

**COURAGE IN CRISES**

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## Introduction

Most people are shaken and tend to panic when they face trials and tribulations. Some seek an escape through death by committing suicide (escapism). Marilyn Monroe was an immensely popular actress, owing to her beauty & wealth. She was an idol to many. However, she committed suicide; and the suicide note was filled with despair. She wrote: "I am committing suicide. Nobody is responsible for my death. I have no peace of mind. My loneliness is intolerable."

The unexpected events and twists in life can derange the best of men. Such incidents rip one's heart and fester the mind forever, plunging them into depression.

**"Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee and thou shall glorify me." Psalms 50:15**

A great many number of people have thus called upon Jesus Christ for deliverance from the whirlpool of their problems; which had gripped them.

On January 15, 2009 an American Commercial aircraft A 320, was taking off from New York's LaGuardia

airport, with 155 passengers. The pilot of the plane, Mr. Chesley Sullenberger, had over 20,000 hours of flying experience, spanning 40 years. At 3200 feet, there was a bird collision, which disabled both engines of the plane. For a moment he panicked, but he prayed. The plane was immediately guided to a ditching (emergency landing), on the icy Hudson river nearby. All passengers were safe. This incident is considered a miracle in aviation history. Jesus Christ gave him presence of mind to deal with the situation.

Abraham Lincoln; America's most celebrated President had to overcome many obstacles in his life. After a serious introspection of his personal & political career he said "I have not controlled the events

"I would rather say events have controlled me.  
I met them all with faith in Jesus Christ."

The writer of the best seller book 'Power of Positive thinking' Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and Dr. David Seabury, who authored books like; "Unmasking one's mind", and "How Jesus heals our minds"; today substantiate the fact that many emotionally unstable people (mentally ill people) can attain a balanced, rational mind if their faith in God is instilled in them.

I want my readers to understand the strength of belief in Christ, this is my aim behind composing this book. Thus I believe that many will stand up boldly to witness

Christ. I express my gratitude to Dr. Sunil Pathrose Parathuvayalil, Orthopedic Surgeon specialised in spine; Dr. Isac John, my eldest son and Managing Director, Rapha Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd. and Dr. Priya Joseph, Associate Professor, Baselius Dental College, Kothamangalam. They have spared time amidst their busy official duties to translate the Malayalam book, "Prathisanthikalil Thalarathe."

Your humble brother,

**M.Y. Yohannan**

## Chapter 1

**“But Moses told the people “Don't be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch Lord rescue you. The Egyptians that you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. You won't have to lift a finger in your defense.” Exodus 14:13**

The Israelites were convinced that it was the mighty power of the Lord alone that brought them out of slavery from Egypt. They had great faith in the Lord. There was a great exodus of about 600,000 people who followed Moses out of Egypt with great enthusiasm and faith. They knew, after all, that it was the Lord who rescued them with great power.

When the Israelites left Egypt under the leadership of Moses; Pharaoh and his officials pursued Israel into the desert. All the forces in Pharaoh's army – all his horses, chariots and charioteers were used in the pursuit. The Lord delivered them miraculously through the Red sea, by opening a path through water.

**“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. Pharaoh will**

**think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.' Exodus 14: 1-4**

Pharaoh's heart became hardened. His effort to bring the people of Israel back as far as slaves, were in vain.

Even today, Satan tries to demoralize godly men who follow the Lord. When God's people repent on hearing God's word and are led forward by His miraculous hand, Satan tries to turn them back. This is symbolic of the way Satan constantly discourages the devoted in order to overpower them. But we must have a firm belief that God is the one who called us out of slavery. He will guard us till the day of his return. One must believe that: I am committed to him alone. I have entrusted myself to Him. He is trust worthy. I have been born again by the word of God and bid farewell to my old life and continue growing in the word till the fullness of salvation. I have broken free from my bonds of slavery. This conviction should embolden us.

Jesus Christ gives freedom for men bound by Satan. He lets loose our bindings by stretching forth his hand.

We are all bound by Satan. All men are bound by different sets of chains. Satan has been using us to do his work. We are all under the yoke of slavery and were tools

in his hands. We ought to know the kind of chain with which each one of us is bound. Some are bound by anger, others by diseases, a few with accidents, majority of them with curses and other evil spirits.

The people of God were brought out of Pharaoh's slavery. They set out on their journey towards Canaan through the wilderness. On the way, they reached the shore of Red sea. As Pharaoh and his army approached, the people of Israel could see them in the distance, marching towards them. The people began to panic and cried out to the Lord for help.

Then they turned against Moses and complained:

**“As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”**

**Exodus 14:10-12**

They grumbled that Moses had led them out into the desert to die. They questioned him.

Many repent and are born again, leaving their old way of life. But in a crisis, they are perplexed and give way to fear and panic, and the enemy pursues them. They

start reflecting that they had never faced opposition in the past, when they had lived in sin. No one had dared to take a stand against them or attack them. Society exploits them for their gentleness. As they are new reformed, they cannot retort or quarrel with those who wrong them. These are the thoughts that lead them to depression and a sense of being burdened.

Yes; people stand facing a huge predicament. They are at their wits end trying to find a way out. Dear friends, many of you may be anxious about the future. You may be entangled in problems in the family. Many are faced with relentless turmoil and ordeals like mounting debt or disease which clings on and chokes them.

A life fraught with problems! A life swaying in the turbulence of trials. Are not many hearts crying at this time? Do they not yearn and pray to God for deliverance from the never-ending misfortunes?

Some people think their lives are finished. They live in gloom; seeing no hope of deliverance. The future seems bleak.

The people of Israel were so paralyzed with fear when they reached the Red Sea that they rebelled against Moses.

**“Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.”** Exodus 14:13

Moses reassured the people, telling them not to fear. He spoke confidently that the Egyptians would never again harass the Israelites.

But how could the vast army of the Egyptians be destroyed? The people could not comprehend this fact. They were aware that they lacked military or weapons for combat. But God is the God who makes possible the impossible. Believe with all your heart and pray to God to provide a solution for your terrible problem. Then He will mitigate your fear and consternation, your pain will vanish. The path to move forward will be opened and he will gradually uplift you. You will be blessed with peace in your life.

To all who call on Christ out of a pure heart. Jesus will answer them and grant them peace. You can believe and trust in Christ.

My son, do not write off your future My daughter, the future is not a closed chapter. All roads are not closed.

You have a bright future. You will experience healing of sickness and be relieved of distress. Your family will see good times. Husbands and Wives will reunite in love.

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11**

**“So there is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children will return to their own land.”  
Jeremiah 31:17**

The Israelites were bewildered by the deep sea. They thought death by drowning was imminent. Alternatively, they would fall by the swords of Pharaoh's army.

Dear friends, in such a dire situation, where the Israelites could neither move forward nor backward; Moses commands them to stand firm without fear.

**“Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.”** Exodus 14:13

**“I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me.”** Psalms 118:13

**“The LORD's right hand is lifted high; The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!”** Psalms 118:16

It is true that in this world, we are helped by human hands. But the ultimate source of all help is directed from God. He is the Creator and Master of all creation God helps us. Therefore we need to stand firm without giving way to fear. This is essential for any believer.

**“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

If you need to be firm and strong, you need to believe deeply in Jesus.

**“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."**

**Psalms 27:1-3**

There is a reason why the Psalmist commands us to remain without fear, whatever happiness.

**"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 27:4-6**

Dear friends, listen to the word of Jesus and strengthen your faith. His Word grants courage, faith and strength to walk in Christ.

The Red Sea stretched as far as the eye could see, in the horizon. The terrible depth of the sea frightened the people of Israel. The sound of the hooves of Pharaoh's horses; thundering behind in hot pursuit, added to their consternation.

But Moses commanded them to stand firm and see

the deliverance that the Lord would work for them.

Moses proclaimed that the pursuing army would never reach them or harass them again. This was the last that they would hear of them.

Dear friend, you may face trials, temptations and tests. Daughter, you may be tormented by certain ordeals and agonizing trials. But believe that Jesus has the power to remove each and every problem. He just has to extend his miraculous arm. All trouble will vanish. All opposition will melt away. All deceitful and cunning snares will be removed and the plans of the enemy will be foiled. Son, daughter you will experience deliverance. The Lord will bear your burdens.

Do you know the heavenly peace in your heart when Lord bears your burden? When you exchange your anxieties and troubles, He will take it with his blood - stained hands. Those bleeding hands will bear all and release you. That freedom is something you should experience yourself, now itself!

Nothing is seen on your shoulder now. Look to Jesus and see a cross on his shoulder. That cross represents your heavy burdens. That heavy cross is borne by the Lord now.

As Christ walks with that heavy cross, He staggers under its weight. At times, He falls. People around Him are just onlookers, watching the spectacle. Nothing moves them. Nobody seems to be compassionate!

Jesus looked at them to see if there anyone was willing to lend a helping hand. No one came forward. No one had pity on Him. No one offered even a word of encouragement. The crowds shouted against Him. They wanted Jesus to be killed. They shouted "Hang him, Hang him!" They mocked at him. Jesus writhed in pain. He was in agony and was helpless. Slowly, he rises balanced on his knees and lifting the cross, he struggled to ascend the hill of Golgotha.

Dear friends, it is your burden that Jesus bore. He bore your burden in order to deliver you and give you peace and a bright future.

Right now, cast your burdens on Him.

**"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."** **1 Peter 5: 7**

What are the anxieties and fears that haunt you constantly? My friend, Jesus knows all this even before you tell He also sees the solution.

**"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken."** **Psalms 55: 22**

Son, believe in Jesus. Believe that the Egyptians you see today you will never see again you will not see your burden again. Your burden will vanish. No fear will visit you. The end of all troubles has been marked out. A time of peace and relief will arrive.

**"I will stand at my watch and station myself on**

**the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."**

**Habakkuk 2 : 1-3**

Once a man preached on the impossibility of the Israelites crossing the Red sea on dry land. He attributed it to ebbing tides producing ankle deep water. Hearing this, a man in the audience exclaimed aloud "Hallelujah!"

When asked why he exclaimed thus, the man answered: I was praising God for the miracle of Pharaoh's army drowning in ankle-deep water!" The preacher was put to shame.

The Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. Stand firm.

Dear friends, in order to stand firm, we need to look at the cross and the Savior who died on it. You need to experience the Savior.

'O Savior, who shed his precious blood on the cross, wash away all my sins up to this day. My sins are like a staggering burden on my head. It springs up out of my heart. Sin is disseminated throughout my body and in my blood. Sin reflects in my behavior. In short, I am sin-constituted.'

Pray in this manner, out of a broken and contrite heart.

Daughter, He is willing to wipe away your heinous past and whatever evil you are entrapped in. Jesus is powerful. He Can remove all impurity. He comes close to you. Open your hearts to him. He pleads before you. If you give your life to Him, he will wash away all sin and remove all your burdens. Run to the foot of the cross of the cross, where the Savior died, bearing our sins and burdens, pray to Him to sprinkle you with His precious blood and cleanse you.

O Savior, please protect me. Please deliver me from the tangles of sin. I am caught in a mesh of sin, and the knots gets tightened, the more I my to untie them. Please place your nail - pierced hands on me and wash me. Let me kiss those holy hands and feet. Let me fall at His holy feet, Bless me O Lord! In Jesus's name. Amen.



## Chapter 2

**“But the Lord said, “Go down anyway and bring Aaron back with you. In the meantime do not let the priests or the people cross the boundaries to come up here. If they do, I will punish them.”**

**Exodus 19: 24, 25**

**"Don't be afraid," Moses said, "for God has come in this way to show you his awesome power. From now on, let your fear of him keep you from sinning!"**

**Exodus 20: 20**

Don't be afraid! It is an instruction which God repeats often. Rather, it is a command and also a great privilege. The entire human race is engulfed in fear. Many kind of fears concerning death, one's health, wealth; politics at work place, groupism, many such fears engulf men.

Some parents are afraid to discipline their children. They do not have the courage to even speak to them. But the word of God clearly states “fear not” Do not be afraid of anything. Why did God say so?

**“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”**

**Psalms 46: 1**

Ever present help! Even in the midst of the most

disheartening moments, believe that Jesus is standing beside you. We may not find our fellow believers or friends for a timely help. But Jesus is always there. Fear not!

Jesus takes away fears. We have come now to his holy presence. Now Jesus has come to us. He has come to do away with all fears and apprehension. Many have uneasiness and disquiet in their hearts. They have the foreboding that something bad may happen. My son has been sent to a hostel. Will he get ragged or harassed?

Different issues worry people. For instance, my daughter has been married off. How will she cope up with the new surroundings? She has been given to a man, who is a complete stranger to her. How is he going to behave with my child? Will he harass her? What about her mother in law? These are big problems, as far as a family is concerned.

I have just appeared for an entrance test. Will I score enough marks to secure an admission? I have resigned from my job. Will I get a job again? Please think over what could be reasons for anxiety.

For some it is the fear of darkness! Or else it may be 'fear of the unknown!' Or some just cannot sleep at night due to wild dreams of someone coming to smother him and leave him gasping for breath! A dream of a stranger seizing you and throwing you off the bed! Deafening Cries! Fear! Some sleep walk at night without being aware of it. He gets up from the bed, opens the door, wanders outside, returns again into the room and bolts the door

before going to sleep again. He himself is unaware of the whole episode.

There are many perversions in life which ultimately ends up in fear.

**"Don't be afraid," Moses said, "for God has come in this way to show you his awesome power. From now on, let your fear of him keep you from sinning!"** **Exodus 20 : 20**

Israelites were journeying through the desert. They started off from Egypt and crossed the Red Sea. Then they arrived at the wilderness of Sinai. After breaking camp at Rephidim they came to the base of Mount Sinai. God said to Moses "you come up here." "Go down and bring Aaron with you.

**"The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them."** **Exodus 19: 24**

'Accept my instructions and go down to tell the people. Tell them whatever I have told you. Then you come back to me.' God is clearly guiding Moses. How did God counsel Moses? God speaking to man! A voice, but no form. But he could hear God's voice clearly. He inspires a heart fully dedicated to him alone.

But Satan is clever and deceitful. He tries to mimic God's voice and trap us. So beware of Satan. Examine yourself to see if your heart and its motives are completely

pure. If you harbour any sin in your heart or entertain impure thoughts, then those inspirations of heart are not from God, but from Satan. The holy words of God cannot be heard by an unholy body.

Sometimes you can hear the voice of God or it can be felt in your heart as an inspiration. Our human eyes neither see God nor can we comprehend His form or appearance. But God's voice reveals Himself. The word of God resounds in the ear and thence to the heart. Even as you read this please say to the Lord, "I do not want to hear Satan's deceiving voice. I want to hear only God's decisive guidance inspired by the Holy Spirit of Jesus."

In Christian life, Jesus will hold you firmly when you are about to slip and fall. Even if you drift away from the right track, he will nudge you back to his ways. You can believe this. My dear friends, there is a living God. His Spirit sees us. The Holy Spirit leads us. God is always there to guide us. He is Jesus, who died for us, the Saviour who shed his blood upon the cross.

