our sins we can not have relationship with God. For us to have relationship with God we need to be free from sins. Since it is impossible for man to be free from sins by his own

self, God had to intervene and sacrifice his only Son. It is the Blood of his Son that stands between God and us and cleanses us of our sins. Forgiven does not mean that God has forgotten. When God sees the Blood, He overlooks our sins therefore we always need t be under the Blood.

In the book of **Leviticus chapter 16** the Day of Atonement was celebrated for the forgiveness of the sins of all. The sacrifice was made in full public view outside the Tabernacle in the outer court and the Blood was offered by only the High Priest in the Holy of Holies.

When we repent and offer the Blood sacrifice of Jesus, Jesus the High Priest on our behalf enters the Holy of Holies place and sprinkle his Blood on the Holy Throne.

Forgiveness of sins is not by our efforts but only by the Blood. Let not our consings tell us that we are not been forgiven. We by faith believe in the cleansing of our sins by the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we can now have a relation with God the Father because of the Blood sacrifice of Jesus.

[*Prayer for forgiveness of Sins*]

(Write on paper all the sins you need forgiveness for. If you can not remember them, ask the Lord to help you remember them. After you finish writing place your hand over the paper and make this prayer)

Father God, You are Holy and I can not come before You because I have sinned. Lord God I am not worthy and I realize by none of my efforts can I be able to come before You. Therefore I offer You the most Holy Blood of your Son, Lord Jesus Christ as an offering for my sins. I believe in the Blood and know that You can not overlook this Blood sacrifice. I thank You for forgiving me for my sins. Amen.

(After you finish praying over it, destroy the paper for God too does not remember it.)

Continued..

The Blood and the Cross - Part 2

With regards to the sins which we can not reconcile with our brothers or sisters for any reason, or those which we have committed against

the Lord, we learnt yesterday how to ask forgiveness for them.

Today let us study about SIN; the sinful nature in us.

Romans 5: 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

When God made Adam and Eve they were perfect, but when sin came into them it manifested and death too came into them. This death is not that of the body but of the spirit.

This sinful nature (also called rebellious nature against God) passed from Adam on to all generation and therefore even if we ourselves have been living a good life we are yet sinners. Not because we have done anything but because we inherited this from our fathers.

Romans 3: 9b, 10 for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

For it is written in the Book of Moses, that God would pass the sin of the father upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

Exodus 20: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Jesus though born from a human woman 癩 womb was without sin for His father was the Holy Spirit of God.

It is this sinful nature which makes us sin. Being born sinners and always falling into sin we need to overcome this sinful nature; and to overcome this sinful nature we need the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5: 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

To be continued

[*Prayer Starter*]

Lord Jesus, You surrendered Yourself unto the Cross so that I may be free from this sinful nature. Lord Jesus, You died on the Cross so that

by your Cross I have victory over death. By your Spirit Lord help me take the Cross and follow You to my Father in Heaven, Amen.

The Blood and the Cross - Part 3

In the start as the Lord was teaching me all about His sacrifice which He did according to the Book of Moses, I thought I knew about the Cross and I was asking the Lord to let me teach about it. But never did I get a chance to do so. Today I realized it why, for I really did not know the Cross well.

Like most, my understanding of the Cross was all about the suffering of Jesus for us. We have always looked at the Cross as a shameful sign for it was the worst punishment anybody could get during those days. Now as the Lord is revealing more of his Word to us, given us better understanding of his Will, we need to change our attitude towards the Cross. The Cross must not be looked at as a sign of shame but of VICTORY. The Cross is the only way by which we can overcome our sinful nature. We should not be scared of it, because to help us achieve this Jesus gave us his Holy Spirit.

How does the Cross become a sign of victory?

Jesus always spoke of the Cross as the only way to be like Him, his disciple.

