

Dearly beloved in Christ,



Greetings!

The unchanging Grace and Favor of God has brought us into one more new month. You are very precious to God and to us. We really appreciate your faithful support and prayer for us. God is debtor to no one. He has already blessed you with every spiritual blessing in Christ!

“...be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:19,20). Release the blessings that God has deposited in your spirit. Praise Him and thank Him at all times and in every situation as He is worthy of our praises. Let the living water flow through you and let it touch the lives of the people around you.

We have only one month for the STC. As we are mentioning every month, to improve the service and comfort we can offer you, this time only people who applied before August 15th and BRING THEIR CALL LETTER will be allowed to attend the STC. There will be NO ON-THE-SPOT REGISTRATION THIS TIME for STC. Kindly cooperate with us. If for some reason you cannot yet fully decide to attend, please contact our office at info@ezekiahfrancis.org or +91-44-2650-1290/1390 and explain your situation so we can keep you in a waiting list.

Apostle David Hogan from Mexico is going to minister last three days in this STC. He is founder president of hundreds of churches. God has used him powerfully time and again to raise people from the dead. Many of our previous batch trainees are asking to attend last three days of this STC. We also don't want you to miss this rare opportunity. Those who want to attend these last three days kindly contact our office immediately and do apply online mentioning for three days.

When this magazine reaches you our 25th batch of School of Holy Spirit would be going on. Uphold each and every student in your prayers. We have our 2nd batch of Ladies School of the Holy Spirit in November 2012. Recommend and encourage our precious ladies who are the backbone of many ministers of God.

Keep visiting our websites www.ezekiahfrancis.org, www.berachah4life.org and Facebook for updates, and follow us on Twitter EzekiahBPM.

Continue to pray for our German TV production and my dear wife, our aged parents, counselors, key leaders, coordinators, staff and partners.

May God bless you and your generations!

In Him,

Your loving brother

Aziz Sidi Francis



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NATION IN YOUR HANDS

Today, our mandate from the Lord is to earnestly pray for our country. The Holy Spirit does impress this point upon me now as never before. This is an urgent message that must be conveyed to every child of God. The welfare of our nation is indeed in our hands. We are responsible for the welfare of our country. You are born in this country for the Lord's specific purpose. The Lord wants us to be patriotic towards the nation that supports us. Christ cried out for Jerusalem. Paul chose to be cursed to save his countrymen. Daniel opened the window three times every day, and prayed. The patriots, prophets, and stalwarts including Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther prayed for their native countries. 'How can I face the destruction of my own people?' was their lament.

Today, the Lord wants us to travail for our country. I remember during the earlier days, soon after my salvation in the Lord, there were fasting and all night prayers every where. People were pouring out their hearts and crying out to the Lord. 'Send us the revival oh Lord'. I too, was filled with this burden, and was zealous about it. During the 70's and 80's the Lord touched many young people in India. The churches began growing in numbers from hundreds to thousands. But lately, the number of people who pray with such passion and fervor has greatly reduced. All night prayers are seen very rarely these days. Today if there are any, they are held for the private group. The result is seen clearly in the present condition of our country.

Terrorism abounds. Divorce rates are mounting high. Racism is on the increase.

Pornography has become quite common. Men are crazy after money and materials. Premarital sex and abortions are common even among the teenagers. Atheism is widely spread. Homosexual marriages are legally accepted. People have indirectly asked God to step out of their families, educational institutions and the like.

Fighting between political parties has reached an all-time low standard. Everyone is at odds with one another. The enemies of the Lord seem to be, becoming stronger as the days go by. Telecommunication channels are the tools of the devil. Evil forces are becoming more and more courageous in coming against Christ and His church. Gangsters, who were very rare in earlier days, has been institutionalized now. The country is filled with every kind of abomination and injustice. The people are at a total loss.

We cannot blame the people, or our leaders, for our state of affairs. The liability rests squarely on our shoulders. Our failure to pray for the welfare of our country has brought this nation to its lowest level. There is no escape from total destruction unless we, the children of God raise our voices to the Lord. Unless and until we intercede for our nation, the country will certainly be turned into the 'Dead Sea'. When I see our future as a nation, with the prophetic gaze, I shiver.

