

INNER PEACE

GOSPEL MESSAGES

Prof. M.Y. Yohannan

(Former Principal, St. Peter's College, Kolenchery)

Publisher:

PHELIO HEALTH CARE

Kolenchery 682 311, South India.

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Gospel Messages

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*"It was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son;
But I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit.
And the LORD took me as I followed the flock,
And the LORD said to me,
Go, prophesy unto my people Israel"*

- Amos 7:14,15

Prof. M.Y. Yohannan was born in a middle class agricultural family in Kadayiruppu, Kolenchery, Kerala. Three of his brothers died before his birth. He lost his father at the infant age of one and his surviving brother when he was two years old. He could not continue his education after passing out from the tenth standard as he was forced to take up the responsibility of managing his family affairs and working in the farm desolate and desperate.

This young man with a shattered life accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and LORD at the age of seventeen while attending a Gospel meeting at his local church.

Prof. Yohannan started his career as a teacher in the school where he had studied. During his nine-year tenure in the school, he took his graduation and post graduation, as a private student, in arts with first ranks from the Kerala University. Later, he took B.Ed. degree also with University rank. In 1964, he joined St. Peter's College and continued there for the next thirty-three years. He was appointed Principal of the same college in 1995 and retired after two years.

Even as a young teacher, he was an active member of a voluntary gospel missionary group in Kerala. Many well reputed and respected clergy as well as laymen sincerely participated in the activities of the Voluntary Missionary Society, which in Malayalam, was known as "*Swamedhaya Suvisesha Sangham*". As a result of its earnest effort on evangelisation, a large number of people got revived in the Jacobite/Orthodox and other churches.

In 1973, a great spiritual revival swept over Kerala. Prof Yohannan was in the forefront of this movement. The revival was based on the following divine words:

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God."
- Matthew 5:8

"Without holiness, no one will see the LORD."

- Hebrews 12:14

When a man gets the born again experience, his deeds and words are changed. But the transformation of the inner-man, thoughts, attitudes, the old nature, etc. is the genuine sign of a true Christian.

Prof. Yohannan preached the Gospel throughout Kerala and many big cities in India. Later, he visited the United States of America several times in connection with the LORD's service. He also visited Great Britain and some of the Gulf countries in the Middle East and addressed several conventions.

In 1997, Prof. Yohannan commenced the '**Amruthadhara**' Radio Ministry on all Tuesday evenings. It is the wholehearted encouragement of the listeners, a second programme, meant for the Gulf countries, was started on all Friday nights. In October 2001, another programme on all Saturdays, from 7:45 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. has been started. These programmes helped to preach the Gospel to unreached and remote areas and segments of people, like in prisons, armed forces' barracks, hostels, etc.

Prof, Yohannan utilized the facilities of television, one of the most influential media today, to preach the Gospel. In 2000, the '**Amruthadhara**' TV programme was started.

Presently, the thirty-minute programme is telecast on Asianet News, Soorya TV and Jeevan TV networks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings respectively.

As requested by his ever-increasing listeners and dear friends, Prof. Yohannan has published his radio messages in book form. So far, as on February 2006, he has published thirtyfive books. Most of them are out-of-print within a short period. Few more books are getting ready for release.

Prof. Yohannan is fully engaged in the activities of the CRF by addressing massive Gospel meetings, Bible classes, prayer meetings, counselling sessions, etc. He strongly believes that the need of the hour is **‘the repentance of the repented’**.

He advocates: **“It’s the soul that needs change, not the religion; It’s the inner-man (heart) that needs change, not the church.”**

Prof. Yohannan gets whole-hearted support from his wife, Alice, a retired teacher, in his LORD’s service. The Yohannans have three sons and a daughter, all married. The family is blessed with nine grandchildren.



OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

1. AMRUTHADHARA
2. AANTHARIKA SAANTHI
3. SUBHA BHAVI
4. SAANTHI THEERAM
5. MADHU MOZHI
6. MUKTHI MARGAM
7. NITHYA VISRANTHI
8. NIRAPARA
9. JAYA JEEVITHAM
10. VISWASA JEEVITHAM
11. VADAMALAR
12. DIVYARADHANA
13. ENIKKU KUDIPPAN THARUMO?
14. NEETHIMAN AAKUNNATHENGANE?
15. THURANNA VATHIL
16. VARAVUM CHELAVUM
17. DAIVARAJYAM
18. AMRUTHADHARA (ENGLISH)
19. ORTHUKOLVIN
20. KRISTHUVIL
21. PARISUDHATHMAVU
22. PARISUDHATHMA VYAPARAM
23. PARISUDHATHMA SAKTHI
24. UTHAMA GEETHAM
25. SANKETHA NAGARANGAL
26. MARUBHOOMIYILE NEERPOIKA
27. YONA
28. PACHAVELLAM VEENJAKKI
29. KEREETHINTE VAKKIL
30. ETHRATHOLAM RANDU THONIYIL?
31. ELIYAVINTE DAIVAM EVIDE?
32. PRAVACHAKANALLA, PRAVACHAKA SISHYANUMALLA
33. MUDRAMOTHIRAMAKKUM
34. ENIKKU KAZHCHA PRAPIKKENAM
35. ENIKKU ASAKKU VAKAYUNDO?

of life. A confident faith in the Lord who called him for this ministry, a simple life-style and the importance given to the holiness in personal life are the important features that strengthened him to be used mightily by the Lord during these years.

I praise God for him for such an effective ministry which has helped many lives to experience God's peace and to be in God's guidance irrespective of their faiths and doctrinal views.

PREFACE

I am grateful to God Almighty for such an honour given to me to write the preface to the English translation of "Aantharika Shanthi". This book is a collection of 13 speeches which were broadcast in the FEBA Radio by Prof. M.Y. Yohannan. Though I'm not competent enough to do this great task, I trust in the Lord, who has encouraged me through the words of St. Paul in Phil 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Over the period of many years through different media, Prof. M.Y. Yohannan, challenges and exhorts the people of God to return to God and experience His glory which has been lost as a result of disobedience and sin. As the people return to God they become the heirs of eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ. Despite many obstacles and hurdles, ministry of Prof. Yohannan in the exposition of the Word of God grew tremendously and has reached out to many areas

In this wonderful book, Prof. Yohannan exhorts the readers the importance of holiness in personal life to worship a Holy God. Not Just the outward expressions but the inward experiences are reflected in this book. The lives of Joseph and Daniel illustrate the importance to be holy and not to be defiled by unholiness that may occur because of surroundings and circumstances. We can experience the inner peace only when we worship Him in Holiness.

When the storms of life strike us, God's presence comforts and strengthens us to overcome the trials and tribulations. He teaches us, that it is the heart that has to be transformed and changed and not the denominations or the community. Death is a reality in human life which is unchangeable. The life after death is also certain. Either eternal life or eternal condemnation. Either Endless hope or Hopeless torture. To make the choice is ours when we are alive.

I'm sure, that the readers would experience the same comforting message that was proclaimed at the time of the birth of Christ "Do not be afraid". This book is an asset to a world filled with fear and anxieties and it will encourage people to experience God's peace in their total being. I present this book with sincere prayers that the Master would continue to strengthen His servant for the extension of God's Kingdom.

Chandy Kurian
(Advocate, Bombay High Court)

FOREWORD

Hellen Keller in her "Cheer along the way" says,

"Join the great company of those who make the barren places of the earth fruitful with kindness, carry a vision of Heaven in your hearts and you shall make your home, your school, your world correspond to that vision. Your success and happiness lie with in you. External conditions are accidents of life, its other trappings. The great enduring realities are love and service. Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm and our intelligence aglow. Resolve to keep happy and your joy shall form an invincible host against difficulty. Happiness cannot come from without, it must come from within. It is not what we see and touch that which others do for us which makes us happy. It is that which we think and feel and do first for the other fellow and then for ourselves."

Hellen Keller is blind, deaf and dumb from her childhood itself. But her ardent faith in Christ led her to the heights of joy and success. The secret of her fruitfulness of life was the inner peace she received from the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

Robert Frost in his poem wrote,
*"The woods are lovely, dark and deep
 But I have promises to keep
 And miles to go before I sleep
 Miles to go before I sleep."*

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru quoted these lines in his diary quite before his demise. Everybody must have inner peace to fulfil the duties efficiently and effectively.

In this book "Inner Peace", I have set the sole aim for the readers to get inner comfort, calmness, peace and joy in their hearts. All people irrespective of cast, creed, community, religion or denomination can have the inner peace within from the shed blood of Christ and the sacrificial love manifested on the Cross of Calvary. If my readers get that celestial experience, I am thoroughly satisfied.

This is the translation of my book "*Aantharika Santhi*." So many people have informed me of their experience of joy and peace at heart by receiving Jesus Christ into their hearts after reading "*Aantharika Santhi*."

The translation is efficiently done by Mr. Anji N.Kollemparamp, who is the Jt. General Manager of KITCO, Ernakulam. He is on deputation as Principal, KIED, Kalamassery at present. My gratitude towards him knows no bounds.

My special thanks are for Mr. C.K.Abraham who had gone through the manuscript and gave me ample

corrections and suggestions. He is the Managing Director of Rubo-Synth Impex Pvt. Ltd., Bombay, the father-in-law of my eldest son, Dr. Isac John and a member of Dadar Orthodox Church.

A very beautiful and thought-provoking preface has been given by Mr. Chandy Kurian. He is a well known advocate in the Bombay High Court. He is a distinguished leader in the Spiritual field in New Bombay. He is the member of the C.N.I. Church, New Bombay and does lot of services in different areas in interdenominational charismatic activities. Let me express my deep appreciation and indebtedness towards him for paying heed to my request to write a preface for this book.

My thankfulness is immeasurable towards my brothers and co-workers in the Christian Revival Fellowship to render their untiring toils and moils for correction, proof-reading, DTP, cover page, printing, etc. May God bless all for their wholehearted endeavours to publish this book on the eve of Bombay Convention; February 2006.

Wishing all to be bestowed upon with inner peace,

Thanking you all,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

M.Y. Yohannan

17.02.2006

Chapter-1

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” - Romans 8:28 (AKJV)

Subhadra Kumari Chowhan, a well known Hindi poetess, once wrote, when an infant is born to this world, it cries and cries and later, learns to smile. Similarly, it falls several times before it learns to walk.

