Dedication

Prof. M.Y. YOHANNAN

Publisher
Phileo Books
Kolenchery - 683 562
Dedication

Prof. M.Y. Yohannan
Retd. Principal
St. Peter’s College, Kolenchery
Mechankara, Kadayirippu P.O., Kolenchery - 682 311
Kerala, India. Phone: (0484) - 2689489, 2689889
E-mail: profmyyohannan@crfgospel.org
Website: www.crfgospel.org

Publisher:
Phileo Books
Kolenchery - 683 562

Translated by
P U Chakkappan M A, M Ed.
Retd. Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kochi.

Cover Design
Lijo Puthusseril

Price: ` 70

Printed at
Viani Printings, Kochi - 682 018

All rights reserved with the publisher
FOREWORD

Arthur T Pierson said:

“The whole church of God should be a great body of evangelists. Let us alone and go after the lost.”

The blessed life is the one that has been dedicated and spent for the widespread propagation of the gospel of the LORD, driven with compassion and concern for the souls.

Read the dedication written by Corrie Ten Boom consequent on witnessing the horrible manhunt and experiencing the hellish death dance in the Nazi Concentration camp:

Ready to suffer grief and pain,
Ready to stand the test.
Ready to stay at home and send others
If He sees best.
Ready to go,
Ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill.
Ready for service lowly or great,
Ready to do His will.
Ready to go,
Ready to bear,
Ready to watch and pray
Ready to stand aside and wait
'Til He shall clear the way.
Ready to speak,
Ready to think,
Ready with heart and brain.
Ready to stand where He sees fit.
Ready to bear the strain.
Ready to speak,
Ready to warn,
Ready to o'er souls to yearn.
Ready in life,
Ready in death,
Ready for His return.

Go there and make disciples of all nations…..
Matthew 28 : 19 RSV

It is indeed a great blessing to dedicate one's life to Christ. When Christ comes to our heart, we will identify ourselves with the great Passion Christ bore on the cross and our heart will fill with divine peace.

Many of those who had pledged earnestly 'I dedicate my body, life, and soul in toto as an offering to thee' will realize at very critical situations that they haven't truly dedicated in every respect.

The foundation of dedication is the love for the Living Christ.

We too will gain the experience which made our
forebears sing:

“Enne mayakkee nin nalsaundharyacchharyangal,” which means, “Thy Great Beauty and Marvels enchanted me.” True dedication occurs when the precious love of Christ attracts and influences us.

How tenderly Christ draws us in to His eternal love! The more we experience the love of Christ, the more we progress on the path of dedication.

It is not to relax on a cool and comfy couch Christ invites us, but to progress day by day on the path of Cross bearing the Cross. In the epistle to the Hebrews the writer says:

“..fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2 New International Version (NIV))

Christian life is to travel with a smile bearing one's cross behind the crucified on the path of the crucified.

The LORD has said:

“Everyone will hate you because of me. But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

It would be unfortunate if we were not able to become the comrades and witnesses of the cross.

“For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as
enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the LORD Jesus Christ,” (Philippians 3:18-20 New International Version (NIV))

Thus says St. Paul in his epistle to the Church of Philippi.

The first Christian in Europe was Lydia of Philippi. She was an ordinary merchant of expensive purple.

“The LORD opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.” She dedicated herself to Christ. Therefore she received Christ. She received Christ's disciples.

It is indeed a great fortune to accept God and those God's children who are in the spirit of God. When you progress through devotion further, you will realize that Christian life is not a bed of roses, but a path of thorns.

When we take a dedication, we will be obliged to say as St. Augustine said “How sad I became so late in coming to this experience!” We will sigh with a broken heart looking back to the dark corridors of our life. We will repent by recalling, one after the other, the sins that have occurred in our life. Then we will be filled up with the love of Christ. This is spiritual fullness.

These ideas constitute the chief message of this book 'Dedication'. 
I am very thankful to Mr. Chakkappan for taking so much time to translate my book.

There are many children of God who worked diligently in the composition, DTP, correction, editing, printing, cover page etc. of this book. My gratitude to them is unending.

Let me conclude this foreword notes with the prayer and hope that everyone who reads this book will come to genuine dedication.

Your own brother,
Yohannan sir.
Chapter – 1

When he saw her, he tore his clothes and cried, "Oh no, my daughter! You have brought me down and I am devastated. I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break."

(Judges11:35, NIV)

This is a powerful verse from the Bible. “I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.” This verse was spoken by Jephthah, a ruler in the Book of Judges. Jephthah was a judge. In those days it was the judges who ruled over the people. There were no kings! The times when people followed the dictates of their own instincts!

After Moses it was Joshua who led the people of Israel. For a long period since then there had been no leaders who had the spiritual verve to lead the people. God raised Judges from time to time.

When trials come, when you go through ordeals, when sufferings befall you, when crises occur in your life, when things end in fiasco, when there is disharmony in the family, when you come across behaviour bereft of compassion, when you are isolated at home or in your workplace, when you are troubled by bad vibes from your
friends, when you are at your wits end, you can remind yourself “I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.”

Once for all, I have made a vow to the LORD. A powerful verse! A verse which is a distinct commitment. I cannot go back on it!

Today many believers take “one step forward and two steps backward.” They take a step forward. Next they take two steps backward. Once in a while we take a step forward, we take decisions, we give word to God, we take dedication, but we go backward farther than we have gone forward. In fact, we are going backward day by day. Therefore, it is required to have a firm determination that we will not retract the step we have taken forward.

I submitted my heart to Jesus and said that I could not go back on it. That is Christian life. The step taken forward will ever be forward. There are crises, there are problems, and there are burdens. But it is to Jesus I have given the word; it is to the master of all, to the omnipotent I have given the word. I will not retract the step I have taken forward. It will be ever forward.

Dear ones, let this be the red letter day when you take your step forward. Let this be the day when new stirrings arise in your life. Let this be the day when you open your life to Christ and offer certain distinct dedications to Christ. “I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.”

There are those who pledged not to lose their
temper any longer. But they lost their temper again. There are those who pledged not to go astray any longer. But they went astray again. There are those who pledged not to defile themselves. But defilement rushed in to them again. There are those who pledged to be honest in their dealings. But they gave in to themselves to fraudulent ways in money matters.

There are those who pledged not to make discord in the family. But they caused discord again. There are those who pledged that no one would come to grief on account of them. But they couldn't stick to it. But today you promise: “I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.”

Have you made such distinct dedications? Though you utter certain words of prayer, you don't have the conviction that they are heard by the ever living God. You don't have the confidence that the LORD hears them. You pray, you read the Bible, you go to church, you attend service, and you hear the Word. But what is missing is a clear sense of direction.

You should have a clear conviction. I am sitting at the feet of Christ. There are certain matters that distress me. Jesus comes to know my heartaches even before I myself feel them. My creator is all powerful. My Jesus beholds me, and He hears me; as it is to Him I open my heart. He is capable of relieving me of my burden.

Jesus will give me relief. Jesus will bless me. He will bring peace to my heart. Jesus will break open a new path in my life. With this trust you should unburden your heart
to Jesus as if it were to a friend sitting very close to you.

“The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

(Psalms 34:18, NIV)

I am at the feet of the LORD, broken hearted and crushed in spirit. I have certain demands, certain desires, and certain burdens. If the verse “The LORD is close to the broken-hearted.” is God's word, Jesus is close at hand. You should believe this. The Word is truth. The Word is spirit. The Word is life. The Word is immutable.

“The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” (Psalms 145: 18 NIV)

Thus, believing that Jesus is near you, offer your prayers. Open your heart, raise your tongue, move your lips, and say everything in whispers to Jesus. You should say everything with an open heart. You will feel a great sense of restfulness before you get up. This is the experience of Christian life!

Christian life is not a life of learning. It is not a life of acquiring knowledge. It is experientially sweet. You should personally pray sitting at the feet of God and gain newer and newer experiences.

Mr John runs a Dental Lab in Muvattupuzha. He runs a large establishment which has about four thousand and five hundred employees on its pay roll. John has many vehicles. He avails all of them for the work of God. He spends whole heartedly for God whatever God has lavished on him.
John's parents were daily labourers. His father was a chronic mental patient. It was John's mother who listened to God's word first. John and his brothers, consequently, followed her to the fellowship. John's father Mr Kuriakose has enjoyed good sleep without consuming not even a single pill for the last thirty four years. He is in good health and now able to work. How did this happen? John and his mother prayed at the feet of God. They unburdened themselves unreservedly to the LORD.

Though he was the son of a daily labourer, John had once despised the work of God. Once while two ladies were returning from a meeting of the fellowship in the night, he threw a large stone upward, hiding behind a bush, and shouted Halleluiah. The ladies were frightened out of their wits. John, who had had this attitude to the fellowship, later chanced to discover Jesus Christ. Today he is engaged in the work of Jesus with the passion to burn out himself in the service of the LORD.

It is possible that you have ridiculed Jesus in your life to this juncture; you have despised and made fun of God's service. Don't worry. You should bend your knees before God and say: The saviour who forgives our sins! Forgive me. Be kind to me. Reckon not my iniquities; LORD, erase all of them. You should come to a dedication in this manner.

What is dedication? We can find the dedication of Virgin Mary in the first chapter of the Gospel according to Luke. The angel Gabriel comes to Virgin Mary and gives her the word.
“The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The LORD is with you.’ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The LORD God will give him the throne of his father David’”

(Luke 1:28 -32, NIV)

Virgin Mary could not comprehend it at all. A Voice which had never been heard before. Yet, she asked Gabriel, the messenger, this much:

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

(Luke 1:34, NIV)

People hardly comprehend spirituality. The concept of Christ being formed inside somebody is beyond the reasoning, beyond the wisdom, and beyond the thinking of anyone. A dedicated life! The high echelons of Christian life! You may not comprehend it. But you can ask in humility, how is this possible?

“The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be..."
unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

(Luke 1:35-37, NIV)

Virgin Mary could not still comprehend anything. But she dedicated herself. The blessings that ensued to mankind on this account were supremely sublime and lasting for ages, generations after generations.

“I am the LORD’s servant,” Mary answered.
“May your word to me be fulfilled”

(Luke 1:38, NIV)

This is dedication! There should be a clear dedication in your life. Here I am, I submit myself at your feet; you should say to Jesus, I am your servant, your slave. You should submit your ‘self’ at the feet of Jesus. People of any age, irrespective of children, adults or old-aged, can dedicate themselves before God.

I dedicated my life to the LORD at the age of seventeen. I was a man of principle even before that. My mother had brought me up in firm discipline since my father’s death at my tender age of one. Prayer had been a must. I had never been allowed to go to bed before reading at least a chapter from the Bible. I should go to church every Sunday. Such was the discipline I was brought up in.

I repented consequent on hearing the word of God in our church at the age of seventeen. The speaker spoke on the resurrection of Lazarus on that day. Christ resurrected Lazarus after he had been entombed for four days,
saying, “Lazarus, come forth.” What touched me most was: there was no stench outside, but it was all rotten inside.

“Many sitting in this church have no stench outside. But their inside is rotten; there are filthy thoughts, grudges, antipathy, and base desires. Only they are not visibly expressed; may be because there are no opportunities; may be because they are not daring enough. But the inside is rotten.”

When I raised my head I felt as if he was pointing his finger at me. He said again:

“Jesus is calling such people: ‘Lazarus, come forth.’”

When I heard these words I surrendered myself: “LORD, I am yours from this day.”

It was a beginning. Even today I dedicate myself on a daily basis. By His Grace the LORD is leading me from moment to moment; showing me what remains to be straightened yet again. I am being washed by the Holy Blood of Jesus, thus being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to rejuvenate.

Have you marked such a beginning? LORD, there won't be an intentional sin in my life. I won't ever lose my temper. I won't, on my own volition, give space for impurity in my life. I won't ever utter a word of untruth. I won't ever say a word with the deliberate intention to hurt others. Have you ever made such a decision in your life? If not, let today be the day for such dedication. “I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.”
If you have given word to Jehovah at least once in your life, today you can renew the dedication. LORD, I will keep the word I have given. What I have offered I will fulfil. I will abide by the dedication I have made.

Christ has always been in my life. Therefore, without reluctance, without negligence, I studied. Christ conducted me true to that dedication. God made me the head and not the tail. God desires to make you the head and not the tail, while you are reading this book.

It is a blessing to be able to make a dedication; it is a God given grace. Whatever be your age, give your life to Christ. Don't hesitate. Dedicate your future in to the nail marked hands of Jesus. It will never be a loss, if you give yourself in to the hands of Jesus. The God in Heavens will take over; if He takes over, He will make it beautiful.

“When God restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!” (Psalms 53: 6, NIV)

You should ask whether you belong to God so as to be described as his people. When you fall sick, you should ask, “LORD, haven't I entrusted my life in to your hands? Do place your hand on this disease.” When you are going to write an examination, you should say, “LORD, Haven't I given my life to you? Hold my right hand and make me write this examination.” When you consider a marriage proposal, you should say, “Find me a spouse who will support my spiritual life.” Similarly, you should pray asking God to place hand on your child's delinquency, his laziness.
There is a God who gives what is prayed for. There is a God who heeds the prayer, who listens to the heartbroken cry, who doesn't turn a blind eye to tears. Do dedicate with full faith: “I am the LORD’s servant, May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Dedication is precious. Virgin Mary conceived miraculously. Only Virgin Mary was aware of the message from the angel. That was a mysterious Word alliance.

“The LORD God will give him the throne of his father David.” (Luke 1: 32, NIV)

"The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35, NIV)

Virgin Mary was aware of the essence of the message the angel revealed to her. Nobody else was aware of it. Son, no one will be aware of the Word given to you. What God has given you is the specific message for you.

Don't be embarrassed when people laugh at you. Only you know what treasure you have been bestowed upon. Of course, Virgin Mary was embarrassed. She lapsed in to seclusion, unable to go out in the open.

“At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,”

(Luke 1: 39, NIV)

As she was too embarrassed to appear before people in her neighbourhood, she was forced to flee.
People will mis-understand when Christ is formed in you. People will laugh at you, hate you, and spite you.

“Where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”

(Luke 1: 40, 41, NIV)

The six month old foetus leaped in her womb. The foetus could perceive that it was the Creator, the God Himself who was visiting. Child of God, for the many who despise you, there is a small minority who will leap with joy. Only the spiritually inclined people will compliment you.

When Virgin Mary arrived carrying Jesus Christ, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. When you visit a home, filled with the Holy Ghost, and there you speak in spirit to someone, that man will get the fulfilment of the Holy Spirit. If you pray for someone there will be miracles in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my LORD should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has
believed that the LORD would fulfil his promises to her!” (Luke 1: 41-45, NIV)

In her native place, if Virgin Mary had been at the centre of a scandal, here she was exalted as the most blessed among women. When the general public profane us, the children of God who have received the spirit will extol us. Virgin Mary was full of peace.

“And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the LORD and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,” (Luke 1: 46-48, NIV)

When Virgin Mary made dedication, she had to face adversity; she had to face persecution. In the face of adversity she fled to avert it, in eagerness, in grief. There she gained fellowship. When she gained fellowship, she had praise and worship.

1. Dedication
2. Persecution
3. Fellowship
4. Worship

“For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.” (Luke 1:48, 49 NIV)

Will you come to a dedication today? If so, it is a
great fortune! “I am the LORD's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled?” It hardly matters whether I am being despised or mocked at. Jesus has been formed in me. It is to Jesus I have given myself.

Here stands Jesus in front of you. What would you give to Him, who gave his blood, his very life itself? Jesus, Here I submit my body, life, and soul to you. 'I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break." Jesus, I will sing the praise of your miraculous power of your blood.

If you submit yourself to Jesus Christ today, He will pardon you the sins you have committed till now; lift the curses, heal your diseases, bring prosperity to your life, and make your future brighter. Let Jesus bless you. Let the hand of Jesus wipe your tears. Give word to Christ: I am yours from today!
Chapter-2

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.”

(Zechariah 4: 6, NIV)

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm. (Psalms 20:7, 8 NIV)

The only thing we can do is to depend on the Holy Spirit of God. We cannot do anything on our own. Those who depend on the might or power of man are brought to their knees. But we rise up and stand firm by the grace of the LORD.

It is purely by the grace of God we come to a dedication.

We are able to abide by the dedication taken by the power of the Holy Ghost. The consistency not to renege on the dedication, taking a clear position that “I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.” is possible only by dint of the great power of the Holy Ghost.

“What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground.
Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of
'God bless it! God bless it!'”

(Zechariah 4:7, NIV)

It is Christ we should look upon. The invisible God who leads us by hand! A triumphant life is possible only through Christ. If we lean on any individual, when that individual falls, we are bewildered and we too fall. We should have the confidence that it is to Christ, the unshakable rock we hold on.

