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A Journey of Faith

Introspection and Repentance



**Evangelical  
Fellowship of India**

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Editorial 



Rev. Vijayesh Lal

## The Cross we Bear

Time flies. India, born in 1947, ruled now by a constitution enacted by us, its people, in 1950, is already showing a few ragged edges as 2025 unfolds. The Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India finds sobering corroboration in the 720 and more incidents in which the Christian community was targeted in the twelve months of 2024 for which the data was collated and cross checked.

In these frigid numbers lie stories that should make the collective blood of the nation boil, its conscience cringe in shame. Subhasini Singh stripped and tied to a tree during Christmas celebrations in Odisha. A

pregnant Kunika Kashyap miscarries as she is assaulted in Chhattisgarh. Countless others face daily persecution for their faith.

What does it mean when a Christian couple faces imprisonment for teaching children to live peaceably, shun drugs and steer clear of alcohol? In Uttar Pradesh, Pastor Jose Pappachan and his wife Sheeja now serve a five-year sentence for distributing Bibles and offering moral guidance. Compassion, in the eyes of the state courts of law, is "allurement" under the anti-conversion laws, and punishable with the harshest prison terms.

What should we say about our

republic when Christians raising the national flag after Sunday prayers are assaulted. This happened to seven believers, again in Chhattisgarh, who found themselves behind bars after Hindu hardliners disrupted their flag ceremony.

Democracy demands that we ask deep questions of ourselves, and of those who govern us, on core freedoms, of which the right to profess, practice and propagate, is the touchstone.

When Ramesh Baghel sought to inter his father's body beside his Christian ancestors in the burial grounds of their Chhindwara village, also in Chhattisgarh, the Supreme Court of India split words and ideas, lamenting his plight that village squabbles had kept the body in an ill equipped district mortuary for more than a fortnight, but cautious that ordering its dignified burial beside the family ancestors would lead to trouble. The curate's egg ruling made a mockery of the system of justice. The senior Baghel was buried in an all-Christian cemetery far away from the bones of the family fathers. The legal high drama had been in vain. Justice had been

mocked. Justice Nagarathna's words: "Our tradition teaches tolerance," ran hollow.

These are challenges not to the Christian psyche or citizenship. They confront the levels of polity, including academia, the media and civil society, and of course both the ruling party and the Opposition. The rot of bigotry and impunity shows its stain on each one of them and the institutions created in their name.

For the citizens who believe in the Lord, it is a call not to despair but to deeper reflection. Have we sometimes chosen institutional preservation over prophetic witness? Have we consistently demonstrated Christ's love to our Hindu, Muslim, and other neighbours? Have we faithfully prayed for those who oppose us?

Our community recently wrote to the President and Prime Minister, affirming our unwavering commitment to India's unity while expressing deep concerns on what has become of it.

We continue to serve our nation through education, empowerment, healthcare, and social service, aware though we

are that each step we take is fraught, every act of scrutiny is punitive in its import.

The path ahead grows more complex. A document published at the Maha Kumbh at confluence of the Ganges with its sister rivers at Allahabad / Prayagraj is touted as the statutes of a Hindu Rashtra before mid-century and wants to rob Christians and Muslims of their sovereign right to a franchise. They will be non-citizens.

Meanwhile in Uttar Pradesh alone, close to 100 Christians remain in prison on charges of forcible and fraudulent conversion of Hindus to Christianity. Bail is denied them even as many a judicial officer, and the occasional High court judge, affirm their fealty to majoritarianism.

But we remain faithful Christians and loyal Indians.

We are committed to a dialogue of life, as some of our thinkers have called it, engaging ever more deeply in building a nation where every person's dignity is upheld, regardless of beliefs they may profess. We bless our neighbours and pray for those in authority.

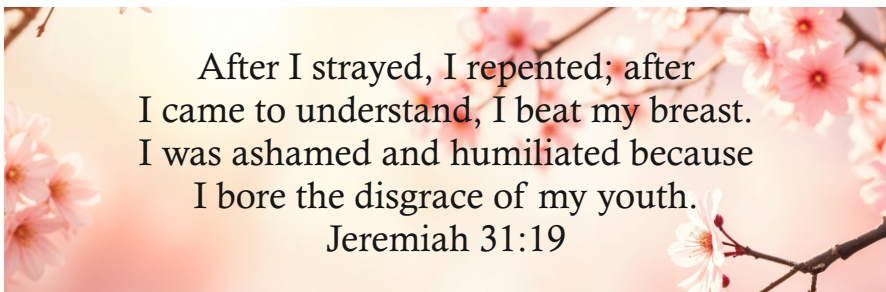
Denied a burial ground, we must dig deeper into the fertile soil of hope.

In these dark valleys does God's light shines brightest. These trials may yet reveal His greater purpose for His church in India.

May we be found faithful - in our love for Christ, our service to neighbour, and our prayers for those who oppose us.

**Rev. Vijayesh Lal**

*Editor in Chief – AIM Magazine*





# Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

Rev. Dr. David Mende

## Introduction

There is a rare condition known as Sjogren's syndrome. Those who have this condition suffer from an immune system disorder that causes dry eyes and mouth. That's because their immune system attacks the healthy cells that produce tears and saliva. Those who have this condition weep but cannot shed tears because their eyes are dry.

Well, it seems that some Christians have spiritual Sjogren's syndrome. They have dry eyes. They don't shed tears at their own sins or the sins of others. There is no place for mourning in their lives. Jesus has a message for such people. He

declares "Blessed are those who mourn." In this article, we will meditate on the second beatitude found in Matthew 5:4 and see what the Lord has to teach us. I have entitled this article as **'Blessed Are Those Who Mourn.'**

The Beatitudes are part of the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7). This is often called the "Constitution of the Kingdom." In Matthew 5-7, Jesus teaches how a citizen of his kingdom should be. In Matthew 5:4, Jesus teaches that those who mourn are blessed and promises that they will be comforted. We can learn two simple, yet profound truths from this passage:

## 1. God favors those who mourn (Mt. 5:4).

We can even translate this beatitude as "Happy (Greek: *makarios*) are those who are unhappy." This is a divine paradox. This beatitude also presents a great reversal. The Greek stoics considered mourning unnecessary and avoided it. This particular beatitude must be shocking to the Greek ears. Craig Keener, a New Testament scholar informs that mourning was associated with either repentance or bereavement. Many scholars think that Christ is referring here to the sorrow over our sins.

However, the term "mourn" can also include grief over poverty, disease, oppression, persecution, personal grief, injustice, and all kinds of suffering. Sin and suffering must break our hearts. Along with the first beatitude, this beatitude alludes to the messianic blessings mentioned in Isaiah 61:1-3. Once we acknowledge our spiritual poverty, we must mourn over it. Contrition must follow confession. We are

blessed when we mourn over our sins.

To be "blessed" is to receive God's favor, endorsement, and approval. The word "mourn" is a present participle that indicates that we must mourn continually. We are called to rejoice always (Phil. 4:4) and also to mourn continually. In our walk with the Lord, there will be times of joy and times of mourning as well. Celebration and sorrow are part of a Christian's life. An Arab proverb says, "All sunshine makes a desert." In this fallen world, sorrow is part of life.