एतन्मूर्तेः खलं ननु कथं विधातुं
 कृता कृता एतन्मूर्तेः खलं विधातुं
 एतन्मूर्तेः खलं विधातुं कथं विधातुं

Right from the day man is born to this world, he is accompanied by sorrows, poverty, pain and tears. While facing these, most people stumble and get frustrated. There is always frustration, tension and confusion in their lives.

Nevertheless, a few, stand firm, facing all these problems without doubting or questioning the love of God and trusting the God wholeheartedly, believing that God

would make everything for their good. The Bible verse that help them is:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28 (AKJV)

There is a story about an adventurous voyager. He landed up in an island subsequent to a shipwreck. But that island was an uninhabited one. He tried in vain to capture the attention of ships that are sailing far away. Finally, finding no way out from the remote island, he was frustrated. He settled in the island eating wild fruits and drinking from the springs.

He made for himself with much effort and strenuous and tiresome work for many days, a shelter out of twigs and dry leaves to keep him from the rain, sun and the cold. Time passed away like that. One day, as usual, he returned to his hut after roaming around the island eating fruits. The scene he saw there terrified him! His precious shelter, made with great effort, is blazing. A wild fire had lighted the inferno. He stood there stunned looking at the rising flames.

Oh! God, he wept, you didn't hear my prayer to save me out of this island. Now, you have set fire to my little hut also.

As he was standing there weeping, he heard a siren from the sea approaching. He turned to see a boat. The people in the boat called him and they took him in the boat to a ship anchored far away.

When he reached safely in the ship, the captain told him: “Young man, it is because you have made such a big fire, that we came to know that there is somebody in the island seeking to be rescued. Good that you made such a fire.”

Dear friends, God is capable fo making all for the best. Yes, all for the ultimate good.

The life of Joseph in the book of Genesis is a fitting example for this. From his childhood, he was experiencing sorow, isolation disregard and envy. Whenever he saw Reuben, Levi, Judah, etc. sitting on the lap of Leah it hurt his feelings that he doesn't have a mother to give affection to him.

He had only a vague, but sorrowful memory. One day, his father was sitting on the wayside sobbing. Somebody told him that his mother died during her second delivery on the wayside to Bethlehem.

Everyone seemed to be gloomy. Jacob, his father, was grieving about Rachel, his mother, holding his younger brother Benjamin, the new born, in his lap. His father and brothers continued their journey after burying her on the wayside. His grief started then.

When he was seventeen years, his elder brothers put him in a **Pit** in the wilderness. Before putting him into the

pit, they stripped him of his garment. Why are they killing me? he wondered. He did not remember exactly for how long he had been in the pit infested with creatures like snakes, scorpions, leeches etc.

Now they are lifting him up from the pit. They sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ismaelites, who took him as a slave to Egypt. When the merchants are taking him away, he pleaded to his brothers calling each of them by their names. But they had no sympathy for him. The Ismaelites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar an higher officer of Pharaoh.

In Egypt also, he had enough trouble. Potiphar's wife enticed him to do evil. He ran away from her without conceding to her temptation and attraction. That lady raised accusation against him. Result, he was put in **Prison**.

Yes, from pit to prison. Thirteen years in prison! But in pit and prison, his fear of God with awe and respect, his determination not to commit any sin, pleased the eternal God in heaven.

After thirteen years of fetters of the prison, he was miraculously set free by special order of the king of Egypt. We can read the words of Pharaoh with praises and worships to God:

“Can we find such an one as this is, a man in whom the spriit of God is?... There is none so discreet and wise

as thou art. Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled.... See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.” Genesis 41:37-44.

From pit to prison and then from prison to **Palace**. All for the best. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Praise the Lord!

Dear friend, will you believe that the Almighty Jesus Christ can lead all things that are happening in your life for the ultimate good? That is the example that Jesus Christ had shown to us.

“....who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” - Hebrews 12:2,3 (AKJV).

Let us follow Jesus Christ, who had left us an example to follow His steps.

When Joseph was the governor, the topmost official, in Egypt, his brothers went to him from the land of famine, to buy grain. Without any slightest hatred, Joseph told his brothers, who had prostrated themselves in front of him:

“I am Joseph, your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither; for God did send me before you to preserve life.... And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” - Gen. 45:4-7 (AKJV)

Are we not seeing an example fo Jesus Christ's compassion, who mercifully forgave us, who had betrayed Jesus by our greed, denied Him by our love of the world, crucified Him by our hypocrisy and sins?

Will you accept the words of Jeremiah: “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; The people who were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness.” Jeremiah 31:2-3.

The Bible says about Joseph:

“And Joseph called the name of the first born Manasseh; For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. And the name of the second called he Ephraim; For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.” Gen. 41:51,52 (AKJV)

When Joseph brought his children to see Jacob, his father, in his death bed, Jacob blessed them and said: “I had not thought to see thy face; and lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed.” - Gen. 48:11 (AKJV)

“And he blessed Joseph, and said, God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, the Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.” - Gen. 48:15,16 (AKJV)

Dear friend, Pit, Prison and Palace. A step-by-step advance. In all these places, Joseph stood with God and kept himself from sinning. God made the ‘Pit’ and ‘Prison’ good for him and the ‘Palace’ also. Will you entrust your life into the pierced hands of Jesus Christ, who is strong enough to make everything that come against you for your ultimate good?

Jesus Christ is holding out his hands towards you. Entrust your life to him. Let Jesus Christ renew it. Tell Jesus Christ: Jesus, from now onwards, I am yours.

If so, let us pray. Lord, Jesus Christ, bless each and every person who is reading this message. We praise you your grace. We praise you for the message. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!



Chapter-2

“One thing thou lackest; go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow me.” - St. Mark 10:21 (AKJV)

Everybody wish to lead a happy and peaceful life. Almost everybody dreams of a serene future. Entire human heart is filled with disappointment, tension and worries when fails to achieve a betterment in life.

However, it never comes even to the minds of many to secure everlasting peace and life. Jesus once told to a young noble man who came to him eagerly seeking everlasting life:

“One thing thou lackest; go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and come and follow me.” - St. Mark 10:21

Thousands came after Jesus seeking healing. They fought their way through the crowd to get relief from the

worldly pains and agonies. Many came after Him to get their wishes fulfilled. Jesus Christ comforted them all.

But we see only two persons in the Bible, who came to Jesus seeking everlasting life.

The first person, mentioned in St. Luke chapter ten, verse twentyfive, came to Jesus Christ asking what he should do to inherit eternal life. But he was not seeking the truth. What we read is that he came to test Jesus Christ.

The second person, mentioned in St. Mark, chapter ten, St. Matthew, chapter nineteen and St. Luke, chapter eighteen is a noble young man. He is the only person, who came to Jesus as a seeker of truth, about eternal life.

“Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”, he asked Jesus Christ.

That young man asked the most important question in life. That question was asked to the person, to whom only in the world was to be asked.

He told Jesus Christ with self satisfaction that he was keeping the commandments. He had the respectful achievement of keeping the commandments of the Law since his childhood. He was a young man with moral values, with an orderly life, who was diligently leading a religious life.

He was having a stern attitude to lead a sinless life, and had a great desire for eternal life.

He wanted to know what he was lacking. Jesus looked at him and loved him. Jesus told him: “If you want to be perfect, go, sell all your possessions and give to the poor.”

Dear friend, do you have earnest desire for eternal life? Have you ever thought of what to do to get everlasting life? Have you ever come to Jesus to get eternal life? Do you have the longing that your soul should reach the eternal heavenly shore? Are you leading a life with a false hope that your soul would reach the kingdom of God by following some rituals and religious practices?

Eternal life is everlasting peace. Eternal life is Jesus Christ himself. Eternal life means living with Jesus Christ through ages. Everlasting life means glorifying the God eternal, in the Heaven with the sanctified ones.

Eternal life is for those holy people, who had a holy life after washing away their sins. Eternal life is an immeasurable gift of Holy Spirit. Eternal life is knowing the only true God, the Father and his son Jesus Christ. St. John 17:3.

Eternal life is deliverance from the meaningless and temporary worldly life. Eternal life is the inheritance of those who had washed their robes and made them white in the

blood of the Lamb. Eternal life is the everlasting blessing for those who believe in the only begotten son.

Eternal life is the wonderful peace, that gives the grace to forget the worries, troubles and pains of present life. Eternal life is the everlasting treasure of those children of God, who are born again in spirit. Dear friend, are you an inheritor of this eternal life?

That young man stood amazed when he heard Jesus' reply. He could not understand the necessity of selling out all his wealth to the poor. He had not amassed anything illegally. He got his wealth not through stealing or grabbing.

Then, why did Jesus tell him to sell all his wealth out to the poor? He could not understand it. Amazed, he stood looking at Jesus. It seemed unnecessary and unable for him to sell his wealth. He went away sad.

When Jesus saw the young man going away, he said in grief:

“Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.”

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and confused. Seeing their amazement, Jesus

said: “Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!” - St. Mark 10:24

Here, Jesus Christ is revealing to us a very valuable mystery. Jesus Christ teaches us that if somebody has his dependence on anything other than Jesus Christ, that will be an hindrance to eternal life. The noble young man's hindrance was his dependence on wealth.

The hindrance of tax collector Zacchaeus was his love of money. But for Saul of Tarsus, his hindrance was his religious jealousy, self justification and phariseeness.

The hindrance of sinful woman of Nain was her adulterous life. The hindrance of the woman of Samaria was her adulterous life with six men, one after the other.

A wavering heart was Simon Peter's hindrance.

Dear friends, on what do you have more dependance than Jesus Christ? Dependance, here it means, attachment. You will inherit eternal life when you keep away everything that you have attachment and give Jesus christ the topmost priority.

When Jesus Christ said 'One thing you lack', he was not pointing out any of his sins. It was not any thought or deed of sin. On the other hand, it was his mental attachment or inclination. It was part of his attitude.

The affinity and dependance on money were his bondage. Jesus Christ exhorted him to remove that. Jesus Christ told him that he would get eternal life only if he cut it off from his heart.

Dear friend, do you have the desire to sell and leave everything to follow Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ sacrificed himself on the cross for us. He sacrificed everything, his body, life, soul and future, on the cross.

Jesus Christ is pleading before your heart door: "Son, I sacrificed all these for you, will you give yourself to me?"