But at the same time, many men of God are assuring us that great revival is imminent here. This is the silver lining that provides hope. This country, as a whole, is coming to the Lord. If not, we will see massive destruction. There will either be devastation or total revival. It's black or white-no in between. Either the country will know its God, or it will die. We must realize that the country has not received its true freedom. We are yet to receive our freedom from the spirits of darkness, from the abominable idolatry, from the spirits of murder, fornication, and adultery. As days go by, the country is sinking deeper into the mire. Any child of God who is not seriously concerned about this will certainly be accountable to God.

The Lord has been speaking to me more often these days about the following Biblical truths, upon which will now meditate.

Primary advice

“Therefore I exhort **first of all** that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all Godliness and reverence” (I Tim.2:1).

This is the major piece of advice the Lord is giving us today. He starts this with the phrase, “**FIRST** of all”. Though there are hundreds of examples of advice in the Bible, this one is called THE FIRST. This is the most important of all. Paul counseled, offering many warnings and bits of advice. He instructed Timothy about how the church should assemble, the qualifications of the bishop, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, leading a holy life, and many other topics. But among them all, the primary advice was this:

Pray for all men and our rulers. This is the first and foremost law of the Lord.

The early church prayed regularly for their country and their leaders every time they assembled. Here infact, Paul is speaking about the church order. Invariably, when we come together as a church, we follow different rites of worship. We sing, preach, pray and finally end with a benediction. But according to the advice of Paul, the church should never disperse before praying for the welfare of the nation. My honest appeal to all the leaders of the Church is this: as a church, please pray for at least ten minutes for the welfare of your country, fellow men, and leaders, every time you gather. You will be pleasantly surprised at the way the Lord will move over the country. This is the secret of the Korean church. Every time they came together as a church they never failed to pray for their country. The Lord has established the Church here for the very purpose of covering our nation in prayer. Therefore, any church that does not pray for the country and the welfare of its people, is one that has failed in its responsibility. My dear believers, the very first item on your prayer list should be our national leaders and your country men. All others, such as the requirements of your church, your family and personal prayer requests, should be subsequent to these. This is the counsel that Paul gives.

I constantly preach that the church should live victoriously with all the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit. But why do we need the gifts or the fruit? Why must the church be holy? Why should the believers be blessed with many blessings? Why is the church even on this earth? It is only to be a blessing to the nation; to bring the kingdom of God on the earth that all people

be blessed through the church. If this is true, what purpose is served by a church that doesn't pray for their country men and their leaders? Will you not give priority to the needs of the nation rather than to your own petty needs?

First Fruits

The Lord is aware of your predicaments. Even though, He requires us to pray for the nation first. God sent the prophet Elijah to a widow. Her story was really pathetic. The country was in the grip of a severe famine. Her husband had expired and she had only a young son. Poverty ruled her circumstance. She had almost come to the tether end of her life. As a matter of fact, she was in the process of gathering some dry wood to bake her last bread, to eat it and die.

God certainly knew her condition. Yet He sent His prophet to her. He initially asked for water and when she was about to bring it, he asked her to bring a loaf of bread. This request totally dismayed the woman. She lamented, ‘I have only a fistful of flour and some oil. My son and I decided to eat it and die’ (I Kings 17:9-16). Do you know how the prophet replied? “Fear not. Go and prepare according ...” (I Kings 17:13, 14).

Yes dearly beloved, God is speaking to you. You are totally immersed in your problems. And yet the Lord says, “Pray according to my list, rather than your own”. Before you pray for you or your family, pray that my kingdom may come upon this nation. Will you speak like the widow? Do you lead a selfish life worrying all the time about yourself, your family, your church, your ministry etc? Or will you pray first and foremost for your country and your leaders? Will you not obey wholeheartedly the Word of God? Will you decide today that above all you will pray for the President, members of the Senate, Government officials, and even the leaders of the opposition?

All this will be added unto you

Do you lament that with hundreds of requirements of your own, how on earth will you pray for the nations too? The widow of Zarephath lamented in this manner. But, do you know what? The prophet asked for her first bread only to bless her. When she obeyed the direction of the Lord, her entire family was nourished during famine. Perhaps her family was the only one without lack during the famine. Later on, she had the added blessing of her son coming back from death. This is the kind of blessings we receive when we obey God wholeheartedly. When you are concerned about only your needs and that of your family,

and forget the larger interests of your country, the Lord cannot bless you. This is the unchanging law of the Lord. That is why He said, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you” (Mat.6:33).

Unbelievers are worried about their own needs. But the children of God seek the Kingdom of their Father first. As a loving Father, He takes care of His children and provides all their requirements, including food and shelter. This is how the children of God should desire to live.