It is only through the love relationship with Christ we can lead a spiritual life. Any charitable acts devoid of Christ, good deeds not meant for the glorification of Christ have no value, are all in vain. It is only through Christ there can be nobility and respectability.

It should be the spirit of Christ that should lead you on. When caught in a state of distress, you sit at the feet of Christ and pray. Then you can experience how you have been relieved of your distress. When you are caught in bewildering, disturbing, and convulsive situations you sit at the feet of Christ and beseech him to find a way out.

Then Christ will comfort you; He will find you ways to remedy your situation. Christian life is one in which we nourish and strengthen our active love relationship with Jesus Christ on a permanent basis. God wants us to grow in spirit in our day to day life.

Christian life is actually a leap. A blind leap in to nothingness and uncertainty! But there are two nail marked hands to hold you. Those who want to come forward spiritually will have to face stiff opposition. We are able to triumph only when we go ahead paying no
attention to them.

Virgin Mary said, “I am the LORD's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled” This is dedication; but persecution followed close on the heels. The scandals that followed the conception of Jesus in her womb after her dedication! The harassment at the hands of fellow human beings! It is to Elisabeth, the wife of the priest Zechariah that she went in haste. There she got fellowship. We need fellowship to withstand persecution.

We can grow in spiritual life only if we stick to a fellowship. There should be a fellowship at home. We should maintain harmony in the family.

“All the believers were one in heart and mind.”

(Acts 4: 32, NIV)

When you become willing to go into a deep purification process, your family will become a small heaven. A small unit consisting of wife, husband and children. You pray, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come,” Unless the kingdom comes in my heart, the kingdom cannot come in to my home.

Are you giving love? Are you determined that you will recognize and respect others, that you will care for and consider others in your family rather than expect others to love you, to recognize you, to seek your counselling, and to comply with your wishes. You should be the ones who distribute love.

You can't win love without awarding love.
Unfortunately, we all demand love. On the other hand, we should be willing to humble ourselves. A family that love will never come to ruin. Each one considers the other as more of a gentle man than himself. When you adopt this attitude in your family, it will spread to other families.

A street in Philadelphia. As night falls bootleggers take over the street in the cover of darkness. Drunkards infest the street. Thieves too plague the street. A Street harbouring all sorts of illicit activities. An individual set an example. He lit a lamp in front of his house before dusk. The anti-social elements avoided that part of the street. They confined themselves to the ill-lighted areas. Next day other families followed suit. Within a matter of two weeks the street became a street of light and illumination. When light came there, squalor vanished.

Don't ever wait for vices to vanish before you light a lamp. One of you has to stand as the light of life. A fellowship evolves when several families are illumined. Fellowship is the association of love among God's children.

Virgin Mary went in haste in to a hill country of Judah, entered in to the house of Elisabeth and saluted her. Hearing the salutation the baby leaped in her womb with joy. Elisabeth realized that her LORD's mother had come to visit her.

“But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my LORD should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she
who has believed that the LORD would fulfil his promises to her!” (Luke 1: 43-45, NIV)

Virgin Mary danced with joy.

“And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the LORD and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed.” (Luke 1: 46-48, NIV)

Wherever there is authentic fellowship there is worship.

Dedication; following dedication, Persecution; following persecution there is Fellowship; following fellowship there is Worship.

Have you come to the experience of Worship? The conviction that you are safe in the hands of Jesus. Good fortune lies in this conviction.

There is no fortune in having your hands full of money. There is no fortune in having a fat salary every month. All those things are subject to change.

Malika mukaleriya mannante
Tholil marappu thookkunnathum Bhavaan
Randunaalu dhinam kondoruthane
Thandiletti nadanadathunnathum Bhavaan

It is God who hangs the beggar’s scarf
On the shoulder of the mansion-dwelling chieftain
So is the God who raises to palanquin
The poor in a matter of two days or four.
These lines of Poonthananam Namboothiri is relevant indeed.

I watched on news channel the earth quake that occurred in Gujarat. The tremors razed several high rising towers to the ground. A millionaire who had once owned several flats, his properties devastated, his wife and children killed in the disaster, now lay asleep under the shade of a tree by the road. An orphaned old man. The food packets distributed in a lorry for disaster relief had been collected to the last packet by the youngsters before he reached. He had to return empty handed.

A man who had the choicest food to eat yesterday is hankering after a packet of food. A man who had a comfortable bed to sleep on has taken refuge under a tree. This is the world! A handful of money makes no fortune. The real fortune is getting Christ inside the heart! Then things change miraculously!

How much time would be required for the present health to deteriorate, the present strength to diminish, the present business to fail, and the present beauty to fade?

Christ leading us along holding us close to his bosom is Christian life. The Bible would say:

“Who is this coming up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved?”

_(Song of Songs 8:5, NIV)_

Have you leaned on this beloved? Have you got Jesus as your treasure? Does Jesus reside in your heart? Have you been able to worship God enjoying the
happiness, the prosperity, and the affluence engendered by a life merged with and melted in Jesus? That is worship.

Virgin Mary got worship. Have you got the worship in spirit? That worship is inside. The heart will be leaping. It will be glorifying God. Have you got the dedication of the sort where you have entrusted yourself in full to God? I have entrusted myself in full to Him. The blessedness of the life of a God's child who has given his life in to the hands of the Almighty LORD is beyond description. The Almighty is my own. He has taken hold of my hand.

Nobody can snatch me away from Him. No foe can ever touch me. They cannot even touch me whatever conspiracy they make against me.

“Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress.” For his affairs are arranged by the LORD who holds dominion over all. You should entrust your affairs to the LORD who holds dominion over everything. That is dedication. You should entrust everything, your income, your expenditure, your liabilities, and your wealth.

The issue of your marriage, the issue of your education, the issue of your admission, the issue of your employment, the issue of your business - everything you hand over to him. It is not that you sit idle after that. You do have to work hard; when you do that Jesus and the celestials work hard in your favour. Your issue has become the issue of Heaven.

The angels should come in to close intimacy with us. When we reach there they should welcome each one of
us considering as an intimate person - a person who ascends to and descends from heaven quite often! You should climb up to heaven as often as possible, engage in conversation with the angels. Sitting at his feet, speak to Jesus all your issues without reservation of any sort. Ask all your needs approaching the Seat of Grace. To be able to do so is an unusual, supremely exalted, and rarely attainable blessing. You should attain that.

Genuine Dedication, in that there is Dedication, Persecution, Fellowship, and Worship. The authentic experience of Dedication consists in attaining these four steps in your life. The LORD desires you to attain this experience.

Dedication, Repentance, Contrition, Penitence, Purification of heart etc. are miracles that happen in the life of every child of God. Every one cannot attain this. The very percipience of the Word heard is grace; to be able to order a new life according to the new perception is great grace and blessing.

When I am spiritually fatigued, I am not capable of worshipping God. Then I think of my homefolk and relatives. I have been fortunate to recognize Jesus Christ quite distinct from all of them! I have been able to realize the need for a personal intimacy with Christ! When I think of these my heart will fill with gratitude. Then I start worshipping. What I have attained is a great fortune which many others have not been able to attain; the perception that there is a heaven. I have been able to perceive that my sins have been remedied with Christ's blood.
Gratitude is the base for dedication! Do you feel grateful to Jesus? Count the blessings He has granted you. Consider only the Plus-points, and not Minus-points. How many occasions when you could have perished! Have you ever wondered who has preserved you and sustained you up to your present position? You will definitely worship if you perceive the love of our splendid Jesus.

You cannot but dedicate yourself to Him. The love He has bestowed upon this worthless me, this unwanted me! Who I am to be loved thus? You have loved this orphaned me, this unworthy me, this weakling me! LORD, how could You make Yourself love such a ruthless criminal?

How could You consider loving me, such cruel and stone hearted a person? I am devoting myself in full before this great love. I am entrusting my life, my future, my children, my grandchildren everything. This is Dedication. Dedication evolves from gratitude.

Countless sins! The kind of words spoken on a particular day! The kind of affairs I involved in! Were there not crookedness, dishonesty, deviousness and duplicity in those affairs? There were half-truths. What all things have been done to appear agreeable before other people? Although I have committed countless sins, LORD, you have been merciful to cleanse with your precious blood.

How can I make good for your great love! The love which makes it look as if there were no sins in me! The
love with the imprint of His precious blood! I surrender dedicating myself before this love. The basis of spiritual life is the dedication out of gratitude.

When we love and feel grateful for the great love Jesus Christ has for you, our love for one another will increase.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

(John 13: 34, 35, NIV)

Have you comprehended this love? When that love touches you, your diseases will be healed, your fatigue will go, your depression will vanish, your anxieties will cease to be, your afflictions will be cast off, your curses will be lifted, and your family will be prosperous. That love is heaven. Let us be dissolved in and filled with that love. Whereupon, we will be protected from being hit by the fire arrows shot by the enemy. The King of kings is exhorting you to be the spokespersons of this love.

The love that heals your illness! The love that alleviates your backwardness! The love that removes your incapacity! The love that makes your future bright! The Holy Ghost of God is persuading you to travel behind Christ bearing the cross of that love. Join and progress with this Heavenly Zion Band of travellers.
Chapter-3

We have been thinking about people who took dedication as mentioned in the Bible.

1. The Dedication of Virgin Mary
2. The Dedication of Jacob

"Then Jacob made a vow."

(Genesis 28: 20, NIV)

You should make a vow as Jacob did. It was his love for God that made Jacob make that vow. Jacob did not have much faith in God. But he had seen his father pray; he had heard Abraham, his grandfather, sobbing and crying in prayer sitting in his tent. Abraham lived fifteen years more after the birth of Jacob. He had heard the stories told by his Grandfather Abraham, had seen his piety, yet he didn't actually develop faith in God.

Our forefathers had lived like saints. But have you been able to live up to the spiritual standards set by them? Have you ever felt like worshipping the living Christ whom they had served? The fact is that you haven't. Our experience is that we falter in certain circumstances.

Jacob's grandfather was a blessed servant of God. He was the father of the believers. Jacob's father Isaac
was a man who had led a still more pious life! When his father Abraham told him that it was him he was going to sacrifice, he, gladly, without any hesitation extended his neck and hands. Thus son Isaac who lay ready to be tied hand and foot was a blessed person after the image of his father!

Even if you were born in a traditional family, dear ones, your heritage has no relevance, as far as Jesus Christ is concerned. But you can now vow to dedicate your life so as to inherit a tradition which pleases Jesus Christ.

Jacob lived with his grandfather Abraham for fifteen years. Abraham might have said: Son, you are fortunate indeed! Your father is a great father. He is my only son. Do you know how obedient he is? There was an incident. When I was fast asleep, I heard the Voice of God call me 'Abraham'. When I sprang awake from sleep, God said, “You take your only son to the land of Moriah and offer him for a burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell.”

Your father is the son God gave me in my old age! Wasn't it God himself who now asked me to kill him? I listened carefully. Yes, it was God himself. I decided: I will obey what God has commanded me to do. I didn't even tell your grandmother. I was afraid she would stop me. I only told her that I was going to make an offering. Son, all the three days of the travel I had in mind only the promise God had given me. Would I have to kill my son?

During the journey I examined the pros and cons. At
last I settled down. My God is great, my God is Almighty. I believed that if I killed my son He would raise him from his ashes of the offering. Jacob was listening to the story, his eyes enlarged with wonder.

Abraham continued: On the way when we reached the foot hills of Moriah Mountains I lifted the bundle of firewood from the back of the donkey and placed it on the back of your father. The rest of the way I and your father climbed the hill leaving behind the servants and the donkey at the foothill telling the servant: “you may stay behind with the donkey; I and the boy will go up there, fulfil the offering, and come back.”

Isaac climbed the hill quite enthusiastically. Isaac was running about in the bushes around. Meanwhile I finished arranging the firewood for the offering. Everything was ready. I took the hatchet in my hand. I called Isaac. Closing him on to my bosom I said, “Son, it is you who are going to be given as burnt offering.”

Son, your father is a very obedient son. Your father extended his both hands. You are that father's son. You should be obedient; you should be loving; you should have faith. Sitting on the lap of his grandfather, Jacob resolved to go on the path shown by his father.

Abraham continued: God intervened when I raised the hatchet to kill your father. “Abraham, Abraham” God called me. “Lay not your hand upon the lad.” I was wonderstruck. The Living God had arranged a ram for the burnt offering. We returned after offering the ram for the burnt offering.
Jacob grew up hearing all these stories. While hearing all these Jacob made vows in his heart. “I want to live keeping my father as a role model. I want to become a strong believer like my grandfather”.

Gradually the vows Jacob took evaporated. Days and times passed. When he became a young man, one morning his mother woke him up and said, placing a pack of bread and a cask of water in his hand:

“Take this with you. You better leave this place now. Your brother Esau has plotted to kill you. You are likely to retaliate, aren’t you? How can I bear the plight of being deprived of both my sons on the same day?”

Jacob was panic-stricken. He fled carrying the packet of bread and the cask of water. He ran the whole day through the desert of Beersheba. By evening he wearied and was exhausted.

Are you wearied of running continuously? Are you exhausted? Which all ways you ran along! Those who ran along the ways of hardships, the ways of diseases, and the ways of disasters! Some of them lay on the operation table; some of them lay on the death bed! It is a miracle that they survived!

In 1982 I met with a major scooter accident. I looked from face to face while I was being carried to the operation theatre. Will I come out of it alive? My neighbours had waited for my dead body to arrive.

Those wearied and exhausted of running! Those who survived, where the medical science had given them
absolutely no scope for hope! Does he have a chance now? Isn't he finished? Isn't up to his neck in debts? Is there any future for him? Will he able to pay off his debts? Haven't people commented like these? The child of God, who once became dead tired of running, you can hold your head high now.

Who supported you in your running? Who opened you a way for a livelihood? Who gave you children? Who gave you education? Let me say with gratitude, I have nothing which Jesus hasn't given me. He gave me longevity, health, wealth, education, employment, and pension. It is Jesus Christ who is responsible for all these.

Believe it. The loving Christ has come close to you. He asks what you have got other than what hasn't been given to you. What is there in you to boast about? What is there in you to praise yourself? What is there in you to pride yourself?

I have only one belonging. That is nothing but the trust that Jesus loves me. The trust that Jesus is fond of me. It is not because I am righteous; nor because I am virtuous; I am aware that I have frailties. I am aware that I have certain tendencies that hurt Jesus. Yet God loves me, he is fond of me.

Jesus loves you too. You may think that there is nobody to love you. But accept the truth, Jesus loves you. Whether you have good looks, good health, good education, or plenty of money is not His concern. On the other hand, God looks for what you do not have and not
what you have, Jesus has come seeking to love you. True dedication happens in this atmosphere of love.

Jacob was tired of running. Jesus has come to do away with your tiredness. Those who have wilted and dropped out, Jesus has come to efface your wilting. Those who are wearied and shaken in life, Jesus has come to remove your weariness. Those who wail out their grievances, Jesus has come to give you relief. Jesus is close at hand. He is arriving in state and grace to your family to fill you with heavenly wealth. The Holy Ghost is blowing on you.

Jacob sat down tired at a place. Let Esau kill me if he decided so. I cannot take another step forward. He sat leaning on a boulder. And he dozed off. It is at that moment the God of Abraham and Isaac appeared to Jacob. There is a benevolent God who appears to those who have wilted and wearied.

Jacob had dropped off when he saw a ladder. The top end of the ladder was towards the utmost heights. The resplendent angels of heaven were climbing up the ladder! It was then he realized that the angels were on the earth! While he was running out of fear thinking that he was alone he actually had the company of those angels! Jacob was wonderstruck. Haven't you felt that there is nobody to love you? Haven't you felt that you have nobody? But you have the company of angels.

Jacob had thought that he was worthless. But the Heavens had cared for him. Jacob who was travelling
alone had the company of the Heavenly hosts.

Child of God, have you realized it, the Heaven offers to accompany you.

“Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”

(Hebrews 1: 14, NIV)

The angels of Heaven come to minister us. As Jacob looked up, he perceived the eternal God above the end of the ladder! The God of my father Isaac! The God of my grandfather Abraham! The God of my forebears has appeared to me. Dedication occurs when God appears to you.

“I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.” That is how God introduces himself.

In times to come God should call out your name and say that He is the God of so and so. God desires to be known in the address of his sanctified. Determine now that you will live as the ambassador of God on this earth. You will live as God's son or God's daughter on this earth. You will live as a son or daughter who gives address to God on this earth. Let us say this new dedication to God.
Chapter-4

“Then Jacob made a vow.”