Will you open your heart and accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour, Redeemer, Lord and Master?

If so, tell now: "Jesus, since you died for me, now onwards, I will live for you."

Let us pray. Gracious Jesus, we praise you for your holy words. We praise you for the heavenly exhortation. I submit myself before the love on the Cross. Bless me. Keep me safely till your second coming. Bless all those who heard this message. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-3

"Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips." - Isaiah 6:5 (AKJV)

There are two special experiences in christian life: One, to see the most holy God and two, to see myself, the unclean one. To recognise who God is and to recognise who I am. The more I see the holiness and glory of God, the more I see the wretchedness, sinfulness and vulgarity of mine.

Isaiah had such an experience. He saw the ever holy and glorious God! He saw God as the King of kings, seated on a throne, high and exalted. He saw the vision in the year that king Uzziah died. When the worldly throne was empty, he saw the everlasting King reigning in the heavenly throne. He saw heavenly hosts praising in loud voice: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty."

It was then that Isaiah realised that he was unclean before God. He humbled himself and cried: "Woe to me!

For I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” - Isaiah 6:5

Isaiah was a prophet who lived seven hundred and fifty years before Jesus Christ. King Uzziah (Azariah) died in the year 740 BC. The death of King Uzziah was a blow to Isaiah, who was related to the royal family. Then the heavenly throne was revealed to the man of God, who was frustrated because the worldly throne was empty.

Isaiah was given the vision that eventhough worldly places of trust could become empty, there is a place of trust in heaven, which would never become empty. Everything in this world would change; but the child of God would have the clear understanding that Jesus would never change.

Dear friend, are the places trust in your life severed? Are some of the rocks, which were considered to be firm to hold your feet, weak and loose? Has someone upon whom you had placed your trust, abandoned you?

Dear friend, believe that Jesus is living. He is the unchanging rock. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is the shoot of Jesse. He is the Root and the Offspring of David and the bright Morning Star. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. What he opens no one can shut and what he

shuts no one can open. When everybody misunderstand, he alone clearly understands. He is the invincible fortress.

Isaiah saw the Lord's throne. He saw the Lord seated on the throne. He saw heavenly hosts praising the Lord. Seraphs were holy angels with six wings. As they dare not to look at the Lord, they cover their face with two wings. To prevent the earthly men seeing their glorious feet instead of the holy God, they cover their feet with two wings. With two, they were flying and shouting:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of His glory.”

Dear friend, do you know the God, whom you are worshipping? God is holy. God is great in his holiness. He abides in unapproachable glory. The fiery angels worship the God with awe and trembling reverence. God is a consuming fire.

God comes down on praises. God is, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty God. The God is worthy to receive glory and honour and power, for he created all things and by His will they were created and have their being.

Isaiah realized that he was unclean before God when he saw the holiness and lofty view of God. He had the

realistic viewpoint that: "Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips."

The realisation that 'I had proclaimed the great things of Holy God with my unclean lips' brought Isaiah to the feeling of wretchedness. This verse brings out a strong message against those, who do the ministry of the God without having sanctification in their lives.

Dear brother, have you witnessed the most Holy God, experiencing sanctification in life? Are you doing the ministry of the God confessing your inner sins and experiencing sanctification?

From the younger days, Prof. C.M. Mathew, who was professor in Botany, M.A. College, Kothamangalam, was enthusiastically involved in various spiritual activities. Let us know from him the conversion and sanctification, which he had received in life from the God.

Q: Could you narrate your old life background?

A: I would be most happy to tell it. I am the son of Rev. Fr. Mathew Chanthiam, one of the senior most priest in the church and hails from Pandappilly near Muvattupuzha. Right from my childhood, I had a very disciplined life involving church worship, fasting, etc.

As a young man I became a Sunday School teacher after studying upto tenth class in Sunday School. I

gave leadership to activities such as VBS, prayer meetings, family prayer meetings, Bible classes, Youth league, Church choir, etc.

I was involved in activities such as secretary of Youth movement, moderator of Youth conferences, convention speaker, etc.

But my unseen inner heart was most filthy. My heart was filled with lust, boasting of my status and importance, love of money, selfishness, etc. Outwardly, I kept away from doing sinful deeds, but my entire personality was evil and unclean.

I still remember, when I went to a church to preach the Gospel, I quickly smoked two cigarettes without being noticed by anybody and entered the platform. My heart was filled with unclean thoughts and filthy desires. Anger and stubbornness clung to me. But nobody knew this. I was unaware that Jesus Christ was not within me.

Q: Can you explain how this was changed?

A: Praise the Lord! I received this blessed experience when I came to Christian Revival Fellowship in Kolencherry. When I was thirty two years old, I happened to hear the living Word of God from a holy man of God. That opened my eyes. I came to realize

that all my claims and things of respect are stained. That servant of God taught me lessons of sanctification. With that, a new world - a spiritual world - was being opened before me. I realized that my spirituality till then was folly and claimed by Satan. I submitted and committed myself to be cleansed by the holy blood that was shed on the Calvary Cross. Praise the Lord! From that day onwards, till now, the Lord gives me the grace to preach the Gospel experiencing the Holy Word.

Dear friend, are you in the experience, what Prof. C.M. Mathew had? Are you still witnessing Holy Jesus Christ without experiencing sanctification? St. Paul, the Apostle, warns that there is a possibility of myself becoming disqualified for the prize, after I have preached to others - 1Corinthians 9:27.

It is quoted in the Living Bible like this: "I fear that after enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit and ordered to stand aside."

We read in the last part of Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount:

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." - St. Matthew 7:22,23 (AKJV)

When Isaiah confessed that he was a man of unclean lips, one of the seraphs flew with a live coal from heaven and touched his mouth. When Jesus Christ, the Burning Coal from heaven, touches a sinner, he is declared as justified, his sins are forgiven. Lord Jesus Christ descended from heaven and became a burning coal on the cross of Golgotha. Those persons, whose sins were forgiven, say and should say like Isaiah: "Here I am. Send me!"

Dear friend, have you experienced the joy of justification? Do you have the great joy and heavenly peace as a result of sanctification of your body? Do you have the blessed experience of Jesus Christ's holy blood touching your mouth?

If you want to have that great experience, pray to Jesus Christ, who is beside you. Cleanse all my sins with your Holy Blood of the Cross. From now onwards, I will lead a holy life.

Let us pray. Lord, Jesus, the descended burning coal from heaven, we praise you for the Word given to us. Kindly lead all those who heard the Word to the experience of deep sanctification. In the name of Jesus, Amen!



Chapter-4

*“The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind
and in the storm.” - Nahum 1:3*

Her married life lasted only for seven months. Her husband died in a terrible accident. At that time, she was three months pregnant. He went for his work from the house in the morning. Later, she saw her husband's deadbody. How can she bear this? Who can console her? How to console her?

Several times she thought of committing suicide. Then thought of committing suicide after seeing her child, who is in her womb. She gave birth to a baby boy. Then another thought came; If I die there would not be anybody to take care of him. She lived just because of him. A storm was blown in her life, a whirlwind.

“The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm.” - Nahum 1:3

He went for the job with great expectation. He got the job after waiting for a long time. He did not complete just

one month. He met with a big accident, which paralysed one of his hands and he lost his job. A horrible whirlwind in his life.

“The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm.” - Nahum 1:3

It was a flourishing business. Lakhs of rupees as profit! He built up a beautiful house. Everybody was happy. Nobody knows how, the business broke. Loans piled up. He couldn't even pay the interest. The creditors began to press for the money. Finally, he landed up in the court of law. Even his own neighbours turned against him. It was a terrible whirlwind! A horrible storm!

“The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm.” - Nahum 1:3

There are two prophecies about Nineveh in the Bible. One - the book of Jonah and the other, the book of Nahum. The former was written in the year eight hundred B.C. and the latter in the year seven hundred B.C. These books are written to pronounce judgment on Nineveh.

The Lord entrusted Jonah with the message for Nineveh. Instead of going to the east, to Nineveh, the prophet went to the opposite, to Tarshish - Great Britain. The prophet of God, who received the call of the Lord, went to the opposite direction!

Jonah was sound asleep below deck. A violent storm raged on the sea. The ship tossed up and down in the sea. Everybody were terrified. But Jonah was fast asleep down the deck unaware of the storm or the shipwreck.

The sailors woke him up. "For I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you", Jonah admitted. It was good that the Prophet of God realised that he was running away from God. Praise the Lord! The servant of God got the guilty feeling. He got deep conviction. In his words, we can see his contrition due to conviction. Contrition led him to conversion and confession.

At the same time, the everlasting God provided a great fish in the depth of the sea to swallow Jonah. The sailors took Jonah and threw him overboard. The raging sea grew calm. The great fish swallowed Jonah.

The Lord's way is in the whirlwind and the storm. It is good to have storm in our life to bring forth certain disobedience lying unseen, deep inside. Storm is good to a person to avoid troubles caused by him to others. Storm is good in bringing guilty feeling to a man of God, who was entrusted with the Lord's ministry with great expectations. Storm is useful in leading a child of God to execute a job entrusted to him by the God.

That is what we are seeing when the great fish swallowed Jonah. Dear friend, the Holy Spirit, who is the

great fish, is ready to receive you, accept you, when you are aware of your guilt and come to a true repentance. Dear friend, do you know how long the Holy Spirit is waiting with his mouth wide open to receive you?

Till now, why are you not throwing yourself before the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit will accept you now if you let yourself to Him, denying and forgetting yourself. The Holy Spirit will take you to the place where you should be.

See, there is trouble in the ship when a disobedient man of God went inside. His disobedience caused loss and damage even to the cargo. When a wayward child of God went inside a fish, it is terrified. The fish is running carrying the backslided servant of God.

It went westward through the Mediterranean sea. Crossed the strait of Gibraltar, entered the Atlantic Ocean and passed through the western shore of Africa to south. Turned the Cape of Good Hope and entered the Indian Ocean. Went straight to the Red Sea through the eastern coast of Africa northward and finally reached the shore of Nineveh. There, it vomitted Jonah out. It sailed almost five thousand miles within a period of three days, as the Suez Canal was not yet there.

Dear son, how much agony the Holy Spirit bears carrying you with Him! Are you aware of the pain of that divine love? Could you understand the pain and agony of

the Cross of Golgotha to deliver you and the everlasting love behind those sufferings?