We must repent over our personal sins and corporate sins (Ezra 9:1-4) by expressing our repentance in mourning. We must long for fellowship with God. The Greek word for "mourn" (*pentheo*) is the strongest of all the Greek words that express mourning. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint), this word is used in Genesis 37:34 where Jacob grieves as he assumes that his son Joseph was dead. The world doesn't grieve over



their sin. Instead, they take pleasure in their sins. Jesus pronounces woes over those who laugh now. He says, "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep" (Lk. 6:25). We must mourn about two aspects:

**a. We must mourn over personal sins.**

In Psalm 51:3-4, the psalmist says, "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment." The psalmist mourned over his personal sins. In 2 Corinthians 7:10, apostle Paul writes, "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." So, godly grief ultimately leads to repentance and salvation.

J C Ryle said "A right knowledge of the way to heaven is to feel that we are on the way to hell...To be sensible of our corruption and

abhor our own transgressions is the first symptom of spiritual health...We must know the depth and malignancy of our disease in order to appreciate the Great Physician." We must be careful that we don't become apathetic toward our sins. Sometimes, our stony hearts hinder us from mourning over our sins. We must ask God to give us sensitive hearts. We cannot grow in our spiritual lives if we fail to see our own sins and mourn over them. We must develop a lifestyle of mourning and repentance.

**b. We must mourn over the sins of others.**

After seeing the Lord high and lifted up, the prophet Isaiah cries out, "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" (Isa. 6:5). Isaiah cried out because of his own sin and the people's sins. Jeremiah is known as "the weeping prophet" as he wept over the sins of God's people (Jer. 9:1; 13:17). Jesus wept over Jerusalem as it faced impending judgment (Lk. 19:41-

44). In Psalm 119:136, the psalmist writes, "My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law." In Ezekiel 9:4, the Lord says, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it [Jerusalem]." So, godly people groaned over the sins committed in Jerusalem.

While writing about the false teachers who spread false teachings in the church at Philippi, apostle Paul warns the believers with tears. He writes, "For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:18). In 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, the apostle writes to the Corinthians and rebukes them for not mourning over sin in their church. He says, "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among

you." Paul tells the Corinthians to mourn as there was serious sexual immorality among them.

We must not take sin lightly. We must deeply mourn over our sins and the sins of others. Our sins cost Jesus his very life. Sin grieves God. Does it grieve you? We must mourn over the sins of our nation through prayer and fasting. We must mourn over corruption, sexual immorality, broken families, injustice, human trafficking, lukewarmness in the church, and all sin. But some Christians are apathetic to sin and injustice in our world. Some even enjoy sin. If we mourn and pray for our society and nation, we will see a revival. God desires a remorseful heart.

In Psalm 51:17, David writes, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite [remorseful] heart, O God, you will not despise." Apostle James writes, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep.

Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you (Jas 4:8-10). So, we are called to mourn over the sins of others too.

We must regularly mourn over our sins and the sins of those around us.

## **2. The Lord promises to comfort those who mourn (Mt. 5:4).**

In Matthew 5:4, the word "they" is emphatic in Greek and thus could be translated as "they alone." When we mourn over our sins, we will be comforted. The Lord often promises to comfort his people in the future (Isa. 40:1; 51:3; 61:2-3; 66:13). Isaiah 61:2 uses the terms comfort and salvation synonymously. God's salvation brings comfort!

Isn't it comforting to know that our vile sins are forgiven by a holy and gracious God? As we receive forgiveness for our sins, our hearts are comforted by the gracious presence of God. In Psalm 32:1, the psalmist writes, "Blessed is the one whose

transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." We must regularly confess our sins (1 Jn 1:9) so that we can be forgiven of our sins and experience God's comfort, intimacy, grace, and joy.

The triune God is the source of our comfort. The Father is known as "the God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3-4). Also, Isaiah prophesies about the Messiah who would comfort his people (Isa. 61:1). That's why Simeon was looking for the consolation of Israel (Lk. 2:25). John calls Jesus the comforter or advocate (1 Jn 2:1). Jesus came to comfort us in this world which is full of sin and suffering. Even the Holy Spirit comforts us (Jn 14:26). The Triune God often uses his word to comfort us (Ps. 119:50). Sometimes, the Lord uses fellow believers to comfort us (2 Tim. 1:16).

God's people mourn only in this life. Better days are ahead of us. But for the unbelievers, the present mourning is only a foretaste of their eternal mourning and pain. God's comfort can often be experienced

in this world. We receive his comfort when we truly mourn over our sins. But we will receive ultimate comfort when we go to be with the Lord. When the kingdom of God fully comes, we will be completely comforted. Revelation 21:4 says "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Once we are with the Lord, there will be no more sin, and thus we need not mourn over our sins anymore. We will be comforted by the Triune God.

### **Conclusion**

The main message of this article is: **Deeply mourn over your sins and the sins of others.**

Let's pray, "Lord, bend me." Let's ask God to break us. Let's deeply mourn over our sins and the sins of others. Then, we will experience God's comfort and a great revival in our own lives and our nation. Let's get to our knees and mourn over our sins and the sins of others.



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# CELEBRATING UNITY IN CHRIST: THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE CREATIVE DISRUPTER

Rev. Dr. Richard Howell

In the Christian tradition, unity in Christ stands as one of the central themes of the gospel. Through Christ, believers are reconciled to God and to one another, forming a community that transcends divisions of ethnicity, class, and culture. However, this unity is not a static, uniform conformity but a dynamic, Spirit-filled reality marked by diversity, growth, and renewal. Central to this ongoing work of unity is the Holy Spirit, who acts as a creative disrupter—challenging, reshaping, and reorienting individuals and communities toward God's purposes.

## **Unity in Christ: A Gift and a Calling**

Unity in Christ is first and foremost a gift. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,

God has reconciled humanity to Himself and to one another (Ephesians 2:14-18). In Christ, barriers of hostility are broken, and all believers are incorporated into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13). This unity is grounded not in human achievement but in divine grace. It is a reality that Christians are called to celebrate and embody.

However, unity in Christ is not merely a theological concept or an eschatological hope; it is also a calling for the present. The Apostle Paul exhorts believers to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). This unity requires humility, patience, and a willingness to bear with one another in love. It is a unity that values diversity, as

each member of the body contributes uniquely to the whole.

### **The Holy Spirit as the Creative Disrupter**

While unity in Christ is a gift, the Holy Spirit ensures that this unity is not stagnant but vibrant and transformative. The Holy Spirit, as the third person of the Trinity, is often depicted as a comforter, advocate, and guide (John 14:16-17). However, Scripture also reveals the Spirit as a disruptor, breaking through established norms and expectations to bring about God's will.