(Genesis 28: 20, NIV)

Jacob took a dedication. Not only that his life was blessed, but the blessings endure for ages passed on from generation to generation too. If we take a dedication, abiding by that dedication you can influence many other people to come to Christ.

Jacob left his parents and ran through the desert for fear of death. Jacob, iron hot sand under his feet and red hot sun above his head, was thoroughly exhausted, lay down at sunset reposing his head on a boulder for a pillow, and dozed off. He had a dream.

1. Jacob got a Vision.

“Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.”

(Genesis 28: 10-12, NIV)
It was that experience that dream that vision that led Jacob to dedication. Likewise each one of us should have the experience of God visiting us. A man who was tired and fagged out had a divine vision.

In our life there are miseries, ordeals, diseases, financial strains, and debt traps. We struggle through many hardships.

“Every human being is a walking volcano.”, said a thinker.

What a blessing it is to be able to see God in this life full of hardships! Many people who have come up in life are those who have had vision of God. The vision of God is the God's Word itself. The written Word of God is the Voice of God.

1. Vision
2. Voice

We must find time to hear His Word, sit at the feet of God and have a dialogue with Him. We can sit at his feet with the Word every morning. Homes which pray in the morning and in the evening without fail will never degrade. That generation will not be lost. We must pray heart to heart with God.

When you read the Bible, you will hear the Voice of the God from it; you will get the prompting of God. You can experience God directly addressing you. God will tell you your personal message.

How would you believe that God has communicated
with you?

“The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”  
(Psalms 34: 18, NIV)

If you are broken-hearted out of remorse due to the awareness of sin in you, you can believe that God is at hand. While sitting in his presence what you have to be mindful is whether you are contrite, not whether you have anything to pride yourself on; whether you have anything to do penance for.

“These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.”  
(Isaiah 66:2, NIV)

“The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”  (Psalms 145:18, NIV)

You should pray out of your dire necessity: LORD, I have no refuge, no shelter, no reliance; no one to ask for. In my crisis, you are the only support. LORD, I rely on your mercy. I believe:

“The LORD is near to all who call on him.”

“and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honour me.”  
(Psalms 50: 16, NIV)

In times of trouble, you call on me, I will deliver you; and you will glorify me. You are getting a vision. It is the broken-hearted who get the vision. God appeared to
Jacob who lay reposing his head on a boulder for a pillow, run out, exhausted, and tired. He got the vision.

There is a God who comes to you when you grieve thinking that you have nobody. When you experience this on your own, you gain confidence.

If you have come broken-hearted, God is near you. If you truly call on Him, God has come close to you.

Jacob was wearied, he was broken, and the Living God came to him. He had the vision of the stairway. He saw angels mounting and dismounting.

“He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: ‘I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.’”

(Genesis 28: 12, 13 NIV)

Running throughout the day, Jacob was fagged out. Then God came to energize him. He got a vision.

God always introduces himself to human beings by referring to his true believers. We should become the ambassadors of God in our generation.

There was a blessed evangelist by name Dr D L Moody. He was converted at a very young stage of his life. When the next day dawned after his conversion he said:
What a beautiful nature! How sweet are each bird and animal in Nature! How splendid are the trees and their branches! How scenic are the earth and the sky! How loving! D L Moody said, “A new world is open in front of me.”

After you have received a conversion, a new world will open for you. An ambience of love.

The ambience of your home will change in to one of love. If anyone does a mistake, you will not take it as an offence. If anyone lets you down, you won't be offended. If anyone misunderstands or spreads rumours about you, you won't be disturbed. Reason. You are flooded with love. Love is the greatest religion. That is what Jesus Christ exemplified on the cross; without ever sinning, He took over the entire sin of humanity upon Himself.

It is incumbent on us to build on this earth the stairway to Heaven. In this world rife with darkness, in this world which tends to spread darkness, in this world rampant with violence and depravity, it is binding upon each one of us to build a stairway which extends to Heaven. God has called upon us to build a heaven on the earth.

God has ordained us to light up hope in a home where despondency rules the roost. The God in Heavens has ordained us, He has called upon us, to establish peace in every heart and every home where the darkness and silence of despair, groans, sorrow, depression, and gloom prevail.
Jacob noticed. The stairway reaches up to the heavens. From above it God speaks to him. Jacob got the Voice.

“There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying”

(Genesis 28:13, NIV)

When God speaks, He speaks for the future too. He will give not only to you but also to your descendants. Jacob was in great fear. Anytime his brother Esau might catch up with him and do him in. He dared not hope to marry and have children.

He had to travel another six hundred miles to reach Haran. It was then God told him that God promised a new life to him. God's Voice is that of hope, promising you of a bright future. You will marry! You will beget children! I will give you and your descendants the land. The land on which you have run like an alien, the land on which you are lying completely sapped. That land you and your descendants will inherit.

“Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you
until I have done what I have promised you.’”  
(Genesis 28: 14, 15, NIV)

You will have descendants infinite like the dust of the earth. You will spread far and wide. Your descendants will be multitudinous spreading out over distant lands. All peoples on earth will be blessed on account of you.

A small boy. He left home crying. When he left home he was in great grief. His parents had beaten him up badly. They had hit him on his head. They had slapped his face. They had cursed him. They had told him that he would come to a bad end and that they didn’t want to have anything to do with him. He left home totally lost.

After he walked a certain distance he saw an old beggar sitting beside the road. He went to that beggar, took his hand placing it on his head, and said,

“Bless me please. My father cursed me. I want at least you to bless me.”

The beggar blessed him saying,

“Bonaventure” in Latin. 'Let good happen to you.'

His father had cursed him, but the beggar blessed him. This boy was none other than St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Francis of Assisi blessed everyone who came to him saying,

“Bonaventure”.

The father of an infant with a dangerous illness approached a man whom St. Francis of Assisi had
blessed saying Bonaventure 'Let good happen to you.' He said,

“Place your hand on his head and bless him”.

The man placed his hand on the infant's head and said,

“Bonaventure”.

The infant grew up to become St. Bonaventure.

Many people who were cursed and cast out of home have later become subject to great blessing. Some people might have cursed you and driven you out. The world might have written you off as good-for-nothing. You might not have received acceptance in your family. They might have cursed you to damnation. But the God in Heavens would say: “Let good happen to you”. God always blesses you.

God said to Jacob:

“I have made you a repository of blessings. Through you all the peoples on earth will be blessed”.

1. I will give the land on which you are lying to you and your descendants.
2. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth.
3. Through you and your descendants all the peoples of the world will be blessed.
4. Behold, I am with you.

The greatest fortune that a man can win is the
confidence that God is with him. The assurance, come what may, God is with me. If Jesus be with you, you cannot afford to sin. Jesus cannot be where there is sin.

“Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken: 'I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand. Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him. Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness—only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with olive oil.'” (Isaiah 1:2-6, NIV)

God gave us life, He gave us health, He gave us education, He gave us grace to live this long. When we fell sick he gave us healing. He gave us food to eat. He gave us shelter. He gave us whatever we needed. Yet we brought him sorrow by committing sin.

If we want God to be with us we must decide not to commit sin any longer. We must beg God to forgive us the sins that have occurred in our life. 'My LORD, sins have
occurred in my life. Forgive me my transgressions'. We must submit ourselves in to the hands of God with the heart broken prayer: LORD Jesus, who died on the cross to remedy my sin, wash me of my sins with your blessed blood.

Our forebears remind us to enter in to God's presence with contrition.

Let us decide: LORD, I will atone for all the sins that I can remember to have happened in my life. I shall live without committing any sin consciously. No one will come to grief on account of me. My LORD, wash me of the stains of my sins with the blood and water that have flown out of your pierced side. Give me, by your grace, the assurance that you are with me.

“Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.”

(Psalms 32: 12, NIV)

I will henceforward live as an ideal wife, ideal mother, ideal daughter-in-law, ideal mother-in-law, ideal son, ideal father, or ideal student in this world. Forgive me whatever transgressions that have been committed till now. Do be with me, LORD.

If you are remorseful, God will grant you remission of your sins. He will wash your life raiment. Jesus will give you the imprint of his blood. To be reigning with Jesus is bliss! To be admitted in to his fold is bliss! Jesus is looking
around for finding who is there to invite him.

Appeal to Jesus: LORD, do not pass by me! Be there with me. Do come to my despair-ridden family, my disease stricken family, my family which is in dire financial straits. If you come it becomes heaven! Open your heart to Jesus. Pave way for Jesus. Begin a new life inviting him gladly to your house.
Chapter-5

Jacob fell asleep resting his head on a boulder. He got a vision in his sleep. A stairway! Angels were seen ascending and descending the stairway! Above the stairway Jacob saw the eternal God arrived in state.

1. He saw the stairway!
2. He saw the angels!
3. He saw the God!

He had a vision. He heard the Voice following the vision. Through the voice he got seven promises. Whenever we go to the presence of God, we get the Word of Christ; we get the promise.

Jacob got seven promises.
1. The promise of land
   
   *I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.* (Genesis 28: 13, NIV)

2. The promise of the multiple seed.
   
   *“Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth,”* (Genesis 28: 14, NIV)

3. Others will be blessed through you.
You will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.”

Your descendants will proliferate and spread to the four extremes of the earth.

4. The promise of the presence of God

“Behold, I am with you.”

God gave a promise to Jacob, an alien in this world, to be with him. Having the eternal God with you is the greatest bliss a man can attain; having the presence of God.

5. “My glory will be your rear guard.”

The glory of God will follow you like a big army!

When you sit in the examination hall, God will be with you. Driven up the wall due to heavy debt in business, God will be with you. When everybody is against you, God will be with you. When several crises torment you, God will be with you. When your children go astray, God will be with you. When you are distressed in your official life, God will be with you.

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;”

The valley of the shadow of death!

On his death-bed Thomas (Tom) Paine was in a
frenzy. He was a man who had declared that there was no God. But now he cried: How I wish I had a lamp! He could perceive only the dreadful darkness of the hell. For those who have no God, it is the experience of descending in to the blind valley of the shadow of death.

Unless you have the confidence that God is with you, it is all darkness. Utter darkness of despair. But when the Holy Ghost of God comes in to you, all such harmful tendencies will be expelled.

“For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”

(Romans: 8-13, NIV)

Mr Poulose from Pazhamthottam was a driver with the Synthite company. A chronic alcoholic! He would bash his wife, beat her up, and she would writhe under his blows. He had no compunction in abusing his parents. Once his wife threatened to commit suicide. Poulose reacted that he didn't mind and that he would settle down comfortably marrying another girl. But the word of Jesus Christ transformed him in to a meek lamb. Rid of his alcoholism, rid of his debauchery, rid of his hot temper, rid of his wife bashing, he is a totally new person. His home has become a heaven. Both the sons of Poulose are now working abroad.

God is giving Jacob promises for his future.

“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done
what I have promised you.”  

(Genesis 28:15, NIV)

You will come back to your father’s native land.

6. I will bring you back.

Today you are retreating fast. There is a God who will bring you back. God's child, you are drifting aimlessly. But you will be brought back. He says that your future hasn't gone shut.

“I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you”  (Genesis 28:15, NIV)

7. I will not leave you. I will not forsake you.

A God who is always with you! When you are in trouble you should tell God:

“LORD, You did not consider the merit of Jacob when you made him this promise. He had played fraud with his father. He had cheated his brother. He had been a trickster. He had been cunning. He had told a lie to his father. Jacob had had no virtue whatsoever.

It was to such a person you promised to be with. I set hope on that promise. I too have no merit in me to attract your attention and not to be forsaken by you. No sanctity. So many iniquities in my life. Yet I invoke your mercy. Be kind to me. Forget my sins. Overlook my past life. Wipe out all the sins in my name.”

The Word says:

“But I tell you that everyone will have to give
account on the Day of Judgment for every empty word they have spoken.”

(Matthew 12:36, NIV)

You have already searched me and come to know my sins. Please tear up the charge sheet against me before the Day of Judgement.

“You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.”

(Psalms 139: 2, 3   NIV)

Please annul the account of my sins from the Book of Life. Wash me of my sins with your holy blood. There is a long list of sins and iniquities on our account.

A person needed two lakh rupees for securing a job. He went and asked a good man for a loan. He readily gave him the loan. Not long after the person needed more money for his daughter's marriage. He approached the same rich man for another loan of ten lakh rupees.

Is it fair to ask another loan now? Why don't you pledge your house and your properties as a collateral? So he executed a promissory note. Time passed. He had no means to pay off the debt. Things reached the point of attachment notice. A good neighbour of the person heard of this. He paid off the whole debt through his personal bank account. He retrieved the promissory note and tore it off. Wouldn't the debtor be grateful to the good neighbour who came to his rescue? No doubt. This gratitude is
praise.

This is what the LORD Jesus Christ did. He took it upon himself to pay off the debt. He paid off the whole debt from his property to Satan. He has torn off the list of your iniquities. You need have no fear. You can go ahead in full confidence.

Your debts are your omissions. You haven't done what you ought to have done. Your sins are your commissions. You have done what you oughtn't to have done. God has taken on his shoulder both your debts and sins.

Now pray to Christ: Be with me. Tear off the charge sheet of my sins. The sins in my words, the sins in my deeds, the sins in my transactions, the sins in my family life, the sins of wasting very precious opportunities without any sense of responsibility, the sins in which many people came to harm on account of me, all my sins, the frauds I have committed, the tricks I have played, the cunning and dishonesty I have practised, - I trust that you have taken over. I give myself totally to you. I am no longer mine, I am all yours. My Jesus, I will live for you from today.
Chapter-6

God gave Jacob seven promises.

You should say today to God:

“God, I am not able to perceive what promises, what graces in fullness you are giving me today. But I know the following:

1. I have arrived at your feet.
2. You love me
3. You are going to influence my life. “

The word will influence our life and work wonders. There will be miracles in your life.

“He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All
peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

(Genesis 28: 12- 15, NIV)

God had given Jacob seven promises.

Dear ones, have you got any promises from God? In 1975 we conducted a big convention in front of St. Peter’s College, Kolenchery. A man of God who had been the holiest I had ever set eyes on had come there on that occasion. I invited him to my department in the college and seated him in my chair.

There had been a few other people with him. One of them had a vision. He pointed towards the Principal’s room and said, “Don't you want to sit there?” I was wonder-struck. I knew that I was not competent to run an institution which had on roll three thousand students and a staff strength of one hundred and sixty five both teaching and non-teaching together.

I occupied the chair of the Principal on first April, 1995. I retired after completing a tenure of two years as Principal. In 1975 God gave me the promise. In 1995 it was fulfilled.

You are likely to have received such promises; We have a good Father who promises to lead you up to heights which others haven’t been able to attain, to make you competent in areas where you are not competent, to raise you to positions where you normally have no merit to
hold, and to equip you with merit! We have Jesus who is omnipotent! Have you been able to make this Jesus your own? Have you been able to experience this Jesus residing in your heart? Have you ever felt like walking with Christ?

You can appeal to Christ:

“LORD, give me a life united with Christ, a life leaning on Christ, a life dependent on Christ at His feet, a life loving Christ, a life believing in Christ, and a life clinging on to Christ.”

When marriage is considered for you, pray: give me a fit spouse who will be beneficial in my spiritual life. When you sit down to study, pray: I have a poor memory. My memory power isn't in perfect working condition. I am poor in so and so subjects. Give me success in these subjects. Make my intelligence sharp. You should, thus, secure from God by prayer each and everything in life.

When you venture into a business concern, you should pray to God:

“Give me the grace to engage in this business in the name of Jesus, give me the grace to manage this business without any development that will hurt the spirit of God, and give me the grace to wind up this business without any loss or debacle. Give me the fortune to achieve success in this business by leaps and bounds.”

Let Jesus Christ be with you in every sphere of your life.

You should secure promises from God. There are tremendous promises from God referred to in the Bible.
“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” (Jeremiah 17: 7, 8 NIV)

You will experience God giving you promises directly when you read the Bible. In the early period of my spiritual life I used to read the 91th Psalm relentlessly. The 34th Psalm is a Psalm which thrilled me. The 27th Psalm would give me a lot of courage.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.”

(Psalms 27: 1-6, NIV)
“I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.”

(Psalms 27: 13, 14  NIV)

Whenever crises occurred in my life, I would say time and again the last verse of the 27th Psalm. This verse has the power to give comfort to a heart in turmoil.

While you lie awake in the night without being able to get sleep, you can recite verses from the Bible. Lie awake reciting the messages and promises of God. Then you can experience the comforting hands of Jesus Christ caressing you. Without being aware of it you will gently fall in to sweet slumber. No nightmare will distress your sleep. Your heart will be peaceful. The word is the promise.