“And the Word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time.” - Jonah 3:1 (AKJV)

Here we see the Commission given to Jonah. Surely we can experience the steps of deep, fruitful Christian life.

Yes, dear brother, even though you have gone astray, the love of God is again visiting you. God has not entrusted the ministry, which was to be executed by you, to anybody else. Will you repent immediately? Will you restore yourself quickly?

Two things happened behind Jonah’s restoration. One, Jonah confessed: “I am cast out of thy sight.” - Jonah 2:4

Second, he renewed his commitment: “I will pay that, that I have vowed.” - Jonah 2:9

Let the storm be a cause for all these. “The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm.” - Nahum 1:3

For restoration, there should be repentance. One should repent before God without any self justification. One should admit one’s own sins to have a real repentance.

The second chapter in the book of Jonah is his humble prayer. A pleading without any claims. A prayer without any conditions. A prayer from a broken and contrite heart.

“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.” - Psalm 34:18 (AKJV)

“A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” - Psalm 51:17 (AKJV)

The second thing will happen if you have repentance and guilty feeling of the sins you have committed. “What I have vowed I will make good.” I will honour what I have committed to the God. I will not retreat, go back, from my commitment to God. I have taken back, which I had dedicated on the altar. It will not happen again. I will fulfill what I have committed to God. It is a new dedication, a renewed one.

Dear friend, will you come to a renewed consecration now? You have forgotten what you have said to God. Nevertheless, Jesus Christ has not forgotten. You have also forgotten the words told by Jesus to you at the time of your dedication; but Jesus Christ has not forgotten them.

Dear brother, God’s love is knocking at your door through the storms in your life. The One who calmed the wind and sea, the One who rebuked storm and whirlwind, is knocking at your heart. Will you open it for Jesus Christ?

Simon Peter denied Jesus Christ. He shouldn’t have done that. He was warned. He was to be careful, humble

and prepared. But he didn't. He denied that he knew Jesus. We read:

“And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.” - St. Luke 22:61,62 (AKJV)

The Risen Christ followed Peter, who was restored again and again, but went to his old profession taking his old boat and net. Jesus met him at the sea of Tiberias, prepared breakfast for him, fed him, restored him after making him to say: “Yes, Lord, I love you.”

Dear friend, this everlasting love is calling you. Come to Jesus instead of bewildering at the storm. Call upon Jesus with hope for his mercy instead of fearing the whirlwind. Repent, comit a new dedication.

If so, tell: Jesus, restore me. Jesus, since you have died for me, I shall live for your sake.

Let us pray. Lord, we praise you for the loving message. We thank you for the kind call. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-5

*“The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind
and in the storm.” - Nahum 1:3*

We meditated how the storm and whirlwind had brought true repentance and renewed dedication into the life of prophet Jonah. Now let us meditate on some other storms in the Bible.

One, “But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves; for the wind was contrary.” - St. Matthew 14:24 (AKJV)

The disciples were sailing to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. The boat was at a considerable distance from the land.

It was unexpected. A violent storm began to blow. The boat was swirling around and not moving forward. What to do? The disciples were terrified. Is life going to end in the middle of the sea? They have started the journey. But

they are not sure whether they would reach the shore opposite. Is the boat going to sink in the middle of the sea? Is the life doomed here itself? If only Jesus was with us! Then this trouble could have been solved. Like this, each disciple began to think and cry out.

Dear friend, is your life way - blocked at present? Is your life tossed around in the vicious circle of troubles? Are you going down in despair since your future expectations have broken? Dear friend, is Jesus Christ within you?

Jesus had come to the wedding at Cana. When a problem had come unexpectedly, Jesus solved it at the right time!

Jesus had come to the house at Bethany. The house of death became the house of joy.

Jesus came to Zacaeus's, the tax collector's house. On that day, salvation had come to that house! Praise the Lord!

The disciples were terrified. At that moment, Jesus came walking on the water. What a wonder! The sea and the waves were not obstacles to Jesus, who was coming to save his desperate disciples. The Creator came to the rescue of his creations treading on the sea waves.

The disciples straining at the oars, saw in the dim light, a person walking on the sea. They thought it was a

ghost and cried out. Since their hearts were troubled, they could not recognize Jesus in the dim light. When Jesus heard them crying out in terror, he said: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." St. Mark 6:50; St. Matthew 14:27.

The disciples did not recognize Jesus; they misunderstood him. The Pharisees, the religious scholars in Jerusalem, misunderstood Jesus Christ as Beelzebub, the prince of demons. His relatives said that he was out of his mind. They planned to lay hold of Him and chain Him. - St. Mark 3:21,22.

The Jews said: "He is demon possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?" - St. John 10:20

The chief priests and Pharisees said: "That deceiver" - St. Matthew 27:63. Jesus Christ was always misunderstood. Even today, there are people who misunderstand Jesus, His words and His servants.

Jesus took away the disciple's terror. Then Simon Peter wanted to walk on the water like Jesus. Jesus honoured his disciple's wish. "Come," Jesus called. The Peter got down out of the boat. Roaring waves were advancing towards him. Even then, he walked on the water and came towards Jesus.

Dear friend, storm helps you to walk like Jesus. "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did." 1John 2:6

Jesus' walk is the walk of love. To walk as Jesus is the walk of sanctification. To walk steadily in the midst of misunderstanding is walking like Jesus. To walk calm by when the roaring waves approaches you is walking like Jesus. Jesus' walk is to walk steadily when storm blows terribly. Jesus' walk is to approach the place of execution carrying the Cross. Jesus' walk is to show compassion to the destitute.

Let us pray, "Lord, teach us to walk as you had walked." Dear friend, will you take a decision to walk from now onwards, as Jesus had walked?

When roaring waves thrashed upon Peter, he looked at the waves around him instead of looking at Jesus. He began to sink. Dear friend, fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:2. Don't look at the obstacles. You will sink down in the roaring water when your concentration on Jesus fails.

Peter cried out: "Lord, save me!" When we sink down in life, let us also cry out to Lord. Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter.

Dear child of God, when you cry out in despair, Jesus will reach out his hand and catch you. Trust him, cry out to him, so that the wounded hands would catch you. Jesus climbed into the boat holding Peter's hand. Then the wind died down. Storms will die down when Jesus comes into

our lives. Praise the Lord! The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm.

Secondly, we read in St. Luke 8:23, about a whirlwind that was blown across the Lake of Gennesaret. Jesus was in the boat on that day. But Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. Unexpectedly, a whirlwind came down on them.

Yes, certain storms come most unexpectedly. Till then, how calm was the situation! How comfortable was the journey! Suddenly, there comes the storm! The boat is whirling around. The disciples were strained at the oars.

The disciples woke Jesus, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" Jesus got up and rebuked the winds and the waves. The storm subsided and all was calm. What a wonder! Jesus rebuked the winds and the waves.

Dear friend, Jesus Christ is the One, who controls the entire natural forces. Are you troubled thinking of your zodiac signs and their locations? Are you afraid of the predictions of your horoscope? Are you troubled over the influence these 'stars' are supposed to have on your fate?

Let the Creator of the solar system rise up in your heart as the tenth plant! Then, all these zodiac signs and the predictions of the horoscope would have no influence upon you. All the spells and witch craft will be burned and

complete peace will come to your life. Storms help us to experience that Jesus Christ has authority over natural forces. The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm.

Thirdly, we read in Acts 27:14, about a tempestuous wind called 'Euroclydon' or 'North Easter'. In Malayalam bible, this storm is named as "*Eesanamoolan*". St. Paul, accompanied by two hundred and seventyfive other sailors, is sailing towards Rome. When the ship was sailing along the shore of Crete, a wind of hurricane force swept down from the island.

They threw the cargo overboard. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind. When neither sun on stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, they finally gave up all hope of being saved. But Lord appeared before St. Paul. The Lord spoke to him and strengthened him.

Dear friend, will you long for the presence of Jesus Christ during hopeless moments, at the times when you were surrounded by darkness? Jesus Christ will make you courageous. Jesus Christ will bring everybody safely to the shore. All the sailors aboard the ship were saved just because there was St. Paul, the servant of God.

Jesus Christ could comfort us in our agonies and pain because he suffered the most disasterous whirlwind

on the Cross. He suffered the perilous storm of disgrace, storm of isolation, storm of abuse, storm of agony and pain. Jesus Christ is capable of making all the storms in your life calm and quiet.

Are you desolate, broken down due to storms in your life? Dear friend, Jesus loves you. Jesus cares for you. Jesus calls you. Will you say a word to Jesus now?

Jesus, from now onwards, I will lead a new life. A new life in which Jesus lives; a new life acceptable to Jesus; a new life, which is valuable to Jesus. If you take such a decision, pray now:

Jesus, I am committing myself unto your hands. Please hold me. Please calm the storms in my life. Please save me. Please uplift me. In the name of Jesus, who shed his holy blood on me, I pray, Amen.

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Chapter-6

“Behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” - St. Luke 1:48

December is the month of joy and celebration. Christmas stars, illuminations, carol songs, christmas greetings are all specialities of the month. Christmas greetings are circulated highlighting the message: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth; Peace to men on whom His favour rests.”

However, is there everlasting peace in the hearts of men? While considering each person, is there true peace in life? Are those, who give and receive the messages of peace experiencing true peace? Are those, who bless others by saying: “Let peace be unto you” and those who say in return: “Let it be so unto you”, experiencing peace? Many say: ‘No’.

Aren’t men smouldering inside? Aren’t they distressed and tormented inside without inner peace? Are not many hearts like volcanoes. Isn’t the heart boiling out with

restlessness, desperation, hatred, complaints, hostility and lust? Are not many peoples hearts, who seem to be very calm outside, broken and troubled inside? Somebody told, “Every human being is a walking civil war.”

Are not men wandering everywhere seeking peace? Where can we have peace?

When Christ comes to one’s heart, there is peace, rest and blessing. That blessed experience is highlighted in Virgin Mary’s words:

“Behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name.” - St. Luke 1:48,49 (AKJV)

The greatest blessing in Virgin Mary’s life was to receive Jesus Christ. How boldly she says: “Behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” How much joy is in those words! How much satisfaction is in those words! How much peace is in those words!