You believe in Him and depend on Christ. Lean against his bosom. Fall at his feet. "Lord save me, Keep me from falling." Pray. The hand of Jesus Christ will guide you through. God spoke to Moses. I am going to give these people my commandments. I entrust it to you, be faithful and give it to them.

God instructed Moses to receive His commandments and explain it to the people. Prior to this; the people were to sanctify themselves. Moses also had to purify himself

before going up to God on Mount Sinai. God descended in fire on Mount Sinai

Three days were marked for sanctification. The people were told not to touch the mountain, when Moses up. They were told not cross the boundaries Moses had set. Even if any animal crossed the limit or touched the mountain, it should be stoned to death, because the Sovereign Lord in all His glory descends on Sinai. God spoke all that He intended to Moses and engraved commands on stone tablets and he handed it over to the people.

The commandments were given to maintain the highest standards of holiness. No man by his own strength can be saved by merely obeying the commandments. Man should realize this and only will he seek God with all his heart to attain holiness. It is the very purpose of the commandments. They act like mirrors to which we can compare our life to really see how incapable we are on our own to achieve holiness of God.

I see myself in the mirror only to recognize my deficiencies, those blemishes, dark spots and dirt on my face. I see those scars on my face which need cleansing.

There is no use washing the mirror instead of washing my face. The blood of Jesus Christ purifies from all sins. So to recognize my own sins the laws are essential. Only on the basis of the law, a sin is recognized.

As you come to Christian revival fellowship you get a

sense of your sin. You would feel your life is not pure. There are lot of corrections required and sanctification is needed. All these things are clearly recognized. Luckily these are revelations. A sense of my own sinfulness. If I am going to continue living like I do now, will not enter God's Kingdom.

Just being conscious of sin is not enough to be saved. Our sin must be washed away. What must be done for that?

**“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”**

**1 John 1 : 7-9**

External dirt on the face is visible with a mirror. I realize the need to wash them. But it is not possible to wash blemishes of my soul by my own efforts. Listening to the word of God reveals my sins to me. But no matter how long I pray or meditate, the sin is not atoned for nor is it removed. I am still a sinner with a sinful nature. How can my sin be removed. “The blood of Jesus Christ, cleanses us from all sin.”

Jesus shed his blood on the cross to make what was impossible for me to become possible.

If you have a tiny bit of faith, that is enough. Just

pray: "Lord, even if I don't understand, I believe that you bore the punishment for my sins and died on the cross. I cannot become a saint no matter how hard I try. I resolved not to sin and managed to hold on a few days. But I fell prey to sin again I don't engage in publicly evident sins in deed or word. But my heart is filled with lewdity, evil desires, dislike, jealousy, malice, peevishness. I find it impossible to wipe these feelings by myself. But when I cry out in helplessness to God, admitting my sin, then His blood will wash away my sin. When we experience this by faith, then Jesus will cover the huge stack of our sins with his precious blood.

Now our sins are not visible to the Devil or his evil forces. They can only see the blood of Jesus. Oh the holy, pure and precious blood of Jesus Satan flees at the sight of the holy blood. In this manner, you can grow and prosper in salvation. How serene and beautiful our spiritual life will be come!

The people were in great awe. Moses had returned from the mountain after 40 days and 40 nights with God. The face of Moses was radiant, as well his entire body. The people were stunned. This God is great and awesome. He is indeed a consuming fire. What a thunderous voice was God's voice! Any animal who touched the foot of the mountain was to be stoned. They were afraid. They could not bear to serve such a great and awesome God. How were there to walk with God?

Many of us are like the people of Israel. How is it

possible to live such a holy life for any one? The people of Israel said that God was terrifying for them. They could see the glory of God descending in fire on top of the holy mountain.

**“Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.” Exodus 19:18-19**

They heard a voice like that of thunder. They saw the mountain on fire. They were awed and feared greatly. Many new believers are in consternation because they are unable to keep up standards of Christian living.

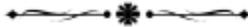
They falter, wondering if it is possible to reach heaven. They realize that their unworthiness may restrict them from reaching the Most Holy God. Many are in doubt. But God commands us to be without fear, not fretting over what we see.

The fear of God keeps us away from sin. That is all that God desires. A realization of His holy and awesome presence, which we must approach in reverence. Then we will be wrapped up in God's love which keeps us safe and secure. Our sins are washed away. No power can touch you. The word of God will protect you. We will be clothed with humility and gentleness.

The nature of Christ will come to you spontaneously.

Thereby your heart will be purified and refined as gold. The heart that was in thick darkness will be illuminated and become resplendent. The experience will be like that of black charcoal, getting warm and finally being set ablaze. Those who come close to them will derive warmth. Any ants and pests coming close will be burnt up. The warmth of Christ will permeate into you.

My respected brother and sister, do you desire to receive the warmth of Christ He loves you and cares for you. God is not cruel or tough. He is love. The heavenly love that humbled itself to die on the cross of Calvary for us. He stretches forth His hand to caress you. Tell Him: "Lord, touch me and make me holy, dispel your warmth over me" Let the warmth of the King of Kings in heaven, the Heavenly star, the eternal glorious king of the New Jerusalem-the Lord Jesus, be spread on me. Let the warmth of the Holy Spirit flow through me sanctifying me.



## Chapter 3

**“Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunnah, tore their clothes. They said to the community of Israel, “The land we explored is a wonderful land! And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into the land and give it to us. It is a rich land overflowing with milk and honey, and He will give it to us! Do not rebel against the lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the lord is with us! Don't be afraid of them!”**

**Numbers 14 :6 - 9**

“The Lord is with us, so don't be afraid of them.”

The community of Israel were reaching Canaan. They had set out on their journey from the banks of Nile in Egypt, crossed the Red sea to continue through the rugged wilderness of Sinai and were approaching Canaan. Moses had prepared them for their life in Canaan. He described the land as one overflowing with milk and honey. People rejoiced at this news. A prosperous land where there would not be any shortage of food! They would not need to labor hard as slaves as they did in Egypt! A quiet and peaceful life! They rejoiced.

But they landed in the desert upon crossing the Red sea. A sun scorched land! A rigorous journey! They had to face many obstacles. They complained, saying "We were promised a land overflowing with milk and honey! Is this the promised land of abundance and prosperity? Moses had given us a vivid description of a beautiful land that God prepared for us, when we set out. What happened now? The hardships we suffer now cannot be disregarded. In Egypt, we had many delicacies every day, though we had to labor hard. What do we get here? A small wafer-like substance called "Manna." This is not what we expected when we started the journey."

They complained that they had been promised much but received only the same kind of food every day. A routine monotonous daily life style. The People were exhausted and started to rebel. As they rebelled against God, they were no longer protected by the grace of God. People rebelled against the word of God and God's servant Moses. Therefore God's presence and grace left them. Their journey became harder and longer again with much distress. In the normal course, the journey from Egypt to Canaan takes only 11 days on foot. For them, the journey lasted 40 years in the wilderness! All this happened due to their rebellion.

Spies were sent to Canaan to explore the abundance and fruits of the land. Of the twelve spies sent from each tribe of Israel, only Joshua and Caleb returned with an encouraging report. The grapes, fig and pomegranates the land produced were of supreme

quality. A cluster of grapes was heavy enough to be carried on a pole, between two of them. Except for Joshua and Caleb, all the others discouraged the whole community of Israel, by telling them that occupants of Canaan were indomitable.

They said it was a good land, but it would be impossible to conquer. They are the people who were like giants. They were very powerful descendants of Anak. The people of Israel would look like grasshoppers in front of them and would be treated the same. It would not be possible to live there peacefully. It would be impossible for the Israelites. The majority of the spies discouraged the others. But two of them, Joshua and Caleb said it was possible because the Lord was with them.

The whole of Israel rebelled and grumbled against God. When Moses and Aaron heard words of unbelief and rebellion they fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Ten of the spies said, that it was impossible to conquer the Anakites. They would surely perish. They said God had given them a vain hope of a prosperous land and now they would die in this wilderness. In Egypt, the work was hard but no one would have killed them. If they reached Canaan, there would fall prey to those Anak giants. Thus, all people were discouraged at their words. Joshua and Caleb boldly declared "The Lord is with us and do not be afraid of them."

My dear friends, there are many people who think that they cannot overcome sins in their spiritual life. They

think: A person like me cannot overcome and change my sinful nature. My filthy thoughts cling to me. A person like me cannot lead a happy family life. I would like to quit alcohol, but I am not able to do it. How many times I had decided to quit. But I have fallen as many number of times! I cannot do it. There are lot of people who discourage themselves, by speaking to self like this.

I will tell you a secret. You should encourage yourself and others. You should boldly say it is possible with God's grace working in me. Always make sure that God is with us before undertaking any activity. That confident assurance of his presence will give us boldness. Whatever others may say or do to me, whenever unexpected events in life turn up against me, my God will interpret the situation correctly and deal with my case. Make sure that God is with you.

William Barclay said: "One of the highest human duties is the duty of encouragement:"

Goethe opined, "Correction does much but encouragement does much more. Encouragement is the Oxygen of the soul."

Henry Ford forgot to assemble a reverse gear for his first car model! There was a message in it. Go only forwards. He was known as the father of automobile industry. But before that he was a person who had been declared a pauper five times. He did not lose enthusiasm. He conquered heights of success in life.

James Watt invented the Steam engine after a

period of twenty tireless years of work.

William Harvey published the human circulatory mechanism model after eight years of experimental research.

R.M. Macy who started his renowned Macy's departmental stores had tried to do business in five different fields, before this venture. He was unsuccessful as a whaler, retailer, gold miner, stock broker and real estate broker. St. Paul said:

**“Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.”**

**Galatians 6 : 9**

“If God is with us who can be against us?” Let us love such that Gods presence can stay with us. Take this up as a challenge.

Dear youngsters, I was also a young man once. I do not understand the kind of sins which some young people confess. I wonder what those could be? I have not committed them in thought or in deed.

Let me give glory to my God and say that I was untouched by any kind of stain. Because of Lord's mercy, I could live without committing any sinful acts outwardly. There were many instances of temptations. But the Lord protected me from falling!

**“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously**

**give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[k]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

**Romans 8 : 31 -39**

The apostle Paul was emboldened. You must also learn this verse by heart. Nothing can ever separate us from the love we have for Jesus. Even if all resist us and misunderstand us and isolate us, we will never be separate us from Jesus. Do you have this bold assurance that nothing will separate you from Jesus Christ?

Once in Cambodia, a prayer meeting was being conducted. The pastor was preaching on the stage. A military truck came outside the hall. Suddenly, Soldiers with guns, rushed inside. They pointed the bayonets and asked everyone to leave. They commanded not to

witness for Christ anymore. "If you value your life please leave the hall. Those of you who stay back here will be brutally killed."

The Pastor left the hall; The leader wanted to live. Many people and followers did the same. A few people remained inside the hall. All the doors were locked. They understood that they were about to be killed. Then the soldiers told them that they themselves were true believers and wanted to test the faith of the congregation. "We wanted to separate the hypocrites." All of them together knelt down to praise and worship God. The Pastor and his followers had abandoned Jesus Christ. They loved the world more than Jesus.

Dear friends, This is a true incident! How many of us will remain with Jesus when an opportunity arrives to test true faith? Whatever happens, Lord, I will be with you, I will be by your side; even if all abandon me, I will stand with Jesus. This is the bold conviction, we should have. Then we can win.

You should take a firm decision on this. Whatever be the situation I am in, I will not fall in to sin. Even if I am all alone, with nobody else watching me, during testing circumstances, I will not fall into temptations. My relatives, friends or neighbors do not see us; there is nobody who knows us. In such a situation will you give way to sin? You should say to yourself; "I will not sin." Even if you are doubtful on the middle of temptations, sin will not have any hold on me. If you have such a confident assurance, you can serve the Lord. You can be his witness. You can

praise him.

There are people who say that a victorious life over sin is not possible, but we should contradict them by leading a life of victory and being a living testimony amongst them. Jesus called you for this. Will you take up this challenge? Is there anybody who is dejected or discouraged by telling himself that a victorious life is impossible for my nature, with all its bad habits? Is there anybody who is burdened with the thought? Dear people, let me tell you one thing:

**“The Lord left certain nations in the land to test those Israelites who had not participated in the wars of Canaan. He did this to teach warfare to generations of Israelites who had no experience in the battle.”**

**Judges 3 : 1, 2**

God has allowed certain people and circumstances in your life as training for battle. God permits certain situations where Satan was allowed to test you to indulge in lust, debauchery, orgies and such. Why does God permit those situations? There is a definite reason for this. We should be battle ready. We should be strong. We should flex our spiritual muscles. “Those Israelites who did not know anything about battle should be tested and given practice.

God has appointed certain nations! Some people are appointed in your life for this. There will be trying and testing times that can lead us to sin. It is there we should seize victory. You will get battle-hardened. Overcoming sin will be your experience.

There are many people who are reading this but do not have the experience of an overcoming life. God has allowed certain evil spirits in your life to test you and make you strong and spiritually fit. When you grasp this, you will rejoice and praise the Lord.

**“So the Lord burned with anger against Israel. He said, Because these people have violated the covenant I made with their ancestors and have ignored my commands, I will no longer drive out the nations that Joshua left unconquered when he died. I did this to test Israel- to see whether or not they would obey the Lord as their ancestors did.”**

**Judges 2 : 20, 22**

God did not keep away completely all the other warring tribes of Canaan and did not let every one of them fall at Joshua's hands. God in his wisdom, let them remain in the land, in order to teach the younger generation of Israel the valuable lessons in battle. Joshua did not annihilate the entire nations who were enemies. A comprehensive victory over the enemy by Joshua would not have given youngsters a chance to prove their mettle. Circumstances conducive for evil were allowed by God with this purpose in mind.

**“But I will not do this all in one year because the land would become a wilderness, and the wild animals would become too many to control.”**

**Exodus 23 : 29**

God uses some difficult persons and situations to keep you alert, just as He used other nations to keep the

land from being desolate and to check the wild animals whose population would go out of control. The situations prepare us to face attack from evil spirits. All trials and temptations are allowed by God for the ultimate good. Whenever there is the lure of sin, decide for yourself that you will not fall because Jesus Christ is with you. There is victory by His blood and His Cross. Can you believe this? Can you give Him your word? Can you assure Jesus?

“My Lord, I will not fail. Up to this moment my life has been an utter failure. I hoped for a victory. But again and again, I fell miserably. Lord, the lure of sinful pleasures will not deceive me anymore. Satan's temptations cannot unsettle me. Lord, I give you my word today. I abhor all sins in my life. I am doing away with bondage to Satan. Hereafter, I receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I trust in the holy blood of Jesus Christ that flowed out by his side.

Whenever I am in the midst of trials and temptations your holy blood should cover me. Please touch me with your victorious cross and give me blessing and victory." Pray thus. Commit yourself to his hands. Give Jesus your word. Lord, from today I will stand as an over corner. In Jesus name I will be a victor from today.