### **Disruption at Pentecost**

The clearest example of the Holy Spirit's disruptive role is found in Acts 2. At Pentecost, the Spirit descended upon the disciples in a dramatic display of wind and fire, enabling them to speak in different languages. This event shattered the cultural and linguistic boundaries that had divided humanity since the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). The Spirit's empowerment allowed the gospel to be proclaimed to people from "every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5). What appeared as chaos to some was, in fact, the Spirit's creative work, forming a new, inclusive community united in Christ.

### **Disruption in the Early Church**

The Spirit's disruptive activity continued in the early church, often challenging deeply entrenched assumptions and practices. For example, in Acts 10, the Spirit led Peter to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile, and revealed that the gospel was not limited to the Jewish people. This revelation disrupted Peter's understanding of purity laws and the boundaries of the covenant community. Similarly, the Spirit guided the apostles at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) to welcome Gentile believers without imposing the full weight of the Mosaic Law. These disruptions were not merely disturbances; they were moments of divine creativity, expanding the church's vision of unity and inclusivity.

### **Disruption in the Contemporary Church**

The Holy Spirit continues to act as a creative disrupter in the contemporary church. In a world marked by division—whether political, racial, economic, or ideological—the Spirit challenges believers to resist the forces of fragmentation and pursue reconciliation. This often involves confronting uncomfortable truths, unlearning prejudices, and embracing those who are different.

The Spirit's disruptive work is also evident in the church's mission. The Spirit calls believers out of their comfort zones, sending them to the margins to proclaim and embody the gospel. This might mean rethinking traditional methods of ministry, engaging in interfaith dialogue, or addressing systemic injustices. In each case, the Spirit's disruptions serve to align the church more fully with God's purposes.

### **Celebrating Unity Through Disruption**

To celebrate unity in Christ is to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit, even when it disrupts our expectations. This celebration is not a passive acceptance of the status quo but an active participation in the Spirit's work of renewal. It involves recognizing that unity is not the absence of conflict but the presence of reconciliation. It requires openness to the Spirit's leading, even when it unsettles our assumptions and challenges our comfort.

As the church embraces the Spirit's creative disruptions, it becomes a living witness to the gospel's power to unite what is divided. This unity, marked by diversity and transformation,

reflects the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—whose love draws all things together in Christ (Colossians 1:19-20).

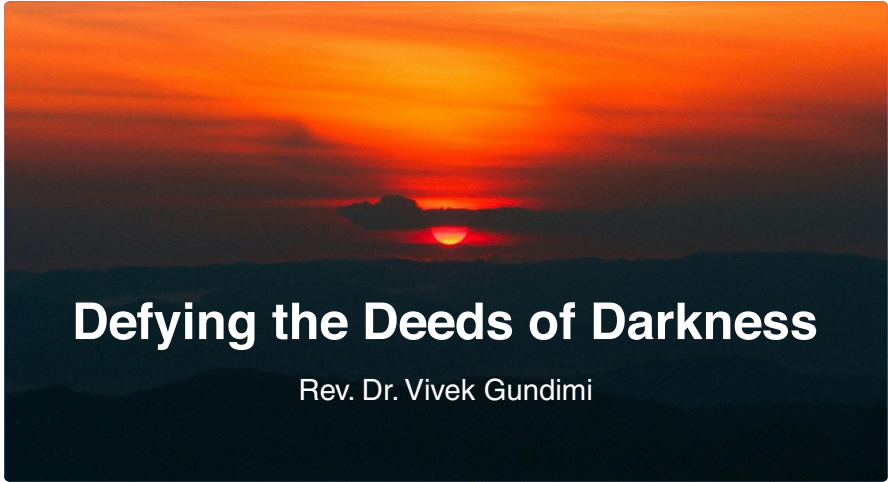
### **Conclusion**

Unity in Christ is both a gift to be received and a calling to be lived out. The Holy Spirit, as the creative disrupter, plays a vital role in this process, breaking down barriers and reshaping the church to reflect God's kingdom. Far from being a threat to unity, the Spirit's disruptions are an invitation to deeper faithfulness and greater alignment with God's purposes. As the church celebrates unity in Christ, it must also embrace the Spirit's ongoing work, trusting that every disruption is a step toward the fullness of God's redemptive plan.



### **Rev. Dr. Richard Howell**

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Of the many Scriptures associated with the season of Introspection, one of those that personally fills with hope is Isaiah 30:15 = *"...In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength..."*

This verse from Isaiah calls the post-modern believers to quiet their busy mind, find security in God, and confide in Him alone as their Saviour.

In the Bible, 'introspection' is considered crucial to a believer's spiritual well-being. In layman's understanding, 'introspection' would mean 'the function of re-considering one's overall internal state of being to progress towards transparency and

experience wholesomeness'.

However, there are some Christians who would think that 'introspection' is a type of pride because it may exhibit itself as humility. But that would certainly not be intended by the majority who honestly pursue spiritual welfare by means of introspection and repentance. Now that being said, one of the ways to introspect and hence repent would be to identify and defy the deeds of darkness.

Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans mentions these words: <sup>12</sup> *The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.* <sup>13</sup> *Let us behave decently, as in the*



*daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.* (Romans 13:12-13)

The 'deeds of darkness' that the believer should put-off are all self-explanatory in v13. And the 'armour of light' which Paul talks about is a reference to the new life that Christ gives his disciples. Hence those who understand what time it is, (v12 *The night is nearly over...*) will put off the deeds of darkness.

But perhaps, it will help to know the background of these deeds of darkness.

The first one listed in v13 is *carousing* or 'orgies'. Originally this word was used for public parties given in honour of someone who had won a great victory. But later the word 'orgies' referred to all-night parties that included drunkenness, sorcery, drug use, and every form of sexual immorality – including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, paedophilia and pornography.

These things are forever "out of bounds" for the Christian, as it is the result of moral darkness in

one who hasn't met Christ personally.

The second deed of darkness listed in v13 is "drunkenness," a sin that even the heathen hated because it showed a lack of self-control. Today, many people have fallen prey to the lie that they need alcohol to relax, or forget their problems, or loosen up? Alcohol is a tricky liar. Sometimes people drink because they feel they have to fit-in or prove they belong to the group.

Then Paul mentions "sexual immorality." Actually, the Greek word means "beds," which is why the King James Version used the term "chambering." Sexual immorality here refers to the immoral activity that takes place in the bedroom.

The fourth deed of darkness is called "debauchery." Scholars call this one of the ugliest words in the Greek language because it refers to shameless sin. This term especially applies to those people who parade their immorality down Main Street, who in the name of "freedom" and "tolerance" brag about their perversion. Today, this very thing is expressive in the form of

LGBTQIA<sup>+</sup> - a true indication of moral darkness that calls for relenting repentance.

Then next in the list Paul mentions "dissension." This speaks of unhealthy competition, a desire to be number one at all costs.

And the final deed of darkness mentioned in v13 is "jealousy," which is basically envy at the success of others or anger at one's own failure when compared with others.

These deeds of darkness mentioned above are the sins of the heart; and any human who hasn't yet yielded to Christ's leadership can be trapped in the dungeon of evilness.