Mary knew nothing when she dedicated herself saying: “I am the Lord’s servant, may it be to me as you have said.” She could not understand anything. Mary was trembling with fright when the angel of God announced: “Greetings, you who are highly favoured.”

Mary was greatly frightened when the angel Gabriel told: “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with

God.” She asked a reasonable question to the angel: “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” She stood there amazed when the angel replied: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

Her fright and amazement went away when she heard that nothing was impossible with God. Then Mary dedicated herself saying: “I am the Lord’s servant, may it be to me as you have said.”

The first step is to dedicate oneself, on hearing the Word of God, for the will of God, unconditionally without thinking of consequences. It’s the dedication of faith; dedication of love; dedication for the will of God, dedication without considering future consequences; it is a complete dedication unto the hands of the Master. This is the dedication, that generations shall praise you ‘blessed’ - the first step.

Dear friend, have you taken a realistic dedication to receive Jesus Christ? Have you entrusted your entire life into the hands of Almighty God? Have you handed over your future, life, wishes, expectations, etc. into the bruised hands of Jesus Christ? Are you sure that you have consecrated your life, body, soul, spirit, your achievements, your short-comings, your income and expenditure, before the feet of Jesus Christ? If so, you can earn the blessed experience of praising by generations.

Rabindranah Tagore once wrote a poem. In it, a beggar is squatting by the side of the road. By way of alms, he is getting coins, grains, etc in his begging bowl.

At that time, there comes a chariot from afar. It’s the royal visit; the king is coming. He jumped up. The chariot is approaching. He held up his begging bowl. The chariot stopped before him. The king stepped down from the chariot and come towards the beggar. His joy knows no bounds. He is expecting a great, valuable gift from the king.

No, the king gave nothing. Instead, the king held out his hands towards the beggar. His begging bowl towards the king and the king’s hand towards the beggar. He couldn’t understand anything. What can I give to the king? The king is not withdrawing his hand.

Finally, he did one thing. He put his hand into his begging bowl. He got two grains of rice. He put that into the hand of the king. The king then went away in the chariot.

In the evening when he went back to his hut, he put everything down, which he got in his bowl. Rice, coins, etc. Among them, he noticed something glittering. Two numbers, in the shape of rice grains. What is this? He wondered. The people he knows gathered there. They said: “These are costly gems. From where did you get this?”

The king held his hand out to me”, he said “And I gave him two grains of rice. Now I got these two gems in the shape of rice grains.”

This is a poem. But there is a moral in the story. The King of kings is holding his hand out. The hands that are pierced. The hands that are bruised on the cross. The hands, that bleed unblemished blood.

Entrust to him everything. He will make it valuable. Praise the Lord! The generations shall call you blessed! Dear friend, entrust your entire life to Jesus.

Simon Peter once asked Jesus Christ: “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?” - St. Matthew 10:27 (NIV)

Jesus answered: “Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel’s. But he shall receive an hundred fold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the age to come eternal life.” - St. Mark 10:29,30.

After Mary’s dedication, she hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea. She might have faced jeers and teasing from her fellow people so that she couldn’t stay there any

more. She might have got tired of the mockery that she became pregnant before getting married.

There will be mockery, hatred and insult if Jesus comes inside. You may have to face accusations, that you might not have thought of.

Jesus Christ, in his Beatitudes, said: “Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the son of man’s sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy; for, behold, your reward is great in Heaven.” - St. Luke 6:22,23 (AKJV)

The second experience for the child of God, who had dedicated himself to God, is persecution. First - dedication, second - persecution.

Third - Fellowship. Mary visited Elizabeth. Elizabeth exclaimed: “Blessed art thou among women. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” You will get true love only through fellowship with children of God. The child of God, who was tired of the insult gets greetings and relief in the fellowship. The children of God called her “Blessed” when the others called her “cursed”.

Fourth - Praise or Worship.

Mary said: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things." - St. Luke 1:46-49 (AKJV)

Dear friend, are you willing to pass through the four beautiful steps in life? Dedication, persecution, fellowship and worship! Dear sister, will you entrust your life to Jesus Christ? If so, the generations shall praise you blessed.

Let us pray. Lord, our merciful Jesus, we praise you for leading us to the blessed experience of respect by generations - Bless us all. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-7

*"Where is he that is born
King of the Jews?" - St. Matthew 2:2*

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" is a Bible verse connected with the birth of Jesus Christ. The Wise Men from the east ask this question when they came seeking the King of kings to worship him: "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" - St. Matthew 2:2

This is the first question in the New Testament of the Bible. The first question in the Old Testament of the Bible is the one, which God seeks Adam, the first man, who deserted away from the God: "And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where at thou?"

This first question in the Old Testament is the call of mercy by which the Creator seeks the created. This is the call of love by which the God seeks the man, who had committed sin. This is the call of compassion, by which the

Saviour seeks the fallen man. This is the call of peace by which the God seeks the man, who has lost peace. This is the call of redemption of the naked man by the God to remove his nakedness. This is the call of hope to grant hope for the desperate man.

The first question in the New Testament is: "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" This is the question by which the created seeks the Creator. This is the quest of the man for the eternal God. This is the quest of the restless man for peace. This is the quest of the man in the darkness for light.

"The deep calleth the deep," says 42nd Psalm verse 7. The depth of God's love calls the depth of human heart. The depth of human heart calls the depth of God's love. The deep calls the deep.

Dear friend, are you aware that God's immeasurable love is calling you? Do you realise the love, that has forsaken the life on the Calvary Cross, is inviting you? Can you understand that the living God is calling you to give joy and comfort to your desperate life? Are you aware that Jesus Christ, the Lord, is calling you affectionately to grant light in to your darkened life? Are you aware that the God, your Master, is calling you to give a new peace to your life, which was devastated by sin? If so, say like the wise men: "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"

History will answer that He that is born as the King of the Jews is in the manger in Bethlehem. He that is born as the King of the Jews is in the synagogue in Nazareth. He that is born as the King of the Jews is by the river Jordan. He that is born as the King of the Jews is at the hillside of Bethsaida. He that is born as the King of the Jews is at the plains of Capernaum. He that is born as the King of the Jews, is in the house of Simon in Nain. He that is born as the King of the Jews is in the streets of Jericho. He that is born as the King of the Jews is in the Temple in Jerusalem. He that is born as the King of the Jews is in the little house in Bethany.

He that is born as the King of the Jews is in the court of Pilate. He that is born as the King of the Jews is in the Calvary nailed on the Cross. He that is born as the King of the Jews is in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Our life is not blessed by all these. He that is born as the King of the Jews is here, in my own heart! He is risen; He is the King in my heart. Dear friend, do you have the boldness to say like this? It is the greatest blessing to say firmly that Jesus Christ is reigning in my heart.

Where is he that is born King of the Jews? The wise men were seekers of truth. They travelled a long distance. They came to worship the King. They were seeking. First - Seeking.

The wise men, eventhough they were seekers of truth, misled themselves in their journey. They entered Herod's palace seeking the Prince. The star, the celestial light, that had led them stopped. They commenced their journey with a good intention. But they reached the palace of the enemy of the Prince.

Dear friend, are you misled by the vain pleasures of satan - the love of world - the pride of life? Secondly - Deviating from the right path - Deviating.

Thirdly, when they realised that they had deviated, they returned immediately. Then the star started moving!

Dear friend, the heavenly grace was awaiting your return, from the day you have deviated. The Holy Spirit of God was waiting at the door with great expectation.

Will you come back from your filthy ways to the blessed way so that the Holy Spirit could move again? Thirdly - Returning from the wrong path - Returning.

Fourth, the wise men found Jesus. The truth-seekers would find it. The star led them. The heavenly star is waiting for you to provide you with divine guidance. The achievement of great effort and journey of long days. What a joy! The wise men found Jesus, the Prince.

Dear brother, have you found Jesus with your inner eyes? If so, you are a blessed one. Fourth - Finding the Prince - Finding.

Fifth - Then they opened their treasures and presented Infant Jesus with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. When we find Jesus Christ, we would dedicate our body, soul and the spirit. A complete dedication.

Like the boy had dedicated the five loaves and two fish, a complete dedication. Like the poor widow, who put two very small copper coins, a complete dedication, without keeping anything back. Fifth - Dedicating.

Dear friend, do you know that Jesus is willing to receive your dedication? Do you think Jesus Christ is worthy of dedicating your entire life? Dedicate your broken life now itself to Jesus Christ - Dedicating.

Sixth - They worshipped Jesus. Jesus is worthy of worshipping. When we find Him, we would worship Him.

Dear friend, have you worshipped Jesus Christ in spirit and truth? Is your heart so filled with the love and gratitude to Jesus that you would worship him? Sixth - Worshipping.

Seventh, the wise men returned to their country by another route. There would be true dedication and true

worship if you find Jesus. A child of God who had experienced true worship would go by a new way.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” - 2 Cor. 5:17

The old mentality is changed. The old attitude is changed. The old nature is changed. The old character is changed - Old friends are changed. Old thinkings are changed. Old things of happiness are changed. Old interests are changed.

A new creation. A new way. A new experience. A new joy. Praise the Lord!

Dear friend, have you acquired this new experience? Has the water been turned into wine? Has the bitter water of Marah been turned into sweet water?

Are you desirous of acquiring these seven experiences of the first Christmas? Are you willing to have a new sweet enjoyment?

If so, dedicate your entire life, body, soul and spirit, as a complete offering to Jesus' feet, who is standing beside you. Dedicate your entire being for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross. Experience the new worship. Tell

your decision from the heart: Jesus, from now onwards, I am yours.

If so, let us pray. Our merciful God, we praise you for the kind Words. We praise you for calling us to become a new creation. We praise you for leading us to the blessed experience of true worship. Kindly give us the blessing to lead a new holy life unto the death, loving you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-8

*“I am a Levite, of Bethlehem - Judah,
and I go to sojourn where
I may find a place.” - Judges 17:9 (AKJV)*

The month of December is filled with the joy of Christmas celebrations. The birth of Jesus Christ, who came to lead the mankind to everlasting rest, is being celebrated like a festival.

In the midst of these pomp and celebrations many people did not seem to realise the true message of Christmas. To make Christmas a reality, Jesus Christ, who was born two thousand years ago, should get a proper place in the heart of man. For that, Jesus Christ is knocking at each person's heart. Unless we receive Jesus Christ, who is waiting patiently, seeking a place in the heart, Christmas is meaningless.