Jacob got:

1. Vision
2. Voice
3. Vow

“When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, 'Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.’” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.” Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to
be called Luz. Then Jacob made a vow,"

(Genesis 28: 16- 20 NIV)

My mother was a woman who had gone haggard due to relentless weeping. She would vow many offerings for the alleviation of her adversity. When my father died I was only one year old. My sister was five years. My mother was thirty years. I, my sister and my mother were always ill. We would go to a local healer who would prescribe some concoction, ointment, oil, etc! A distressing period of life!

My mother made a vow to sponsor the Annual Feast of our church. In fact, the vow was fulfilled with the first salary I got after getting a job. My mother made another vow - to give alms to all the mendicants lining both sides of the road on the July 13 feast at Kolenchery church. She also observed Annual lent, prayed every day for a year - prayed at the noon, knelt forty times, again prayed, and then only had any food, continuously for one year.

Vows and offerings to alleviate misery! She chastened herself in multiple ways. Eating abstemiously! Abstaining from delicious food! Yet all these didn't put an end to her misery. She vowed to sponsor the food offering for three kids every year at Piravom church. She would send a person with a cock and other ingredients for the offering every year.

She sponsored the Holy Eucharist every Saturday at Kunnukurudi church, which had five altars then. Offering of figurine! Offering of 'snake and mound' in gold! These she got made by a goldsmith. Offerings of every
hue! While all these offerings were being made there was no Jesus in the heart of mine, my mother's, or sister's.

We would pray twice a day. We would never miss Sunday service at church. Despite these there was no space in our hearts for Jesus to reside. Vows can be made, offerings can be made, but these can be made devoid of Jesus in them. But at my age of seventeen the merciful Jesus walked in to my heart.

My greatest offering was the acceptance of Christ as my master and owner! The greatest dedication!

“My son, give me your heart.” (23: 26 NIV)

That is what Jesus asks for. He offers to drive out the snakes, hyenas, and lions lurking in your heart.

There are certain attitudes that emit poison in your heart; the nature that can kill many! It has accumulated in your heart in the form of malice, grudge and animosity.

There are many malicious tendencies of employing cunning, ruse, and deception lurking in your heart.

There is a roaring tiger in your heart. A lion which thinks that it is the king and there is no one above it. I come first, my opinion should be valued, I should be respected, I should be loved, I should be in the fore-front, I should be consulted. That lion is there inside.

Think of it, what are there in your heart? You should unreservedly confess them to God. That is the offering. You should vow this offering. How many of you have vowed such offering? Have you given yourself to God?
Slave Trade was abolished during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln in the United States. While the slave trade was in vogue, there were three slaves in a family—father, mother, and son. The owner of the slaves decided to sell them and took them to the slave market. While they stood in great grief one person bought the father. The family was grief stricken. The new owner took away the father. Another person bought the mother. Both the mother and son wept bitterly. Following this, the son also was bought and the family separation was final.

A charitable person felt compassion for the wailing family. He approached the person who had bought the father and expressed his interest to buy the slave. The slave trader quoted a price, much higher than he had paid. The person bought him at that price. Next he approached the person who had bought the mother. He too quoted an exorbitant price. The man bought the mother too. Then he approached the man who had bought the son. He bought the son too at the price quoted by the owner. All three of them were happy now that they had come under the care of the compassionate person.

The compassionate person said, “Now that you have become my slaves, consequent on my acquisition of you, I have decided to liberate you from slavery. I have freed you. You are no longer any one’s slave. You can go wherever you want and live however you wish.”

The father, mother, and son were shocked. After having acquired them paying a hefty fortune they were rendered free. What compassion! They fell at the feet of the man and said, “Master, We are not going anywhere.
We are your slaves. We prefer being your slaves than living independently of you. Don't send us away." The three slaves would accept the bondage on their own volition, though they had been free. This is the offering!

Have you ever considered that Christ has redeemed you from Satan paying a heavy price? It was his life he paid with; his own flesh; his own blood. The henchmen of Satan struck him on his ears, spat at his face, and pulled out strands of hair from his beard.

They repeatedly and heavily scourged his back till its flesh tore off like furrows. They made him wear a crown of thorns. They pierced his hands and feet with nails. They pierced his side with a spear. They reviled him, outraged him with mockeries, and tormented him. At last they nailed him to the cross.

Jesus gave away himself to be crucified. He turned himself in to a curse to liberate me, to give me freedom, to undo my bondage, to break my shackles, to remove my curses. He took all the sins of the world upon his head to redeem me of my sins. He lay nailed to the cross to unshackle me. This is the gospel! Whoever believes it can be the slave of Jesus. We can dedicate ourselves only when we believe in this. This is the offering!

Can you now vow an offering? What was the vow made by your godparent when you were hardly conscious of it at your baptism? 'Satan, I renounce thee, all my dread of thee, and all thy might. LORD Jesus, I accept thee as my LORD and Saviour.' We must become cognizant of it by the time you attain the age of twelve. 'Now that I have
become cognizant of it, I renounce Satan on my own volition, in my own interest, and on my own resolution. I accept LORD Jesus. This is the vow; this is the genuine offering; this is dedication. Have you given word to Christ? As you have redeemed me with your blood, I am your property from today onwards.

At the age of seventeen I vowed to the LORD: Jesus, I am your property from today onwards. After taking this pledge I came back as a new man. I had an entirely different personality. Everything changed, my prayer practices, my habits, my life pattern, everything became new. Following this my sister and mother repented and were converted. Our family began to experience heavenly bliss. The merciful LORD walked in to our home and opened the windows of peace, happiness and prosperity.

Dedicate yourself at the feet of Jesus Christ. Jesus, this life of mine has been played havoc with by Satan. Life that has been surrendered to sin. Life abandoned to alcoholism and debauchery. A life abandoned to vices, strife and altercations. A life given away to looting and robbery. A life responsible for wrecking a family. A life which outraged the parent. This life I hand over to Jesus.

Merciful LORD, I hand over myself in to your hands believing that you redeemed me with your blood. Do accept me, LORD. Place your holy hand upon me. Jesus, wash me clean with the blood and water that flowed out of your side. Give me total cleansing with your blood. I pledge to live as a new creation from today.
Chapter-7

Jacob said to God, “You will be my God. And I will be your servant.”

Jacob had a vision. Following the vision, he got the voice of God. When he got the voice of God Jacob made an offering.

Each one of us should have a vision. Our vision should be for the whole life time till the last breath to be spent altogether for Christ. I have a bright future. Christ will stand by me. His hand will stroke me. He will hold me in his palm. I will have a still brighter future. I should have the vision that my withered and wilted life will shoot, blossom, flower and bear wholesome fruits.

Have you got such a vision? Who has led me on till now in my life filled with misery and wearied of running on and on? The miraculous hand that preserved me till this moment! The hand of the love of Jesus Christ which searched me out and tailed me even when I never tried to find him! The wonderful hand of the love of Jesus Christ which raced after me and stopped me on my track even when I was running away from him!

Christ loves us even when we don’t love him. He
plans the best future for us. Christ sets great store by us. Christ foresees an end to the current tears, debts, diseases, trials and tribulations.

After a long time when we have happy times, we will wonder in retrospect: God! You had this in store for me! Dear ones, you ought to look back to your past. When you were lonely, when you were withered, when you were wearied of running, when you were friendless, when you were battling diseases, when your burdens overwhelmed you, when friends became foes, when those whom you had helped turned against you, when canards were spread against you, Jesus was there to support you and comfort you, which you didn't know then.

An invisible hand! The hand that led me on ever since I was formed in my mother's womb! We will praise spontaneously when you identify this love.

You should dream of the end of today's sufferings and miseries. Wearied of fleeing, Jacob lay asleep reposing his head on a boulder. He had been fleeing for his dear life. He had been afraid of Esau overtaking him and killing him. He had feared to fall asleep. Yet he couldn't help dozing off. And there was a dream in his sleep!

What was the meaning of the dream? Son, you thought you have no father, no mother, and no brother. But you are not alone. You have God to assist you and support you. Not only God, but his angels too. The angels are ascending and descending. Jesus Christ is the ladder
erected in the atmosphere connecting the earth and the heaven.

Son, keep faith that angels are on guard of you when you suffer, when you tire, and when you weary. Keep faith that Jesus Christ is at hand. For, Christ who loves you cannot abandon you.

Are you prepared to receive promises from the LORD? Are you prepared to receive the promise that there will be an end to today's hot tears, sinful life, loneliness, miseries, and poverty? Today the poverty is for love; love from husband, wife, daughter, son, mother-in-law, or daughter-in-law. God promises to bestow everything.

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” (Isaiah 59: 1, 2 NIV)

God is eager to fulfil the promises in your life. When you abolish sin from your life, peace will flow in to your life. The LORD will remove the drawbacks in your life.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7: 7 NIV)

Then, why don't we get? Because you don't pray as you ought to. You pray with sin in you. Before you go in to the presence of God with your burden of your dire needs, you should introspect, find out your sins and confess them
with contrition.

LORD, whatever has happened has happened. We cannot undo them. I have no means to do any recompense. Wash me of the stain of my sin with the blood you shed on the cross. I give word that I will lead a life unstained with the dirt of sin. Do fulfil my needs.

Jacob made an offering to God. Jacob's offering was conditional. That should not be the attitude of a God's servant. Man is under the assumption that God wants to bargain with man. No, God does not need anything from man. Your residence, your health, your money, or your body- God needs nothing. Giving to God only means committing your entire life in to the hands of the Mighty One.

What are those things that Jacob intends to entrust to God?

1. I will build a temple here. The pillow is made pillar.
2. Jehovah will be my God.
3. LORD, I will give you tithe for everything you give me.

Jacob's dedication is not absolute. What should be the dedication of a true devotee of Christ? LORD, I have whatever I have got only to the extent you have given me. Therefore it is not only the tithe, but whatever I have in entirety is yours. Can you make such an unconditional dedication?
“This is what the LORD says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the LORD.” (Isaiah 66:1, 2 NIV)

“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands.” (Acts 7:48 NIV)

There is a place where one who doesn't live in houses made by human hands would like to live, that is the human heart! The temple should be built in the heart of man. It is there the worship of sanctification should take place. When Christ resides in our heart, church has significance. The Holy Eucharist has significance. Christ should reside in the heart of man. Is your heart prepared to lodge Christ in it?

If there is sin in your heart Christ cannot be there. Do you entertain grudge in your heart? Do you harbour selfishness, vanity, ego, venality, craze for luxury, vindictiveness, malice for any one, or anger in your heart? Then Christ wouldn't reside there.

Now you can decide: Jesus, I perceive that you cannot co-habit with sin. I dedicate myself so that I may be your temple. Come in state to my heart and occupy it.

We need not give anything to the LORD. The LORD asks: Are not the animals in the forest mine? Do I need
anything that you fetch me?

“Listen, my people, and I will speak; I will testify against you, Israel: I am God, your God. I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfil your vows to the Most High, and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honour me.” (Psalms 50: 7-15 NIV)

I don’t need your offerings. What I need is a grateful heart. Devote your gratitude to the God who gave all these things to you. Give to the Almighty your vows as offertory. You have to devote yourself as the offering.

Jacob stipulates conditions when he talks to God. I too have spoken to God many things citing conditions. Immaturity in spirituality. I will be your servant if you give me good marks in exams. Thus I set down conditions. They were all immature dedications. But God accepted even immature dedications.

God is one who perceives our frailties. You might
have prayed to God several things in our spiritual immaturity. But even those he forgives us.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

(Hebrews 4: 15, 16 NIV)

Jacob is addressing God. Jacob asks God to do certain things for him: Be with me. Protect me on the journey I have embarked on. Give me food to eat and clothes to wear. Bring me back to my father’s house in perfect health.

He relates his demands one by one. In order to relate your demands one by one, you should have intimacy with God. You should open your heart to God sitting alone at his feet. You should declare openly your demands, your desires, your shortcomings, your follies, your inadequacies, your imprudence, and the blemishes in your character. God will listen patiently even to your indiscretions. When you itemize them unremittingly God will listen placidly. Human beings are incapable of listening like that.

Children, you should pray to God. Ask him to bless you with the intelligence and memory to pass the examination. If you are not able to retain the points in your
weak subjects, ask him to sprinkle a drop of his blood on
the subject and give a new grace. There is nothing that
you cannot achieve by prayer. You can try it. You should
establish a strong bond of love with God, so that you may
have the intimacy to demand each and everything.

Let us ask God today. God, be with me. Accompany
me wherever I go. I will not go where you hesitate to tread.

Moses said once: Let your presence go with me.

“If your Presence does not go with us, do not
send us up from here.”

(Exodus 33: 15     NIV)

You should pray: Jesus, I am going to the
examination hall, I am going to my office, I am going to
bed, please go with me. I am sitting down to eat, sit down
with me. I am going to people who are ferocious like lion,
merciful God, shut close the mouth of the lion. I am being
pushed to the operation table. Be with me.

To be with Jesus! To be with Jesus in one's life! It is a
beautiful experience. Don't live even for a moment without
Jesus Christ. The promise that God gives to those who
sanctify their lives:

“And surely I am with you always, to the very
end of the age.”          (Matthew 28: 20     NIV)

In the midst of any severe agony, even while lying in
hospital bed, while conducting business matters, while
writhing in tension, and in the midst of exam fear, Jesus
promises to be with you.
What courage! Life supporting the end of the cross which Christ carried to Mount Calvary! Life ennobled by the blood that oozes down while supporting the cross! Let your life be sanctified. Let the experience of being cleansed of the sins of your past life be yours too. Come to total dedication. Jesus will build you a new life giving absolute remission for all your sins.

Let us dedicate: Jesus, I will live a sinless life. Wash me of all my sins by the blood that flew from your side, by the blood that flew out of your hands and your feet. Do sanctify me.
Chapter-8

“I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.”

Dedication is an experience which is the very essence and core of Christian life. You cannot commence Christian life without dedication.

Dedication is the blessed experience of renouncing the Satanic Forces and accepting Jesus Christ as the LORD and Saviour.

It was at the age of seventeen I took dedication. My dedication has had long lasting effect on my life. My despair vanished, my depression relieved, my inferiority complex overcome, and my tension eased, peace rushed in to my heart in their place. I had the assurance that I had a Master. The sweetness of life with Jesus Christ! I experienced the peace, serenity, progress and well-being that one acquires when Jesus Christ comes in to the heart.

Dear ones, you can take such a dedication today. You need not change your church, you need not change your community, but, of course, your life will change. You will get a blissful life full of peace. Your life will acquire an integrity. Your life will acquire a new power. Your despair
will vanish. Rid of its apprehensions, tribulations and anxieties, your heart will relax. Your heart will be in a state of tranquillity and splendour.

Jacob vowed his offering in the midst of great despair. He vowed the offering when he had a blank future in view. It was after God had spoken, Jacob spoke. It was God who took the initiative.

Friends, it was God who took the initiative in your life as well as mine. If we happen to address him as “My LORD”, if we feel like reading the word, if we feel like entrusting our life in to the hands of God, it is because God has taken the initiative. In our view our future is blank, dim without any scope for hope, so full of despair.

Many of you set no store by tomorrow. You think that your life is worthless. You feel deprived of the comforts, wealth, health, opportunities, education, employment, and married life which others are blessed with. You despair of ever having a darling child to fondle and look after, which many others have. You give up thinking that your life is a total failure. But here God takes the initiative.

While Jacob, who had wearied and exhausted of his long flight through the desert of Beersheba, was lying asleep, his head rested on a boulder in the dark wilderness, God appeared to him and gave him a dream.

Dear ones, in your present state of hopelessness, God is speaking to you from above the stairway. So close to you, standing shoulder to shoulder with you, peering in to your heart, dropping dew drops of relief in to your
desperate heart, he is telling you: you have a bright future, good times are in store for you, and you will have children.

This is what God spoke to Jacob: I will give you and your descendants the land you are lying on. God is giving Jacob great expectations for his future. The eternal God takes the lead to give you hope for the future.

Brothers, are you exhausted? Is your future bleak? Have you not succeeded in your life? There is a God to take care of you; a God who takes the lead.

Jacob was lying exhausted worrying about worldly matters, not praying, not calling God, and not even thinking that there is God. God is taking the lead to have a dialogue with the youngster whose expectations for the future had gone withered.

Though Jacob had known that there is a God, had grown in the tradition of his grandfather Abraham, he did not think of God when he had a crisis to face. For, his first priority was world.

His goal was to become great in this world, to acquire double his due of wealth by misappropriating his elder brother’s birth right, to live in affluence, and to be known in the world as a famous and reputed person.