It's about time to introspect our own lives and do away with deeds of darkness as they have no place in the Christian life; but if it happens to be found in any one of us, then it's the scandal of the backsliders.

Hence, introspection for a Christian would be to identify and defy those deeds of darkness with one self and put on the armour of light; because for us as

Christians '*...Our Salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*'(Romans 13:11)

Considering the world events taking place around us, we sense that the night is almost over, Jesus is coming back for sure and in any moment almost suddenly! Therefore, in the urgency of Christ's sudden coming, it's time to stop sleepwalking through life; and hence the need for genuine repentance as much as thoughtful introspection!



**Rev. Dr. Vivek Gundimi**

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# HE GIVES! HE TAKES AWAY!

Ms. Melody Suzan



Job, the greatest man in the East, received testimony from God himself that he was blameless and upright, fearing the Lord and shunning evil. Despite this, he lost everything in just one day - his children, property, and health. Yet, in the midst of his suffering, he worshiped the Lord and said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away." Job's unwavering faith and trust in God are evident in his response to such immense suffering. Often, when we experience even a small amount of pain or loss, we immediately question God and judge His work in our lives. We may not have the same heart, faith, and trust in God as Job did. We need to trust and remain faithful even in

difficult times and focus on the journey rather than just the outcome. We need to recognize that whatever we are that is only because of God, and He knows what is good for us and He never leaves us in pain and agony. We need to trust, and faithful even in the wilderness. we try hard to live good life. We think we deserve more. Let's look at Job. Rather than seeking relief from pain and hardship, we should mirror Job's attitude, recognizing that everything we possess ultimately belongs to God, including our children. Job's extraordinary response was to worship God, showing unwavering confidence in his faith. He said to his wife "shall we indeed accept good

from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"

Faith is the key that opens the doors to Christ, allowing Him to enter our homes and participate in our lives. By extending an invitation to Him and welcoming Him into the very core of our being, faith affords us a foretaste the beatific vision, that God has set for us. It is through faith that we anticipate the future encounter with God, envisioning a direct and unmediated experience of His divine presence.

Faith without works is dead, and faith lacking in regular prayer and adoration weakens over time. Our days are filled with a multitude of concerns, yet we aspire for each of these activities to serve as an opportunity to encounter our Lord. Hence, it is essential to carve out moments in our daily routines to immerse ourselves in God's presence, to pay reverence to our Lord through dedicated moments of adoration. During these moments, we aim to minimize distractions and focus solely on

contemplation and paying heed to our Lord. Prior to engaging in any activity or contributing to transformative changes in the world, it is imperative to establish a foundation of worship. Only through worship can we experience true liberation and find guidance for our actions.

Faith, then, leads to adoration. Faith guides us to anticipate what our life with God will be forever in heaven; it leads us to want to do on earth what the angels do in heaven, giving glory to God. Faith that adores leads us to prostrate ourselves before God and to desire to unite ourselves with Him.

Despite Job's sorrow, he clings to his faith in God and remains hopeful. He chooses to trust in God's character despite his difficult circumstances. Ultimately, God answered to Job "*the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm*", emphasizing that dark times do not mean that God is not present. We often feel God's presence most when we are in a storm, when we are in desperate need of Him.

Following a period of immense tribulation, God restored the entirety of Job's previous losses, augmenting his possessions and wealth twofold. Furthermore, the divine blessing encompassed Job's longevity and bestowed upon him seven additional sons and three daughters, renowned for their unparalleled beauty, surpassing all others in the region.

Even in moments of feeling abandoned and shattered, remember that God is still writing your story.

For those who have faith, despair is not the end. God's love runs deep, and He will bring about restoration. This restoration may not come in the form of worldly success, wealth, or children, but through Christ, it will be an eternal and abundant restoration. If you patiently maintain your faith, the restoration that follows will exceed your losses, bringing double or even more, allowing you to forget the pain, agony, and loss. Always remember that your faith will be tested. As the Bible says, "According to your faith be it

unto you," what comes next is a result of your faith. If you are confident in the Lord's plan for you and have immense faith, you won't be upset when things don't go your way or when your plans fail.



**Ms. Melody Suzan**

is a faithful servant of God, deeply passionate about sharing His love with all who are in need. With a compassionate heart, she has dedicated her life to bringing souls to the Kingdom of God, driven by a sincere burden to serve the Lord with every ounce of her being. She had a genuine desire to fulfill God's calling in her life, reaching out to those who may be lost, broken, or searching for hope. Through her words and actions, she inspire others to embrace God's love, and to live with a heart of service, compassion, and dedication to His will.



# Prioritizing God Introduction

Ms. K. Keziah Glory

We as Christians are familiar with this saying, 'prioritize God over anything in this world'. Yes, prioritizing God over the world is the most important thing that we consider in our Christian life. In today's busy world, we are running behind so many things. Most of the times, we prioritize them above God knowingly or unknowingly.

Jeremiah 35 is placed in a context where the Israelites have been captured and taken into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar during the reign of King Jehoiakim (2 Kings 24:2). The only one reason for their downfall was their unfaithfulness. They had failed to prioritize God. Now God had to choose a weaker clan in the house of Judah, i.e. the

house of Rechabites to teach a lesson to the house of Judah.

The people of Rechabites are traced back to the Kenites, who were the descendants of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law (1 Chronicles 2:55; Judges 1:16). Rechab was father of Jonadab (who is also called as Jehonadab), who was King Jehu's assistant when King Jehu came to kill all the remaining household of King Ahab and the Baal worshippers (2 Kings 10:15-17).

The Rechabites had a different type of living based on the commandments given by their ancestor Jonadab (Jeremiah 35: 6, 7),

1. They should abstain themselves from Wine
2. They should have not build houses for themselves
3. They should not sow or plant a vineyard or own agriculture lands.

By keeping these commandments, they were faithful to the words of their ancestor, Jonadab. Thus, the Rechabites were chosen by God to teach a lesson to the exile community to prioritize God in their lives.

#### 1. The Test of the Rechabites

In Jeremiah 35, God told Jeremiah, to bring the house of Rechabites into the inner chamber of the house of the Lord and offer them wine. Jeremiah exactly does as told by God, he gathered the house of Rechabites and placed before them pitchers full of wine but to Jeremiah's surprise, not even one of them was ready to drink the wine. The Rechabites then state that their ancestor Jonadab has commanded them and their descendants (Jeremiah 35:6-11).

Jonadab was living during the time period of King Jehu who reigned Israel from 841 BC and now when Jeremiah was living during the time of King Jehoiakim who reigned Judah in 609 BC. For nearly more than 200 years, they have faithfully kept the words of their ancestor.

God spoke to the people of Israel and Judah directly and through the prophets to turn back from their evil ways but still nobody gave heed to God's words. But the Rechabites were still following the commandments given by their ancestor 200 years ago. So, when Jeremiah set before them pitchers of wine, they refused to drink it (Jeremiah 35:12-16).

Even at that time, when they were tested by God, they gave importance to the words of Jonadab. They remained faithful to their human ancestor so how much more they must have given importance to the Word of God, though it is not mentioned in the bible.