**“Lord you have brought light to my life; my God, you light up my darkness. In your strength I can crush an army; with my God I can scale any wall.”**

**Psalms 18 : 28, 29**



## Chapter 4

**“I command you to be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid; or discouraged, for the Lord your God in with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1 : 9**

Do not fear! What is the reason to avoid fear? It is because the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go: Therefore not be afraid or discouraged." The Community of Israel comprised of six lakhs of male population itself. Scholars consider this number to be much more since that would have included equal number of women and about eight lakhs children making together about twenty lakh people. The exodus was through the sweltering Sinai desert.

The Sovereign God appointed His servant Moses to guide Israel. Moses was accompanied by Aaron. Joshua and Caleb assisted Moses throughout the journey.

Wilting under extreme climatic they conditions; they journeyed for forty years! They travelled facing hot winds, on burning sand. People often rebelled against Moses asking for food. They grew impatient and Moses was disheartened on many occasions. However God met all their daily needs through Moses intercession. He protected them from oppressive heat in the day by giving

them a cover in the form of a pillar cloud and at night a pillar of fire accompanied them for light.

God provided them everything at the right time. He delivered water from rock. The bitter water of Marah was converted into a sweet energizing drink. When people were bitten by poisonous snakes in the desert, a bronze snake was erected on a pole to save them. All of looked to it by faith were saved on that day. God always intervened for help at appropriate times. When people asked for meat, quails were provided. God walked with them all along.

In reality, God is walking amongst us today. There may be many distresses at present. Life may be day without comforting words and the future holds only emptiness. You may be feeling suffocated. How will I fare tomorrow? How do I deal with pressing problem at hand?

Many are upset due to traumatic experiences in the past which haunt them even now. They have heart aches due to painful festering wounds etched in their memories, which fail to heal.

Our near and dear ones would have inflicted such deep wounds. For some it is their parents, sometimes it is children, for others it may be wife or a husband. Their insensitivity and lack of love might have hardened our hearts without any compassion towards others. What a painful life! What is there to expect or hope for? Shattered dreams! All hopes are gone!

Often Israelites were emboldened and strengthened by Moses prophetic words, and God's promises through the arduous desert journey if 40 years.

The loving God constantly encourages us and that is the reason why we live! Otherwise the sufferings in this world would break us. The future would have seemed black and all our dreams shattered.

The Sovereign God deputed Moses to lead these people to the promised Canaan-the land flowing with milk and honey. Often, the people rebelled, questioning his wisdom and purposes. However Moses was not discouraged and interceded for them before God in tears.

Do you desire to intercede for people who are troubled before God? "Lord what can I do for these people?" I know there is not much I can do. But I will live the life of a saint holy and pleasing to you will not backslide, even when people reject me as evil or misunderstand my motives. Henceforth, I will be your own possession. If this is your word, God will work wonders through you. He will shows choicest of heavenly blessings on you.

Moses was always faithful to God. In a poem by Tagore, the Sun wanted to rest for some time and pleaded that somebody take up his duty, for a while. Out of all living creatures, an insignificant glow worm accepted the offer. Knowing fully its own inadequacy for such a task, the glow worm promised the sun to do glow as a light in the night doing everything possible within its power. Likewise, we

also should do our best for God. We cannot work like the saintly great men of God. Utilize whatever talents God has given you for his utmost glory. Absorb Christ and emit the light in your locality.

After a long service of final forty years of his life, God was well pleased with Moses and asked him to retire and rest with him. Moses was always faithful. He lived 120 years. First 40 years was spend in the Egyptian palaces, and the next forty tending sheep on the slopes of Mount Sinai belonging to Jethro his father in law. The last 40 years were about to end.

The final event in Moses' life is presented in 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Deuteronomy where God takes him to Pisgah heights at Mount Nebo. Moses walked along with God! What a wonderful scene it must have been!

Moses requested God to grant his wish of entering Canaan before he died. However, God sternly refused it and he only allowed to catch a glimpse of Canaan from a distance.

Friends, we need to see things in the eternal perspective. We need to look at heaven. Our Lord said:

**“There are many rooms in my father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If it were not so I would have told you plainly. When everything is ready I will come and take you to be with me wherever I am.”**

**John 14 : 2-4**

Can we, poor men sit with Christ in His glory? Here

on earth, our living conditions may be poor, with many inconveniences. We may not own even a small piece of land. But the Lord says; "I am preparing a heavenly abode for you, which no one has seen with their eyes nor heard or ever imagined."

Believe that our Lord Jesus is building a have for His, a heavenly tent. Today you may be in poverty and utterly bankrupt. The worries and cares of this world and concerns about your near and dear ones are weighing you down today. But our Lord is preparing something wonderful for us.

This is not a fairy tale or a myth. I tell you all these things, in the light of the words mentioned in our holy scriptures. A land awaits you, where all good things are in abundance, where love and happiness flows from the presence of Jesus Christ. He calls us to be with him in a heavenly abode.

If you believe this then you can also praise God like Moses, when he did so while on Mount Pisgah. He had a glimpse of Canaan, the Promised Land. Forget your problems & pains today and be happy & smile seeing your heavenly future. Because He builds a heavenly home that no eye has ever seen, nor ear has heard and no heart can fathom its beauty)

Our forefathers of the ancient church thus wrote.

Unnatharajyamathum  
Saswatha Jeevithavum  
Nirmalararjikkum

Sathama Masiha Bhakthanmar  
 Arhikkunna Mahabhagyam  
 Jadanethram darshikkukayo  
 Sravanam kelkukayo

Hrudayam – Therukayo  
 Cheythittillethum.

Rajyathin Vathil  
 Cheriyaathuma margam  
 Veethi kuranjathumanavazhi  
 Gamanam kamkshipon  
 Athyuthsaham Avasyamthaan  
 Alasatha lesam baadhichaal  
 Asubha vazhikku vasamvadanayi  
 Swathmathe Swayame Nihanikkum

The door to heaven is narrow. One who desires heaven should be eager, diligent and enthusiastic without even a trace of laziness. If you are lazy, then your spirit will inadvertently die, on its own.

The final events concerning Moses life, are vividly described in the 34<sup>th</sup> chapter of Deuteronomy.

**“Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not crossover into it.”**

**And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no**

**one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over."**

**Deuteronomy 34 : 4-8**

God himself buried Moses. The burial ceremony was conducted by God himself, so no one knew about the exact place of burial. It is a good thing that no one had any information regarding Moses' burial place. Otherwise it would have become a pilgrim center which attracted people and money. That would have resulted in strife, especially when money is involved. Many would stake a claim to the offertory money. At 120 years of age, Moses still had clear vision and was physically able. When he died, the Israelites mourned for him for 30 days. After this, God called Joshua. The time period of Moses' leadership was over.

God called Joshua to lead people across Jordan to the promised land of Canaan. Moses now rested in God's presence in the eternity. God wanted to the people to go forward, cross the Jordan reach Canaan and take possession of the land by fighting the local clans consisting of Philistines, Jebusites, Amalekites, Hittites and the Midianites. God appointed Joshua for such a task in order to bring his plans to completion.

**“Now that my servant Moses is dead, you must lead my people across Jordan river into the land I am give to them.”**

**Joshua 1 : 2**

Though the exodus from Egypt began with 600,000 people, only Joshua and Caleb were left alive in their generation when they reached Canaan.

All the rest were children of the former generation. God wanted to fulfill the promise made to their forefathers who had passed away. God's promise endures through generation even if parents pass away. Saints may die, but the Holy Spirit is alive. So Joshua led the people to Canaan.

Friends, let me ask you. Do you have any oath to be taken in the presence of the Lord today? Can you give your word to God? "I will do whatever I can and I am ready to do your will." Little children who read this are tomorrow's leaders. Commit thy life to the Lord.

Fanny Crosby was born blind, and at the age of eight. She penned a beautiful poem, which echoed her longing of the heart.

Pass me not, O gentle? Savior,  
Hear my humble cry.  
While on others though art calling;  
Do not pass me by!

One thing is for sure! If you exchange your life with Jesus he will convert it into something worth like pure gold. Do not doubt. If you exchange your life with Jesus, he will bless your children and grandchildren with a prosperous life. You will be counted 'blessed' even if the present circumstances are mediocre.

The pierced hands of Jesus are open now to receive you. Let's pray "Lord I give you my life since you gave me yourself upon the cross for my sins. I commit my entire life to you.

Ennethanne sannidhiyil  
Kazhchayanappanum Naadha  
Enne ninakku sugandhamathayi

Arppipanum kripacheyka

Aathma sareera manasukalam  
Ennude thirumul kazhchakale  
Tathasuthaswasapradhane  
Anpodu kaikkondeedaname.

I submit myself in your presence,  
As an offering; a fragrant incense,  
dedicated to your glory  
O Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
accept these my body, soul and spirit  
with mercy and grace.



## Chapter 5

**“I command you - Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1 : 9**

God anointed Joshua after Moses. After that God said to Joshua: Do not be a coward; you should not be discouraged; Always be strong and courageous.

God is telling you that he is with you. Why should you fear? Today fear overshadows everywhere, in spiritual ministries and secular matters and it overwhelms us. Fear is an evil spirit. Fear melts away courage. They are a multitude of evil spirits. Many are slaves to fear. Some unexplained, anxious thoughts, spring up to cloud the mind. Some are afraid to meet God's children in the fellowship. They are reluctant to make a phone call or talk to them. Why? Aren't we brothers and sisters? We are the children of Heavenly Father. Why should we fear? Don't be afraid of anyone else. Nobody is great among you. Nobody is small among you.

St. Paul has said: “I am the greatest of all sinners.” Why did he say so? That is the right attitude. He could see that everyone else was more respectable than him.

Today, many live in a constant state of fear. Fear of other people, fear of circumstances, fear of danger, death. Will something untoward happen? Am I suffering from certain diseases like cancer? Who knows!

"You many think, I have aches and pains in my body. I do not have a proper appetite. Sometimes I find difficulty in breathing. Could it be cancer of the lung?" Many imagine certain diseases and live constantly under fear.

"What will happen tomorrow? How will I repay my loan? Will I clear the exam? People will sneer at me. My parents will be ashamed of me. They worked hard to teach me. So now if I do not pass the exam, what will be my fate? It's been many years since I have been married and still barren without a child. What to do?" Fear!

Fear has also engulfed spiritual matters. Some commit themselves to the Lord and start to speak for him. Before they can speak, fear clouds the mind. Will I be able to speak? "Will anyone benefit from my speech? Can I encourage others through my testimony? Will I flounder for words? My hands & feet are shivering. I may fall with tremors!" Fear!

All these fears will vanish; When? Jesus says: "I am with you. Do not be afraid." What should I do if Jesus Christ has to be ever present in my office, examination hall, my house, in the dining room, my bedroom, during my travels and in my reading room? If this is what I desire, what am I supposed to do? Just one thing. Remove whatever Jesus hates from your heart. Jesus will not tell

us to do anything impossible.

During my young age, I wanted to study and became somebody in life. If I had to do well, I knew Jesus should be with me, always as my ever-present help. I did not have a deeper spiritual perspective then. But to secure high marks in examination, I needed Jesus and hence hated everything that Jesus hated, all those sins which would deny His presence. I knew if I had to be efficient in day-to-day activities, Jesus had to be with me; on my own I could not do anything.

I know that I could not achieve anything on my own. I had no strength in myself, I knew my inadequacies and that I was not brilliant. Therefore I needed Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ had to reside in me constantly, I had to remove all evil thoughts in heart and I constantly strived at it. It was my most pressing need in those days. If any evil was let in, then Jesus would leave. Then I would fare miserably in exams. I could not rise. I could not get rid of my inferiority complex. My face was downcast. That was basically the type of spiritual life I had at that time.

Jesus Christ will secure your marital life. You will share a warm relationship with your wife. Your children will be of good character, if Jesus abides in you. Your home will be full of light. You will score well in your exams. You can excel in business. You will be able to face and overcome all difficulties with courage and calmness in the presence of Jesus Christ. For Jesus to abide in you, you have leave all sin and lead a holy life.

If you consider this profitable for yourself, then victory over sin is certain. It is for my own benefit that I should gain victory over my sin. I will overcome sin, so that I can grow, I can climb the ladder of success in this present life. This is my most pressing need. For this, Jesus should be with me. I will fail if Jesus is not with me. I have no doubt about it. Even if I win now later, I will fail and get discouraged soon.

The sovereign Lord spoke to Joshua: Be strong and courageous. Do not worry about anything because I am with you. Fear not; do not get fickle; do not get confused. Always be strong and courageous. I am with you.

**“No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. Be strong and courageous, for you will lead my people to possess all the land I swore to give their ancestors. Be strong and courageous. Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them, and you will be successful in everything you do.”** Joshua 1 : 5-7

**“I Command you - Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

**Joshua 1 : 9**

There are a number of instances in chapter 1 up to verses 9, in which God commands us to be brave and courageous. Friends, you are given a promise: “I will be with you.” There are only one or two conditions. Do not

have anything to do with those things that God hates.

In your personal life there should not be any secrets that displease God. That is something very essential in your life. That is your responsibility. God says: "I will give you my all sufficient grace and all my strength. I will make all things possible for you. But you have to decide for yourself. No sin should touch you. Nothing impure or unholy should defile you." There should not be anything in your life that disgraces God. You should be confident about that.

Brothers, there are lot of things that snuff out courage and confidence in your present life. These mistakes can cause us to recoil from the very presence of God. There are many things in your life that cuts off God's grace. Festering wounds from the past life, are stumbling blocks, Bitterness, intolerance, grumblings and displeasure towards certain people can rot your hearts. You should do one thing. Go to the Lord's feet at the cross, bearing all of these.

All wounds will heal at the foot of the cross! You can forgive all who have hurt you. You will be able to do good to people who persecuted you. That is a God given gift. That is not something innate in you. That is a divine gift. You can then love and care for all people without grumblings or displeasure.

Abraham Lincoln, after assuming presidential office, delivered a famous speech at Gettysburg. "With malice towards none and with charity for all." He made a solemn

promise to govern America, without any hate or prejudice towards anyone who opposed him.

My dear brothers, the Lord is the one who calls you to this wonderful peace. There should not be even a speck of unholy lust in your life. All those specks infect the heart like illicit relationships, sexual perversions, and entanglements! Your body has suffered ill effects of those. They stare at you and threaten your peace of mind with haunting memories.

Some were involved in corrupt dealing in money transactions. A few others have cheated others of their money. You may have illegal money belonging to someone else. Please think about these things; Wounds that do not heal. Have you ever cheated on orphans or widows to procure their wealth? There was nobody to speak for them. Hence you thought you could get away with it. Many such things might have happened.

You may have threatened others with your power and influence. You may have hurt others and cheated others causing them loss. Bring all your evil deeds to memory. These wounds and sores can only be healed by Jesus Christ. Bring them all at the feet of the cross. You don't need to travel to the so called Holy places. God will visit you at the very place you are, if you invite Him.

“Then you will call, the Lord will answer 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply. You confess; “Lord I am wrong. There are many deep wounds in my life which have not healed. I have caused pain to others by wounding them.

Now I feel I should not have done that. Lord! Please be merciful and forgive me my sins."