Matthew 16: 24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 10: 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

The Cross is not the object on which Jesus was crucified but the reason of which He was crucified. It was his purpose in God the Father, the work He had come to do on earth; to save mankind by

bring them unto Him.

Colossians 1: 19,20 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

We too all have our own crosses. We too have been given a task like Jesus, to do on earth. Jesus has shown us the way of doing it, by crucifying our flesh on our crosses and by his Spirit be renewed becoming a new creature, overcoming our sinful nature.

Galatians 6: 14,15 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

By doing this we destroy the sting of death that looms over us.

1 Corinthians 15: 55-58 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

God has great purpose for us in Heaven but to qualify for it, we need to be over comers, over coming sin and death. Without applying the Blood and taking up the Cross we can not become over comers.

Let us destroy the sinful nature that is within us which brings us to sin again and again, by denying ourselves, taking our crosses and becoming like Jesus, not like Adam in nature.

Let's ask the Holy Spirit who has been given to us as a Helper, to help us take up our cross in Jesus. He makes our crosses very light and our tasks very easy when we listen to Him.

Matthew 11: 29-30 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

It was Jesus' Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and it is by his Spirit that we too will defeat death and become like Jesus, sons of

God and heirs of God.

Romans 8: 11-14 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8: 16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

I pray, if you have not taken up your crosses in Christ, that you do so from today and therefore also rejoice in his Resurrection. Jesus died on one Cross but by his death and resurrection we have millions and millions of crosses that have come alive; to defeat satan's plan for us and receive God's plan.

[*Prayer Starter*]

Father God, I thank You for the sacrifice of Jesus. I apply his Blood on myself and take up the Cross which You have made for me in Christ Jesus. Help me Holy Spirit to carry my cross for I am not perfect like Jesus. I want to be united in Him in his glory and receive all that God the Father has made available for me. I ask this in Jesus' Holy Name, Amen.

My CROSS is LIGHT!

And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. - Luke 14:27

Most of us do not experience Christ alive in us is because we fail to be His true disciples. Jesus has clear instructed us that to be that to be His disciples we need to take up our cross and follow Him. But many of us face problems when doing so, we face hardship and the Cross becomes very heavy. This is not what Jesus planned for us, but these

things happen only because we fail to understand and follow instructions.

The mistakes we make:-

Misidentifying the Cross: Jesus clearly said YOUR Cross not HIS Cross - to bring salvation to all mankind including ourselves. Overenthusiastic people try to carry Jesus' Cross not their own. and get crushed under it. Our Cross is a part of Jesus' Cross not the whole. Leave some for others; they too are part of the plan of God!

Crucifying ourselves on the Cross: This will come as a surprise to you as it came to me. Jesus suffered for us and it was not His idea to make you suffer like Him. People (including myself before) torture themselves trying to nail their flesh (physically - direct or indirect) on the Cross. Paul clearly puts it in his letter to **Galatians chapter 6** -

Galatians 6: 14,15 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

What needs to be crucified is our world not us. The fight is not with Satan, for it is written in the Bible that he is already defeated, even he knows that. Do not waste time fighting him. We fight his works, by bringing it down. The fight is against our sinful nature which Satan induced into Adam and is passed to all generations.

Matthew 16: 24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

When you deprive supply to the army, however big it may be or however strong it may be, soon or latter it will collapse. Crucify our world; the world we lived in before we came to know Christ. When we do this the world will try to crucify us, this will pain only when we love the world. If we have nothing to do with this world and we are just tolerating it for we have to just past it, then there will be no pain.

Ask the Lord every day, 'Lord, today what part of my world, should I crucify on my Cross'.

The Cross is Light: Jesus gave us clear instructions how to make our

Crosses light. If we learn from it then we would not have problems.

Matthew 11: 29-30 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Our Cross being apart of Jesus' burden is light, if we do two things which we are asked to do.

Firstly - being obedient by learning from Jesus.

Secondly - changing our character by being meek and lowly in heart.