“I am a Levite of Bethlehem - Judah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.” - Judges 17:9 (AKJV)

The book of Judges was written one thousand two hundred years before Christ. A verse indicating Jesus Christ is written in this book. When we meditate the verse: I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah and I am looking for a place to stay - connection with Jesus Christ, the far reaching meaning has got great relevance in human life. Jesus Christ, who is penniless and without a place to rest in this world, is tired of seeking human hearts for a place. Man himself is God's temple.

We read in 1 Corinthians 3:16 : “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” Man is rejecting Christ, who came to live in his heart.

About two thousand years ago, Virgin Mary and Joseph walked through the streets of Bethlehem. Both were very tired. Mary is pregnant and her time is nearing. A census was being taken as decreed by the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus. Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem to register themselves.

Mary was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born. She could not make a step forward. People by the side of the road stood there watching Mary walking with unsteady steps. Joseph waited for her to come with him. They should get a cover to rest.

Mary was really tired. Joseph went to a nearby house. He knocked at the door. The house owner opened the door.

“Yes, what do you want?”

Joseph said, “We came for the census as per the Roman decree. It’s my wife, who is standing there at the gate. She is pregnant and the time has come for her. We need a little bit of place to rest. That’s why we knocked.”

“Sorry, there is no place here”, the man began to close the door. “You can go.”

“No sir”, Joseph pleaded, “Don’t say like that. It’s going to be dark. We just want to spend the night somewhere.... even this verandah would do. I’ll spend the night in the courtyard or so.”

But the man said without mercy: “Didn’t I say there is no place? Go!”

Joseph knocked at every door. From everywhere, the same reply, “No place, no room.”

Finally, tired, they went to an inn. Not a single room is vacant. Being the time for census, all the rooms are occupied. With her mind disturbed Mary stood there weeping

and holding her swollen body. Unable to help her, Joseph also wept with her.

The inn-keeper felt sympathy for them. He said:

“There, at the back, near the cattle shed is a quarry pit. It’s open, having no roof. The lady can use it. Anyway she will be free and safe there.”

Joseph and Mary proceeded to the back side. Joseph sat on the courtyard near the cattle shed. Mary went to the quarry pit at the back. In that freezing cold night, she gave birth to Jesus in the open. The Bible says:

“And laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” - St. Luke 2:7 (AKJV)

About two thousand years had elapsed since that incident. At that time there was no place for the son of God, the Creator of the entire universe, to be born. Even today, it is like that. The Saviour, seeking a place in the heart, is pleading before each person. The reason for not having a place for Christ is stated by Christ himself:

“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.” - St. Luke 9:58

Foxes have holes in human heart. Trickery and cleverness, the charactor of foxes are there in the human heart.

The eagerness that one's own interests should be done, at the cost of others is there. Brutal feelings and deeds are there. Cruelty and bloody actions are there. Cheating, deception, hatred, enmity, selfishness, wickedness are all there. So there is no place for Jesus Christ the Lord.

The birds of air have nests in human hearts. They are not just coming in and flying out. They are nesting in the human heart. The birds of air are symbolic of satanic demons in the Bible.

Evil spirits are nesting in human hearts. Disputes, quarrel, aversion, revenge, filthy thoughts, lust, etc. are filling human hearts. Satan, the ruler of all these things is living in hearts.

In the book of prophet Ezekiel, chapter eight, we read that the Lord's Temple is filled with utterly detestable things. The glory of God has departed from the Temple. Outwardly, the Temple looks beautiful. But it was when the Spirit of God had shown, that the prophet knew that the inside was filled with utterly detestable things.

Isn't the picture of human hearts? Due to the wretched and wicked things in the heart, Christ is departing away with grief since he could not enter into it.

Dear friend, what is the condition of your heart? How many Christmas had passed away! Has the King of kings, who is looking for a place to stay, got a place in your heart to enter into? Jesus has not got a single house in Bethlehem to be born. Is this the condition of yours also?

Will you open your heart to Jesus Christ to have a new experience now? Jesus says: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Today, the Creator of the entire universe is standing before his creation like a beggar. It is a blessed thing to open the life to him.

At the age of seventeen years, I received Jesus Christ whole heatedly as my Lord and Saviour. Jesus Christ came into my heart. Jesus Christ took over my life.

Dear brother, sister, please don't waste this valuable time. Please receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. With wounded heart and pierced hands, Jesus Christ is knocking at your heart. Receive living Christ. Let your future be blessed. Say good-bye to the evil demons in your heart. Lead a new life. Let you start a new life, which Christ pleases. Let us pray.

Our beloved Jesus, kindly hold everyone, who has opened the heart for you and gives it in your hands. Kindly bless them with the love of the Cross. Kindly mark them with the Blood that was shed at the Cross. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-9

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.” - St Luke 2:14 (AKJV)

The first gospel message in the world history was given about two thousand years ago. It was done in mid-night. The speaker was an angel of God. The audience were a group of poor shepherds.

The shepherds were keeping watch over their flock of sheep in the open in the hill side of Bethlehem. They were sleeping. One of them saw that and was terrified. An extremely high glory of the Lord was shining around them. A high intensity of light in the darkness during the midnight! He woke up the man sleeping beside him. He too was amazed at the sight. The next man was woken up. Each one stood up. They stood there terrified seeing the glory. In the middle of it is an angel of the Lord.

The angel said to the terrified shepherds: “Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

After the angel had said this, see, again a wonderful thing. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” - St. Luke 2:14 (AKJV)

It is the dignity of the man to give glory to the Almighty God. It is a blessing for the ‘created’ to praise the ‘Creator’.

The Bible says: “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” - 1Thessalonians 5:16-18.

To praise the God in any circumstance, I should know that God is doing only good to me. I should believe that the God would make all my troubles and agonies for my good.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.” - Romans 8:28 (AKJV)

We can praise the God when we remember the good things that God had given us. The Psalmist said: “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.” Psalm 103:1-3

God elevated David from the job of shepherd. He made him sit on the royal throne. In to the hands that held the shepherd’s rod, the God entrusted David the royal sceptre. David glorified the God.

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?” - Psalm 116:12

“Who remembered us in our low estate; for his mercy endureth for ever.” - Psalm 136:23

Had not troubles come into the life of David? David was made to pass through what all agonies! But he never looked at the troubles and agonies; instead, David looked at the innumerable benefits God had granted and he glorified the God.

Dear friend, can you count the ‘plus points’ in your life? Could you just look back and remember the good things that had happened in your life? Can you count them and glorify the God? You can experience an unprecedented,

wonderful happiness, an untold strength flowing into the heart. Your heart will be filled with divine peace.

I have heard of a piece of poetry:

Two men looked through the prison-bars
One saw mud; the other stars.

“I am seeing mud”, one of the prisoners looking through the prison bars said. The next man said, “but I see stars.”

It is when we praise the God for everything that our hearts are filled with the heavenly peace.

It was in Philippi of Greece where St. Paul and Silas went first with the gospel in Europe.

A crowd of Philippians seized Paul and Silas, dragged them through the market place, stripped and severely flogged and finally thrown into the prison. On that day, they didn't eat anything. They were hungry. They couldn't drink a little water on that day and were so thirsty also. The body all over was under pain due to flogging.

Then, in the midnight, Paul and Silas prayed, sang hymns to God and praised the God. When they glorified the God in the highest, chains came loose, prison doors

flew open, the jailer repented and they were released from the prison.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men.”

Men of good will, Men of his favour, men with whom he is well pleased - Amplified Bible. God's favour is God's grace.

Jesus once said: “I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because thou hast hidden these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight.”

God's favour is God revealing himself to us. Those, who have that blessed experience will have divine peace.

God was revealing himself to the mankind through the holy birth of Christ. Till then, mankind was not aware who the God was!

The Omnipresent God humbled himself into the womb of a woman. The Creator of the universe lay in the manger in Bethlehem. God gave Jesus his only begotten son to the world and that is the greatest favour ever received by man from the God.

The greatest favour from God is that he gave his Son to the world to give eternal life to the mankind, who were under eternal doom.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” St. John 3:16.

The birth of Jesus Christ gave peace to the entire mankind. The message of Christmas is the message of joy and peace.

Jesus Christ gives such Heavenly peace that the world cannot give or take away.

Dear brother, are not Christmas carol, carol songs, Christmas greetings, Christmas stars, Christmas trees, Christmas illuminations, Christmas feast, etc, outward rituals?

Do you have God’s favour in your life? Is your life unblemished to have God’s favour? Or, are disputes, aversion, hatred, quarrel, etc. ruling over your life?

You will get that divine peace if Jesus, who was born in the manger in Bethlehem, would born in your heart. The life that finds favour with God is the life in which Jesus live. The life from which sin is removed, is where Jesus lives.

Now say good-bye to all evils, sins and Satan, who holds power of sin. Accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Let the Christmas be an epoch making event of new experience.

Are you desirous of worshipping with the angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Do you want that blessed experience now?

If so, open your heart for Jesus, who is standing beside you. Say good-bye to sin and your old way of life. Decide to have a new life from today onwards. Pray to have Jesus in your heart. Experience the divine peace in it’s fullness.

Let us pray. Our merciful Lord, we praise you for the heavenly message. Grant me the peace given to those who have God’s favour. Bless me to have God’s favour and heavenly peace till my death. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

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Chapter-10

“Behold, I make all things new.”
- Revelation 21:5 (AKJV)

“Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” - Roamans 12:2.

Day after day passes on. Years elapse. This year will leave us and the next year will approach us. While we are entering the new dawn of the new year, let us meditate on Jesus, who makes all things new. Let us enter the new year with the experience of a thorough renewal.

“Behold, I make all things new.” - Rev. 21:5.

“Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” - Romans 12:2.

‘The Power of Positive Thinking’ is a famous book by Dr. Normant Vincent Peal. In that there is an interesting incident. Once, a patient consulted the doctor.

“I am not well”, he said. “I cannot say where the pain is. All over, it’s paining. I don’t have any rest. I have consulted many doctors and taken lot of medicine, but without any result. Please examine me thoroughly.” The doctor examined him and prescribed a medicine.

“Don’t worry. This treatment would be enough. All your sickness will be gone by this”, said the doctor. The patient gladly showed this prescription to the chemist.