Look back at your life and whatever sinful acts you can remember and bring them one by one at the foot of the cross. A drop of His precious blood is enough to erase your sins. His heart was pierced as propitiation of your sins. Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ's blood is enough to forgive, erase and cover every sin which you have committed, over a life time. His blood speaks to you at your side. Call upon Jesus.

Jesus, erase all my sins with your precious blood. Transform my heart so that you will freely reign from the throne inside me. Lord, I have ruined from my sins and all misdeeds. I confess to you that from now on, I will lead a new life. I am starting a life of holiness. Please forgive and release me from whatever evil, folly and immature dealings have happened in my past life.

"Lord, many loved ones have wept over me seeing what has happened in my life. I have caused them to weep before others, on account of me. Do not count these sins against me. Erase everything from the book of memory. Lord! Please receive me. Sanctify me." Cry out to God. Jesus will forgive your sins.

Kalvary krooshile snehamae  
 Ennae veendedutha mahal snehamae  
 Ponnu marvilanacheedum snehamae  
 Ente kanneer thudachidum snehame  
 Naattukar veettukar koottamaye

Enne ninda parihasam chollumbol  
 Njan oorthedume ente priyante  
 Punjiri thookuma ponmukham.

Oh, love of the Calvary cross; My Redeemer who held me close and wiped away my tears. When my relatives and people around me scorn at me. I am comforted when I think of your loving, smiling face even when all opposed you.

If Jesus is with me, all sins in my life will be removed.

**“Be strong and very courageous. Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them, and you will be successful in everything you do.”**

**Joshua 1 : 7**

God commanded his laws through Moses. They were bound to obey them all. They saw only Moses. But it was not Moses who commanded them; it is the God of heaven. It is the Holy Spirit who proceeds from God which gives life to everything. He proceeds from God and is worshipped and praised with Jesus Christ. He has spoken through his prophets in the past, Sovereign Lord! It is His word. Obey His words.

The word of Holy Spirit which was spoken by the prophets, martyrs and the Apostles of the Lord. Obey God's word which was spoken at appropriate times and situations during the past and present. Do not look at the prophets, but remember the words spoken by them.

Oh, God's people, Christ will be with you; this written

word of God the bible has His holy words. It should be in your hearts. Do not look at anyone else. You don't have to change your church or denomination. But obey these words and live. Do not ignore even a small letter of it. God during the past has spoken his message through prophets he chose. At these end times, God has directly spoken through His son Jesus Christ.

The Lord has spoken His words through his Spirit. Those words were entrusted to His disciples. Do not turn away from them to the right or left. Do not use cold logic and dissect the words for your own interpretation. Do not ascertain for yourself whether they are right or wrong in your confined view. Just obey those words and I God will be with you.

1. Remove sins.
2. Obey the word.

Can you arrive at a decision? Jesus Christ will be with you. Jesus Christ walked with resurrected Lazarus through Bethany. Likewise the merciful Lord will walk with you. As the returning prodigal son was invited to the dining table by the heavenly father to feast with him in joy, so also you will be received into His fold and he will feed you with heavenly food. Your family will be blessed. Your children will secure a bright future. You will be blessed.

You pray now. "O Lord, please place your hands on me. When your hands touch me, my sins will go away. Jesus, when you touch me, my future will become

prosperous. My anger will go away; my jealousy and strife will vanish. I will start living a simple life. Your Holiness will be my asset. Jesus come into my heart."

We will now commit ourselves to his hands and pray.

O Loving, Heavenly Father we praise you for these words. Please bless all who read this. Please place your holy hands on everyone. Make every one of them courageous. Remove all fears, worries and anxious thoughts. Remove all confusions. Fill them with all good things. Prepare them for your second coming. We ask everything in Jesus the heavenly King's name, Amen.



## Chapter 6

**“Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.”**

**Joshua 8 : 1**

“Fear not; do not be discouraged.” As we read through the word of God, there are certain instructions 'Fear not, or Cry not' 'Do not be anxious about anything; which are often repeated.

When St. Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians from Roman prison he said “Do not be anxious about anything.”

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

**Philippians 4 : 4 - 7**

The apostle is very clear that we should not be

anxious. The Lord himself says. So, during the Sermon on the Mount, "Do not worry about tomorrow" When we face problems and crisis in this life we are troubled and anxious. But God's word clearly states: "Do not be anxious about anything." "Do not worry about tomorrow." These words comfort us when we are in the midst of troubles. The psalmist said:

**"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken."**  
**Psalm 55 : 22**

**"Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death."**  
**Psalms 68 : 19-20**

The Lord bears our burdens daily! Jesus comforts our burning hearts! When the mind is in turmoil with worries, when all doors seem to be shut, these words will comfort and encourage us.

**"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you."**  
**1 Peter 5 : 7**

Leave all your worrisome thoughts and burden on him as He says. Jesus cares for us. In the Holy Bible, an often repeated verse is 'Fear not.' It is a command. Many people live up in tension about the intense problems they face in their lives. God's spirit says "Fear not."

You should not feel that you are reading this just for the sake of reading. The Sovereign God has this specific

personal message to you. "Fear not." These words were written under divine inspiration as apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 3 : 16. The word of God! The Unchanging word! The living word says 'We should not fear'

**“Then the Lord said to Joshua. Do not be afraid or discouraged”** **Joshua 8 :1**

Joshua was in a state of fear. What made Joshua fear? After the death of Moses, Joshua had committed himself in order to be used by God in leading Israelites to Canaan. He had a deep commitment. There were six lakh people with whom he set off from Egypt. They were moving towards the Promised Land of Canaan - a land overflowing with milk and honey. Moses had been leading them until now.

When the majority of people dying in the desert due to their unbelief only two persons of the first generation could reach the destination they were Joshua and Caleb. The sovereign God entrusted Joshua with his work. Joshua took up the responsibility. On the way, he had to encounter the city of Jericho. The fortress was formidable with its wall so broad, that people could live up on them in small houses. Joshua and the people of Israel were overwhelmed on seeing the massive fort.

Joshua stood on the outskirts of thinking the city, on how to enter the fort. There was no way forward. God had said "Go forward." It was God who promised the dream land of Canaan, overflowing with milk and honey. Joshua realized the futility of any self-effort in overpowering such

a massive structure. Joshua was immersed in thought. How was it possible to win this city?

**“Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”**

**Joshua 5 : 13**

Joshua saw a man with a drawn sword in front of him. He approached the man. That was a bold step. Joshua asked him whether he was with them or with their enemies.

**“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”**

**Joshua 5 : 14**

The man with the drawn sword made it clear that He was on neither side and was the commander of Lord's army. Joshua was delighted and fell with his face to the ground in reverence. He was told to take off his sandals. The place he stood was holy.

Before we enter the presence of God we should wash our feet and remove dirt. Our lives should be pure and holy. Nothing impure should be allowed in us to contaminate us. When we walk through the world our feet will get muddy and our slippers dirty.

**“The commander of the Lord's army replied,**

**Take off your sandals, for this is holy ground.” And Joshua did as he was told.” Joshua 5 : 15**

Wherever God's presence descends, there is the Holy Ghost. As you stand in God's holy presence remove all old pride and prejudices. Do not boast about your spiritual pedigrees, traditions and customs. Remove your old ways.

Joshua obeyed and God granted him and the people of Israel a big win. He gave them an astounding, comprehensive victory over the enemy. The wall of Jericho collapsed and sank into the ground below. Nothing of the structure remained above the ground. The collapsed wall could have prevented them. No heap or rubble remained. Everything sank below the earth.

The Israelites crossed over and praised God. What a victory! There was no human effort. No one was harmed. The massive fort disappeared. Miraculous!

How did this happen? That is how the Sovereign God works in miraculous ways. God spoke and Joshua obeyed. Joshua spoke, and the people obeyed.

God asked the entire Israel army to march silently around the city once a day for six days. The people obeyed as commanded. The enemy scoffed at them. How do these people expect to win without any weapons? See those fools! Cowards!

They marched as and the fortress on the first day followed by second and then the third. Six days of

marching in absolute quietness was completed, as the Lord instructed. No one had any idea about God's plan. They obeyed even though they didn't understand. God cannot be fathomed by man. His ways are far above the reasoning of man's intellect.

The step towards victory is to obey without questioning God. God's word should be treated with awe and reverence.

The seventh time around, Joshua commanded the people "Shout"! For the Lord has given you the city." What did they shout? They praised God. They didn't pray for the fort to be destroyed. They thanked God before the victory.

That is the secret. When you pray for a wish, sanctify your heart and thank God for the fulfilled wish. When you pray for your exam, ask him to give good grades. Then as you approach the exam, praise him and thank him for passing out in flying colours. Pray with the faith that you have already won it.

You may not have children. You did pray. "Lord I praise you for giving me a child." But doctors told you that there is no chance for you to conceive. How do I praise before I receive? How? "Lord thank you for arranging my marriage." No proposal has come to you till then. Thank Him beforehand, before you receive. "Lord, thank you for a wonderful house. "Even the basement of the house has not been laid. That is power in praise!

Merlin Carothers, a godly man, has written a book

named "Power in praise" He says to praise and thank God even before you receive healing. Sanctify yourselves, commit yourselves wholly to him; determine not to consciously sin anymore; believe that you have been purified by his blood and then pray for healing. You can believe that you have received healing. Then you can praise him. "Thank you Lord for curing my illness."

Intellectuals will not understand this and will consider the idea as stupid. How can you praise and thank him for the healing when you are in pain now!

The power of God's spirit descends down through praise! Power in praise! The power of God's spirit. That power flows through our body, goes to each cell through blood vessels, circulate the entire body to give healing. You can experience this yourself. That day Joshua was about to witness a miracle. Joshua praised! People praised! All shouted! Jericho was destroyed.

Joshua rejoiced! Such wonderful victory. People rejoiced. Once the victory over Jericho Then Joshua saw that there was a small enemy stronghold called Ai, a forts east of Bethel. He thought a few men were enough to conquered. Though they went out to conquer it, the men of Ai chased the Israelites and they suffered huge damage. About thirty six of them were killed. The Israelites were paralyzed with fear at the turn of events, and their courage melted away.

**"Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Avon to the east of Bethel, and told them,**

**“Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.”<sup>4</sup> So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai,<sup>5</sup> who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.” Joshua 7 : 2-5**

After a great victory, they suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of a lesser enemy. No one had deserved to die. Joshua was frightened.

Joshua and the leaders of Israel did not eat. They were upset and tore their robes in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed down facing the Ark of the Lord until evening. Joshua cried to God, asking the reason for the rushing defeat at Ai. God strengthened Joshua and asked him to take courage. God revealed the reason.

**“Get up! command the people to purify themselves in preparation for tomorrow. For this is what the Lord, God of Israel, says: Hidden among you, O Israel, are things set apart for the Lord. You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things.”** Joshua 7 : 12-13

One among the Israelites had committed disobedience. He did not obey God's word. So everyone

was cursed because of him. They had to retreat from the enemy. God instructed him to remove the curse from the people. Instead of weep of. Joshua had to Command the people to sanctify themselves and remove the curse. God revealed the mystery to Joshua. The reason for the curse; the cause for failure; the lesson in defeat.

Lack of obedience is the cause for defeat. A Curse enters when commands are transgressed. God revealed the reason for defeat. But Joshua was told, "Fear not, do the right thing." Think now about the reasons for failure. What caused the curse? Did I transgress God's specific commands to me? Did I commit any sin? Unless the curse is removed, there is no victory. If you remove the curse, victory is assured. You will not fail. You don't have to withdraw from the battle.

Now you can ask God. Is there anything that was offensive to you? Is there something that Satan can claim? Please reveal it to me. When you pray like this Jesus Christ will wash away your curses, or with His holy blood shed upon the cross. His blood will cleanse and remove curses. You will be victorious. A happy prosperous and peaceful life can be experienced. Commit now! Commit yourself to the Lord. Tell Jesus: Lord please take away my curses and bless me. Wash me with your blood and prepare me for eternity.



## Chapter 7

**“Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.”**

**Joshua 8:1**

There are people who boast in the strength of the flesh. They rely on their wealth, health, social status, intelligence, official rank, educational qualifications and influence in the community. Pride will cause a curse to enter their lives. Pride leads to heavy losses and downfall.

The illustrious Napoleon Bonaparte of France known as the 'Lion of Europe' example is an of a person swollen with pride, which destroyed him. He so exulted in his own strength and military capabilities, that he once said the following words “Impossibility is the word, that is found only in the dictionary of fools.” He lost the historic battle of Waterloo and was imprisoned by the English military general, Lord Wellington. On the morning of the battle, Napoleon boasted before his general, swearing that the French banner would be hoisted on the English soil by evening. His general politely asked him if God had a different plan, what would happen? Napoleon ignored

him and repeated his boast.

But events did not go as Napoleon expected. The French army could not advance due to an unexpected heavy rain storm. Napoleon had to surrender. He was deported to St. Helena Island and held hostage there.

There are many people who are very sure of themselves. They rely on their own strength. But our faith and trust should only be in the Lord. There is no use of trusting in anything else.

**So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty. 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 : 6-7**

Victory is God's grace. No one prospers due to their own ability. It is all God's grace! It is the free gift of God. It is not because they were worthy to receive it. Nor is it by the power of their prayer life or a self-disciplined life. It is God's gift; God's grace.

My friends, you should pray for God's grace to come upon you.

"Lord please give me your grace though I am not at all worthy." Please boar on me the free gift of grace!

God said to Joshua that a curse had fallen upon Israel, which resulted in the devastating failure at Ai. The curse had to be removed from them, before God could

bless them with victory.

Disobedience by one person led to a curse falling upon all of Israel. God said that among them one had stolen offerings made to God.

Joshua was upset and called all people of the community and told them what God had revealed to him.

“There is a curse among us and that resulted in our defeat. We could have been victorious like we did at Jericho, if we had God's grace.”

The people gathered around Joshua. Lots were cast for the culprit among all the tribes, families and individually. At last they identified the traitor and he was brought before Joshua. Achan was the traitor who had brought a curse upon the whole community by sinning.

**“Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.”**

**Joshua 7:19**

Repent before Jehovah. Tell me all things that happened.

However his repentance was not genuine. He could have confessed earlier, before he was found out. Even if all the people overheard; it would have helped him to escape, as it was a very serious issue. But he waited till he was found out. He could have confessed that he had done wrong in stealing and hiding devoted things. He could have owned responsibility for bring great disaster on the

people of Israel by his sin and his disobedience. God had waited for him to confess and renounce his sin. But Achan hid her sin till he was caught. Then he openly spoke of his sin. Hence Achan could not save himself from eternal damnation.

Brothers, do not delay in confessing to the Lord. Your sins will be washed away instantly the moment you have a genuine repentance and confession. Decide that you will not commit any deliberate sin. Repent today.

**“Just as people are destined to die once they have to face judgment.” Hebrews 9 : 27**

There is a judgment day after death, when everything will be revealed. The record books will be opened. The book of memories contains all the sins which were not confessed & washed away will be read aloud, before everyone who has assembled and in that day we will be condemned. We will be thrown away forever into the hell where there is no God to call upon.

**“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” Revelation 20:12**

Only after Achan was found out he confessed. He could have saved himself if he had acted earlier.