The first thing we should learn from Jesus is listening to the Holy Spirit. Jesus always followed instructions as the Lord guided Him.

Romans 5: 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

We too should take help from the Helper, do not try to carry the Cross all by yourself. God did not expect us to be strong as bodybuilders to carry our Crosses. Ask the Lord who is our Helper to help us. The ratio may even land up with 90% the Lord carrying and balance 10% us.

Coming to character the two properties you need to have:-

Humility - This does not mean being a loser or having no self respect; being run over by others. Being humble means encouraging others, getting ourselves behind them to push them ahead. When we do this the Lord will take us further than where we started.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time

Not having pride - Pride is not the opposite of being humble. We can be a selfish person but not a proud person. Pride means not being realistic about ourselves, thinking ourselves to be ahead or more than what we are. It can be considered as not being humble and being foolish, selfish, arrogant and lost; all together.

Let us not be afraid to take our Crosses in Christ and show ourselves as true disciples, thus being part heirs to Christ in His Resurrection and Glory.

[**Prayer Starter**]

Father God, I thank You for the Cross of Jesus Christ. In it, is my victory over my sinful nature. Only when my sinful nature dies, can I received Christ's nature which is your nature in me. Thus I can be partaker with Him in His glory. Help me Holy Spirit in this battle. I ask this payer in Jesus' Name, Amen.

To Be a Good Smith

The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. -
Isaiah 44:12

Have you seen a smith work? If he wants to give shape to his metal creation, he needs to heat the metal to a high temperature before he starts putting his hammer to the job. Without heating the metal it is difficult to give mold the metal. If the metal is a soft metal than he may succeed, but if it is a hard metal than he will hardly make any effect. Also is the fact that if he just heats the metal and does not put the hammer to the metal he will not get the job done. If the temperature is very high the metal will change shape but it will not be the shape at to the smith intended. To do this job the smith requires a lot of strength therefore he needs to build his own strength. He needs to eat and drink well.

What is all this to do with the Kingdom of God?

We are all like the smith - workers in God's Kingdom molding others to the image of Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Our prayers, is like the heat in which the melt is bought to a state where it can be molded easily.

Our work is like the hammering that brings shape to the melt.

The food and water the smith eats and drinks are like knowledge of the Word of God and his living in the Word respectively.

Once the Word of God was completely given in Jesus Christ, we need to put these instructions in to work. We can not say ours is an intercession ministry and I will sit at home and prayer for others. It is

time we put the hammer to work to get that image of Jesus in others. We need to strengthen ourselves learning the Word of God by self study, sharing and putting it into practice.

Be a Good Smith of the Lord; do not be faint or non-productive.

[*Prayer Starter*]

Lord, I want to be a good smith working for You. Guide me in my work in You. I thank You Lord for hunger and thirst You are building me. I also thank You for quenching my thirst and filling my stomach with food. I ask this prayer in Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen.

Which is bigger a Gnat or a Camel?

Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. -

Matthew 23:24

In this world most of us who like to hear what we like and what we do not like even if it is going to change our lives and make us a better person, we will ignore. Like I explained in my mail dated 15/03/08 - 'Hear the Lord'; we are all uncomfortable to surrender completely to the Lord. We find ways and excuses to stick to the ways of the evil one.

Just yesterday I was telling someone how one of the places I go the preach God's Word, some Hindus (hardcore worshipers of kali) surrendered themselves to Jesus along with their wives. The person who I was speaking too, was more interested in finding out which sect of Christianity I was changing them to, not the fact that they had surrender completely to Jesus or the many souls from their lot, whom they have brought to the Lord!

When we believe in one - Lord Jesus Christ and if we are lead by one - Holy Spirit of God then why sects?

It is only because the spirit of error is working among us. We do not hold on to the Spirit of Truth who reveals the Word of God to us.

Do you question your church leaders or elders or their knowledge on the Word of God?