Beloved, do not be concerned with your temporal requirements. Our God who takes good care of even the little birds will certainly not abandon you. The one who clothes even the lilies of the wild will clothe you in the choicest fineries. When we seek His kingdom, will He not seek our well being? Do you remember Ruth’s mother-in-law, Naomi? Did she not earnestly desire for Ruth to be married? Do you think your heavenly Father will be any less concerned that Naomi was? Didn’t He tell you not to worry about tomorrow? Doesn’t He know more about your requirements than you do? If so, is it right for you to continue to linger in unbelief?

From this day forward, cast all your burdens, worries and needs upon Him and be concerned only about His heart’s desire. Listen to His first and foremost advice and pray for your country and its welfare. Try this for some time and see what happens in your life. Countless blessings will come upon you even before you realize it. As a man of God, I challenge you.

Welfare of the nation

Jeremiah, the prophet of God, addresses this truth. Only if the nation lives, can we also live. Listen to what he says. “And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive; and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace” (Jer. 29:7). Do you see how clearly God speaks?

Jeremiah is the prophet who foretold that the Israelites would be taken captive by the Babylonians. He advised the captives to pray for the country where they were held captive. How much more should we pray for our own country? Jeremiah is emphatic that our welfare depends solely upon the welfare of the nation. Only if there is peace in our country, will we enjoy a peaceful life. Only if the nation is prosperous, will we prosper. On the contrary, if chaos and confusion abound in the nation, it will certainly reflect in our homes and churches.

I am revealing an important spiritual truth here. The evil spirits that are active in any city will seek to enter and destroy the church if it is not concerned about the activities of the spirits. For example, if the spirits of division wreak havoc in a country, and the church does not do anything about it, these divisive spirits will attack the church and seek to destroy it. Thereafter there will be division, chaos and confusion in the local church. Then the spirits will come to our houses. If there are spirits of adultery in any city and the church does not take authority over them to bind them, they will seek entrance into our houses, and totally destroy our home. Therefore, it is really foolish to imagine that no matter what happens in the country, we will be safe. It never happens this way. This is precisely why the Lord emphatically commanded us to pray for the nation. Remember, when there is peace in the country, you will have peace.

For the Leaders

The Lord says, “Supplications, prayer, intercessions and giving of thanks be made to all men” (I Kings 2:1). He continues more specifically, “Pray for kings and all who are in authority”. Today magicians and god-men exercise much influence over the leaders of our nation-so much so, that they act as the ruler’s henchmen. But we, the representatives of the heavenly kingdom, are not in the least bit concerned for our leaders or their activities. But we constantly blame them for everything. The Lord is very sad that we are not praying for our leaders’ everyday.

Of the evil hierarchy, the principalities are constantly attacking national leaders. Once he gains control of a leader, Satan knows he can hold the entire nation for ransom. He plants his schemes in their minds so that the laws they enact bring about much confusion in the nation. This leads to civil disturbance, causing death and destruction.

But when we pray, the entire scenario changes. When Satan’s emissaries try to influence the thinking of those in leadership, the angels of God rise up against them. They repel the spirits and impart God’s counsel to the leaders. The result is peace in the nation. These battles take place in the spiritual realm. Victory or defeat in the spiritual realm is wholly dependent upon our prayers.

The Israelites under the tyranny of the pagan kings, brought the kings to their side, by praying to God. The chosen people of God knew their welfare was one with the welfare of the nation.

The prophet, Jeremiah, impressed upon the Jews taken enslaved to Babylon, to pray for their captors. Daniel, Ezra, Esther, Mordecai and others scrupulously followed this direction. They constantly interceded for the nation, as well as the national leaders.

This explains how a pagan king like Nebuchadnezzar, could prostrate himself before the only true God. The ancient Babylonian kings were a thousand fold worse than our present rulers. But the people of God interceded even on behalf of such wicked kings. You can read detailed accounts in the books of Daniel, Esther and Ezra. Every time, I read these books my heart rejoices for their obedience.

The kings of old sought sorcerers, magicians and astrologers more than we see today (see Daniel 2:2). But God, hearing the prayers of His people, reduced the power of magicians and their ilk. The magicians could not answer the king when he asked about his dreams. The king discovered these people were liars and reeled out years. But the men of God stood out in the crowd. The king and all those with him could see that they had the Spirit of God in them. Why do you think the king saw these things as he did? When his eyes were opened to the truth, the great Nebuchadnezzar prostrated himself before the slave, Daniel who had been brought captive to his kingdom. He commanded his men and courtiers to make obeisance and offerings to him (see Dan.2:46). What is the secret of this?