**“Achan replied: It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done;**

**when I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekel, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground beneath my tent; with silver underneath.”** **Joshua 7 : 20-21**

“I desired and stole the beautiful Babylonian robe, a bar of gold worth 50 shekels and 200 shekels worth silver. I buried it in the ground inside my tent. Silver has been kept underneath.” This was a thorough specific confession of sins. When an opportunity was provided, Achan refused to confess, though he did it later, but he was not pardoned. He was punished at the Valley of Achor. Israelites stoned him, and over him was a pile of stones. People were furious at Achan because of the destruction brought upon them, on account of his sin.

God is a consuming fire! He has utmost aversion to sin. He is a living God and cannot tolerate anything that goes against His Holiness. People were now terrified. Who can stand before such a Holy one? Ai fort had to be conquered along with other parts of the land of Canaan occupied by Hivites, Pereizites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amalekites, Moabites and Amorites. How to secure a victory over them. Joshua was perplexed. The people were confused. God said to Joshua

**“Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.”** **Joshua 8:1**

God said: you are going to win. Do not be discouraged thinking of the defeat at Ai, you have revealed my word to people. You did everything as I have told you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged. You can march forwards confidently. Go forward.

When the curse is removed, we can go forward. God will encourage you and you can overcome.

Deuteronomy 27<sup>th</sup> chapter speaks about curses.

**1. “Cursed is anyone who makes an idol—a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of skilled hands—and sets it up in secret. Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” Deuteronomy 27 :15**

Anyone who makes & worship idols shall be cursed. Most of us do not worship idols of stone or wood. But some people worship others like God. That is a curse. No one has thought about it seriously. Do not worship God-men.

Men are flesh. Their nature is sinful. Nobody is perfect. Do not worship anybody. You can respect them but do not worship them. Only one man is worthy of our worship. That is our Lord Jesus Christ who died upon the cross for our sins.

There are not many Saviors; just one Savior; only one. Do not make any idols out of men. Do not worship any man.

**2. “Cursed is anyone who moves their neighbor's boundary stone. Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” Deuteronomy 27 : 17**

Do not covet another's property or move boundaries. You should not quarrel for land. Do not try to possess land belonging to others. Do not cheat.

**3. “Cursed is anyone who leads the blind astray on the road. Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow. Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” Deuteronomy 27 : 18, 19**

A widow is a helpless woman without support from her husband. Be careful not to cause any trouble or injustice to them.

**4. “Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his father's wife, for he dishonors his father's bed.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” Deuteronomy 27 : 20**

Cursed are those who indulge themselves in such in detestable acts.

*5. “Cursed is anyone who has sexual relations with any animal.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” Deuteronomy 27 : 21*

**6. “Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” Deuteronomy 27 : 22**

**7. “Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his mother-in-law.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” Deuteronomy 27 : 23**

Cursed is the one who does the most detestable of

sins.

**8. “Cursed is anyone who kills their neighbor secretly.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”**

**Deuteronomy 27 : 24**

Curses are the murders!

**9. “Cursed is anyone who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”**

**Deuteronomy 27 : 25**

Those who kill others for money are cursed.

As you read through chapter 27 of Deuteronomy a long list of curses are mentioned.

Jesus Christ died on the cross to redeem the people who were under the curse.

**“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written “cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” Galatians 3 : 13**

Christ bought us from the curse of law with a price. On the cross he carried all my sins instead of me in order to deliver and bless me. He became a curse for us. There are many who have not given respect to their parents and brought themselves under a curse on earth and heaven. A curse will fall on one who strikes his father or abuses him or scorns him.

Have you shown cruelty to somebody weaker than you? Have you injured your wife or anybody else? Some people cause harm to the weak and downtrodden. All

such dastardly acts bring them a curse.

Respect your wife and relatives. Likewise treat your husband well. Have you been with other men? That can lead to ruin. Have you abandoned your husband for another man? If you abandon your wife and go to another attractive woman, then you are cursed. Now repent and believe in the blood of Jesus Christ, if you want to start a new life all over again. All your curses will be removed by the blood of Christ, if you are willing to believe and show that by starting a new life in Jesus. You will experience wholeness of the body. Peace will reign, prosperous days will be ushered in, debts will be repaid. These are the experiences of many.

Dear friends, is there anything in your life that grieves God. Examine yourself with fasting and prayer for a day. Search yourself and find out. What faults do you identify? Write down on a paper, everything that comes to memory. Do not show anyone. Acknowledge that Jesus will wipe away all your sins of the past and commit now to lead a new life, dependent on Jesus Christ. The heavy pile of sin from your head will be removed.

Lord, there are lot of things for which I am ashamed of now. I have come under curse through my selfishness, greed, gluttony, revelry, orgies, adultery and such things. I have incurred sin by an illicit relationship with another man's wife. All these are upon my head.

Lord, I believe now that you have taken away my sins upon the cross and that you bore my punishment.

Now if you relieve me off my burdens, I will lead an exemplary life without any trace of sin.

Do you want such an unblemished life in which you are not bothered by your sinful past? Then dedicate your life to God's word with total obedience.

Are you in despair thanking of past sins, losses and failures? Who all are desperate to win over your past failures? Jesus has come to give you victory and peace. You do not need to be downcast if your promise to him is from a sincere heart.

Lord, I dedicate my entire life into your hands. From now on, I will be your possession. I will not give Satan any foot hold in my life by deliberate sinning. I will live as a new creation. Believe in the holy blood, glorify his name. Let us pray.

Oh! our merciful heavenly father, we praise you for remission of sins and there by removal of curses from my life through, the holy blood of your son, Jesus Christ. Please bless everyone who has listened to these words of God. Comfort them and sanctify them in order to prepare them to welcome you on your second coming. Glorify your name. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Please hear us Oh! Merciful father, Amen.



## Chapter 8

The word of our Lord gives – an experience of being born again in Jesus Christ who imparts new life. His word gives us repentance. The word transforms our character (personality). There is abounding peace in our hearts, as we listen to it. It heals the diseases of the body. It provides us with new opportunities. It is a heavenly blessing and a miracle of grace. The word of eternal life! The word of eternal love! The word transforms us.

A mother used to fervently pray for her son who was an addict to alcohol. The son led a shameful life. He never listened to his mother, never prayed or read the Bible.

During a year end prayer at the church, the woman once again prayed for her dear son. She knew her son would not come to church. At the same time, this young man was fully drunk with alcohol and was blabbering. The disgusting stench of alcohol filled the atmosphere.

He then heard a clear voice warning him to turn to God or face dire consequences. The voice urged him to decide now or he would never be able to later. His heart echoed those words repeatedly. He could not see anyone near him.

It was winter time and the entire place was covered with snow. But his heart was on fire and his mind in agony. He knelt down on the snow and begged for God's mercy for his mother's sake. He asked God to give a new life and cried that he had not obeyed his mother until now.

He remained on the ground for very long time weeping over his past life. Then he got up and ran to the church. The bells were ringing. The New Year had arrived. The people assembled in the church were eager to usher the New Year with a renewed hope. He joined the church and received a new lease of life.

This was a true incident. The word of God can work in you as you read this book. The word of God can miraculously work in your heart. They emit light in darkness. Our minds will be illumined. The living God will transform our personality even when there is no hope. The violent men will become gentle.

Persons who quarreled in their homes regularly will become humble and loving. Family members will become harmonious and loving even though once there were discord and discontentment. The children will grow responsibly. I will now introduce you to a man who has a reborn experience. He is Mr. Joe an engineer by profession who presently is working at York University, in the United Kingdom. Let us hear from him.

I was raised as a disciplined Catholic, who was very regular at church and its related activities, as a child. After my schooling, I had many friends at college and spent time in worthless living. I used to take part in their regular

social gatherings which often served alcoholic drinks. I got drunk on many occasions and usually withdrew into myself without making any problems. I did not trouble anyone.

Even after I started my career at a company I followed similar practice with my friends. At the same time I also attended the church and recited all prayers as I was taught.

I stopped drinking before my marriage because I wanted a peaceful life. Though our married life began on a good note, problems propped up regularly creating discord between us. We had an opportunity to go to England for higher studies.

After completing my post graduate studies, I immediately secured a job. Through an acquaintance, I got an invitation to attend a gospel meeting led by Christian Revival Fellowship. I did not have any particular interest to go for a gospel meeting, because I considered myself to be a righteous man who was leading a noble life. I did not want any spiritual help from anybody. Moreover I had certain prejudices towards such meetings. Many fellowships were formed to make money in the name of preaching and such groups caused trouble within the church with regard to faith.

I attended the meeting half-heartedly and I do not remember what was spoken at the meeting except one sentence which preacher told. "There are two eyes constantly watching over us." I did not fully realize the depth and meaning of those words at that point of time.

There was something unique about the fellowship.

There was no mention of money or donation as charity. No one was criticized on the matter of faith or denominations. A small meeting commenced in the town of York where we lived. I visited that place frequently and over a period God's word overwhelmed me and I reviewed the life, that I had been leading till that point of time.

I realized that I had never been a good son, a good husband or a good father. I was very proud of my achievements through self-effort. Little did I realize that all my achievements were solely, by God's grace? God intervened in our family. In the fellowship I regularly heard the words 'harmony', 'contentment', 'three - string chord' while mentioning family. God performed miracles in our family life. Now I am blessed with a happy life.

I did not have a Bible on my own. Till then I recited memorized prayers, without experiencing, their meaning. The words "Hallelujah" and "Thanks be to God!" used to irritate me once. But now I am not shy to carry my Bible or to participate wholeheartedly in prayer, once I realized the powerful effects of praise and thanks giving.

Now I know one thing for sure. The sole aim of fellowship is to prepare people for the second coming of Christ. The people need sanctification by the word of God. Christian Revival Fellowship strives only for that. The fellowship points to the Savior Jesus Christ. Our transformation made an impact on the behavior of our children. Now they are responsible children; studious,

disciplined and securing high marks and top ranks in their school. When we devoted our self to God, he took the responsibility of looking after our children. We are well aware of our imperfections and inadequacies. However, we are on a path of correction by the process of sanctification. We wish to remain in close fellowship with Jesus and his people.

The transformation in Joe's life affected his children. This is a fact that I have observed. Joe visited me a couple of years ago with his son. His son was not only naughty, but restless and unruly. I wondered how this child was going to be managed. But I saw a different child when they came to meet me the very next year. The child had a different personality. He was calm; reading books over and over, studious, responsible and obedient. How wonderful!

My dear friends, our families will be influenced if our life is transformed. Family life will be filled with contentment. The future of the children will be prosperous. Their minds will be sharp and intellect, pure, with enormous grasping power. Their behavior will change for better. The word of God working in us will influence others to experience a rebirth. A man has to be reborn in this life!

Nicodemus was a highly educated man. He did not understand the born again experience. He had many questions, being a teacher of law and a theologian. He knew many things merely as book knowledge. There was no life changing experience of a rebirth, which was the most essential thing within a man. It is the sign of the life of

true Spirit within a man. Nicodemus was also a Pharisee and well known preacher within the Jewish community and a member of the Sanhedrin. Jesus told him regarding rebirth and compared it to a blowing wind. Though a blowing wind could be felt, it cannot be seen. No one can tell knows the direction of the wind except by observing the object it affects. The trees and branches sway in the direction of the wind. We also see branches and leaves fall in the gust of wind. Sometimes, a tree gets uprooted and falls due to stormy winds. The working of Holy Spirit in one's life is a similar phenomenon. When a person is under the influence of Holy Spirit there will be definite inward change, manifested by change of the outward behavior. The inward change of character will be reflected outside by a change in behavior.

Violent men become gentlemen under the influence of Holy Spirit. Husbands and fathers who once gave nightmares to their wives and children now behave differently as loving and caring people. Women who argued and behaved insolently to their husbands and did not show love for their children or care for them, change, because they are born-again. Their personalities transform drastically!

Jesus knew that Nicodemus has not realized rebirth. He said to him. You know your holy books starting from Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Haven't you read in the Book of Numbers regarding an incident when Moses erected a bronze snake on a pole to save Israelites bitten by poisonous snakes. Have you thought about the situation? You know this incident as a

mere historical record and nothing beyond.

The letter kills; only the spirit enlivens. Every letter has a spirit within. "In the same way as Moses erected a bronze snake the Son of Man also must be raised up, so that anyone who believes in him will have eternal life."

In the book of number's chapter 21: 4<sup>th</sup> verse we see the Israelites rebel against God and his prophet Moses. God burned in anger at their rebellion. They were punished for their disobedience. Venomous snakes were biting people inside the camps, killing many. People helplessly cried aloud and went to Moses and said: "We sinned against God when we sinned against you. We did not acknowledge God or thankfully accepted his gifts when manna was showered from heaven. Please forgive us and save us."

Moses interceded for the people: "Lord, please remove this great threat and destruction from among the people." The Lord said to Moses: "Make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who was bitten can look at it, and the poison on his body will vanish," Moses spoke to the people what God had told him; "Look and save yourself!" This fact can only be realized by experiencing it through faith. There is no question of human logic here. People may ask how the effect of poison can be nullified by just looking at an object. Either some medicine has to be given or the poison itself should be removed from the body; people may think, "How ridiculous!" It's God's word, "Look and save yourself" Those who obeyed and looked at the bronze snake were saved.

Suppose an Israelite man at his dying moments without any hope of revival were told a way to save himself, wouldn't he do that? Somebody who was saved from a similar incident, shares his experience with the dying man, "My friend, you do not have to die like this. Just look at the erected snake on the pole and live" Will the dying man argue when his life itself is at stake. Suppose he argues and asks how the poison could disappear! What is the use of mere knowledge when all that is required is total trust! The other man, his friend tries to convince him. "It is Moses who has erected the snake. The same Moses who brought us out of Egypt as God commanded him. It is God's word, so please believe." Now without questioning further, he raised his head towards the pole and the bronze snake. A power flowed through him and he started feeling energized. The effect of poison was removed from his body. Miraculous! He ran outside to tell others to do similarly. He should "You do not have to die, You can be saved." The son of man was erected on a pole so that anyone who will look at him by faith will have eternal life.

My dear people, a bronze snake has been erected in the desert. Our Lord Jesus Christ was hung on the Cross by three nails. "Those who look to him are radiant and their faces are never covered with shame." Will you believe? Will you look at him? You can be saved. Nothing else need be done. There is no need of any elaborate ceremonial prayers or alms offering. It is a free gift; a free gift of God! Just look at him in faith. Look at Christ, hung on the cross by three nails at Golgotha. You can be saved.

Look at Christ, the poisonous effects of sin will go away. Those who have been bitten by the devil, the poisonous serpent who has caused havoc and wrecked many lives, can now look at the face of Christ, on the cross. The crucified Christ! The one who was hung on three nails and is bleeding to death for your salvation! He endured writhing pain till death on the cross for your salvation!

Look at Jesus who prayed for his killers! "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Look at Jesus who told the repented thief that he would in paradise with Him today! Look at Jesus who entrusted his mother's care to his disciple even while hanging on the cross! Look at him who cried out "my God, my God why have you forsaken me" while bearing your sins upon the cross! Look at Christ who had never quenching thirst for the souls of men! Look at Christ, who has a declared before his death that the plan for your salvation is completed! Look at his who entrusted "him" spirit into his father's hands upon his death!