If Rechabites could follow the commandments of their ancestor Jonadab, how much should we

keep up to the Word of God? At times of test and trials, do we still give importance to the words of God or just slid away?

The Israelites were the same from the time they left Egypt; they were testing God and disobeying God at various levels and times. They disobey and sin and then after some time of being punished by God, they again return to God and then again, they disobey and sin and the same episode continues every time.

Most of the times, we always say, God is always there, let me give priority to other works and people in my life. But it might be very late when we want to prioritize God.

So, what was the blessing the Rechabites received for giving priority to their God and their ancestor?

## 2. The Blessings Received by the Rechabites

God condemns the people of Judah and says that he will bring upon them all the disaster that was pronounced against them. But God says to the house of Rechabites, that they shall not

lack a descendant to stand before God at all times (Jeremiah 35:17-18).

Did God honor the Rechabites for just following the commandments of a human? NO, it was not only that there was another reason behind it. When King Jehu was on his way to kill the remaining people of the house of King Ahab, who escaped from the hands of prophet Elijah, he asked Jonadab, "Is your heart as true to mine as mine is to yours?" Jonadab said yes. He had a great zeal for accomplishing the word of the Lord that was spoken to the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 10: 15-17).

When Israelites cultivated the land, in order to get good harvest, most of the times, they turned to the fertility gods of Canaan. Jonadab thought that civilization was turning the people from God in various ways like this, so that's why he commanded not to drink wine nor build houses or sow seeds in the land.

YES, behind the commandments given by Jonadab to his descendants, he had placed God first. Just because they prioritized



God by obeying the words of their God and ancestor, they had received this great blessing of serving God in the House of the Lord forever. Mishnah records that the Rechabites were doing the job of bringing wood for the altar. Thus, history approves that they were serving God in the House of the Lord.

### **Conclusion**

The people of Israelites had much more reasons to obey God but they failed to prioritize God in their living by falling to the standards of the world. Let us ponder on these 3 questions

1. With who do we spent most of the day?
2. Who or what comes in our thought at the start and end of the day?
3. Whom do we give more importance to even in the busiest schedule of our day?

Answering these questions, we will know whom do we prioritize in our life. The answer for some could be our parents, siblings, friends, life partner, bestie, soulmate, mobile, work and so on... In all these, where is Our

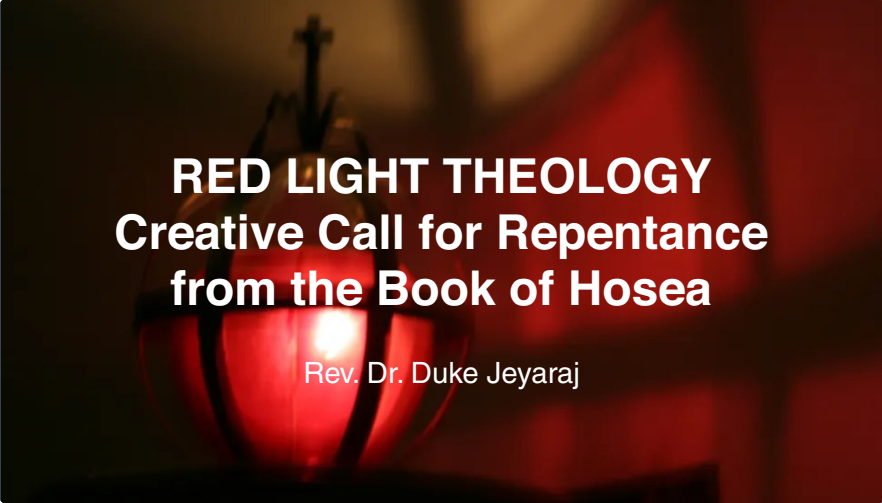
God? How can we show that we are prioritizing God in all the things that we do? By living according to God's word and giving importance to God. When we love and seek God with all our heart, mind, and soul, we give importance to God and place him above all the things in our life.

Regardless of what the standards of the world may be, let us always give priority to God. One of the famous saying of Oswald Chambers goes like this, "Your priorities must be God first, God second, and God third, until your life is continually face to face with God."

Let us take a step closer to God by making God as our priority.



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# RED LIGHT THEOLOGY

## Creative Call for Repentance from the Book of Hosea

Rev. Dr. Duke Jeyaraj

### **The one book you've got to read to understand true love!**

Love - how the word has its meaning changed. The latest movie swears true love is what it portrays. Hmmm. If you want to know the meaning of true love, there is a book in the Bible you've got to read. I'm referring to the book of Hosea. No book in the world illustrates what true love is like this book.

In the book of Hosea, we see God playing five different roles. One role is that of a husband!

### **Rain as the semen of Baal!**

Hosea writes that Israel would call God as "husband" - not master (Hos 2:16,17). By the way, did you know that the word "Baal" can also mean "master" in

Hebrew - the language Hosea was originally written? God did not want his people to even utter the name of Baal - the most important 'god' in the scores of gods worshiped by the Canaanites, whose land God gave the people of Israel. God wanted to be Israel's husband. Any self-respecting woman would have only one husband. And God wanted Israel to have only Him as their God and nothing or no one else. But the people of Israel stubbornly went behind Baals. They believed it was Baal that gave them the rains for their crops (see Hos 2:12). In fact, they thought of rain as the semen of Baal! In order to get more rain, they had to make Baal all the more sexually excited. So, in order to do that they had to

sleep with the temple prostitutes found in abundance in Baal Temples (See Hos 4:11-14). They converted what was Bethel (meaning 'house of God') to Be-aven (meaning 'house of iniquity') (See Hos 4:15). Sex was the magnet that pulled the people of Israel towards Baal worship! Even today, much has not changed. Sex remains Satan's No. 1 weapon to sidetrack mankind from true God worship.

The story of Hosea makes one go "veoh!" Grippled by God's dictates, the Prophet marries a woman who is a prostitute (Hos 1:2-3). His marriage to her would be a picture of God's relationship with his people, Israel. Just as Gomer was untrue to her husband, the people of Israel were untrue to their God by worshipping other Gods.

### **Red Light Theology!**

Gomer continued to be a prostitute even after marrying Prophet Hosea. The people of Israel continued to worship idols even after knowing Yahweh as their Husband. Hear God's heart-rent lament about the horrific behavior of his people: Why, even wild donkeys stick to their own kind, but donkey-Ephraim goes out and pays to get lovers (Hos

8:9 EPV). (Ephraim, is the tribal name for Israel, north Israel to be precise.) In fact, Gomer, left Hosea and went to live in the Red Light area (See Hosea 3:1a). But that did not put a red light on his amazing love for her. He loved her, even though she loved adultery (Hos 3:1). God's love for undeserving adulterous Israel was even more amazing! He said to her, "Yes, I will marry you and neither leave you or let you go!" (Hos 2:19, EPV). Guess what, this is what that verse means - God's love for us goes far beyond time, even when we two-timed him!