“Sorry”, said the chemist. “It’s not available here. Ask somewhere else”, he suggested. He went to another chemist. “We can’t understand what medicine the doctor has prescribed”, the man said. “Look some other shop.” Finally, he went to a chemist, where you will get all type of medicines. He showed the prescription there also. The chemist called him: “Sit.” He sat. The chemist said: “The doctor had prescribed a special treatment for you. Do you know that drug? It’s Roman 12:2.” Then he read it out from the Bible:

“Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

The doctor, who examined the man knew that he would get well when he would renew his mind and get transformed.

Dear friend, will you entrust now your life to Jesus Christ, who makes all things new, to make you new? Will you believe that Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross of Calvary, lives even today to renew you?

First, when Christ transforms a person he becomes a new person. The Bible says:

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” - Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV).

When Jesus Christ abides in a person, he becomes a new person. The old short-tempered and cruel person becomes calm and quiet like a lamb. The drunkard, who once tortured his wife and children is now a new person singing and praising the Lord with his family. The person, who would do any sort of evil thing for money has now become meek and affectionate after he had received Jesus Christ in his heart.

Jambulinga Nadar, the notorious brigand, once terrorised the southern parts of Tamil Nadu. He terrorised

that region with looting, murder and rape. When he heard the Word of God from Madam Emy Car Michael, he repented and became a new person. Yes, Jesus Christ, who makes everything new, transforms man and makes him a new person.

Secondly, Christ makes man a new person. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” - 2Corinthians 5:17 (AKJV).

Christ, who died on the Cross for redeeming the mankind, while on the Cross, transformed the repented criminal.

Mary Magdalene, who was possessed by seven demons because of her adulterous life, was made into a new creation, who loves Christ. He transformed Simon Peter, who was once wavering, coward and impatient, into a person who is firm as a rock. ‘Doubting Thomas’ was transformed into a new person, a martyr and faithful. He converted Saul, who was once a blasphemer, a persecutor and a violent man into Paul, the Evangelist, who in the 1st century made a strong impact in Asia and Europe with the Gospel. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.”

Thirdly, Christ, who makes everything new, gives a new heart. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony

heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” - Ezekiel 36:26 (AKJV).

The medical science is successful in performing a surgery transplanting heart. However only Christ can give a new heart. Only Holy Spirit can make a man with God's mind. God has testified about David as:

“A man after my own heart” - Acts 13:22.

The greatest miracle of Christ is to create a new heart for a person replacing a heart filled with evil, hatred, enmity, revenge, lust and sexual desires. That is the inestimable and boundless power of Holy Blood that was shed on the Cross.

Fourth, a new way. “Having therefore, bretheren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.” Behold, a new path; not the old one of sin. The old path of evil acquaintanance, evil habits and evil deeds is left behind. A new journey through a new path.

Augustin's fathere died when he was a child. He led an immoral life. He started living with an immoral woman. But his mother's prayer converted him. He left behind that filthy life. He started a peaceful and happy life.

One day, he happend to meet that adulterous woman. He stood there like an unfamiliar person.

“It's me”, she said, “Don't you know me?”

“It's not I”, Augustin replied. “That Augustin, who lived with you had died. Now, I am a new person. I have left my old ways. Now I am treading a new path.”

Dear friend, are you interested in a new path?

Fifth, a new commandment. Jesus Christ says: “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my deciples, if ye have love one to another.” St. John 13:34-35.

“He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” - I John 4:20 (AKJV).

The foundation of prosperity and rest in human life is love. When Jesus Christ comes into heart, those who were once separated would unite together. When Christ comes in to a home, it shines with mutual love.

Sixth, a new city. “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” - Revelation 21:2 (AKJV).

The eternal holy city in everlasting days. The new Jerusalem, the eternal holy city, is the culmination for those, who had accepted Jesus Christ in their life period in earth.

Seventh, the new Heaven and new earth. "And I saw a new Heaven and a new earth; for the first Heaven and he first earth were passed away." - Revelation 21:1 (AKJV).

"Behold, I create new Heavens and a new earth." Isaiah 65:17.

"But the Heavens and the earth, which are now, are kept in store, reserved unto fire. The Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are their in shall be burned up." - 2 St. Peter 3:7-10.

Dear friend, have you prepared yourself for the eternal Heavenly shore? Have you said good-bye to your old ways? New person, new creature, new heart, new path, new commandment, new city, new heavens and new earth. Have you ever experienced that Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross, resurrected and living is making everything new? If so, let us pray: Living God, we Praise thee for the Word of God. Bless us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-11

"O man greatly beloved, fear not; peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong." - Daniel 10:19

Daniel, the prophet, was in great sorrow and agony. The man of God was sitting there broken and tired. Daniel was gloomy and weak. Then a divine sound woke him up. Merciful God affectionately told Daniel:

"O man greatly beloved, fear not; peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong." - Daniel 10:19.

The Eternal God called Daniel, 'greatly beloved'. God called Noah, 'righteous man among the people of his time'. God called Abraham 'My friend'. God called Moses 'Most faithful'. God called David 'a man after my own heart'.

Dear brother, how will God, who sees the heart, call you now? Will God call you 'good and faithful servant'? Will God testify you as 'Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!?' Or will God remark you as 'wicked and lazy

servant'? Are you willing to become a greatly beloved person of God?

There are many reasons for Daniel to become a greatly beloved man.

First, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself." - Daniel 1:8 (AKJV). Daniel was in a culture that did not honour God. He was living in a foreign country far, far away from his own country. He was taken to Babylon from Jerusalem as a captive youngman. He was staying away from his relatives. A youthful age, which tempts to live as you like. Nobody will see or know.

But Daniel had a determination. Eventhough nobody knows, there is a God, who knows everything. Even if no one noticed him there is a God who sees everything. Daniel determined not to grieve God. Dear friend, will you take such a decision? The speciality in Daniel's life was his **Decision**.

Secondly, we see prosperity in Daniel's life as is written in Daniel 6:28. Let me call it '**Promotion**'. We see this in the book of Daniel, chapter six verses one and two. At that time, there were one hundred and twenty states in Persian empire, which were ruled by Emperor Darius. Each state had its own governors. These one hundred and twenty governors were to report to three presidents. Daniel was first among the three presidents, as it is written in Daniel chapter six, verse two.

How was this prosperity acquired? The Lord had seen the decision taken by Daniel that he will not defile himself and the efforts taken by him to keep the decision. The Lord will not be indebted to anybody. The Lord would respect anybody who respect the Lord. The Lord promoted progressively the youth, who is keeping holiness in life. The Lord says: "I will make you the head, not the tail." Deut. 28:11. Dear brother, dear sister, are you willing to lead a holy life, which pleases the God? Jesus Christ will grant you all the grace for that.

Thirdly, the Lord gave protection to Daniel - **Protection**. Daniel's co-workers were jealous over his progress. They planned to tear him down. They plotted to put a snare to trap him. We read further in the sixth chapter, the various strategies and inhuman deeds of a group of jealous people.

They managed to issue an edict and enforce the decree that for the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god, except Darius, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

Daniel continued to pray to the Lord. He went home to his upstairs room where he opened the windows towards Jerusalem and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Those who had set the snare, persuaded the emperor to put Daniel into the lions' den. Without any way out, the

emperor yielded to their pressure. They put Daniel into the lions' den. How wonderful! The angel of God kept the lions' mouth shut. The lions stood there still. Daniel spent the whole night in the lions' den. Nothing happened to him as he had trusted in the Lord. (Daniel 6:23). The Lord will protect those who are faithful to him - Protection.

David sang: "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." - Psalm 34:7.

Fourth, Daniel's **Profession**. Officially, Daniel was the President of Persian empire. But he gave first preference to God's ministry without neglecting the official duties. Surely he was very sincere and hard-working in his duties, but he gave supreme priority to the Lord's work to save people for everlasting life.

The Bible says: "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever." - Daniel 12:3.

Daniel knew that those who lead many to righteousness are wise will shine as stars eternally. He set apart his life to lead many to righteousness and to holiness.

Dear friend, are you eager to set apart your life for the Gospel work of Christ? There is only one life. There isn't another life to lead a good life and to be utilised for

Christ. As C.T. Studd once said: "Just one life; it will soon, soon be past. That which is done for Christ alone will last." Dear sister, are you interested in amassing the 'better and lasting possessions', here itself?

Fifth, Daniel's **Possession**. "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance." - Daniel 12:13.

There is an inheritance, which is received at the end of the days. There is a share for you. Because sons are entitled for a share of father's wealth. "Now son, you may go to the final rest - the death. I won't forget what you had done for me and how you lived here. Christ will reward you", says the Lord.

The Bible says: "See, his reward is with him, and His recompense accompanies him." - Isaiah 62:11.

The Bible again says: "My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he had done." - Revelation 22:12. On that day multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake to receive everlasting life, the Heavenly share. Dear friend, have you acquired the assurance that you would rise up with the holy people and would stand among them?

"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet

of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” - 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17.

To reign with Christ in his kingdom is the greatest blessing, which man could acquire. The life in this world is the period for preparing oneself to receive the share of that Heavenly possession.

The five stages - Decision, Promotion, Protection, Profession and Possession. Dear friend, will you be entitled to be called “O man greatly beloved?” Have you received the redemption and the inner peace through the blood of Christ? Dedicate your life now itself before the sweet feet of Christ. Make a covenant with Christ. Jesus, from now onwards, I will live for you since you have died for me. If so, let us pray.

Jesus, our loving and merciful Lord, we praise you for the loving messages. We praise you for the Heavenly exhortation. Kindly place your bruised hands on my head. Kindly help me to experience the deliverance obtained through the Cross. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-12

*“For I have opened my mouth unto the Lord,
and I can not go back.” – Judges 11:35 (AKJV)*

We have meditated about the decision taken by Daniel before God. Daniel decided not to defile himself at any chance. Since Daniel kept that decision, he got all the protection in this world and the godly assurance of a share in the eternal kingdom.