You will be saved if you look to Jesus Christ! Your sins will be removed! The bondage of Satan will be broken! Life will be pure! Life will prosper! Family life will be harmonious! It will be filled with happiness and peace! You can leap forward into a bright future. You can join the saints who will receive Christ on his second coming. May God bless You!



## Chapter 9

Most people are anxious about many things. People are haunted by depressive thoughts anxieties, worries, cares and frustrations.

But the Lord commands 'Do not be afraid.'

**“So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed.”** **Jeremiah 30 :10**

The Sovereign Lord affirms to the community of Israel “Do not be discouraged.” Even though God calls Jacob by his name, the message is delivered to the whole nation of Israel, “Do not be perplexed, don't be terrified.”

When God speaks, we may not perceive His voice sometimes. In the midst of our troubles we call out to God. We lament about our problems, that we are in great bear and sorrow and agony. Even when we are being tossed in the midst of troubles, God always answers, 'Do not be afraid.'

But most often we fail to recognize His voice, though our Lord we keeps calling us. But we are unable to receive his call. While using mobile phones, at times we may not get a response. It is either 'switched off' or 'out of coverage area.' Similarly we are out of God's audible range.

God attempts to bless us. But our heart is either 'switched off' or out of 'coverage area.' We are not able to hear him as we are engaged in many other activities. Though God always commands us not to be afraid, we are either 'switched off' or 'out of coverage area' or 'engaged' and that is why his commands are not audible or experienced by us.

Once there was a young man. His mother was a devoted lady. However the young man disliked his mother's devotion and did not heed her requests to pray. Whenever his mother prayed, he annoyed her and then left the place. His mother was greatly upset due to all this. Her repeated requests to pray or read the Bible were met with disdain. She often told him about the love of God but he never bothered.

She tearfully prayed for her son. One day he told her that he was leaving this monotonous life at home. "I cannot tolerate this boring, hollow and empty life, I am going away," he said.

She pleaded him to stay back. "My son, please do not leave me. I am praying for your wellbeing. Your life will be worthless without Jesus Christ. But he replied; "I do not want your God; I do not want to pray either." He was haughty and rebellious.

As he was going away, she shouted aloud, "Son, whenever you face a difficult situation in life please pray to my God and never forget this."

He boarded a train. He had no idea where the

journey would end and where he was going. He did not have an aim in life. These thoughts of hopelessness brought a pall of gloom upon him. He acquired a pistol and wanted to commit suicide. Suddenly, his mother's words echoed in his heart. "Whenever you face a difficult situation in life, pray to my God."

He knelt down to pray. "My mother's God, please come down to help me. I have no purpose in life. I do not know where I should go or what I should do. My mind is disturbed by the fear of unknown. What is the meaning of this life? Even the thought of killing myself does not bring peace of mind. O God of my mother, please get me out of this" He wept and prayed earnestly. Then he got up with a new strength as he heard God's voice. "Do not be afraid. Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God and believe in me." Christ's last words!

***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me."*** ***John 14 : 1***

He experienced an ethereal peace in his heart. He returned to his mother. "Your God has saved me. He has allayed my fears. I do not know how. I am at peace." They prayed together. The peace of Christ overwhelmed him. That youngster grew up to be the famous missionary R. A. Torrey.

My dear friend, A Lord lives who calls you by your name. He knows you and loves you unconditionally. The Lord commands "Do not be afraid."

**"So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not**

**be dismayed, Israel, 'declares the Lord"****Jeremiah 30 : 10**

The people of Israel were about to be extradited to Babylonia as slaves. They were sad and depressed. The prophet Jeremiah went to the palace and declared: "O King, know this truth, the people of Israel will be captured and then taken to Babylonia by king Nebuchadnezzar. They will have to live there under slavery. O King of Israel; repent." But the king did not heed the words of the prophet.

Even today, the people in authority refuse to hear the voice of God. The religious leaders and the status people of high status in the community do not listen to the message of Gospel. Their hearts have been hardened and hence do not understand.

The gospel of our Lord is the gospel of peace. It is the gospel of salvation. It is the gospel of eternity. It is the gospel of everlasting paradise the Good News. It is the good news that mankind needs.

In a world of distress when we hear bad news and frightening reports; we are to proclaim the word of God! The word of salvation! There is a way of salvation. There is a path to peace. Daughter, your mind will be tranquil. Young man, you will have a bright future. This is the good news.

The words of prophet Jeremiah were ignored. The King did not humble himself. He condemned Jeremiah and cast him out. Jeremiah walked all over the country

and lamented its fate. He exhorted people to turn to God or suffer at the hands of Babylonians as slaves.

Jeremiah was called the 'Lamenting prophet.' He travelled throughout Israel and persuaded people to repent. Even today prophets should arise. Prophets should awaken people, irrespective of their denomination. The voice of prophets should resonate everywhere. The times have arrived when their voice will be clearly heeded. Brothers, are you willing to accept the message of prophets? Will you be the voice of prophet?

Pray & beseech the Lord to reveal this message to the world. Tell him that you desire to be his spokesperson. Lord, I set myself apart for this work. I want to spread your message of good news into people's heart. I surrender myself and all that belongs to me for the salvation of souls.

“oorslemin mathilukal  
 papathin prakambanathil thakarumpol  
 Kanneerozhukkathe njanenganae urangum  
 Seeyonte kunjungal papathin peruvazhiyil  
mayangumbol  
 Kanneerozhukkathe njanenganae urangum  
 Aathmakkale tharikaa!  
 Ente sarvavum eduthu kolka!”

I can hear the wailing voice of children over the walls of Jerusalem (Symbolizing the people of God). They are poor and desperate. There is no one to provide them with food. Everything is in ruins because the people have sinned. I dedicate myself and all that I have to feed them spiritually and take care of the souls dying in sin. Accept

whatever I have in return for these souls. I dedicate myself to Gods will be gain the lost souls.

Without any discrimination of caste or creed, we have to go out into the midst to proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this purpose, I dedicate myself wholly at the feet of cross.

Friends, do you feel like committing your life to him. Let Jesus Christ use you through and through. Dedicate your body as a living sacrifice. Let your tongue speak for him. Let him use your hands. Let the kindness of Jesus reflect through your eyes. Bear him as you walk on your feet. Let the same purity of intensity as that of Jesus Christ, sparkle in your eyes while dealing with sin. Dedicate everything to Jesus.

Jeremiah went up to the king and spoke: "O King! It is not as you think. The enemy will gouge your eyes out to make you blind and then take you captive to Babylonia. All your people will be taken as slaves. But the king did not bother to take heed. He was not concerned about anything. Shemaiah the official prophet of the palace consoled the king and got orders to oscartrize Jeremiah.

**"Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: <sup>31</sup>  
 "Send this message to all the exiles: 'This is what the LORD says about Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, even though I did not send him, and has persuaded you to trust in lies, <sup>32</sup>  
 this is what the LORD says: I will surely punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his descendants. He**

**will have no one left among this people, nor will he see the good things I will do for my people, declares the LORD, because he has preached rebellion against me.”**  
**Jeremiah 29 : 30**

Shemiah the Nehelamite was the official prophet appointed by the king himself. God revealed his fate to Jeremiah. “He has spoken lies in my name and hence I will surely punish him and his descendants. He will not have anyone left over to see any good things I give to my people.

Like the prophet Jeremiah, those who speak the gospel of truth will not get any recognition. They will be punished. But those who extol the king and his official rulers without any criticism, will always be respected.

“Do not worry Jacob, Do not be worried.” God tells Jeremiah.

Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, has now come near you to release you from slavery and He desires to offer you peace. Will you accept him? Will you take him with you? He desires our utmost good. He gives his word. He speaks to you to give you a secure future. He will bless your children and generations to come.

Accept his blessings. Accept him. Look at his hands, the blood which is the basis of all blessings.

Trust in his holy blood.



## Chapter 10

**“This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”** **Jeremiah 29: 10-13**

God reveals himself through Jeremiah “You will have a bright and prosperous life as you expect.” Even if you have been taken as slaves to Babylon and remain as slaves there, you will come back. Good times are ahead. A bright future awaits you. For the time being even if you suffer, a bright future awaits you. I will bring you back to this place.

“I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” My people of Israel – a bright future awaits you.

Alexander the Great, was a valiant military General and Emperor. He conquered Europe and parts of Asia by

the time he was thirty three years of age. His Greek empire was renowned. Once a soldier was running away from the battle field. A fellow soldier seized him and brought him before the Emperor, accusing him of retreating from battle field. The Emperor asked him what his name was? The Soldier hung his head in shame and spoke in a feeble voice "My name is Alexander." His name was also Alexander.

The Emperor patted him on his back. Either you change your name or change your attitude. If you have my name you should be fearless. I am fearless. I charge on my enemies fearlessly. Therefore, stop being fearful. He was not punished, but encouraged with these gentle words.

My dear people, do not be afraid. Do not worry about what is in store for you. Do not be tormented by the fear of failure. Do not try to escape from life by committing suicide (Escapism). Do not be discouraged at all. Abraham Lincoln met with many failures before becoming the president of America. People who have grown in life have passed through many failures.

Thomas Alva Edison faced repeated failures while experimenting in at lighting an electric bulb. A friend asked him: "Why is it that despite many failed attempts, that you still work on it?" To that Edison replied "No, no I have not really failed. I have understood that all of those attempts will not bear fruit and I need to devise something new. See! Failures were taken positively and were seen in a

different perspective.

Always be optimistic and positive while facing failures. Do not get discouraged at all. Do not let your hearts be troubled. 'Failures are stepping stones to success.' We are going to leap in victory. There are students who fail to clear exams. They may have thought of killing themselves.

How foolish! Next time they would have secured a first class or a rank. So try without tiring. Be enthusiastic.

Do not be afraid. Good times will come soon; you will have a bright future. Diseases of today will be healed. Today's suffering will end. What comforting words and pleasant words! All these are heavenly promises. God is giving each one of you his personal promises regarding your future! Do not doubt; with faith call upon the Lord to realize these promises in your life. Jesus Christ will help you.

Jesus will not keep you away. You may have committed terrible sins. Please do not feel discouraged about that. But repent of your sins. The blood of Jesus Christ purifies us from every sin. You have given the devil a foot hold, by allowing sins to enter your life. Devil has a hold over you and it is true. But if you call upon Lord Jesus Christ he will deliver you from evil. He has trampled the Devil's head upon the cross.

God will give you authority over the enemy and now you can confidently trample upon snakes and scorpions.

**“But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds' declares the Lord.”** **Jeremiah 30:17**

I will heal your wounds! I will give you health.

Maybe somebody has behaved indecently with you or harassed you. A neighbour or a relative would have sexually abused you. These wounding experiences fester in your heart like open sores. But the Lord says: 'I will heal your wounds.'

The Living God is in your midst. He will answer your call! He will wipe away your tears. He is kindhearted and he comes close to you. Son! Daughter! Do not be afraid! I will heal your wounds. The inner wounds will heal and your disease will be cured.

**“But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the Lord, 'because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares. This is what the LORD says: I will restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents and have compassion on his dwellings; the city will be rebuilt on her ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place. From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will not be disdained.”**

**Jeremiah 30: 17-19**

Wounds will be healed. Not only that I will reinstate you, your household will rejoice. I will increase you in numbers. Today your house is a fearful place with

members tearing each other in anger, arguments and with curses. Sometimes, nobody talks with each other! But it will change. Soon your home will be a harmonious family. Praises and Hallelujah will overflow.

**“I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will not be disdained.”** **Jeremiah 30:19**

The enemy had raised his sword to kill you. But you have escaped his sword. “I will give rest to Israel” A pleasant and comfortable rest. “Jehovah appeared to me from far and revealed. I have loved you with an eternal love.” Jehovah promised this to Israel.

Love will not diminish or fade. It will not get cold! “I have extended my kindness over you with longstanding patience and long suffering! The kindness will not decrease with time. O daughter Israel, You will prosper, sing and rejoice again. You will make music to the Lord. You will praise God with you. You will glorify God.

**“This is what the Lord says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded,” declares the Lord, They will return from the land of the enemy.”**

**Jeremiah 31: 16**

Do not cry. Restrain from weeping. Your deeds will yield results. Son if you repent there will be reward. Even if the enemy overpowers you and take you as his captive, you will come back. Even if your children will be sold under

slavery they will return.

This is a very comforting message. There are lots of parents who constantly worry about their children. They complain that the children do not have a sense of responsibility and they remain idle, taking alcohol and drugs. My Lord! What can be done?

My child was my hope. But he has destroyed everything. His future is bleak. The whole family is disappointed; what should I do? Parents are overburdened. They helplessly look at each other thinking of their children. Many people are anxious and concerned about their children going astray. The next generation is doomed. Some people are not bothered. This has become a habit and love for their children has grown cold. They are concerned but they are afraid to talk. But God says "your children shall return."

If you are concerned about your children, please pray for them, while you sanctify yourself in the blood of Christ; by repenting and renouncing all transgressions that you are aware of Pray: "Please make me a saint. Please make me a saintly woman. Do not remember my sins. Blot out my transgressions. Wipe away my tears. Wash me completely. If you wash away my sins, you can influence others through me I will become your, channel of blessing to my wife/ husband and my children."

"Do not be afraid" This is what God says. Do not worry about tomorrow even if your problems are enormous. All these problems can be removed by Christ.

O child of God He will give your heart's desire. O young man, he will remove all your bad habits. My dear friend, He will forgive your sins. He will give you a new life. He will give you love and harmony within your family. He will give back all good things and love you once had. Thus, your family will be blessed.

You will receive a wonderful future. Call upon Christ who realizes your heart's desire. Christ has come to you. Jesus, please touch me with your holy hands. Place your hands upon my head and bless me. Wash me with your precious blood. Sanctify me. From today onwards, I will live a new life.

I will live as a saint. I will lead a saintly life. I dedicate myself to serve you. I will speak for you. I will be your mouthpiece; your spokesperson. Lord, bless me, so that I can live with a nature like yours. Please sprinkle your holy blood upon me. Jesus Christ will, sprinkle his holy blood upon you. His blood will wash you! Let fears vanish!



## Chapter 11

I read about an incident recently. There was a large college campus, with vast residential and sports facilities, including an indoor swimming pool for diving practice. Students regularly participated in swimming activities for leisure and practice. The diving board was quite high above the pool, with a glass screen behind it.

One day, late in the evening, a young man came to the pool for a work-out. Soon it was night, with a bright moonlit atmosphere and a mild breeze. He climbed up the platform and saw the moon's reflection at the bottom of the pool. It was a pleasant sight. He turned backwards against the pool and prepared to dive. He extended his arms sideways and he saw his figure on the glass screen in the background. It reminded him of Jesus Christ on the cross. Though not a believer, he had heard about Jesus Christ and his death on the cross from his friends. He was curious about the image which was really a heart-touching one. He immediately knelt down and prayed at the platform. He said "My Lord I have heard about your death on the cross. Now I see an image like yours in front of me. I do not know the meaning of it. But I believe that you love me and care for me. Dear Lord, I am a sinner. I consecrate my life to you. I entrust my future with you.