Hosea brought his wayward wife back for fifteen pieces of silver, five bushels of barley and a measure of wine (Hos 3:2). By now, she had become the sex-slave of some other man. Imagine how insulting it would have been for a husband to buy back his own wife from another man! Yet Hosea did it. No one was more madly in love with his woman than Hosea! Hosea's love for his worthless wife is an imperfect picture of Jesus' love for you. The punishment on the cross was only reserved for the worst of criminals. It was the most insulting of all punishments meted out by the Roman

Government. But that was exactly the punishment that Jesus chose to take upon himself to free us from roaring lion's (Satan's) claws (Phil 2:8).

**Hosea had to shell out 15 pieces of silver; Jesus, his precious blood!**

We became slaves to sin and satan. Jesus brought us back by paying for us. He did not have to shell out merely fifteen pieces of silver like Hosea. He had to shed his precious blood to do that. The Bible says, "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ" (I Pet 1:18-19). Hosea had to part with five bushels of barley to get back his girl. Jesus allowed himself to be wounded in five places so that he could get us back from the grip of Lucifer. I'm referring to wounds on his head (through the thorn crown), two more wounds on his hands (through the nails that pierced him), the wounds on his body by the whipping and wounds on his legs (through the nails that pinned him to the cross on them). Hosea had to offer a measure of wine to get his lady love released. Jesus refused to drink wine while he hung on the

Cross - something that would have lessened his pain to a great extent - so that he would be able to bear the full brunt of the punishment that brought us peace which was upon him!

Hosea told his wife, after he had rescued her from the Red Light area, to stop playing the prostitute (Hos 3:3). That's what God wanted Israel his wife to do as well. In fact, he pleaded with her to "put away her whoring from her face and her adultery from between her breasts" (Hos 2:2, HCSB). That's what God wants each one of us rescued from the Devil's dungeon by his blood to do: take a U-turn, repent, change. Since we were "bought" with a price, we must glorify God in our body (I Cor 6:20). There is no place in a God-glorifying body for sexual immorality. Since we were "bought" with a price, we must not become "slaves of men" (I Cor 7:23). A Blood-bought believer would not bow to peer pressure and thereby become a slave of men!

**Wow, we have a wooing God!**

I can imagine how Hosea wooed his other-men chasing wife by speaking loving words to her. Merely paying for her release would not have got the job done.

In the same way, God's intention was to lead his wife Israel to the wilderness and speak tenderly to her there (Hos 2:14). This is what God would do according to the Eugene Peterson trendy version: I'm taking her back out into the wilderness where we had our first date, and I'll court her. I'll give her a bouquet of roses.... (Hos 2:14). Wow, we have a God who wants to woo us!

### **Whom are we dating?**

Whom are we dating? Maidens? Men? What about our Maker? Have we dated him (spiritually speaking)? When was the last time you thought of God and had a romantic roll in your eyes? Think of a phase in your life when the word, "Jesus", caused you to skip a heartbeat, because you were so much in love with him! But now your relationship with the Lord has become rusty and regular, mundane and mechanical, boring and bland. What Jesus remarked about the Ephesus Church is true about us: "But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first" (Hos 2:4, ESV). Interestingly, it was to this church that Paul wrote, "love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love" (Eph 6:24, NLT). The slow death of an undying love for

Christ - that's what happened in the case of the Ephesians. That's what is perhaps happening in our life. In fact, God's accusation in the book of Hosea is painfully accurate: "Your love vanishes like the morning mist and disappears like dew in the sunlight!" (Hos 6:4, NLT).

Before it is too late, let us race to our wilderness to hear our Lord's wooing. Let us escape to lonely places to rekindle our romance with him. Let us take time to have a living, loving, daily, deep relationship with Jesus! Let's repent!



### **Rev. Dr. Duke Jeyaraj**

*is the founder of Grabbing the Google Generation from Gehenna Mission, the G4 Mission. Duke is the author of four books. Search for him on social media to discover many useful Bible Teaching material by him.*

# God is Love

Dr. Chacko Thomas



We are blessed to have the Bible spell it out for us that "God is love". Eternity will reveal the difference this little phrase has had on humanity over the millennia.

George Verwer once told me that next to wisdom, he prayed the most for love. I recall that every few weeks he would read 1 Corinthians 13 to us, in our weekly Devotions. I believe that he was reading it more for himself than for others.

Love was something that impressed him about John's Gospel, which he read for three years before committing his life to

Christ at a Billy Graham Rally in 1957. How about that, someone committing himself to become a Christian, knowing this means "I have to love all people". He went on to found a truly international training ministry, first of its kind in the world. God be praised.

God's Love has had significant impact on my life and ministry, over these many years. I can truly sing "Love lifted me". I am blessed by Christian leaders who have loved me with the love of God.

Seeing God's love expressed out loud is contagious. One of which is a smile of acceptance. A "stern

faced Christian leader", though fashionable in some circles, is a contradictory term.

**We need to repent.**

A W. Tozer, commending on 1 John 1:3 writes "God is the Most Winsome of All Beings". He continues, "nothing twists and deforms the human soul more than a low or unworthy conception of God and His kindness.

"The God of the Pharisees was not a God easy to live with, so his religion became grim and hard and loveless. It had to be so, for our notion of God must always determine the quality of our religion.

"Much Christianity since the days of Christ's flesh has also been grim and severe. And the cause has been the same – an unworthy or an inadequate view of God.

"Instinctively we try to be like our God, and if He is conceived to be stern and exacting, so will we ourselves be.

"From a failure properly to understand God comes a world of unhappiness among good Christians even today. The

Christian life is thought to be glum, unrelieved cross-carrying under the eye of a stern Father who expect so much and excuses nothing – a God austere, peevish, highly temperamental and extremely hard to please.

"The kind of life which springs out of such libelous notion must, of necessity be, but a parody on the true life in Christ.

"The truth is that God is the most winsome of all beings and His service one of the unspeakable pleasure. Those who trust Him have found His mercy always in triumph of justice, through the blood of the everlasting covenant!" [A W Tozer in "Renewed Day By Day, A daily devotional" compiled by G. B. Smith.]

**The Love of God misunderstood.**

You have probably felt it or have heard it said that "the Old Testament presents a God of wrath and the New Testament, a God of love". From a casual reading of the Bible, it is very easy to come away thinking that the God of the Old Testament is a God of wrath. "This is very unfair and wrong. The Old Testament

has many deep expressions of God's love. The New Testament has many expressions of God's wrath." George Miley.

"God is love" from the beginning of the Bible to the end. "God is always the same. He is perfect and infinite in holiness and justice and in His love and mercy. These attributes explain the very reason the Lord Jesus came to redeem humanity." [Michael Rydelink in "50 Most Important Bible Questions" Moody Press, 2021]

### **The Old Testament describes God in this way:**

"The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; (Ex.34:6-7).

### **A Loving and Forgiving God in the Old Testament**

Rydelink writes, "In the Old Testament, we see that God is loving and merciful as He forgives sin. For example, David who committed adultery and set up the death trap of Uriah the Hittite, is shown mercy when David repents, and God forgives him."