If they do not know the guidelines or instructions from God, how are

they going to lead the congregation?

You will be surprised that 90% of the so called spiritual leaders are illiterate to the Word of God; they have not even read the whole Bible even after many years of so called study and service of God! If they do not know God how are they going to guide you and others to Him? Ask them what do they spend most of their time reading? And I will tell you the secret - NEWSPAPERS! Most of them are addicted to the newspapers. Ask them what is happening in the world and they are up to date on the smallest matter.

Let's stop searching for gnats and remove the camels. Wake up your church leaders, ask them to explain you the Word of God and if they do not answer you right, explain it to them. If they feel ashamed, no problem, they will soon learn. You will save them and those whom they guide.

[*Prayer Starter*]

Father God, I prayer for the so called leaders of the congregations, who themselves are lost. Father appoint many messengers to bring them to light and save your sheep whom they are guiding. I pray this from my heart Father God, in the Name of Jesus, Amen.

[*Reference Scriptures*]

Titus 1:4-11

4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Man to Man – Adam to Ishi

Genesis 5:1-2 - *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.*

When God created man (including woman) He made them in His image - it does not mean man looks like God but it meant the functional image of God was in man. When sin came into man this image was destroyed and also man could no longer dwell in the presence of God. The nature of man changed so much that God called all generations of Adam as adam - the first Adam (Strong number 0121) is the Hebrew word which mean Red or Reddish, for when God created him, he was full of life. The second adam (Strong number 0120) means 'man'.

My surname is DSouza, my father's surname was DSouza, so also was my grandfather's and his father's. We did not choose our surname. Since we were born in this family we automatically got our surname. Similarly we all were born from Adam, therefore we are automatically got the nature of adam. Being adam we can not come into God's presence, but God loves us and wants us to be in with Him. Therefore God needed to do something.

Hosea 2:16 And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me man; and shalt call me no more lord (Baali).

As prophesied in Hosea and fulfilled in Jesus, Lord came as man. The word here used for man is not adam but Ishi.

Even in **Exodus 15** the word used for Lord as man is Ishi.

Exodus 15:3 The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

God wants to make us Ishi from adam. He wants us to be called by the family of Christ Jesus after delivering us from the family of

Adam.

How does this happen?

If you look in the book of Exodus in the start God mostly uses the word 'adam' for the Israelites, but after the Passover and crossing of the Red Sea, He mostly refers to them by the word 'Ishi'.

Exodus 13:15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man [adam], and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.

Exodus 16:16 This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man [ishi] according to his eating, an omer for every man [ishi], according to the number of your persons; take ye every man [ishi] for them which are in his tents.

These events were shadows of the Crucifixion of Jesus, His death and Resurrection. It is only the dying of our old nature and being born again in Jesus can be called by the surname Christ (Christian - little Christ).

Romans 6:6-8

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

[Prayer Starter]

Father God, make me like Jesus the new Adam, dead to the old man adam. Help me crucify the nature of Adam in me and put on the nature of Jesus Christ, which is your nature. I ask this prayer in Jesus Christ my Lord Amen.

Get behind the Rock

2 Samuel 22:47 - *The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.*

Overcoming our human nature, the sinful nature of Adam and receiving the promises as we battle ourselves in this world is our own

salvation. Since the Lord (Spirit of Jesus Christ) helps us in this battle He is referred to as the Rock of our salvation.

Psalms 27:9

9 Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Psalms 62:2

2 He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

This world is like a passing storm. If we are in the world we will be carried away by this storm unto destruction. To save ourselves from this storm we need to reject the storm, get behind this Rock and cling on to it. The Hebrew word "tsuwr" [Strong 06697] used for rock here means a huge rock like that of a cliff or boulder (unlike the Greek word used for Peter which means small rock - stone).