We read about a person called Jephthah in the book of Judges. Jephthah was a child of god, who had taken certain covenants and decisions before God. Over the generations, the words uttered by Jephthah at a certain time, influence many people and keep them steadfast in faith:

“For I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I can not go back.” Judges 11:35 (AKJV)

First thing in Jephthah’s life was that he was a son of a harlot. Jephthah was a mighty man of valour, but he

was the son of a harlot – Judges 11:1. From the birth itself, he had a stained life. No one has any respect for his life. An erred past life! A pitiful life period bearing the weight of insult! A past, which can never be corrected!

Dear friend, do you remember now the shameful days of your life? Do you remember those days of isolation, insult and belittlement?

These neglected days in Jephthah's life make us remember one thing: "that time excluded from the citizenship in Israel" as St. Paul had said.

"Therefore remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, with out hope and with out God in the world." Ephesians 2:12 (NIV)

Dear friend, do you know from where God had saved you? Are you aware that you were in the disastrous pit, mud and mire? Do you know the rock from which you were cut? Will you look back to see from which quarry you were hewn? Isaiah 51:1.

Secondly, in the life of Jephthah, we see that he walked with vain men (Judges 11:3). He wasted his life with a bad company of friends. There is an old saying, which says: "Birds of the same feather flock together." We

can know the character of a person easily if we can know who his friends are.

Dear friend, is your life sidetracked due to filthy company of friends? As a college teacher for thirty three years and the last two years of my service as the Principal of St. Peter's college, Kolenchery, I could see many youngsters destroying their own lives due to bad company of friends. I could see youths, who hails from good family and with good character, entrapped themselves in filthy friendship and ended up in great danger from where they could not come back!

Dear friend, with whom you are walking? Are children of God your dear friends? Are you living with the company and fellowship of children of God?

The Bible says: "My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them." Proverbs 1:10 (NIV)

"My son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths." Proverbs 1:15

"He that followeth vain persons is void of understanding." Proverbs 12:11

Thirdly, in the life of Jephthah, we see that: "Jephthah uttered all his words before the Lord in Mizpah." Judges 11:11.

Even though Jephthah was a son of harlot and walked among vain men, at a certain time in his life, he turned to God. He dedicated his life in to the hands of the Lord. He opened his heart to the living God. He told every thing to the God.

Dear friend, have you ever opened your heart before the feet of living Christ? In the Bible, there is a sad lady called Hannah, who in the height of her desperation opened her heart before the Lord. She said: “No my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.”
1 Samuel 1:15 (AKJV)

“And her face was no longer downcast.”

“Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.” Psalm 62:8

Fourth aspect in Jephthah's life. “Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah.” Judges 11:29. The Spirit of the Lord would come upon a person, who pour out his heart before the Lord and dedicate his life for the will of God. We read in the Bible that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson. We also read that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Ezekiel. In Patmos, John was in the Spirit. The Spirit of Lord would come upon a person, who dedicates his life for the sake of God.

Fifth aspect in the life of Jephthah: “Jephthah made a vow to the Lord.” Judges 11:30. “If thou shalt with out fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt-offering.” Judges 11:31. It is the vow of Jephthah that he would dedicate the dearest in his life as an offering. The covenant of Jephthah!

Dear friend, have you made any vow before God? I made a covenant with the Lord, when I was seventeen years old: “Lord, from now onwards, I am yours. From now onwards, I am your slave.” I renewed my covenant with God when I was thirty six years old: “Lord, I am dedicating myself and all that I have, as a complete offering, before you.” Merciful Christ has led me so far prosperously. Praise the Lord!

Sixth aspect in the life of Jephthah - “Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites, and the Lord gave them into his hands.” Judges 11:32

The Bible says: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12 (AKJV)

It is again said: "In your struggle against sin, you have to resist to the point of shedding your blood." Hebrews 12:4 (NIV)

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7 (NIV)

"For the battle is the Lord's." 1 Samuel 17:47 (NIV)

Dear friend, sister, are you victorious over sin? Are you experiencing victory in your daily life? Christ will give you victory in your fight against sin, if you keep Christ in your forefront.

The seventh aspect in Jephthah's life – The sternness in Jephthah's vow. "For I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I can not go back." Judges 11:35

When Jephthah returned to his home after the battle, he was greeted by his daughter, his only child. He has to offer her as a burnt-offering. Jephthah says: "For I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I can not go back." We further read that she lived as a virgin. She was not married. She said: "I will weep with my friends because I will never marry." Judges 11:37 "She wept because she would never marry." Judges 11:38

Dear brother, sister, will you say to Christ now, "Having put my hands to the plough, I will not look back. I have

given my word to the Lord and I can not go back on it." You have forgotten the vows you made to the Lord; but the Lord has not. Will you take a decision now to keep the commitments and vows made to the Lord? Prophet Jonah confirmed his decision while he was in the belly of the great fish: "What I have vowed I will make good." Will you also make such a commitment? Will you entrust your life once again to the wounded hands of Christ? Will you dedicate your life, renewing your vows, to the feet of Christ?

Let us pray. Merciful Jesus, we praise you for the merciful words. Let me dedicate my humble life to your wounded hands. Cleanse me with your holy blood. Redeem me. Make me your son and inheritor. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Chapter-13

“Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” St. Luke 12:20 (AKJV)

Death is a certainty. Every man has to face it. From time immemorial, man had tried his level best to avoid death. He had only failed in his efforts. Eternity is a reality and a certainty like death. Eternity is either Heavenly comfort or torment in hell. It is certain that man has to face either of this.

Christ descended to earth and died on the Cross to make man, who deserved eternal hell, inherit the eternal Heaven. One has to receive Christ, here itself, as the Lord and Saviour and has to lead a life, in which Christ abides and pleases, to be delivered from eternal hell. Christ says “Rich toward God” when he mentions about earning Christ. Christ asks a person, who is not rich toward God, at the time of his death:

“Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” St. Luke 12:20 (AKJV)

Christ here mentions about a rich man. A wealthy man with lot of estates. That season’s crops were very good. A bountiful harvest with plenty of grains. I need not worry, he thought, for quite a long time, even if a famine comes. He is saying to himself that he had plenty of good things laid up for many many years. Now I can take life easy, can eat, drink and be merry. He is planning for many many years.

Then there comes a problem! What shall I do? He asks himself. He has no place to store his bountiful harvest. The present set up is not sufficient to hold the season’s grains. An idea came to his mind then. ‘This is what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’ He was lying on his bed thinking, planning and estimating.

Suddenly it happened. Some sort of uneasiness. It started with a little pain. Suddenly it became intolerable, like the chest breaking. He couldn’t utter any thing. Am I going to die, he thought. Suddenly, there comes the voice of eternal God. “You fool!” God said to him. “This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?” To the man,

who had planned for 'many many years', God demands: 'This very night', 'tonight'.

Child of God, you never knows when you would meet death. Have you prepared yourself for the eternity? Have you inherited eternal heaven? Is Christ living in your heart? Have you become rich toward God?

Why God had called the rich man 'Fool'? We can not see any nonsense committed by him. Others would call him 'Clever'. He had done every thing prudently. He tended his crops sensibly. He wisely planned to build new large godowns to store up the harvest. A wise man. Others would say, 'How sensibly he is doing each thing!' Then, why did God call him 'Fool'? Let us see.

First reason- He was not conscious of death. He was not 'death conscious'.

In Psalm 39:4-6, the Psalmist sang:

*"Show me, O Lord, my life's end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting is my life.
You have made my days mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before you.
Each man's life is but a breath.
Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro;
He bustles about, but only in vain;
he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it."*

The ninetieth Psalm tells about death and vanity of human life:

*"You turn men back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."
The length of our days is seventy years-
or eighty, if we have the strength;
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away."*

St. Paul wrote: "For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it." 1 Timothy 6:7.

We have heard of Alexander the great. It is said that in his death bed, he said: "When you take me to bury after my death, make two holes on the sides of the coffin and keep my hands outstretched."

"Why for, lord?"

"Don't you understand?" he asked.

"Let the world know that Alexander the great, who held the world, is going empty handed!"

Dear friend, do you care about death? If you die today, will you be in Christ's kingdom? Will you get the heavenly blessings kept for holy people?

Secondly, God had called the rich man 'Fool' because he was not conscious of God. He was not 'God-conscious'.

In the Bible passage, he never mentions about God. He only says about my, I, mine, etc. Dear brother, are you aware of a God? Do you have awe and respect for God? Do you know that a God is living? Do you know that a life, in which the God pleases, will only give eternal peace?

Charles Darwin was an atheist. He never believed in a living God. He, through his book 'Origin of Species' tried to propagate the theory of evolution, thereby establishing that it is a myth to believe the Bible teaching that God created man. He taught that man was evolved from ape and later, man would become super human.

Charles Darwin, towards the end of his life repented and became a believer. This is stated in the book 'Creation or Evolution' written by Enoch.

Voltaire, the famous atheist, towards the end of his life wished to talk to a believer in Christ and requested his prayer. He lamented that his entire life was wasted. Finally, in his death bed, he gazed at each person by his bed and lamented: "Oh, I am sinking deep deep into the fire of hell. Who can rescue me from this fire of hell?"

Thirdly, God had called the rich man 'Fool' because he was not conscious of his soul. He was not 'Soul-conscious'.

Dear friend, do you calculate that every thing would end by the end of this life here? Man has body, soul and spirit. Physical death is the separation of body and soul. But spirit is eternal. If you don't prepare for the spirit to reach the Kingdom of God while the soul is still in the body, it will go to eternal torment. Christ said: "Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." St. Mark 9:48.

Dear brother, sister, do you believe that Christ died on the Cross to redeem your spirit? If so, dedicate yourself in the holy blood of Christ, which washes away all the blemish from the body and spirit and earn eternal life.

Fourthly, God had called the rich man 'Fool' because he was self-conscious. He was not conscious of others. He was not 'others-conscious'. He never cares for others. He always tells about himself like I will eat, I will drink, I will be merry, etc. Dear friend are you able to pain with the pain of the pained?

That wealthy man became a fool. We should not have that ill-fate. Leave back all the desires, lusts and vanity of this world. Say good-bye to the cravings of sinful man and desires of the world. Receive Christ, the Creator of life, as your Lord and Saviour. Entrust your life to the wounded hands of Christ. From now onwards, start a new life, in which Christ dwells.

If so, tell Christ, who stands beside you. Jesus, I will live for you since you died for me.

Let us pray. Oh loving and merciful Lord, Jesus, we praise you for the living words. We praise you for the words of eternal life. Bless us all. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