Dear ones, what has been our goal? Sheer world. The progress in this world, happiness of this world, luxuries! We walked aiming at this world; we never looked towards heaven.

The same thing happened to Jacob. He thought of home, his father, and his mother. He thought of his
brother's birth right and the plot to steal it from his brother. He proceeded shrewdly to betray his brother. And he stole the birth right. Jacob made a lot of wealth. But he didn't win what ought to be won. He never looked towards heaven.

Even if you haven't looked towards heaven, God takes the initiative and approaches you. You never thought you would have a death. You have whiled away your precious time in disagreements, hostilities, grudges, squabbles, discords, feuds, vengeance, greed and indiscretions, manoeuvres and cunning devices of various sorts on account of these.

Everything was centred round this world till this time. Always aimed at this world. Now, here God takes the initiative.

Some of you have taken dedication. But you haven't yet come to true dedication. I will worship God, I will live as a pious man, I will pray, and I will co-operate to the best of my ability in the service of God. But there is a condition, you have to look after me.

You should make me pass the examination. You should take care of my marriage. You should heal me of my ailment. You should put an end to my hardships. You should find a livelihood for me. You should show me a way to peace. We make the dedication with a view to obtaining certain mundane needs. That is not true dedication.

True dedication is unconditional. LORD, you loved me; you showed me mercy; you gave regard to this
insignificant person. You arranged the best for me. I love you for whatever you have done to me. If you want to sustain an authentic Christian life, you should come to a deep dedication. A total and unconditional dedication.

When we have taken an unequivocal dedication, we come to belong to God, become God's own. Once we belong to God, God takes over all your worries about you illness, your education, your marriage, and your house.

When we give away ourselves totally, we are in the hands of Jesus. I don't mean to say that we need not pray for healing of illness, for passing examinations, for securing jobs, or anything of the sort. We can pray, but not imposing conditions.

LORD, am I not your son, your daughter? Have I not given away my life to you? Have I not pledged to you that I will not be sinning till death? Are you not my father? Are you not my creator? Are you not my redeemer? Have you not redeemed me with your blood? Jesus, I am yours. Give me the best from your bounty.

LORD, I badly need to pass this examination. But I beseech you to make me pass this examination at your time, at your chosen time. LORD, I want to conduct my daughter's marriage. She is of marriageable age. There is no one to bring any proposal. Nor do I have anything substantial to give her. Have I not given away myself totally to you? Haven't you taken over my affairs? I beseech you to consider my daughter's case favourably.

LORD, I am submitting this application. I do need to
get a job. I have no means of income. LORD, are you not my father? Am I not your son, your daughter? I beseech you to give me this job.

Dear ones, once you have submitted unconditionally, God will take over and commence granting you your needs as blessings. If you lead a sinless life, I say with the authority in Jesus' name that He will fulfil your needs.

“You have granted him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips.”

(Psalms 21: 22 \textit{NIV})

When you pray, you will get reply. The prayer will be heeded. Dear ones, you should ask and obtain. The condition should be thus: LORD, you redeemed me with your blood. As you have redeemed me with the blood of your heart and as I am your property, I beseech you to fulfil this for me. You can claim as your right.

Friends, are you prepared to take an unconditional dedication? That is what Jesus Christ did in Golgotha. He surrendered himself unconditionally to the will of the Father. He sacrificed himself on the cross. He prayed to let this cup pass from him if it was possible. For bearing the sins of humanity was a heavy burden of agony. Jesus, who was untouched by sin, was destined to bear upon himself the burden of the sin of the entire humanity.

The loot and plunder of the entire humanity, the burglaries of the entire human race, adulteries of the entire humanity, their quarrels, rivalries, grudges,
animosities, vindictiveness- Jesus volunteered to shoulder everything. The Cross is bearing the most unbearable.

Sin is iniquity, violation, feculence, abomination, corruption; Christ is bearing all these. LORD, Should I bear all these? Yet thy will be done, not mine.

Think of an example. A dead rotting rancid dog is placed on your head and you are asked to walk. It is a punishment. What an unbearable punishment! The putrid pus oozing out of the eyes, nose and the lips. Its suppurated parts oozing out through all orifices. How insufferable! This is the kind of punishment Jesus took upon himself.

Jesus took upon himself the abomination of the whole human race. For the sin I committed with my eyes, Jesus' eyes were spat upon. For the defilement and the abuses I committed with my tongue, for mocking, reviling, and judging others, Jesus' face was spat upon and his ears slapped.

For entertaining grudge, vindictiveness, and malice in my heart, the crown of thorns was thrust upon his head. For the offences committed by my hands Jesus' hands were wrecked by nailing them to the cross. For the trespasses my legs committed, Jesus' legs were smashed by nailing them to the cross. For the lecherous thoughts entertained by my heart, for the unspeakable desires I had, for the shameless lust I nursed, Jesus had his side pierced. In fact he gave me remission of all the
above.

Friend, to give you remission of these sins in your life Jesus bore the cross. Saying, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Jesus lay on the cross. This is dedication.

Now you can say to God: LORD, as you loved me and sacrificed your life for my sake, as you loved me and died on the cross for me, as you loved me and shed your unblemished blood, I will live for you from today. I will love you unconditionally.
Chapter-9

Dedication has tremendous significance in Christian life. No one can take a step forward in spiritual life without unambiguous dedication.

Christian life is not possible without being born again. For being reborn, there is no need for change of religion, for change of community, or for any outward ritualistic observances; it is a process that happens inside. The experience is that of the old human being in our life, the old nature, dying and a new man being resurrected in its place. The experience of the Holy Ghost brooding over our self and a new man being resurrected.

The old nature, perspective, goal, and vision change totally. Christ becomes the only goal of life. That is why it is said at the time of baptism, “I renounce Satan, and I accept Messiah.” If we seek admission to the eternity, the Kingdom of God, when we reach the other shore after death we must have gone through the experience of having reborn after the death of the old human being.

The only consideration when we approach the Kingdom of God is whether you have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, reformed by the Holy Ghost, and become a new human being. There is only one condition
for approaching the Kingdom of God. Whether we have gone through the experience of being reborn, having comprehended the love Jesus Christ showed on the cross, having gained the new life of the holy blood Jesus Christ shed on the cross, and having gone through the experience of being reborn on gaining the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Death is not the end of everything. There is a curtain on the earth. It is only that we are going behind the curtain. We go behind the curtain that is death. Some people are behind the curtain and others on the open stage. Each one of us will exit behind the stage and go behind the curtain one day. But life goes on. Crossing the ford which is death we enter the immense world that is eternity.

When we enter eternity we confront the Judgement. All of us will have to stand before the Judgement, the seat of Christ's Judgement. There every knee will bow.

“...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2: 10-11, NIV)

Eternity is a reality. While nearing death, just a few moments before death, the past events of life will rush to our minds. Even the sins we have already forgotten will surface in our minds. If we want to reach the shores of eternity in peace we should have gone through the experience of being reborn.
If we have to sustain the experience of being reborn we should have unambiguous dedication. We should firm up in our heart the experience of having renounced Satan and having accepted Jesus Christ. That is what is called rebirth. That is an experience we gain by means of faith. Christian life itself is an experience. What is required for that is dedication.

Jacob got promises. Jacob is giving word to God: I will worship you if you fulfil certain demands of mine. If you fulfil my wishes I will not go back on my word. Jacob dedicated in absolute terms.

Have you ever taken such dedication before God? LORD, I will ever live without committing sin. What are the promises you have made to God? Have you gone back on the word you have given?

God noted the word given by Jacob. But Jacob went back on his word later in life. Whereas the word of the God of Heavens still stood. Son, if your God has given you a word, depend on it, even if you go back on your word, the God of Heavens will never go back on his word. God would never forsake you. He will stand by you.

As Jacob attains his old age the God of Heavens fulfils everything. He ushers Jacob to the array of the holy. When the onrush of a surfeit of experiences blows great forebodings and dark shades over Jacob like a storm, when great misfortunes and crises overwhelm him-sons lost, family in ruin, wife dead, great famine befalls- God did not forget Jacob in the midst of these exigencies.
Once Jacob himself said:

“Everything is against me!”

(Genesis 42: 36 NIV)

The God of Heavens looked forward to Jacob keeping his word. In every adversity, in every storm God sought to anoint Jacob. God took effort to bring him round to the very berth God had meant him to land in. God did not fail in his effort. The God of Heavens who takes up a good task is intent on fulfilling it.

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

(Hebrews 13: 5 NIV)

Though Jacob had made an offering he slipped up at the very outset.

“Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. There he saw a well in the open country, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well. Jacob asked the shepherds,

“My brothers, where are you from?”

“We're from Harran,” they replied.”

(Genesis 42: 1-4 NIV)

Jacob left Canaan and reached Haran. The word he had given to God during his journey was that he would
ever worship Him, that he would never forget Him, and that his life would be entirely for Him.

“Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”” (Genesis 29: 1-4)

The first place would be for God, Jacob had promised. But what did Jacob do now? He forgot God.

In the past Eliezer, the servant of Abraham had happened to stand at the premises of the same well in search of a bride for his father Isaac. What had he done there?

“He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water. Then he prayed, “LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. May it be that when I say to a young woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I
will know that you have shown kindness to my master.” (Genesis 24: 11-14)

What Abraham’s servant Eliezer did near the well first was to pray. But what Isaac's son Jacob did when he reached near the well was to inquire of them as to whose shepherds they were, whose those sheep were and so on. He didn't pray. He forgot his promise.

He forgot whatever he had promised during his journey. When he reached his destination after his journey he forgot the God who had led him on. He forgot the God who gave him Vision. He forgot the God who gave him Voice. He forgot to whom he had made a Vow. He forgot his Vow.

Are there people among you who have forgotten their prayer? Are there people among you who have spent their prayer time for other things? People who have engaged in other matters at the time when they should have done their morning and evening service? Have you given the first place to God? Have you raised praise and glory to God?

You prayed before going to write the examination, but did you kneel down to praise God after coming back from the examination? You prayed for getting a job, prayed before going to the interview, but did you raise glory to God after getting the job? When the proposal was on, you prayed, but did you not forget God after the marriage?

Did you not forget God after you got a child? You
prayed fervently for cure, but did you not forget God when you were cured? You prayed for remission of debt, and by God's grace your debt was remitted; but after that did not your gratitude to God diminish?

We should not go back on the word we give to God? In what all instances did you retract from your dedication, did your love for God decrease, and did the vigour of your prayer peter down? There you are able to find out the origin of your downfall.

God is the one who forgives everything. Pardoning everything, bearing everything He restores us. He is the one who retrieves you, who gives you peace, who makes good your drawbacks, who repairs the wear and tear that has happened in your life, and who cures us. It is this good God who has died on the cross! Look at the protection of the cross, the love on the cross. There is only sacrifice there, only accommodation there. There is no complaint against anybody, no ill-will, and no grudge. There is only love. Christ will remove your faults. He will restore the sanctity that has been lost. The love that restores everything though you have violated your resolve.

Christ is soliciting you with love.

“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me that the LORD brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?”  (Lamentations 1:12)

Son, daughter, it is for you my side was pierced and
my precious blood drained out. For the curse and abuse you spoke, for your ill-will, for the despair you sank yourself in, for the curse you subjected yourself, and for the curses you inflicted on your children, I was spat upon my cheek. For the lewd pictures you saw, I was slapped on my face. It was to spare you of your just punishment I received the punishment. See my blood.

Dedicate yourself at the feet of Jesus who has come to restore you. LORD, I have gone back on the promises I made. I have not been faithful to the resolve I made. Today I dedicate my body, life and soul again. Be merciful to me. God who restored Jacob as Israel, who made the alien of this world the citizen of heaven, transmit your spirit upon me.
Chapter-10

*How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!* My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God. *(Psalms 84: 1-3   NIV)*

The moments we sit at the feet of God are the value time of comfort, when we are relieved of our burdens. Let us say to God:

*Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.* *(Psalms 86:17   NIV)*

We have been thinking of the significance of dedicating human life to God.

1. **The Dedication of Virgin Mary**

Virgin Mary said, “I am the LORD’s servant.” The dedication of Virgin Mary became instrumental in the eternal God, The God, who cannot be limited in to space,
coming down in to the midst of humans.

2. The Dedication of Jacob

Jacob got a vision, got a voice; Jacob took a vow.

Jacob made a vow. Henceforth, I submit myself in toto to you. You will be my God. I will belong entirely to you. I lay down certain conditions to you:

1. God be with me.
2. You will protect me during the journey I undertake.
3. Give me my daily bread.
4. Give me clothes to wear.
5. Give me shelter.
6. Bring me back to my father's home.
7. Keep me in good health.

I am traversing from Canaan – Palestine - to the distant Haran (Mesopotamia). Here I am advancing towards regions I have never visited before. Give me the assurance that my future will be safe and sound. I am laying down certain conditions for my dedication. I do want to acquire certain blessings.

Jacob is demanding as if a son were demanding from his father, a wife were demanding form her husband, as if we were demanding from a close friend. We should, similarly, demand from God; we should snatch from God.

I lift up my eyes to you, to you who sit
enthroned in heaven. As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy. (Psalms 123:1, 2 NIV)

I got the result of M.A. Degree examination on demand to God. I would go to the examination hall after prayer. I would pray after coming from the examination. I would read the Bible. One of the verses I read on that day was:

“I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.” (Psalms 119:162  NIV)

I gathered great strength and courage by reading the Bible. Linguistics was a rather difficult subject as far I was concerned. Though I studied the subject with special care, nothing would stick to my memory.

I placed the pen on the desk in the examination hall and prayed: Jesus, do bless my pen before I start writing. When the invigilator approached me, I prayed: LORD, receive the question paper in your blessed hands and bless it with your blood daubed hands before it is handed to me. I had full faith that the LORD would sit with me on that day.

When I got the Linguistics question paper, I felt as if I were going blind. Reason, I was not able to recollect the answers of the first ten questions. Immediately, I prayed, God do be with me. I let go the questions I was not able to attempt and decided to answer the other questions. I
came back to the questions I had found difficult in the last five minutes. I prayed to the LORD and began to answer them.

It is indeed a mystery to me how I answered those questions. When I came out of the hall and referred to my notes, I found that I had answered all those questions correctly. How was it possible? That is what I mean by demanding our needs from God. We should demand good performance in our examination. Though I was a private candidate, I got the first rank in M. A. Degree examination. Ours is a God who gives us what we ask. A God who doesn't deny our prayer. A God who bestows what we beseech.

The fact that God is with me made me persist with God's work even though people mistook me and despised me. I had fallen in love with God. Sans Jesus I would be zero. My ambition is to work for God filled with gratitude to God. It was He who gave me an address, a career, and a livelihood. We should compel God to give us whatever we need.

Jacob sought out things from God.

God stands above the ladder to listen to the man. He is eager to listen to the trifling words he says in his pusillanimity. Following his vow God gave him visitations.

If you want God's visitation, you should sit in solitude in your room and read the Bible with absolute concentration. You will get the visitation through the Word of God. God will comfort you with His Word; talk to you.
God will reveal your true state to you through the Word.

Jacob was favoured with his visitation.

“Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.”” (Genesis 31:3)

Twenty years had passed since Jacob made a vow to God. He forgot the vow when he confronted certain vicissitudes in his life. Jacob reached his mother's brother Laban's house. He met Laban's daughters. Jacob fell for the younger daughter Rachel. Jacob slowly grew worldly. He grew ambitious for wealth. Forgetting the vow he made to God, Jacob's heart veered to wealth and wife. It was deception he met with everywhere.

If you are a person who has made a vow to God, who has made a commitment to God, and if you forget God, it is a blunder as what awaits is deception. His uncle Laban cheated him. Jacob asked Laban for the hand of his younger daughter Rachel in marriage. Laban, who was cunning, devious, and shrewd, offered to comply provided he served him for seven years and proved his worth. Jacob forgot God and served Laban for the sake of Rachel.

After seven years Jacob asked Laban to fulfil the contract, to give Rachel in marriage to him. On the first night of the marriage itself Jacob realised that he was cheated. He had asked for Rachel, but he was given Leah, who was not as beautiful as Rachel. Leah's eyes were lustreless, whereas Rachel had lustrous and
charming eyes.

Jacob asked Laban why he had cheated him. Laban had not had the slightest inkling that Jacob had made a vow to God. Jacob's uncle hadn't known Jacob's God. But the living God knew that the servant of God who forgot God and turned to the mundane and the worldly was in for entrapment and debacle.

Laban reasoned with Jacob that the custom of their land wouldn't allow the younger daughter to be given in marriage before the elder. But he offered to give him Rachel too if he served him for another seven years. Thus Jacob had to accept Leah as his wife under constraint.