The word salvation has three meanings which are

- 1) deliverance
- 2) prosperity
- 3) victory

And all three are effective in our salvation. Our salvation means deliverance from our curses, receiving our blessings and overcoming our sinful nature. Our salvation starts here on earth and ends when we enter Heaven.

[Prayer Starter]

Father God, I thank You for your Son Jesus Christ and for your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit You are my Rock that protects me from the world. Help me cling on to You, do not let go of me, do not forsake me. You are my only hope and shelter, be with me Holy Spirit and take me through this storm. I ask this prayer in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Let Not the SUN Go Down on Your ANGER

Ephesians 4:26 - *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

This is a favorite scripture of most preachers to warn the people from getting angry. What I found amusing is that most preach about not sleeping with our anger, for it works on us in the night when we are asleep! As if in the day when we are awake our anger does not work on us?

Just yesterday I heard a preacher say if you get angry in the morning you have the whole day to get over it, but if you get angry in the night like 11:30pm, you need a lot of maturity to get over it!

Praise God!

I would say Woe to those people who get angry in the nights!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ if you understand anger and what Paul meant by this scripture, you will be more cautious with anger.

Firstly anger is not wrong for Paul too gives permission to get angry '*Be you angry*', but warns that anger clouds our vision and distorts our mind and can lead us to sin. Even God got angry, so did Jesus, but although in anger both did not sin. Though in anger They did things which They would not have liked to do.

We are not perfect like God or Jesus, why let anger cloud our minds and haze our decisions. It is the same as we are being under the influence of temptation. Even Jesus prayed and gave us the prayer '*Our Father*' in which we ask the LORD to keep us from temptation. Like temptation for anger too, we should pray. Being angry is similar to calling temptation on one's self.

The 'sun' here is not the actual sun but symbolizes 'God's grace'. Paul tells us that like we need to have the grace of God to overcome temptation, similarly only by God's grace can we overcome anger. As long as God's grace is on us we have a chance to overcome it or else we will fall into sin. Our sun can be for a few seconds, to many days or months, only God knows. So let's not take a chance on our anger and get rid of it immediately as long as our 'sun' is on us and not wait till night.

[*Prayer Starter*]

Father God, I pray I have your peace in my heart always, that I do

not allow situations around me to lead me to anger. Father God, keep me from this ball of fire called anger that I do not burn myself by sinning. Let your love flow like cool waters in me and extinguish this fire. I ask this prayer in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Which category of believer do you belong?

Isaiah 44:5 - *One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel.*

In Isaiah the Lord talks about three categories of people who are aware of Him. I would say as who worship or claim to worship Him.

The First category is the one who surrender themselves to the Lord. They are the Lord's people - true Christians.

The Second category is those from the sheepfold but who have not surrendered themselves to the Lord. They are not the born-again, those who are not baptized by the Holy Spirit. If you look at the scripture, the Lord talks about those by the name of Jacob, now if you read **verse 1** of the same chapter:

Isaiah 44:1 Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen:

Jacob and Israel were the names of the same person, but Jacob was the name of the person before the Lord redeemed and Israel the name after. It was only after Jacob truly changed himself inside that the Lord called him by the name Israel. In this category belong those who call themselves Christians but have not surrendered themselves to the Lord. They are the goats in the sheepfold.

The Third category is those who worship God the Father but not through Jesus. They are the lot who want to work for their salvation with their own efforts, but do not know all their efforts will be futile. They are related to the Christians but will have no share in the inheritance of the Lord.

What category do you belong to? If you have not accepted Jesus as

your Lord, Master and Savior you will not receive your salvation nor be able to come before God the Father. Even if you have accepted Jesus you need to follow Him (His Word) by surrendering yourself to Him. Do not get attached to this world or things of this world, become a true disciple of Jesus follow Him.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

[*Prayer Starter*]

Lord Jesus, You are my Master and Lord, I surrender to You and to the will of our Father. I also want to be a part taker of the inheritance of our Father along with You. Lord Jesus, touch me and open my eyes like You did when You touched the blind and they could see. I ask this prayer in your mighty Name, Amen.