In Psalm 32:5 David said, "I acknowledged my sin to You, And I did not hide my guilt; I said, "I will confess my wrongdoings to the Lord"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin." [NASB].

### **A Just and wrathful God in the New Testament**

"While we may see the sterner side of God in the Old Testament, those characteristics are evident in the New Testament as well. Throughout the Bible, God is a God of justice. He holds people accountable for their sins and sometimes exercises discipline in seemingly severe ways.

"For example, when Ananias and Sapphira lied about how much they were giving to the congregation, Peter rebuked Ananias first, saying he had "not lied to men but to God," and then God struck him dead. The same then happened with Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), reminiscent of instant justice, sometimes seen in the Old Testament.

"The New Testament also describes the end of days, when God's judgement would fall on the earth at the hands of Jesus, the Lamb of God. This is how people



will respond in the last day: "They said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?' Rev. 6:16-17. [Michael Rydelink in "50 Most Important Bible Questions"].

**In the Old Testament a special object of God's love was the nation of Israel.** But this can be wrongly interpreted. God chose Israel as an instrument through whom He manifested His love to the entire world. Genesis 12:1-3: Now the Lord said to Abram,

"<sup>[a]</sup>Go forth from your country,  
And from your relatives  
And from your father's house,  
To the land which I will show  
you;  
<sup>2</sup>And I will make you a great  
nation,  
And I will bless you,  
And make your name great;  
And so <sup>[b]</sup>you shall be a blessing;  
<sup>3</sup>And I will bless those who  
bless you,  
And the one who <sup>[c]</sup>curse you I  
will <sup>[d]</sup>curse.  
And in you all the families of the  
earth will be blessed."

### See Jonah 4:6-11

<sup>6</sup> So the Lord God appointed a <sup>[a]</sup>plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was <sup>[b]</sup>extremely happy about the <sup>[c]</sup>plant. <sup>7</sup> But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with *all* his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."

<sup>9</sup> Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death." <sup>10</sup> Then the Lord said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which <sup>[d]</sup>came up overnight and perished <sup>[e]</sup>overnight. <sup>11</sup> Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

### The Practical value of this truth

The love of God is one of the "transferable attributes" of God.

One of the ministries of God, the Holy Spirit is to "pour out" this love in our hearts. What a gift! Rom. 5:5.

- 1 - God's love demands a loving response on our part. Please see: 1 Jn. 4:11
- 2 - God's love actually produces such a response in us both toward God and His people. 1 Jn 4:19;5:1.
- 3 - God's love producing love in us becomes an evidence of our salvation. 1 John 3:14
- 4 - God's love drives out fear. 1 John 4:17-18.

"Do you love Me" was the question the only question the Lord asked his failed Apostle, Peter. How about us, do we love Him? Do we love the brethren? Do we love our neighbours? Our enemies?

Please take time to meditate on

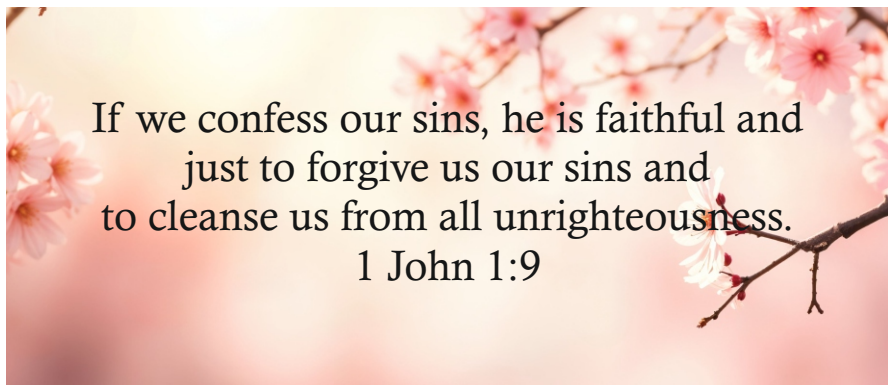
the verses given above. Let us repent of our lovelessness to God and to our fellowmen.

May we make it a matter of prayer as did George Verwer. May God the Holy Spirit, pour out His love into our hearts as needed. Amen!



**Dr. Chacko Thomas**

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More than 2,000 years ago, there lived a man who "went around doing good" (Acts 10:18) and was crucified for doing good. His name was Jesus. He said that He had come from God and was God's Son. He said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: no one comes to the Father [God] except through me" (John 14:6).

What was the way of Jesus? Can what He taught so long ago be of any relevance today? Is it practicable for life in today's world?

Probably, the Lord Jesus is known most for His teaching about loving those who try to hurt us. Here is what He said: "You have heard it said, 'Eye for an eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person.

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also...You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbour, and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be the children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you what reward will you get? Are not even the wicked doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:38-39,43-48).

### **Non-Resistance**

Now that all the political rituals of

observing the death anniversary of Gandhi are over, it is time to take a hard look at what was achieved by him and how. About eighty years ago, the man Gandhi challenged the British Empire by adopting the path of non-resistance. He was a self-confessed follower of the way of non-resistance shown by the Lord Jesus. If historians and sociologists took the trouble to connect the dots, they would have to admit that the only reason Gandhi succeeded was that he aroused the conscience of a nation and shamed them for claiming to be a Christian nation without following the teachings of Christ.

A couple of decades later, another man in another country decided to use the same approach to end the racism that divided his nation – the United States of America. Martin Luther King renounced militancy and embraced non-resistance as the way to confront the injustice of devaluing human beings on the basis of skin colour. He too was assassinated.

In both cases, even though the non-resistance was met with increased opposition and violent resistance, it was non-resistance that finally won.

When people resist, they only react to someone else's initiative and action. Thus, their response is controlled by the person who initiates the action. Others are able to get a rise out of them. Others are in control and have successfully manipulated them.

India is the land where the first modern experiment in non-resistance was conducted after Christ taught it. Sadly, in India today, no one is willing to carry on this experiment. Now, there are only power plays.

### **Life of Jesus**

When we look at the earthly life of the Lord Jesus, we see that He positively and unmistakably refused the way of violence. As God Almighty, He had all the power to destroy evil. Instead, He chose the way of non-resistance. To have power and not use it (or abuse it) is true power, for it is power under control. The trouble with most people in power is that their power has "gone to their head". Their power controls them. Such power is power out of control, and it is always abusive. This can also happen in the context of the church. Bishops can abuse the power of transfer just as much as politicians. Some time back, one bishop said, "If I cannot transfer people, then what

is the use of my being a bishop." What a negative view of his role in life and work! He had nothing constructive to do, and all he could think of doing was interfere with work. That is just one example of what happens in the world of position and power.

Into such a world, the Lord Jesus came saying, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight" (John 18:36). To people who want the world to be run by the old rules of violence, the way of the non-resister is always threatening. And so, Jesus was railroaded through the court without a fair trial and the governor, who could have given him justice, abdicated from his responsibility because he was more interested in protecting his own power by taking the side of power brokers. For the Lord Jesus, His death, however, was according to His plan for the salvation of humankind. It was only by giving up power and showing the new way of serving and sacrificing that He could change the world. He said, "The Son of Man has not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

When the Lord Jesus laid down

His life, it was thus not a defeat of His goodness. He was still in control. He said, "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father" (John 10:17-18).