What a frustrated life! Leah loved Jacob wholeheartedly. But Jacob cold-shouldered her from the outset. Leah was his wedded wife, but his heart pined for Rachel. He recognized and loved Leah as his wife, but not absolutely, not unreservedly. Jacob did not love Leah wholeheartedly. Leah languished in sorrow.

There are husbands and wives who do not love their spouses wholeheartedly. They make their wedded life miserable. It is always discord and disquiet in the family. There is no love lost between the husband and wife. Isn't love the very foundation of family life? What should be between the husband and wife is not mere physical desire. It should be rather transcendental, an enduring relationship emanating from the deep recesses of your soul.

Jacob was always bitter that he was cheated, he
hadn't wanted Leah and that she was foisted on him against his wishes. Jacob was disgruntled.

   Many husbands and wives are disgruntled now. Their family life is not intact. There will be harmony in your family only after you have expiated yourself and got reconciled with God. Authentic peace is possible only through reconciliation with God.

   Jacob forgot the vow he had made to God. Jacob was unhappy.

   “When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive,”
   (Genesis 29:31)

   Many a wife pine for the love of their husbands. They long for a little mercy, a word of appreciation, a sweet smile, and a sweet word from their husbands. Similarly there are husbands who long for a word of endearment, a glance of affection, for a sweet smile from their wives. Wife is always disgruntled. 'I have had better proposals.' She sighs. If you entertain such thoughts, if you have forgotten the word you have made to God, your family life can never be sound and harmonious.

   The husband should think that the wife he has got is the best he could have got. Similarly, every wife should think that her husband is the best man she could have got. Such families will not be lost. Children in such families are never ruined. They never stray in to vices. Rather they will be blessed.

   Those who cry over their children should realize that
the reason for this son or daughter going astray is certain discontentment, certain filthiness, certain loveless behaviour in your life. Your inability to be amenable to your husband, your inability to love your wife can lead to the deviousness of your children. Whereas if the husband and wife are of one mind, of one heart, united in pure love and love each other unreservedly, the children of that family will never go astray, will never stray in to devious behaviour.

If your children are slow in learning, if their IQ is low, if they are not able to cope with their studies, you should realize that the reason is within your family and that is the divide between the husband and the wife. There is disunity, there is disgruntlement in the family, and the children of those families go deviant.

Therefore, if there is any discontentment in family life try to get over it, rinse yourself of that sitting at the feet of God. An iota of discontentment in your life tells upon your children. Don't allow such discontentment even for a day. Be united in selfless love.

There are three edicts in the Bible a wife should follow.

1. A wife should submit herself to the husband.
2. A wife should obey her husband.
3. A wife should revere her husband.

What a husband should do:

1. A husband should love his wife
2. A husband should care for his wife.
3. A husband should respect his wife.

Families which follow these edicts will thrive for sure.

“Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her LORD. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.” (1 Peter 3: 1-7)

The case may be that your husband does not believe the word, does not pray, does not attend the fellowship, and has no spiritual awareness at all. In that case he should be able to watch and realize your unblemished conduct inspired by your reverence for God. Without any advice from the wife, without making him listen to the word, purely on account of your purity of life
your husband will happen to seek God.

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (1 Peter 3:7)

Besides loving your wife, besides being considerate to her, a husband should treat her with extreme prudence and due respect. A wife is never a lesser partner, never inferior to the husband as if she were a loyal servant owing servile obedience. A wife is an equal partner, never to be looked down upon.

A husband ought not to criticize his in-laws. He ought not to feel that his wife has brought no property, she has not brought satisfactory dowry, she is not beautiful enough, or she has no equal status. She should be treated as an equal partner, rather as your better half.

Jacob did not follow this edict. Have you forgotten any promise you have made to God? Have you gone back on the word you have given to God? Have you ever violated the dedication you have made?

Did you not relapse into drinking, though you had resolved not to touch liquor? Did you not declare that you wouldn’t have anything to do with any bad company? But did you not fall in to bad company? Did you not enjoy abusive words, though you had decided not to utter any such words?

Did you not state that you would submit and humble yourself categorically to your husband? Didn't you yet
tremble with anger and curse him? As long as you go back on the word you have given to God, you are being entrapped.

Do keep the word you have given to God. Dear ones, if you haven't made a vow, now is the opportune time. This is the time when Christ is nearest to you. Now tell him:

“LORD, I am making a vow. I have made a vow to God that I cannot break.”

This body is yours from today. I will not defile it. It will not be open to anyone else to watch, or anyone else to touch. This body will be pure. Each of its organs will be pure. These eyes will never be available for watching sleazy pictures. This tongue will not articulate any offensive word. This lip will never touch anything undesirable.

Jesus, I will not do or write anything unbecoming. My feet will not move towards forbidden paths. I will not give place to base emotions in my thoughts. I will not say lies. Jesus, I surrender my body, mind and soul to you. I submit my future to you. I owe my income to you. I hereby give away my entire future, entire personality in to your hands. Jesus, do accept me, do recognize my vow.
“In the womb he grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God. He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favour. He found him at Bethel and talked with him there“ (Hosea 12: 3, 4)

We have been discussing the topic 'dedication' based on the verse “I have made a vow to God that I cannot break.” Dedication! Commitment! Surrender!

We have pledged: I commit my body, life and spirit. We have pledged: I surrender the boat and the net. We have pledged: I submit myself wholly. Many who have pledged in this fashion may be reading this.

The Eternal God! The God who transcends History! The God who cannot be limited in the bounds of periods, nations or ages! That god spoke to a specific person at a specific place. God is ever speaking. What God said to Jacob in the desert of Beersheba: I am the God of your Father, God of Abraham, the God of your father, the God of Isaac.

Son, you aren't alone. I am your God. The Immutable God is with you. God offers Jacob courage, strength, hope and faith.
Jacob made a vow to God. His vow is imperfect. It was on condition. In Genesis, chapter 32, Jacob's dedication becomes deeper. The vow he made at Bethel was shallow and conditional. Yet God did not forsake Jacob. God never considered of deserting him and leaving him alone on account of his imperfect dedication.

Keep this in mind. The God of Heaven is never fed up with you, never tired of you. He hasn't given up hope on you. He still clings to the hope he has once set on you. He is endeavouring hard to lead you in to deeper experiences in life. He is endeavouring to provide certain spiritual benefits. Keep faith in Him. He hasn't forgotten you.

Jacob made his vow twenty years ago. Though Jacob had lived oblivious of God ever since, God did not forget Jacob. He didn't forget him even for a day, not even for a moment. But Jacob had forgotten the vow he had made. He had said,

“If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God; then this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

Twenty eventful years. Jacob reached Haran in Mesopotamia. He lived tending his sheep in that region replete with pastures on the banks of Euphrates-Tigris Rivers.

Jacob lived there as his uncle's servant. What a
miserable time! The son of a very noble father living as a servant in his uncle’s household like an orphan.

If you review your life you can spot such tedious times in your life! Times of drudgery! Times of hardship! Times of misery! Times of backbreaking labour day and night! Jacob himself says,

“This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes.“ (Genesis 31:40)

Due to the responsibility involved in tending the sheep, due to the necessity to maintain loyalty in his job, Jacob toiled at the cost of his health.

Aren’t some of you like this? You toiled shedding your blood and sweat in the establishment you worked. You worked hard irrespective of night and day. Now what is the balance sheet? Only disappointment. Jacob says:

“But now, when may I do something for my own household?” (Genesis 30:30)


Aren’t you in the same situation? Most of you looked after the matters of marriage, matters of education, and matters of house building of your younger brothers or sisters. You spent yourself for the benefit of others. You toiled, you went through great misery. Result?
bitterness that you had forgotten yourself.

Jacob toiled for twenty years without safeguarding his household. Fourteen years for the sake of wives in two terms. The remaining six years of backbreaking labour tending Laban's sheep. Thus twenty years of real grind!

Jacob felt that it was not feasible to stay on. He would rather go to his father's home than stick on with his father-in-law. He decided to leave. He had earned by now two wives, children, herds of cattle and sheep, and a host of servants. Rachel was in advanced pregnancy.

Jacob was on the way to his father's home in Canaan. He had to tread a distance of about six hundred miles. Whenever Jacob set out on a journey his heart would start beating faster. He had left his father's home twenty years ago out of fear for his life. He had fled home for fear of being killed by his brother Esau whose birth right he had cheated him out of.

Had Esau's wrath petered out? Or was he still in a revengeful mood? Was he still plotting to kill him? Esau had several servants and strong and sturdy warriors as attendants in his coterie. Would they all fall upon him? Though he had escaped from the clutches of his father-in-law, was he heading for death at the hands of his brother? Such were his apprehensions.

On his way in the middle of his journey he heard the disturbing news that Esau was heading towards him with four hundred of his men. Four hundred men, they were sure to kill him, his wives, children, servants, sheep and
cattle. Jacob was drained of his strength and courage.

Dear ones, have you had times in your life when you counted days and nights out of fear for life? Is this disease likely to be terminal? Now I am going to hospital, am I likely to come back alive? I am being pushed in to the operation theatre. Am I likely to come back alive out of it? My life, is it going to terminate here and now? Those who are in the throes of such forebodings! Are there people who read this caught in the teeth of fear in this fashion? Dear ones, Jacob was in a similar state of fear.

Anything could happen. Jacob was rattled by the news of his brother's expedition. There was no going back. Jacob and Laban had heaped a pile of stones at the watch tower of Mizpah to serve as witness to the covenant then entered in to as landmark of the boundary between them, which Jacob and Laban had sworn never to cross. They had parted unequivocally and there was no going back. Jacob was in consternation.

“That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.” (Genesis 32:22, 23)

Jacob always rationalized his plans. He would flee to safety by the time Esau and his men came and killed his servants, sheep and cattle, children and wives! He was used to fleeing. Had he not run six hundred miles
distance? He could run through the desert. Jacob calculated everything reliant on his physical stamina and his own logic. Jacob pricked up his ears to the silence of the night. He was alone!

Dear ones, I will give you a hint. Nobody will stick by you when you confront crises in your life, when you are up against problems. Even if some do stay they can hardly do anything. All are there - mother, father, brothers, sisters, relatives, wife, husband, but none can help. You will be left alone!

When you were in the stranglehold of debts, when your family was up against certain problems, when there were hassles between husband and wife, when you had a harrowing time without a job, when you were hard up for necessities, or when you were consumed with diseases, could anyone come to your rescue? You will be left alone! No one can lift a little finger. Whoever are there, they cannot support you. Where no one can help, there is the eternal Christ to help!

Even if nobody is there, you are blessed as long as the Living God is with you. “With Jesus I am a hero and without Jesus I am a zero.”

When you enter the examination hall if Jesus is with you, you will come out of it as a hero. If Jesus is there with you at your workplace, you will be known as a hero in your workplace. In your activities, in your family life if Jesus is with you, it will be heaven for you. Friends, do you have Christ with you in your life? Have you welcomed him in to
your life? Have you been resolved that Jesus be with you? LORD, without you, life is blank, futile, and worthless? Have you witnessed like this to God?

“Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to.” (Genesis 28: 10, 11)

Twenty years ago while passing the very same place, the sun had set there. Even after twenty years the sun remained set in his life.

The sun which had once stood blazing in your life has set now. You are in a hopeless condition. You are at the end of your tether. There has been no progress in your life. Sighs, misfortunes, sobs, and miseries? Is there no end to these misfortunes and miseries? Isn't your life riddled with sufferings that come upon you one after the other?

When the sun has set, better be left alone. Why? It is an opportunity to wrestle with God. All your efforts have come to a close. The game is over. There is no point in struggling any longer. The last resort is to seek God's support. The sun has set. Darkness has prevailed. Dark shadows are cast around.

You should give word to God: LORD, lo and behold, I am left alone. I have nothing to fall back on. My husband or my wife has no regard for me. My children don't respect me. My parents have no love lost for me. There is nobody
to give me a helping hand. I am left all alone.

I was alone: orphaned; I cried a lot. But God taught me to laugh. Is there anybody in a state of hopelessness, sadness and mental hurt? I can assure you. There is the Almighty God who comes to your rescue, when you are left alone. When you are lonely and forsaken, there is a God who cares for you.

When you are fagged out, when you are withered, when you are despaired, when you are disheartened, there is a God who seeks you out. That God is the living Christ. He wouldn't leave you in the lurch. He would give you the best. He would take charge of your affairs.

“So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.” (Genesis 32: 24)

The man who wrestled with him was none other than Jesus Christ. You may ask: how is it possible? Wasn't Jesus born centuries after this incident?

“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8: 58)

Jesus has no beginning or end. Jesus is beginningless beginning and endless end. Jesus Christ, the eternal God! In the Old Testament Jesus Christ is referred to as 'Angel of the LORD' or 'Man'.

A man wrestles with Jacob. This man wrestles to bring him in to a deep surrender.

Christ is grappling with you. He is engaged in a battle with you. So that you may win the grace of God. God
is offering you an opportunity for you to break down your ego or self and cling on to God.

Dear ones, when you are left alone, like a man wrestled with Jacob till daybreak, Jesus comes to wrestle with you. Son, surrender your abilities, your talents, self, your gifts, your spirituality, your scholarship, and your education. Anything sans Christ is zero, futile. If Jesus is with you everything is a blessing.

A man wrestled with him till daybreak to break him. Jacob had insisted that he had nothing to fear, he would flee, and by the time Esau crossed over to that bank of the river after killing his wives, children, cattle and sheep and servants, he would have fled to a distance beyond his reach.

Jacob had certain gifts. He counted on his gifts, his talents, his skills. He would overcome. Child, you are vulnerable. You surrender whatever you claim to be yours. When you surrender everything unconditionally the LORD will intervene on your behalf.

There is a story. A person was drowning in a flooded river. There was a life saver on the bank. All people appealed to him to rescue him immediately. But he wouldn't respond. But when the person was about to go down he jumped in to the water, took him in to his hands and brought him ashore. People asked him why he took time to go to his rescue. He could have saved him a little earlier before he collapsed.

The life saver said, “I would be able to tackle him
only when he was drained out of his energy. Otherwise he would struggle, exert all his energy and I wouldn't be able to outmanoeuvre him and bring him ashore.”

The spirit of God, taking pity on our helplessness, is paddling on to us in the abundance of his living water in order to save us. When all our strengths are on the wane and we cry out of our helplessness, when we are sunk up to our neck in water, when we are about to go down in a few minutes, there comes the spirit of God.

I have prayed: LORD unless you bless me, I am lost. When I rise to speak the Gospel, I say to God: LORD, I am zero. I am not at all equipped; therefore, be merciful to put the Word in my mouth in order to provide these poor people who are worn out without peace.

Friends, when you surrender admitting to having nothing as your own, God will give you everything. Today, you come to Jesus dispossessed and as zero. Give word to Jesus. Oh Jesus, who wrestled with me all the while, who endeavoured for my sake, do touch me. Place your hand upon me.

“My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.” (Psalms 51:17)

Let your spirit flow in to me. Let the stream of the Holy Spirit circulate in me. Let the power and grace of the Holy Spirit overwhelm me and sanctify me. Transform me from my present state of weakness in to one of tremendous strength, from my state of powerlessness in
to one of great power, and from my state of penury in to one of affluence. Aren't you wealthy, strong, powerful, and brave? Arrive in to my heart.

Jacob couldn't be overpowered though he wrestled with him till daybreak. But that man won over him. Shall I tell you, my son? Jesus Christ who has initiated His project in you will not abandon it. He will finally triumph!

Do believe: Your disappointments, the burdens and liabilities in your life will give way. Your wish for death will vanish. You will gain a new zest for life. Good times will dawn upon you again. Why? Jesus has initiated his project in you. The saviour who loved you to the extent of dying on the cross for your sake! The saviour who longs to cleanse you with the holy blood that he shed out of his sides! He has never given up. He has set out to triumph and make us triumph. He has come to give you victory in your life.
Chapter-12

“So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” (Genesis 32:24-26)

Let me visualize what Jacob might have spoken to God: Didn't you touch the socket of my hip? I am not able to walk now. I had thought that I could flee to escape by the time my brother reached me. Aren't my wives and children on the other side of the river? My plan was to flee to escape while my brother seized them or killed them. The plan will not work, now that my hip is damaged.

It is advisable to have certain damages in our life. Certain unanticipated misfortunes, certain sudden catastrophes, friends turning in to foes, unexpected accidents, disease, and treatment bearing no results, heavy debts, and bereavements are all damages in life. But the living God can transform such damages in to causative factors for our ultimate goodness.