Please be merciful and bless me by placing your hands upon me and making me your son. Please forgive my past sins.”

He thus prayed and got up to prepare for a reverse dive. As he stood at the edge of the platform, the pool guard came shouting at him from below. He warned not to jump. He said the water from the pool had been drained for cleaning it. The young man was shocked to notice that the water level at the pool was very low. The whole pool was lit up and he was astonished to see that the part of the pool where he intended to dive was completely dry! The dive would have ended in his death or could seriously injure him and render him useless for the rest of his life. What a miracle! The image of Jesus, who had appeared to him saved him from this plight. The crucified Christ appeared to him at the right moment. He was freed from the clutches of death.

Friends, the crucified Christ is our savior. He saves us from accidents. He protects us from dangers. The crucified Christ always watches over us. This is a reality! He watches over! He loves us.

He sees us all day and night. Whether we eat or sleep his loving and merciful eyes follow us! He loves us. This is the truth. Jesus Christ is a living reality. He works for our ultimate good. He speaks to us.

Young man: Jesus loves you. Dear sister: Jesus loves you. Even if you are immature by nature, he comes near you to transform you to perfection. He comes into

your life not only to avert accidents but with the promise of everlasting life. The greatest miracle of a rebirth experience can be realized. It is a gift for you.

Regeneration experience is a blessed state of existence. I will now introduce to a person who has such an experience. She is Dr. Jilu, who is a teacher at York University, UK. She has translated our books 'The cities of refuge' (സഭകേരകരകരം) And 'Beyond death' (മരണാനന്തര രാവ്യം) from the Malayalam version. She was assisted by her dear husband Mr. Joe during this endeavor. Jilu's father Prof. George Sebastian was the head of the English department at K.E. College Mannanam. He now serves as the Principal of Ettumanoorappan College. Jilu's mother is an English Professor at St. Alphonsa College at Pala. The translations were completed with help of her father. Her husband Mr. Joe worked hard for it.

We will now hear what Dr. Jilu has to say from her own words regarding her experience of regeneration.

“I am a sinner who was saved through God's grace and his love. There is no one like me. I am a product of Grace. I realize the perfect love of God after coming here to Christian Revival Fellowship. Before coming here, I was a nominal Christian who attended church regularly. I considered myself a true devotee of Jesus Christ. All my friends and relatives considered me to be a good woman. The image I had of God was of someone who was of always behind me to punish my wrong doings and who constantly watches over me in order to find fault with me and one without mercy. I used to pray to God. Whenever

something good happened in my life I used to say that it was God's blessing. But as we see in the Bible, my heart was far away from God, while my mouth praised him. I grumbled in my heart against him. I used to question him for many disappointments that happened in my life.

I had never heard about this fellowship while I was in Kerala. I did not come to fellowship when I was here. In 2005 at York a meeting was conducted by CRF and that was the first time I went to the meeting. When I went there, I did not have any expectations. I went there because somebody invited me. Though I did not understand many things, I had clarity over one thing spoken there "When you reach before the judgment seat after your death, everything concerning your life will be exposed before everyone as on a screen." I was shocked. I had tried to put a brave and cheerful face in front of everyone to receive their appreciation and praise. But there, I heard that one day in God's presence and in front of a large gathering of multitudes, my true nature would be exposed and I will hang my head in shame.

But God's love did not leave me like that. His love goaded me repeatedly to these CRF meetings. It was here that I heard about the seriousness of sin. Till then I had thought that my sins would be forgiven, if I carelessly confessed with my mouth, without, any seriousness. I believed there were no sins in my life. But God spoke to me repeatedly the following words; "Be sure your sin will find you out."

I heard that the sins of fathers will be visited on their

children, up to the third and fourth generation. I wanted my children to have a very bright and prosperous future. I realized that I had accumulated curses for them, through my sins. It made me review my life thoroughly and I confessed everything I knew to be sin and thereby received remission and the gift of forgiveness from Jesus Christ.

Till then, I perceived myself to be a good partner to my husband and everyone who knew me believed that we led a perfect family life. But when I came into the light of the word of God, I realized the extent of my rudeness and how I was a constant nuisance to him, due to my prickly nature. I had never heard the word 'oneness' till then.

The families I knew were living an 'adjustment' life, within themselves. Though deeply troubled with problems, people put up a different persona outside to keep up their good image in society. But here, I heard many people witnessing about a happy and peaceful life they were leading after their rebirth experience. I cried to the Lord; if all these claims are true, then please lead me to realize such a blessed state of existence. I cried because I had tried to change myself to achieve happiness and had failed miserably. I tried to do that with my self-effort.

When my efforts were ineffective in bringing a change in myself, I believed that it was impossible to change a man's character till death. I was convinced that a man dies with the same characteristic traits he was born with.

But God performed a miracle in me by sending heavenly peace in my family life. This peace was not attained by self-effort, but received as a gift and this fact we now know for sure. Our personalities were contradictory.

I used to argue about petty things with my husband. But such thoughts do not even occur in my mind now. God has wiped away all my ill feelings. This peace overflowed to our children, which I sensed from the change in their behaviour.

From a very young age, I nurtured ill feelings and hatred towards everyone around me, though there weren't any untoward incidents in my life. I maintained that everyone around me wanted to see me fail and were jealous of me. I grew up insecure within myself due to this. But the light of the word dispelled all such unwanted thoughts and attitudes from me.

Now with God's grace, I can forgive everyone completely. I was dependent on many people. I depended on my parents. I relied on my friends and teachers during my schooling. But God made me realize that He is the only one who is fully trust worthy in every circumstances. Only Jesus Christ can keep his words. He will never back off.

Whenever or where ever I sought for help from people they were helpless in many situations and only God could strengthen me through his word in order to overcome them. I realized my utter weakness to overcome troublesome situations, that blocked me like a

fortress. With Jesus I could even walk over coals of fire. God's redeeming love could be experienced in the midst of such calamities.

I was afraid of God. I had harboured hatred towards God when things did not happen as I expected. But with absolute clarity, I declare today that God is love. Otherwise there is not even a remote chance that I should attend this fellowship. I was born and brought up in a Catholic family. Even today, I remain in the same denomination. I religiously followed all activities in the church as per customs, ever since my early age. Today, I wonder how I happened to come here to listen to the true word of God and experience the transforming effect of His Holy spirit. There was not even a remote possibility when I look back.

The eternal love of God saw my helplessness, when I wept in a corner among the multitudes. He not only saw me, but spoke to me dearly. When people of this world only saw my face, God understood my timidity, my trembling and weakness and He said that "My grace is all you need." That was my experience of God's love. Today, I consider myself a very lucky person, not because I have attained wealth or status in society but because God made me realize that those worldly things are temporal.

Through all my experiences in life, I now personally relate to Jesus Christ. Ample opportunities have been provided to realize Jesus in my life. His amazing grace mended me like glue, when I was a shattered like broken pot. Through his love, he has covered me and turned me

into a useful pot for his holy purposes. He has overlooked all my faults and weaknesses.

When I repented and began a new life, I thought I could lead a life without any troubles. But again I heard that God's purposes are to sanctify me and it is a continuous process till the end of my life. For this purpose God has a cross for each of his followers to carry till the end of their life. No one can take up a cross without the grace of God.

Once upon a time I lived an aimless life without benefit to anyone. Out of desperation, I asked God regarding the futility of such a life. A life that finally ends in death, after much suffering in the world. I had never heard of an everlasting life. Those were topics of least interest. But after coming here in this fellowship, I am full of hope. He gave me a new vision in life, that my life is to serve him for his glorification.

However I long live on this earth, I want each and every little detail of my life to glorify my God and that is my desire. I do not dream to accomplish many great deeds here in this world. A man's soul is more valuable than the entire world. One should aim for an everlasting life and should not care about how others will judge him based upon his earthly deeds. The most important thing is to please Jesus and to consider how everything will affect him and whether my life would be pleasing to him. I pray to God, that my short life here on this earth will be for the glory of his name and with that I conclude my testimony.

Dr. Jilu has obtained a doctorate from York University, England and presently serves as a teacher. There is a God who raises up living witnesses! I express to you my ardent desire, that every one of you should rise up to witness the peace that Christ gives in your life.

Nicodemus was embarrassed by what Jesus told him. He did not understand the symbolic meaning of Moses raising up a bronze snake on the pole. The Lord also had to be raised up on the cross like that. Though Nicodemus knew the scriptures and this particular historical record he did not realize its significance and did not understand its implications. He was a silent observer of the life of Jesus upon this earth. He watched him intently. Later, when the Sanhedrin decided to crucify Christ, Nicodemus had tried to oppose it. The elders of the synagogue formed a plan to kill Jesus Christ and Nicodemus resisted the move.

In the temple court of Jerusalem, Jesus was belittled and mocked by the religious priests while undergoing trial. Nicodemus did not join them. He knew that Jesus was a holy man of God and had the Charisma. But he was unwilling to openly testify Jesus before them because he loved his status within the Jewish community. He was a member of the prestigious Sanhedrin Committee. But Nicodemus was unwilling to forsake his social status for the sake of Christ. Hence he did not openly support him.

But he followed Jesus in secret as his disciple. When Jesus climbed up Golgotha, Nicodemus followed him with the crowd as a silent observer. When the mob

shouted: “Hang him, hang him,” Nicodemus was overcome with grief. He saw the violent crucifixion of Jesus and listened to all the seven utterances upon the cross. He agonized when the nails were hammered into the Lord's feet and hands.

Then Nicodemus understood the meaning of these incidents and what Jesus spoke about himself earlier: “Like the bronze snake erected on a pole by Moses, the Son of man also will be raised up.” Those who believe in him will have eternal life. The bronze snake was a symbol. The Saviour of mankind, Jesus Christ also had to be raised up on the cross the same way.

When the dead body of Jesus was taken down from the cross for burial, Nicodemus also joined Joseph of Arimathea for the burial rites. While coming down from Golgotha, Joseph of Arimathea held the Lord's body close to his chest. Nicodemus followed him silently in great anguish and occasionally helped him to hold the body of the Lord till the burial site. At that point of time, he committed his life in the hands of Christ. “Lord! you are my Saviour!” Nicodemus dedicated himself. He inherited eternal life.

My friends, let me ask you, Do you want Eternal Life? Do you want to be born again? You may not understand anything. But now commit your life to Christ. The crucified Christ has risen and stands beside you. Tell him: “Jesus, you died for me and from now on I will live for you.”



## Chapter 12

**But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don't be afraid.”** **Matthew 17 : 7**

Jesus came near them and touched them! Those words itself contain power. Jesus touched them! The people were anxious, frustrated and afraid; “Rise up, do not be afraid,” he said. Peter, James & John, the three dear disciples were lying on the ground, face down; terrified! There were twelve disciples for Jesus. But for certain ministries, Jesus took these three along with him.

When the daughter of Jairus was resurrected, these three disciples were there along with Jesus in the room. Everyone else was asked to leave the room. No other disciples were called inside. We cannot question as to why others were not called. Jesus called the three alone and went to the house of Jairus and entered the room of the dead girl.

Jesus longs for fellowship of his disciples. He expects his disciples to love him. He desires their love. That is why whenever Jesus Christ went to heal the sick, he took his three disciples. When Jesus went up to the Mount Tabor, he took only these three disciples along with him. The other disciples waited at the valley. They were

also involved in certain duties assigned to them. But they never grumbled as to why Lord did not take them along, nor did not complain that Lord did not love them so much as the other three.

When Jesus Christ calls someone, the Lord has certain purposes. The other disciples at the valley were dealing with the father of a child suffering from seizures. The young boy had lost his mental composure. Sometimes, he fell into the fire and at other times into water. During seizures, he rolled on the ground violently and lost consciousness. The medical treatment had failed. As a last resort the father of the boy had brought him to the disciples. By that time Jesus had gone to Tabor. Now the disciples were left alone to tackle this challenge.

The father of the boy has approached them with a request for help. The disciples had to deal with him and bear the responsibility. They had to comfort him, and help him with this problem. But they were helpless. They were discouraged at their helplessness. It was during this time that the other three disciples were taken by Jesus to Mount Tabor. There Jesus appeared before them in full glory. It was not a regular sight to see Jesus there in such a splendid way.

To see Jesus in all his splendor, while on earth is a miraculous experience. We can see him in eternity without doubt, if we lead a saintly life. Have you ever imagined that? Have you ever meditated on this thought when you will be face to face with Jesus in his glory? How are we going to be at that moment? What will be like when

you look at his face?

The Sovereign Lord in all his glory cannot be seen by anybody on the face of the earth at present. Then they will be burnt alive. Now we see him only as we see him on a mirror. Later we will see him face to face in eternity.

But the three disciples saw Jesus, magnificently white, at Mount Tabor. Moses and Elijah were seen talking to Jesus. Moses represents the dead and Elijah represents the people who were taken alive to heaven! Earth and Heaven joined in a fellowship! It was a very blessed meeting.

You should desire this heavenly fellowship. The companionship of Saints on Earth! The Saints of the past had experienced the light of love and we should ourselves be able to experience this love. If we concentrate in prayer and meditation this will be possible. Have you desired that even once? Have you prayed? Now, pray to the Lord, to give you an experience where you can be in His presence, resting in His bosom!

It's a miraculous experience! Heavenly men, who have the inheritance of heaven, Moses and Elijah, coming to earth to be with Jesus. One day when we reach heaven many such intriguing events await us!

There are secrets that were not revealed until now, the miracles of heaven! Saints who adore & worship the Lord with all their hearts. Christ being worshipped by the radiant angels. The angels lead the souls who were saved by the author of eternal life the Lord Jesus Christ, to His

feet.

The angels who were appointed as our guardians will take each one of us to his presence and say to Jesus that they were successful in protecting us and have brought them back to him. Imagine the celebrations that are going to happen in heaven!

Friends, now it is just like a dream to you. But these are all possible experiences on earth itself, when you sit alone with Christ. You can praise him while you are alone. Christ will speak to your hearts in His sweet voice. Christ will quickly point out certain faults in your life that are grieving him.

There are many chains of bondage within us which haven't been recognized by us until now. All those will be gently pointed out. Those festering wounds will start healing now even though for all these years, they did not respond to your prayers and repentance. Even when I prayed and said, 'I forgive you' my enemies, the wounds did not heal completely. It did not heal even when I sought forgiveness directly with my enemy! The wound was infected beyond cure! How lucky it will be if Jesus comes and touches the wound!

Jesus went near and touched them. Now this should happen at this moment. Let Jesus touch you! Hear his footsteps come near you! Those feet which were pierced by nails at the cross! Please see those feet approaching you. Your body, bore all Sin, which has torn you away. Your polluted minds, your diseased body and everything

else can now experience the touch of Jesus.

My Lord, my family had peace of mind once upon a time. But today it is shattered. Once there was unity. But today there is no harmony between husband and wife. It was a happy family. Today parents & children are way apart. Lord, please come to our home. Lord, please touch us. As you pray like this the holy hands of Jesus Christ will touch you. He will touch your burdens. He will touch the matters of your prayer. He will touch you in your loneliness.