Strong teaching, Spiritual milk and Solid Food

Isaiah 40:4 - *Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:*

Whenever I ask people what is the difference between a strong teaching and spiritual milk, they could not draw the line between the two. During my teaching of the Word at different places, I found some people took the teaching very well while some were shaken up. Why the differences?

The explanation of this is given in the scriptures of **Isaiah 40:4**; when a Spirit filled Word of God is given it will not come back without doing its job. And the job that it does is:

It will uplift those who are low in spirit, the meek and humble. But the haughty in spirit, It will bring down. Those who have build structures in their hearts according to their understanding by the world, will feel a sledgehammer hitting hard against those structures. These are the mountains or hills, which the Word of God will bring down. And those who have doubts or those who misuse or twist the Word for personal desires will be made straight or brought to level.

Spiritual milk is the good news or words of hope or encouragement which brings us closer to God and to the start of study; of the Word of God.

Strong teaching brings down those illegal structures which we have erected by our own understanding or the understanding given by others, which are not based on the truth (God's Word).

Solid Food or 'strong meat' as Paul calls it, is similar to strong teaching not easy to digest, because there are so many things in the Bible which go opposite to human understanding. It defies human traditions, science, psychology and religious (theological) teachings. It can be digested by only those who have teeth, those who exercise their faith regularly. Unless you are baptized with the Spirit of Truth and are a doer of the Word you will not be able to understand them.

So next time when you receive a teaching of the Word that shakes you up, do not just reject it. Try to find out the area where it shook you, where did that structure come from and how right it is. If that area is not built on the Word, do not hold on to those structures let them come down. Do not harden your heart or else the effects will be most disastrous.

[*Prayer Starter*]

Father God, your Word is life for me. Make my heart like sponge that I keep receiving your Word more and more. Break down those areas which is not build on your Word, but I have done so according to my own understanding. I ask this prayer in Jesus' Name, Amen.

[*Reference Scriptures*]

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those

who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Reconciling with your brother or sister

Numbers 5:6b - *When a man or a woman wrongs another, breaking faith with the LORD, that person incurs guilt and shall confess the sin that has been committed.*

As believers whenever we sin or hurt any brother or sister (not just your blood relation) or even a non believer, we always feel guilt in us. It is this guilt that makes us acknowledge ourselves as sinners and creates a need to confess and ask for forgiveness. Lot of us run to a priest for confession, but to feel a real change in us we need to go by the Bible and not try bypass roads. The Bible clearly says if you have hurt your brother you need reconcile with him before we come to the Lord, if he is not alive then approach his next of kin and if he does not have any next of kin then only we can approach a priest (**Numbers 5:7-8**). Because of our ignorance of the Bible we have a habit of declaring people dead and all their families dead! Something we do this to our family members! For when we hurt our own family members we do not ask for forgiveness from them but run to a priest! Praise God!

If we really want to feel the joy in us, we should go and reconcile with the person we sinned against. Even if it takes time be patient, incase things may get worst if we approach that person or any of his kin then we should ask the Lord to help us, He will surely find a way. Only then we can confess to a priest or another brother and God will surely forgive us for it. But if we remain in sin we will lose our relationship with God and find ourselves faraway from Him.

[Prayer Starter]

Father God thank You for being a forgiving Father. We know Lord whenever we approach You for forgiveness with repentance, You will always forgive us. Lord give me the courage to follow your instructions to reconcile with my brother or even with You. Let me always be in your presence and rejoice in your Glory. I ask this in the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

[Reference Scriptures]

James 5:16a

16 confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Numbers 5:7-8

7 Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.

8 But if the man have no kinsman to recompense the trespass unto, let the trespass be recompensed unto the LORD, even to the priest; beside the ram of the atonement, whereby an atonement shall be made for him.

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