God does no harm to anybody. God doesn't hurt
anybody. The punishment meted out by God is not at all by causing disaster, death, financial straits, or heavy debts. The severest punishment God imposes upon man is to withdraw his spirit from us. Deprivation of spirit and consequent burning out of the lamp of God in us. The withdrawal of the hand of God's grace from our head. God turns his face against us.

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” (Isaiah 59: 1-2)

God does punish man when sin befalls his life. He turns his face against us. There is no one to listen to when we address God. There is no one to respond when we address our Father. When we ask for help there is no one to come to our rescue. The severest punishment is when God thus abandons us!

God never punishes anybody by bringing him disease. God does not punish anybody by pushing him in to debt. God does not punish anybody by bringing him death. God does not punish anybody by causing him accidents or disasters. It is Satan who does all this. It is Satan who brings harm, disease, misery, damage, sufferings and loss. What God does is to transform all the damage and misery for our good.

God transforms everything for the good of those who love him.
“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

(Romans 8: 28)

Failure in an examination is not any punishment God metes out. On the other hand it is the handiwork of Satan. Inability to perform well in an examination is the damage caused by Satan, not God's work. But God transforms it to the good of those who love him.

Jacob, in fact, became disabled so that he would not be able to escape. He got a bad wrench.

Certain wrenches that occur in our life are opportunities for us to subject our life to retrospection. Wrenches become instrumental in our coming to great abundance of blessing. Jacob was in great trouble unable to escape. He could not flee to escape. He was at the end of his tether. There was no way out for him.

Brothers, are you at the end of your tether? Haven't you had moments when you thought that you had no choice but to die? There is no alternative but to commit suicide. Fed up with life. Thoroughly depressed. In total despair. Hopeless situation. Are you at a juncture where all the doors are closed in front of you?

At that juncture you should pray to Jesus: I appeal to you in my most needy moment. I will not let you go unless you bless me.

Jacob fell at the feet of the man and clasped both his feet. He insisted that he wouldn't let him go. He said: Look,
death is at my door. In a short while my brother will capture me and kill me. He is fast approaching me with his four hundred attendants with a view to availing this opportunity to wreak the vengeance he has nursed in his heart for twenty years. I will not let you go till you have blessed me. I cannot survive for another moment without your blessing. Jacob thus clings to God.

Have you ever said so? Have you persistently asked God for anything? I will not let you go until you bless me. What recourse do I have unless you place your hand upon my head and extract me from my present predicament, from this trap? LORD, there is no one to help me. All my plans and programs have failed. Till now I managed to hold on by my resourcefulness. But now I am at my wits end.

Listen, Keep faith, if you have appealed to God insistently, having no way out, in the last resort, the eternal God has listened to your appeal. If you call God in a troubled state, with a heavy heart, and in a ruined condition, you can find how He responds, how fast He arrives.

"Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God." "I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart." God will hurry to our call, to the devotee, to the one who cries for help. The God of Heavens will swiftly descend to the rescue of the one who cries in distress.

Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Friends, who among you reading this book are

Tell Christ who is at hand: LORD, I beseech you, I will not let you go until you bless me. Then you can perceive the perennially exquisite love of God. You can feel the divine touch of Jesus.

Tell God what your predicament is, how severe your problem is. God, who has discerned it before you have told him will take it in hand on your behalf.

Dear ones, what is the device for the blessing? God is ever willing to bless you. But there is a condition. If you wish to be blessed, you should reveal your name.

“The man asked him, “What is your name?”
“Jacob,” he answered.” (Genesis 32:27)

It is not that the LORD doesn't know his name. He needn't learn it from Jacob. Yet the question is: What is your name?

“Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made. He went to his father and said, “My father.” “Yes, my son,” he answered. “Who is it?” Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me.” (Genesis 27: 17-19)

Twenty years ago Jacob had told his father whose eyesight had weakened: “I am Esau your first born.” Twenty years ago he had cheated his father. He had told him a lie without batting an eyelid.
Though Jacob had forgotten that he had lied, the lie had been recorded in the Book of God. When Jacob said that he was Esau, his first born, Isaac, his father was doubtful. Son, come closer so that I may touch you in order to ascertain your identity. Reason, the voice was that of Jacob. Father wasn't sure of his son's words. Jacob had also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins. Isaac touched him.

The body of Esau was hair-covered. This body was similar to the body of Esau. Father said, “The voice is that of Jacob, but the body is that of Esau.” Father had to believe because when he touched him he felt that he was Esau.

All the twenty years Jacob had been bearing the burden of the sin he had committed twenty years ago when he lied to his father without any qualms whatsoever and cheated the blessing, due to his elder brother by birth right, out of his father. The sin hadn't been resolved even when he took the pledge twenty years ago. He took the pledge while he was still bearing the sin.

While fleeing six hundred miles through the desert of Beersheba his sin had been unresolved. While serving his father-in-law for fourteen years for Leah and Rachel, his sin hadn't been resolved. While pouring blood and sweat day and night for cattle and sheep for six years the sin hadn't been resolved. He took the dedication. But the sin stayed. Absolute blessing can be obtained only when sin has been completely erased.

When Jacob insisted that he wouldn't let him go until
he blessed him, that man- Christ- asked him: What is your name? With the same tongue with which he had lied to his father twenty years ago he had to admit perforce: I am Jacob. There is no alternative to outright admission, outright confession, and outright amendment. With what tongue I said Esau once, with the same tongue I should amend it as Jacob.

There are many who ought to make amends. There are many who ought to ask forgiveness. Some of you may have to ask forgiveness to your wives. Some to husbands. Some to mothers-in-law. Some to daughters-in-law. Yet others to your children.

I have asked forgiveness to my students. Once I had to ask forgiveness to a third year degree class student by name Sreedharan. I used to ask questions in my regular classes. Once he was not able to answer my question. I asked him why he hadn't come prepared with the lesson. He had no reply. I was annoyed. I sent him out of the class. I also said, “Enter the class only after meeting me at 3.30 in the evening.”

I had a sense of unease ever since I sent him out of the class. Students come to college to study. There was no point in keeping a student out of the class. I felt that I should not have been so harsh to him. I waited for him to come in the evening. But he did not come at 3:30. I could not go home till I made sure that he would come. I stayed back in the staff room. He came at 4 O’clock, when the college campus was almost empty.

I asked him why he was late. He replied, “I was
waiting for everyone to leave. There is a reason for my default. I cannot say that in public. Yesterday my father came home very late at night. He didn't bring rice yesterday. My mother is laid up with asthma. She was waiting for father to bring rice home to cook and have food. She asked whether he had bought rice.

Father had been dead drunk. Mother said something by way of complaint, which enraged father. He abused and beat up mother. My invalid mother was assaulted. I felt very sad. My mother should have food at least the next morning. Father would be served food where he went to work. Sir, I rolled beedi throughout the night. I didn't get time to study. I sold the beedi at the shop and came back buying rice in the morning. I couldn't read."

I felt sorry. I said, “Son, forgive me. I hadn't known this. I was wrong to have sent you out of the class.” I held him close to me, asked him to forgive me, and sent him home.

The next day I said in class in public, “I was grievously wrong in having sent Sreedharan out of the class. I ask all of you in public. Forgive me.” I asked forgiveness.

Now consider this. Have you erred anywhere? Is there anybody among you who has assaulted your wife? Anybody who has hurt your wife with your words? Hurt your husband with your words? Hurt your children with your words? Treated your children without love or affection?
A boy once said to me, “Sir, I am calling from a public booth. I cannot call from home. My father wouldn't spare me if he came to know. He is so hot tempered. I heard your message on television. That is why I am calling you now.”

“I am not allowed to switch on the TV at my house. My father doesn't like us to hear your message. I watch your message at my neighbour's home. I noted down your number there. I haven't ever met you. I am studying in the very same St. Peter's college where you have worked. I am a degree student. Sir, I have a matter of grief. Please pray for me. There is no way for me to meet you. There is no way I can attend the fellowship at your residence. Please pray so that my father may have love for me.”

“Why do you ask this, son?”

“Sir, I have never heard my father address me by name. He always uses an abusive word to address me. I am rather ashamed to express that word to you. I crave for a word of love from my father. Please pray for me.”

I said to him, “Son, love your father. Give him all the regards and respect due to a father. He will reciprocate. If not immediately, later. God loves you. Even if you don't get love from your father, you will certainly get it from your Heavenly Father.” I consoled him.

Dear ones, are there any amends to make in your life? Have you failed to give love where it was due? Have you failed to be kind where kindness was due? Have you failed to give affection where it was due? Anything to set right? Try to recollect all the stages you have passed through. May be some wrenches or faults have occurred.
May be something pernicious you have committed in your life. Has any money that is not due to you has come in to your hands?

You squandered your money in outrageous ways. You have wasted your health, vitality of your youth. You have defiled yourself. Don't you have to atone? Try to recall.

The angel asked Jacob, “What is your name?” Jacob replied, “I am Jacob.” With the same tongue with which he had lied he had to retract.

Where all do you have to make amends? Do you have to pay off any debt? Kindly abandon your justifications. Decide in the presence of God unconditionally: LORD, I will make amends where I have erred. I will not let you go until you bless me.

If you give word to God with determination that you will make up for all misdeeds in your life, the God of Heavens will give you his grace. He will make you prosper. He will raise you.

Once a man came to meet me. He said: I was working as accountant in the shop of a Sait in Market Road, Ernakulam. When I got a better job I left the Sait. While working with the Sait I had misappropriated some funds. I want to set it right. What shall I do?

I asked him: Is the Sait hot-tempered? Is he likely to hurt you when you apologise to him? He replied: Sir, I am not sure. He was testy in those days. He had no second thoughts when he lost his temper.
I advised him: Prepare yourself. Take fast for twenty one days. I will pray for you. After twenty one days he came to me with a certain amount. I said: You go ask his forgiveness and say, “I have done wrong. I have embezzled some money from you. I have brought an amount which is not less than I remember I have pilfered. Please receive the amount. I want you to forgive me.”

He came again in the evening and said: Sir, I have come with great peace. A miracle happened. Sait was there when I went there. I asked Sait to accompany me to the first floor as I wanted to tell him something in private. I burst in to tears and said: I have filched some money from you. I have come back to return the amount. He asked what made me feel sorry.

I replied: I have been to a gospel meeting. I heard the word of God. I realized that I have been wrong. I felt that it wouldn't be proper for me to keep the money with me. It will not bode well for my future. Therefore I decided to return the amount. When I said this I cried unknowingly. He too cried. He held me in his arms and said: Son, God bless you. You need not give me the money. Count it as already paid off. He placed his hand on my head and blessed me saying: Wish you a bright future.

He said to me: Sir, till I admitted it, it was as if someone was drawing me back from behind. But after I made a clean breast of it, a great peace descended on me. I am at peace with myself now.

Dear ones, don't you have anything to make amends for?
“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

(Proverbs 28 : 13)

Don't ever think that it is improper or below your dignity to ask forgiveness. On the other hand, dear ones, it is a mark of your magnanimity. Where ever you have to make even with, don't leave anything unfinished. Let not a speck of dust remain in your life.

When Jacob admitted, “I am Jacob”, he got God's grace.

“Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” (Genesis 32:28)

Arriving at authentic dedication is through confession. He came to the completeness of dedication only when he admitted to and gave up his sins. When he came to true dedication God said: Your name will no longer be Jacob. I give you a changed name. I give you a new name. You will be known as Israel-Prince of God.

The new blessing is accompanied with a new name. The blessing is bestowed after eradicating everything old. The blessing is bestowed after changing the old nature.

I will not let you go until you bless me. Pray incessantly in the presence of God during the solitude of the night. Sitting alone you should admit all the sins that have occurred in your life. Jesus, I believe that you have come close to me. Now I am opening my heart to you. I
have admitted to all my sins. I give word to you that I will
lead a sinless life henceforth. Please don't leave me
without blessing me. Please don't go away from me
without blessing me.

Pray incessantly. Then you can experience the nail
marked hand of Jesus being placed on your head. You will
get relief in your heart. You will get the assurance that
Christ has heard your prayer. You will have the confidence
that the LORD has blessed you. You will have the
competence that you have been taken over by Jesus. You
will get solution for each of your problems.

A new joy will wave in your heart. Diseases will
disappear from your life along with. The Bible says:

“A cheerful heart is good medicine,”

(Proverbs 17: 22)

Win a cheerful heart in your life. When you receive a
cheerful heart chronic headache will go away. Stomach
related indisposition will vanish. Even cancer will vanish.

If you take a pledge that you will lead a sinless life till
your death, you will be able to perform very well in your
examination. You children will prosper in life by leaps and
bounds. Your problems will be solved.

There is no blessing conjointly with sin. I forego my
sin; and blessing flows in to me. I admit to my sin and
renounce it. I decide to lead a sinless life from today.
When you decide so, the sacred blood of Jesus will
cleanse you.

All your sins and your liabilities will be transferred in
to the account of Jesus Christ. All the deposit in God's account will be transferred in to your account. A money-transfer!

The account of your curse, your adultery, your depravity, your alcoholism, your drug abuse, your squabble, your grudge, and your malice will be transferred in to the account of Jesus Christ. And the beatitude, the love, and the mercy in the account of Jesus Christ will be transferred in to your account. The remission of sins in to your account.

Isn't it the love on the Calvary that invites you? You are not the one to wait outside. You are the one to reign as the legatee of blessing. You shouldn't ignore the bidding of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray: Merciful LORD, We praise you for this felicitous time. We praise for the miraculous grace and miraculous visitation. We praise you for having transferred the account of my sins in to your account. We praise you for transferring the account of love and beatitude in to our account. Place your sacred hand on all those who have taken the dedication. Let your nail-marked hand wipe the tears of your children. Bless families with harmony. Prepare us for your second coming. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.
“But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good.” (Jonah 2:9)

“I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.” Jonah says. “What I have vowed I will make good.”

In the Syrian Church liturgy, in the early part of the Holy Mass, there is a song.

“Ennum sthuthi nin kanivinu kaniverum rakshakane
Ethraniranjinnengum kanunnu- nin dhaanam
Ninuvayarodundaya kopam
Nilaviliyaal nee neekkiyallo”

“Praise to thee for ever for thy compassion, Thou Most Merciful Saviour,
Thy beneficence is manifest in great amplitude everywhere
The wrath you had for the Ninevites
You revoked due to their repentance.”

When God felt fierce anger for the people of the province of Nineveh, the people called on God in great repentance. God relented. When Jonah prayed from
inside the fish to God, God showed him mercy. Therefore, God, be merciful to us too.

Nineveh was a port city in the then Assyrian empire. There was another city situated to the interior at a higher altitude, also known as Nineveh. The populace of the city had become depraved, wicked and Godless. God decided to punish them for their sinful ways. God used to instruct his prophets of his intentions. He would proclaim his divine plans, his plans about man to his chosen prophets. That was the canon of God.

Prophets like Moses and Joshua. Later in the line, Samuel. After the time of Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Nathan. Thereafter, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel – we see many such prophets in the Bible. They were mandated to convey the will of God to man. After listening to the Voice of God, they would interpret those heavenly messages to His people. They used to proclaim God’s decrees to the humans.

God spoke to Prophet Jonah: Nineveh will be destroyed after forty days. You should warn them of what is going to befall them. To Jonah, the prophet of God, who had sacrificed and taken a vow God spoke: Go to Nineveh now.

Jonah lived then in the province adjoining Libya on the northern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. God instructed Jonah: Go now.

“The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and
preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.”

(Prophet 1: 1-3)

There was no Suez Canal which connects the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea then. In order to reach Nineveh he had to sail east through the Mediterranean Sea, cross the land and the Red Sea and tread the rest of the way.

When he heard the word Jonah thought: If I go to Nineveh I will have to proclaim the message God has given me. I will have to say that Nineveh will be overthrown. But God hasn't told him: You will be saved from ruin if you repent and do penance. I will have to say only that they will be overthrown.

If I say the exact words God has asked me to tell them, they will repent and do penance. God will relent. My word will be worthless. Jonah considered his position, his dignity, his survival, and his credence among the people.

Though he was a prophet Jonah hadn't acquired the sanctification required in his life. He hadn't crucified himself, hadn't broken his self. I, mine, my view, my service- ego, self which Jonah hadn't been able to abandon. Though he was a prophet he did not have the absolution consistent with the life of a prophet.
Dear ones, most of us have taken the vow: I renounce the Satan; I accept the Messiah. Though we don’t remember what our Godmother or Godfather has vowed on our behalf in our infancy, later in life, when we grow up, they ought to tell us of the vow, turn us in to the path of God, lead us steadily on the path, frequently remind us of the vow we took, and by leading us on to the essential experience of Christian life.