### **Celebration!**

Every Sunday, when Christians gather to worship the Living Christ, they do so to celebrate the historical fact that Jesus came back to life again and triumphed over all the powers that opposed Him.

In any battle, the way to finish the war is to capture or kill the leader. On that day so long ago, when the Lord Jesus was crucified, all His opponents and the world thought that that was the end of His life, work and teaching. His disciples were totally discouraged and went into hiding for fear of their lives.

Look at the history of any movement. Given the same kind of circumstances, the leader dead, and the followers bereft of courage, a movement would be a definite candidate for the

graveyard of movements. Instead, on the third day, a band of discouraged men and women went around telling everyone that their Master had come back to life. Suddenly, cowardice was replaced with courage. Their circumstances had not changed. They were still a very small and insignificant band of people as far as numbers went. The world was still a hostile place and violently opposed to them. The only explanation is the one given by them. They had had an electrifying experience. They had seen Jesus alive again. They had heard His voice again. They knew then that no power on earth could defeat them.

Two thousand years later, Gandhiji attempted his experiment in non-resistance. If he had not tried it, we would have still not been independent. Once India had gained independence, the empire began to collapse, and winds of freedom began to blow all over the world.

Imagine what could happen again if only the people would return to the tried and proven way of non-resistance. We would not be such a strife-torn nation. There would be peace within our borders. The Lord Jesus said, "A

kingdom that is divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand" (Matthew 12:25). Today, the enemy is within. There is no greater enemy than those who destroy the soul of a nation. India was born without bloodshed. That was the character of the soul of India. When we leave the way of non-resistance, it is soul-suicide that we commit. Listen again to the words of the Risen Saviour Jesus: "Do not resist an evil person... Turn the other cheek... Love the enemy... pray for those who would harm you." You see, the best way to finish an enemy is to make him a friend. That's the way of Jesus. People who follow Jesus still make friends wherever they go.



**Rev. Kuruvilla Chandy**  
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**30<sup>th</sup>  
Apr**

For Details:



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**Diploma in Christian Education - 1 year**

Eligibility: Intermediate Pass

**Last Date**

**31<sup>st</sup>  
Oct**

4th Lane, Seethamma Colony, Pattabhipuram Post, Guntur - 522006, Andhra Pradesh

Contact: 0863 226 2832

Intercessory  
*Prayer*  
Points



February 2024

**1 SATURDAY** Thank God for bringing us into the second month. Pray that we may effectively and courageously share the Gospel.

**2 SUNDAY** Pray for ministries who are spreading the Gospel through social media. Pray that God would give wisdom and fresh ideas to reach the unreached through them.

**3 MONDAY** Pray that God may continue to use Punjab Mobile Bible Training to train and disciple many godly leaders to handle God's Word correctly.

**4 TUESDAY** Pray for students who are preparing for their board exams. Pray that the Lord would protect them, encourage them, and strengthen them as they prepare and write their exams.

**5 WEDNESDAY** Continue to pray for all the EFI group

members, individual members, and life members today. Pray that their vibrant spiritual life would shine forth God's light to the world.

**6 THURSDAY** Pray for all the missionaries serving God in India and abroad. Pray that they may not be discouraged but be strengthened and rejuvenated daily by the power of God's Word.

**7 FRIDAY** Continue to pray for the ministry of EFI. Pray for all the staff in different parts of the country to be used by God as they carry out their responsibilities. Pray also for the finances of EFI that God's works may not be hindered.

**8 SATURDAY** Pray for all the leaders and elders of the church that they would make wise decisions and lead the congregation by example.



**9 SUNDAY** Pray for the Sunday School ministries in your church. Pray that children would receive Christ at a tender age and be His faithful followers.

**10 MONDAY** Continue to pray for persecuted believers. Pray that their suffering would produce Christlike characters that would glorify God. Pray for perseverance in suffering.

**11 TUESDAY** Pray for Christian parents in your circle that they may pass on their Christian beliefs and values to their children.

**12 WEDNESDAY** Pray for those who are in jail because of their faith in Christ. Pray for strength and endurance. Pray that the Lord would open a way for their release and that they may courageously continue their work.

**13 THURSDAY** Pray for the CEEFI department. Pray that the biblical literatures produced by them would bless and impact many children and guide their path as they take their little steps of faith.

**14 FRIDAY** Pray for Adonai

Ministries in Karnataka. Pray that God would bless them and make them a source of blessing to others.

**15 SATURDAY** Pray for women ministries in your church. Pray that women would draw strength and encouragement from one another and be a blessing to their families.

**16 SUNDAY** Pray that all the churches in India would take measures to make the study of God's Word essential. Pray that God's word would enlighten and empower every believer.

**17 MONDAY** Pray for Berachah Prophetic Ministries in Tamil Nadu that the Lord would use them to transform many lives by the power of His Word.

**18 TUESDAY** Pray for Nagaland Bible College in Mokokchung, Nagaland. Pray for the faculty and the students that they would have fresh encounter with the Lord as they engage with His Living Word.

**19 WEDNESDAY** Pray for the unemployment problem in our country that the government would find means and ways to

create job opportunities.

**20 THURSDAY** Pray for the youth of our nation that God would give them wisdom and discernment to choose right path in life. May God reveal Himself to them and through them.

**21 FRIDAY** Continue to pray for all the political leaders in our country to rule with truth and justice.

**22 SATURDAY** Pray for the sick for strength, endurance, and healing for those going through various medical treatments. Pray that Jesus would touch them and heal them. Pray that their faith in Jesus would grow through this experience.

**23 SUNDAY** Pray that our relationship with the Lord will grow deeper than ever. Also pray that we may love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds, and strength.

**24 MONDAY** Pray for religious freedom in our country. Pray that

every individual would be able to freely practice and propagate their choice of religion. Pray that minorities' rights would be protected and that every individual would have the opportunity to pursue and share their faith without fear.

**25 TUESDAY** Pray for the people of India that they would respect, value, and pursue unity in diversity. Pray that people from different ethnic backgrounds would cohabitate peacefully and harmoniously.

**26 WEDNESDAY** Pray for yourself that the Lord would place you in a position that you would offer God's gifts of love, hope, truth, unity, and grace to others.

**27 THURSDAY** Pray for God would enable you to accomplish much by His sustaining grace and mercies that are new every morning.

**28 FRIDAY** Thank God for His guidance throughout the month. May the Lord lead and guide us as we enter the coming month.





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1st Floor (AC)	100	10,000	6,000	3,000
3rd Floor (AC)	40	6,000	4,000	2,000
Ground Floor (Non AC)	40	7,000	5,000	2,000

## For bookings, contact

Caleb Joel

74281 91694

reachcepl@gmail.com

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Meals can be customised and will be charged additionally.

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