Your husband might have departed from you through death long ago and all these years, you may have been weeping alone. You may have children and others around you. You have sufficient wealth, a beautiful house and ways to earn livelihood; Yes, it is true. But your dear one is not there when you go to the bed room or on at the dining table. How many times you were together! You ate and slept together. But today, you are all alone. Loneliness has become intolerable. The mind is muddled. It is weeping. Dear daughter, Jesus will come to you. He will comfort you. Now each one of you can tell Jesus his or her personal weakness. Tell him your deficiencies, Mental challenges; your lack of courage, and your anxieties; some sins that just do not go away even when you fasted and repented over it again and again. "Lord, come and touch me." "Lord, I have a poor intelligence, I cannot learn anything efficiently. In certain subjects I cannot perform well even though I have read it repeatedly. Nothing is retained in my memory, please touch me."

You are lucky if Jesus touches you or rather if you touch Jesus! Jesus is coming near us and he remains so close to you. His robe gently brushes you as He passes along. If you wait in faith, you will be thrilled with this experience.

You will experience the healing touch of His robes. Jesus will place his hands on the diseased parts. He will remove the yoke and undo the knots. You will praise him and sing 'Hallelujah'. You will have a blessed spiritual experience. Jesus went near, touched them and said: "Do not fear, Rise up." Many fear to get up because of past failures. Will I ever get up again? That is what some of you think. I have fallen into deep sin! How many times did I make up my mind and even then met with repeated failures to overcome the same sins. I had said goodbye to many bad habits in the past. But after some time, I fell for the same. A man like me cannot control them. Have you been discouraged by these kind of thoughts?

Even now, I get angry and irritable. I despise my wife. I do not have any control over what I speak at certain times. I fume at my husband; My God, I was furious with my children. I have been indifferent at work. I was inattentive and careless. My Lord, I was erratic. Will I rise up again! I squandered away my good years.

My friends, I was such a man who was consumed by such hopelessness. An inferiority complex bound me and I thought I would never rise up.

But Jesus came and touched me, but I did not

realize that Jesus came or that he touched me because I did not desire to be touched by Jesus. My only inheritance was desperation. Is somebody like me is reading these words? Why did I become so downhearted? We were quiet well off with means of livelihood from agricultural lands even during those days.

There was not much reasons for me to be so downhearted. But I was woeful. I haven't mulled over committing suicide. But in my ignorance, I had looming thoughts about the peace that death would bring, like it happened to my father and elder brother.

Child of God, please believe this. The One, who asks you to arise is strong enough to take hold of you. He will not let you fall your feet slip. He will not let you wither or become hopeless. A good and prosperous future lies ahead of you. Wait patiently for that time.

Do not be afraid! I have removed your fear. I will be with you? Isn't that enough. I will walk with you. "My grace is sufficient for thee." This is what the Lord says.

"Rise up; Do not be afraid." The disciples were told. They witnessed Jesus, Moses and Elijah talking to one another. I imagine that Moses would have remembered his last few moments of conversation with God that happened just before his death. The scene was set on the slopes of Pisgah on mount Nebo. Moses' desired intently to reach the land of Canaan lying across Jordan. For forty years he had led the six lakh men and their families through the desert for the very same purpose. He had

pleaded with the Lord to let him fulfill this last wish, when he knew his time was up on this earth.

The Sovereign Lord told Moses. "Do not speak to me about it. You will not enter Canaan. I have appointed another man of mine for that Mission. You cannot enter there." Moses pleaded with God. "It is my last desire to cross Jordan and enter Canaan with these men who have been with me." God replied with an emphatic "No! Do not talk about that to me again." God warned Moses.

Was Moses upset? No, I don't think so because he was a man of God. God knew Moses and his desires.

Moses did not know then that many centuries later he would descend from heaven to the land of Canaan along with Elijah! Today at Tabor, Moses and Elijah are Conversing with Jesus! Moses came down from heaven!

**"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."**

**2 Peter 3:8-10**

Moses' desire was fulfilled years later. Moses descended on Mount Tabor at Jerusalem. Jesus, Moses, Elijah, Peter, James and John were present in that

fellowship.

Today, people do not value fellowship. They may mock you, calling names. But one day, everyone will realize its worth. Moses and Elijah descended from heaven to have fellowship with Jesus along with Peter, James and John.

My dear brothers, who read these words, are you discouraged? Jesus has come to touch you and take hold of you. He knows the reason for your depression. He sees your heart. He understands your illness. He knows everything! He will bring everything into completion.

Your life will not mend with your self-effort. In whatever state you are, commit your life to Jesus with all its weaknesses, imperfections, sinfulness, fallen nature, impurities, greediness, selfishness and pride. He will accept you as it is.

When you reach his hands, he will take away whatever is not worth. Anger will depart. The disposition of wantonness will leave you. The impure desires will disappear. The addiction to alcohol will go away. The desire for drugs will be lost. All bad habits will be washed away. The disease-causing organisms in your body will be burnt off. You do not know that at present your body carries disease organisms in your blood vessels. Even those will be burned up. The One who touches you is the Sovereign God. The God who is the Creator of this universe. Give yourself unto his hands.



## Chapter 13

**“After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup> There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup> Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him! When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don't be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”** **Matthew 17 :1-8**

Real fellowship is to be with Jesus Christ. If the fellowship is with Jesus Christ, then there will be holiness. There will be self-sacrifice and humility. There will be the

characteristics of Jesus.

Today there are plenty of groups and fellowships. Most of those do not have Jesus Christ. How do you recognize the presence of Jesus Christ? The Spirit of Jesus Christ is holy and it gives a sense of consciousness of sin, justice and judgment of God. If you recognize your sinful nature, then you are in the fellowship of Jesus Christ. There will be a deep awareness of our sinfulness.

St. John tells us what a fellowship is about:

**“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”** **John 1:3**

**“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all”** **1 John 1:5**

If you claim to be with Jesus and still wallow in sin, then you are dishonest and slaves of Satan. If you abhor and keep away from sin, then you are in fellowship with Jesus Christ.

Even though many hear the message, most of them are indifferent to his call. Their conscience is dead! Nothing enters their hearts. The messages are repeated often, but it does not penetrate or make one repent of their sins. The heart is unresponsive. We should desire a penitent heart. Only then the word of God can perform its work of redemption.

As we hear the message of God, our heart should be responsive to it and should acknowledge our sins. Do not judge others. Do not justify your sins by blaming the circumstances that led to it. Do not pin the blame on others for leading you to sin. You might complain that your wife or your husband is creating problems for you. You should not justify your anger, by accusing your partner's or your children's irresponsible behavior. 'What has happened to me?' This is what one should care about while dealing with sins. Analyze your own sins which may have led to problems within your family. Each one of you should say, "I caused problems due to my bad behavior. My attitude created problems for my wife. I caused problems for my husband. My parents are affected. What is in there for me to correct?" First look into that. We should not see our goodness; we should see only our weakness. We should not see other's weakness; see their good side only. Then we can have a gratifying life.

The actual fellowship is the one with Christ. That is what St. John says:

**“If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.”** 1 John 1:6

**“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”** 1 John 1:7

The fellowship is about people walking together in light like Christ.

A marvelous fellowship took place at the top of Mount Tabor. The glory of the Lord had enveloped the assembly like a cloud. The apostles Peter, James and John came together. The Lord had invited them. The Sovereign Lord in all his splendor appeared there. Moses & Elijah have also assembled there. These holy men of God came down from heaven.

Then something unfortunate happened in the fellowship! Firstly, Peter did not comprehend fully that they were in the presence of the living God. He was reprimanded by God for speaking without discernment. He forgot that it was a great privilege to be part of this fellowship.

Peter had to be repeatedly rebuked. Just six days back, Lord Jesus himself rebuked Peter with the following warning. "Satan, get behind me." We feel pity towards Peter when we consider the situation. Peter had abandoned his fishing boat and nets and profession to follow Jesus Christ. He endured scorn from his kith and kin for being with Jesus throughout. We may feel that the Lord should have been a little more sympathetic! At least those words could have been spoken in secret! Instead Lord Jesus publicly rebuked Peter, calling him 'Satan' and asked to get away from him. Peter could have been sullen.

But he was not peeved, because Peter knew who it was, who had spoken to him. Peter had abandoned everything to be a follower of Jesus Christ, with complete trust. Peter humbled himself. He acknowledged that he

had given room to Satan. He had been in the wrong. The Lord was justified in scolding him. Peter humbled himself.

Six days later, the same Simon Peter was taken to the mountain top, by Jesus himself. When God condemns or rebuke us, do not be discouraged. It is God working in us through his Holy Spirit to transform our attitudes and there by our character. It is very fortunate to be willing to yield to the word of God, when he criticizes us for our own good. We can correct, change and transform ourselves.

It was the voice of ignorance. It came from Peter.

**“Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, this is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him! When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.”**

**Matthew 17:4-6**

Peter forgot himself when he was sitting in the glorious presence of Jesus. He really enjoyed the moment, because he was away from all sufferings in the world. He wished to continue there. He said; Lord, I will put up three shelters-one for you, One for Moses and one for Elijah.

There is a specific reason for Peter wanting two other shelters for Moses and Elijah, and not one for himself or James and John. He knew that they could share the shelter with Jesus himself. Peter knew that they

could be with Jesus. So they did not need another shelter for themselves, apart from the one made for Jesus. That was a true perception, but Heaven interfered because Moses and Elijah were not be seen as equal to Jesus himself. Separate shelters for Moses, Elijah and Jesus were not required. Peter considered Jesus to be like Moses and Elijah and it was the voice of ignorance on Peter's part.

Then Heaven interfered instantly, commanding him to listen to Jesus-the only Son of God, in whom God is pleased. No man is equal to him.

There are no other gods on earth. There is just one Sovereign God. That is our Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross at Golgotha. Men on earth are not gods. Nobody else is the Saviour. There is only one Saviour. The One and only Jesus Christ. My dear people, listen carefully. The Triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the only God. Except for our living God, there is no other God. Do not be mistaken. Do not serve idols. We should respect saints. But do not worship them. There is only One God worthy of worship that is Jesus. Let this be written in your hearts.

The remembrance of saints can be a blessing. It is wise to remember them and their ways, while they lived in the world. These holy men are noble ones in whom God delights. The Holy bible says so.

**Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I**

**have no good thing. I say of the holy people who are in the land, They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”** **Psalms 16 :1-3**

The Holy men are noble ones in whom I delight. But, you are my God.

Dear friends, today many are entangled in Hero worship - Idol worship. They are worshipping mere men and that is a cult. Do not worship any person on this earth. That is very dangerous. Do not worship anybody else, other than Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ alone is our hero, our good shepherd. Here God rebukes Peter. “Listen to him. He is my dear Son in whom I am well pleased.”

At Mount Tabor, the Voice of Providence interrupted the Voice of Ignorance. The Voice of Providence was that of the Eternal God.

In your life, there was a period of ignorance when you had many false beliefs, false customs, corrupt thoughts & attitudes. Please think about those now! Some age old ceremonies and traditions which promoted false gods. Also seeking help from occult practices, like the people of other religions. People practiced blessing of oil or salt and making them drink water with blessed salt, by claiming miraculous cures. There by people are deceived.

Some have performed pujas, black magic, sorcery and Idol worship in their homes. Some superstitious beliefs may have led you to do these things, thinking that it cure sufferings and diseases affecting your family.

Were you not under the sway of many foolish beliefs and many matters of sheer ignorance? Please think! Did you not chart your future based on your stars, seeking an auspicious time for blessings. What not! Lizard science! (Gowlisasthra as they say in Malayalam) Depending on which direction the lizard produces its sound - Whether from east or west and thus interpreting signs from it! In actuality a lizard produces sounds when it thirsts or when it seeks its mate.

Dear people, men are entangled and confused in such foolish beliefs. Parents think their child is not able to concentrate on studies because someone has given him a product of witchcraft (Kaivisham). Foolish beliefs! Superstitions! The Holy Bible says:

**“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”**

**Acts 17 : 30-31**

**“Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.”**

**Matthew 17 :3**

3. It was the voice of fellowship. Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus Christ. What were they discussing? They were conveying God's plan for Jesus and the trials and tribulations at Jerusalem that he was going to face. Eventually it would culminate in his sacrificial death on the cross at Calvary. The redemption

plan of God were being discussed with his saints!

The heavenly committee had descended at mount Tabor! As you read this ask God for you also to be a part of this heavenly fellowship. The voice of fellowship.

1. It was the voice of ignorance
  2. It was the voice of providence
  3. It was the voice of fellowship
  4. It was the voice of dependence
- The voice of prayer.

**“After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.”**                      **Matthew 17 :1**

**“After eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto to a mountain to pray.”**                                      **Luke 9 : 28**

Jesus Christ climbed up the Mount Olive, with Peter, James and John to pray. There a voice was heard. The voice of dependence-the voice of prayer-the voice of dependence on God.

Today, tell all your desires to Jesus Christ. Oh Jesus, please let me also, in to partake in your fellowship of saints. Lord, I want to be a part of the heavenly fellowship and be seated together with the saints. Please wash me and purify me for that.

In my present condition, I am not worthy to be seated there. Now my heart is full of evil sins. I understand that

today if I die, I will not be in the paradise prepared for your saints. Lord! Let a drop of your Holy Blood from your pierced side fall upon me.

The Holy Blood which has borne my sins! The Holy Blood which washes away my sins! The Holy Blood which erases my sinful past! The holy blood which removes my ignorance! The Holy blood that removes my blindness! The Holy Blood that clears off all my superstitions! The Holy Blood that wipes away the stains of my sins! The holy blood that washes me off my ignorant past! My dear Jesus, wash me with your holy blood.

Lord, give me your word that you have borne all my sins and I give you my word. "Since you died for me, I will live for you."

Our kind, Heavenly Father, we praise you for this marvelous time. We praise you for your Holy word and your living thoughts. Thank you for providing us with your Living Spirit. We praise you for your heavenly ways. Thank you for the heavenly words. Please bless everyone who reads this and awaken them. Let your holy name be glorified. We pray in the name of our King Lord Jesus Christ, please hear us Father, Amen.



## ഗ്രന്ഥകർത്താവിന്റെ ഇതരകൃതികൾ

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Main Meetings of Christian Revival Fellowship  
at  
Kadayiruppu, Kolenchery :  
Prayer Hall, near to the Residence of  
Prof. M. Y. Yohannan,  
Mechankara,  
Valethupady Bus Stop, Kolenchery - Perumbavur Road,  
Kadayiruppu P. O., Kolenchery, Ernakulam (Dist.),  
Tel : 0484 - 268 9489 / 9142 30 30 96

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2nd Saturday	:	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Testimonies	:	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
2nd Sunday	:	12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
(Followed by 2nd Saturday		
3rd Sunday	:	12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Monday	:	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Friday (Bible Class)	:	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
1st Tuesday (Ladies Meeting)	:	9:00 am - 12:45 pm
1st and 3rd Wednesdays	:	6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
(Young Men's Meeting)		