It is not by performing any ritual, but by sheer will power, by taking a resolution in our heart, reminding ourselves that we are the ones who have renounced the Satan, renounced sin, bidden farewell to sinful environment, therefore, we cannot afford to indulge in sin, and by leading an anointed life with a clear conviction “I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.”

Even when we had no sinful thoughts, we had sinful nature in us. We are able to perform effective service to God only when the sinful nature has died in us. Also to reach the Kingdom of God, and to stand before God with perfect ease and confidence. It appears that Jonah did not have any awareness of these things.

Jonah set out on the mission God had given him. But when he reached the harbour there were ships ready to sail eastward or westward across the Mediterranean Sea. One could sail to Nineveh, the port city of Assyrian Empire. Westward, to Tharshish, the present U.K.

Jonah could have gone to Nineveh. But as his 'self' was overpowering, his 'ego' overbearing, as he gave priority to his position, his dignity, his word, the importance
of his word, and as he was audacious, he set sail westward.

“But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.” (Jonah 1:3)

Jonah paid the fare for sailing to Tharshish, for proceeding in a direction diametrically opposite to the path of God. Let me ask you. Are there some of you among the readers who have paid the resources, health, wealth, intellect and ability God has invested in you as wages to Satan?

Those who have given away their powers for Satan to manipulate! Those who have wasted their health in debauchery! Those who have paid their hard-earned money to dissipate the sanctity of their body! Those who have tossed to the wind the harmony and love in their family life! Those who have hurt the hearts of their parents! Those who have repeatedly tortured their wives and wounded their hearts!

Those who disrupted their family atmosphere by being unfaithful and recalcitrant to their husbands and always treated their husbands insolently and petulantly! They were the ones who gave wages to Satan in their worldly life. Those who have given themselves away to Satan to repudiate God. If you review your life you can realize how much you have ruined.
The other day a youngster said to me that he had squandered four lakh rupees in alcoholism in one year. Another one said he had frivolled away eleven lakh rupees in drinking. Wasting everything? Giving wages to Satan!

Another youngster said to me: Sir, I am in poor health. All due to wanton life. I said: I will pray for you. But what next? He said: Sir, no doubt, I will live in deference to Jesus Christ. My wife has deserted me. She is not likely to come back. I said to him: Can't you tell her that you have decided to live as a reformed man? He said: She may not trust me.

I asked him to send her an E-mail. In the E-mail you should tell her: I went to a fellowship. I met a certain person. I made a clean breast of my sins to him. I will not commit any sin hereafter. This is not like the empty promises I have made before. Trust me this time and forgive me my shenanigans. Later when he met me he told me that she hadn't yet received his e-mail.

There are many who have made a mess of their life by paying wages for it. Why divorce? All by pandering to Satan. Those who paid wages to repudiate God!

Friend, your presumption, your quarrelsome nature, your irritable nature, your grumbling nature, your apprehensive temperament – what all have you forfeited on account of them?

Is there harmony in your family? Are your children upright in their behaviour? Isn't your husband's heart in
tumour? Think of it, son. Is there peace in your life? Isn't your family in doldrums? Haven't you lost the fidelity of your wife? Haven't your children gone astray?

Jonah paid wages to sail in the wrong direction. He had no rectitude to face up to people. So he went below the deck of the ship, where he lay down and fell asleep. But what happened?

"Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up." (Jonah 1:4)

A storm strong enough to break up the ship. All the cargo was thrown overboard.

"All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship." (Jonah 1:5)

Such a storm was rare in the Mediterranean Sea. The ship tossed about violently and was going to break up. Everyone was in consternation; and there was a chorus of wailing. Nobody knew what to do. The ship threatened to sink though they had tossed everything overboard and lightened the ship.

Now you can retrospect. Isn't it because of you that the family broke up; children went astray; children went aberrant and played havoc with their life by gratifying their base desires? Isn't it because of you that your husband has become a chronic patient, having a wretched time due to blood pressure, heart attack and hypertension? Isn't it because of you that all the family property was
squandered away? Your alcoholism, your drug abuse, your rotten company, and the shenanigans you indulged in in the heat of your youth. Your family went in to ruin on account of these.

In fact, the real deadweight, the millstone, the onus was Jonah who was lying below the deck. You do several things, take confession in the church, partake the Eucharist, take part in Gospel meetings, and do certain things for charitable purposes. Nevertheless, the ship doesn't quieten, the storm doesn't abate, and the fears don't subside. If you seek to remedy the transgressions in your life, what is to be discarded should be discarded. Till you discard it you will never have the amity you seek in your life.

Friend, certain sins intrinsic in you, lying dormant in you, which you have never admitted to, which you have never renounced, and which you don't like to give up have merged in to you. As long as that remains in you, you will get no progress; there will be no amity in the family; your children will never have a bright future. Only Jesus can straighten things for you.

But if Jesus has to repair your life, the deadweight should be discarded. There are certain sins, some furtive indulgence in the dregs of certain sins you are still reluctant to give up, adamantly linger in your heart. They should be thrown overboard. Unless you discard them, son, daughter you will have no peace.

Whatever you may have, wealth, children, wife, husband, beautiful mansion; there is only one way to have
peace. There are certain 'Jonahs' hiding in you. You should hurl them out. If you are willing to do that your life will come to peace. Everything will calm down. Peace will gush in to your life.

Your disease will be healed, your misery will go, and your sufferings will come to an end. Prosperity will dawn upon your family. Your debts will be paid off. It is true that you are up to your neck in debt; your business is in ruins; several mishaps in different ways are lashing at you. Satanic forces are invading you and overpowering you. But God is opening a path for you. Throw overboard the 'Jonah' that is fast asleep below the deck.

“But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.””

( Jonah 1:5, 6)

There are many who are fast asleep, oblivious of the developments around them. Everything around is in a flux, in turmoil; turbulent atmosphere, anarchy all around! The whole society is in a state of instability. There are those who frolic about hardly aware of the realities around them, those who live in ivory towers. Those who are insensitive to the convulsions in the society, the upper class who pretend to be blind to them!

Those who belong to the high echelons of society, insensitive to the plight of the poor, those shut the door of the gospel to them, being unwilling to enlighten them!
They prevent them from going to the right fellowship, wherever else they go. They know in their heart of hearts that they will be saved if they go to the right fellowship! They will be able to throw out the Jonah inside! They hardly bother when the poor suffer, when families break up, and when divorces have become the order of the day.

It is in India, especially in Kerala, that most of the divorces, suicides, and homicides happen. The series of murders that take place in Kerala, which boasts itself of its cultural integrity, in 'God's own country'! Friends, think of it. Which of our community leaders are anxious about these? If they were they would have advised them to attend the fellowship and hear the Word of God which will instil repentance in them!

But advising them to the contrary? 'Don't ever go there. They are against the church, they are a threat to the church!' But the fact is, this fellowship is against neither the church nor the community, nor baptism. It never asks a penny as contribution. Then what does this fellowship do? It assembles about three thousand youngsters and exhorts them to repent. More than one thousand people regularly attend the fellowship and hear the Word of God. Many people gain peace of mind. Are these the wrongs this fellowship commits?

Mr. Saju, a member of our choir group, while studying in college in Kothamangalam, had committed several follies. The students used to gang up and filch chicken from the neighbouring households during night times. They would steal tender coconuts from the neighbouring
groves. And they would revel.

Once, while listening to the Gospel about the repentance of Zacchaeus, Saju repented. He approached me, told me that he had erred, and that he had committed the mistakes ganging up with friends while studying for B. A. He asked me how to do penance. I advised him to go back to those households and give them more than the cost of stolen goods as compensation.

Saju went to each household and gave thrice or four times worth the cost of their loss. It is not incidental that Saju thrived! That Saju reached such a financially sound position! His parents were daily wage labourers. But today he distributes monthly salary to more than four hundred employees. Saju is busy preaching the gospel of sanctity. All because he got rid of the Jonah in him.

Once you give your life in to the hands of the Living God, He will work miracles in your life. In order to expiate the evils that have occurred in your life due to your culpability, cast off the sins and defilement that lie hidden in you.

“So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.””

(Jonah 1:8, 9)
Even while journeying against the will of God, Jonah avers that he worships Jehovah, the heavenly God. Isn't it the mentality of today's Christian world? What they preach are lofty ideals! Beautiful sermons from the altar and the sanctuary. But what do they practise in life? Painfully filthy things that cannot be spoken in public.

You claimed to worship God, nevertheless, you went against the will of God. Why did you do so? What shall we do now so that this tempest may abate? Son, you tell us the course of action you suggest for our safety. Jonah said to them: Cast me off in to the sea. This tempest has arisen on my account. Jonah gained the right perspective. Jonah returned to the right path. The ship is still ailing west. But Jonah's heart came to the right direction.

Dear ones, realization that 'I' am responsible for the transgression, it is 'I' who ought to reform, and it is on account of 'me' this tempest has arisen is gaining the right perspective.

The moment Jonah asked them to cast him off in to the sea, they lifted him from below the deck of the ship and threw him overboard in to the depth of the sea. The moment Jonah asked them to cast him off in to the sea, a whale swimming in the deeps got a command from the Heavens. On Jehovah the God's instruction the great whale hovered underneath with its mouth wide open. The whale moved underneath parallel to the ship. God controlled the great whale!

Jonah was thrown overboard, the ship steadied, the turbulence ended, the tempest abated, waves quelled,
everything became quiet.

Son, if the sin latent in you exits, your life will calm down. How serene your life becomes when you own your sins and discard them; and when you decide to live a sinless life henceforward, what courage, and what competence! No matter who turns against us, what happens to us, whatever illness we catch, and whatever the number of people who trouble us, the peace we gain on getting our heart cleansed of all sins, on getting our sins washed away is tremendous.

“Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

(Jonah 1: 17)

I read in Life Magazine in 1967: A gigantic fish washed ashore on the coast of Sweden. The zoologists had never known such a fish. It had been dead. When its belly was cut open there were two human beings inside! They were fishermen who had gone fishing a week ago. It is to be assumed that the fish had swallowed them. However, they were found in the belly of the fish. They had been quite safe. Inside a big oxygen bladder! A bag filled with oxygen. They had sufficient oxygen to breathe. I remember reading it in the Life Magazine with pictures. It hadn't been known even to zoologists that a human being swallowed by a fish could remain alive in its belly.

Jonah inside the belly of the fish for three days! When he had boarded the ship, the ship was caught in turbulence; panic around. When Jonah entered the belly
of the fish, the fish began to flee westward in great bewilderment. Who controlled the fish? The God of Heavens! It crossed the Mediterranean Sea, entered the Atlantic Ocean and passed the straits of Gibraltar.

Then it swam southward. Close to the coast of Atlantic, along the western coast of Africa and around the Cape of Good Hope, it ran northward. Sailing five thousand miles in three days, it crossed the Red Sea. It finally disgorged Jonah on the coast of Nineveh. How miraculous!

Once you turn to the path of the Living God, He will lead you to the ideal destination. You might have been on the wrong path; different kinds of mistakes, deficiencies, turbulences, unbearable calamities might have taken place in your life. But once you turn to God and decide to cast off your sinful nature, God will lead you to your destiny.

The whale represents the Holy Ghost. The love of the Holy Ghost running hurriedly bearing the sinner. The priceless love of the Heaven that has wholly imbibed man the sinner in a bid to make him reach where he ought to end up. The love of Christ is labouring to redeem the man. Bearing all the pain.

The whale bore the pain for three days. Dear ones, LORD Jesus Christ lay buried for three nights and three days. On the third day when he resurrected, the first word he said:

“Woman, why are you weeping?”
Why did Jesus Christ die on the cross, go to the Netherworld, and live resurrected? Only one reason. To comfort the crying from crying! To mitigate the grief of the grieving!

Whoever are in pain, in grief? Jesus is there to take over the pain and grief. He is labouring hard. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is spreading in the five continents of the earth. Whoever internalizes the essence of this Gospel and opens his heart to Jesus, Jesus will welcome them and lead them on to the path of eternal peace. The LORD brightens their life; gives them peace.

Dear ones, your deficiencies will vanish. Your grievances will be redressed. Your necessities will be fulfilled. Your wishes will be realized. The dreams you entertain will be made possible.

Jonah prayed while he lay in the belly of the whale for three nights and three days. The most important verse in that prayer is our subject of reflection:

“What I have vowed I will make good.”

Jonah says: LORD, I am a person who made a vow. All these happened to me as I violated my vow. I went westward when you asked me to go eastward. I am the one who travelled in the opposite direction. Sins have been committed. I vow to thee, I will make my vows good when I come out.

LORD, I am one who took certain resolutions in my life. I will not drink, I will not judge anyone, I will not quarrel, I will not lose my temper, I will not ogle at anyone with a
lewd eye, I will not watch obscene pictures, I will not fall in to perverse relationships, I will not open the dirty sites on the internet. But I transgressed. I violated all my vows. I come to you with an account of losses. But now I vow to thee, I will make my vows good.

Now you can decide: LORD, I will make good the vows I have made. I will not turn to my old ways. My old sins. I will not turn to the iniquity of judging others. I won't try to find fault with others. I will only look at my sins. My Jesus, today onwards I will live as a new person. Do wash me with the blood that spurted out of your pierced side. Do sanctify me by washing me of my sins.

LORD, I do take a dedication to make good the vow I took. I prepare myself for a rededication. LORD, clear me of my sins. Do protect me in your side and herald me in to the eternal kingdom by preparing me for your glory. Herald me into the heavenly bliss that doesn't terminate in death. Do forgive my sins.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Books by the Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. WAY TO LIBERATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. GLITTERING FUTURE (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. STREAMS IN THE DESERT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. ARE YOU WILLING TO BE HEALED?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. INNER PEACE (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. GLITTERING FUTURE (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. STREAMS IN THE DESERT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. ARE YOU WILLING TO BE HEALED?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63. BESIDE CHERITH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64. AMRUTHADHARA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

65. Dean's Choice: A Decision of Life

66. Does God Answer Prayers?

67. Discovering the Joy of God's Company?

68. Euphoria: The Simplest Solution

69. Everlasting Life?

70. THE CITIES OF REFUGE

71. Everlasting Life

72. THE BLINDNESS OF LONELINESS

73. Have Your Cake and Eat It Too?

74. Can You Say Happy Death?

75. Can You Say Happy Death?

76. A Cause of Action

77. A Cause of Action

78. BEYOND DEATH

79. One More Time

80. The Secret to Successful Marriage

81. True or False?

82. True or False?

83. True or False?

84. Evil--The Devil's Deception

85. Evil--The Devil's Deception

86. The Promise of God's Blessings

87. The Promise of God's Blessings

88. The Promise of God's Blessings

89. The Promise of God's Blessings

90. HOW LONG IN TWO BOATS?

91. A Touch of God's Blessing

92. A Touch of God's Blessing

93. A Touch of God's Blessing

94. A Touch of God's Blessing

95. A Touch of God's Blessing

96. A Touch of God's Blessing

97. A Touch of God's Blessing

98. A Touch of God's Blessing

99. A Touch of God's Blessing

100. IS THERE ANYBODY WHO WILL NEVER DIE?

101. A Touch of God's Blessing

102. A Touch of God's Blessing

103. A Touch of God's Blessing

104. A Touch of God's Blessing

105. A Touch of God's Blessing

106. CALEB--A BRAVE HERO OF FAITH

107. A Touch of God's Blessing

108. A Touch of God's Blessing

109. LITTLE FOXES

110. A Touch of God's Blessing

111. A Touch of God's Blessing

112. A Touch of God's Blessing

113 ON WIND'S WAY

114. A Touch of God's Blessing

115. A Touch of God's Blessing

116. A Touch of God's Blessing

117. A Touch of God's Blessing

118. VICTORIOUS LIVING

119. DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?

120. A Touch of God's Blessing

121. A Touch of God's Blessing

122. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

123. A Touch of God's Blessing

124. A Touch of God's Blessing

125. A Touch of God's Blessing
**Christian Revival Fellowship’s main Meetings**

**Kadayiruppu:**
Near to Prof. M.Y. Yohannan’s Residence, Mechankara
Valethupady Bus Stop, Kolenchery - Perumbavoor Road.
Phone: 0484 - 2689489, 9142 303096

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Saturday</td>
<td>9.00 am - 2.00 p.m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Sunday (Followed by 2nd Saturday)</td>
<td>12.30 pm - 5.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Sunday</td>
<td>12.30 pm - 5.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>6.00 pm - 8.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fridays (Bible Class)</td>
<td>6.00 pm - 8.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Tuesday (Ladies Meeting)</td>
<td>9.00 am - 12.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesdays (Young Men's Meet)</td>
<td>6.30 pm - 9.00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Prof. M.Y. Yohannan’s new books**

125
124
123
122
121
120
119
118