Nebuchadnezzar, the king, made an image of gold 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide. He commanded that every one should fall prostrate and worship the golden image. Whoever disobeyed would be cast immediately into the fiery furnace. The same king later ate his words and declared, "Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed Nego shall be cut in pieces and their houses shall be made an ash heap because there is no other God who can deliver like this" (Dan. 3:1,29). What caused such a reversal of his commands?

Instead of currying favor with the King for his own ulterior motives, Daniel stood up to him and boldly declared, "therefore, oh King, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity" (Dan.4:29).

Consider again why there are no such Daniels today who declare boldly to the rulers, "know ye today that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will and sits over it the lowest of men" (Dan.4:17).

The pagan kings formerly were totally immersed in idolatry, sent edicts and decrees declaring the power of God and His dominion to all their provinces saying, "I bless the Most High and praise and honor Him who lives forever. For His dominion is an everlasting dominion and His kingdom is from generation to generation" (Dan.4:1-2,34,35,37). What was the secret of this turn around?

The King was enjoying a great party with his noblemen and concubines. He had taken the golden vessels brought from the temple of God for the party, and profaned them. Suddenly the finger of God appeared and wrote his death sentence on the wall. How did this happen? (see Daniel chapter 5)

Dear saints! You love the Word of God, but do you think the book of Daniel is merely a parable? Why do you think God included this story in Scripture? Has the God of ancient times who perpetrated His judgment on the kings of the day immediately, totally changed? Has His glory diminished in any way? Or power decreased? Can't the same finger of God write today in the houses of the ministers and rulers? Can they not be turned around to declare that Jehovah is God? Do you think that your God is powerless to do this today?

Will He not give the same courage to His saints like Daniel, to speak to the rulers and officials courageously, that Jesus is Lord and there is no way for salvation except through Him? Why are similar Biblical-type episodes not seen in our country today?

We have not come before the Lord with tears, interceding for them. And we do not love them. We speak constantly about their short comings and faults and do nothing to deliver them. The righteous God is watching all of this. The Church of God will certainly be required to render accounts for such blunders.

Ministers of God

Dearly beloved, a Christian should never have partiality towards any leader. While exercising your franchise you may vote according to your liking. There is nothing wrong in that. It is your birthright. We, who pray to the Lord to give us a government according to his own heart, should accept any govern-

ment that is installed after an election as one given by God himself. This is the teaching of the Bible.

During the biblical days, the kings and officials were very cruel. Who was the reigning king when Paul wrote, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for kings? It was Nero, the most cruel king in the history of man kind. Paul wrote to us to pray for even such kings. How much more should we pray for our leaders who are elected by the people? The Bible never approves of any uprising of any kind against a government properly installed. Listen to what the Holy Spirit has written concerning this: Let every soul be subject to the governing authority except from God and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgement on themselves.

For rulers are not terrors to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid: for he does not bear the sword in vain: for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience sake. "For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers, attending continually to this very thing..." (Rom.13:1-6).

Every time I read these verses, I tremble. It is God who appoints the government and its rulers. Whoever is in authority is a minister of God. God Himself installs them, for His own purpose. This realization makes me tremble. Can the Holy Spirit speak to us any clearer than this? Even if we come up with thousands of excuses and reasons, we cannot escape God's command.

The next question is, are we expected to obey when anti-Christian laws are enacted? No! When the king installed the golden image 60 cubits high, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed Nego never prostrated before the image, even though ordered by the king. When the king issued an edict forbidding anyone to bow before any god except himself, did Daniel obey? No. When the question is to obey the heavenly king or the earthly king, the answer is to obey the heavenly king. We must never yield in these matters, even at the cost of our lives. Likewise, we must never raise our voice against any properly installed government. The governors and satraps of Daniel's time said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God" (Dan 6:5). Only those who lead such exemplary lives can turn our leaders towards God.

Beloved, ask yourself. How long do you pray every day, with divine love, for your leaders and rulers? Is it first on your prayer list? Do you consider this your prime responsibility? If you are not doing this, you have no right to criticize. It is written in the bible, "You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people" (Acts 23:5). A child of God should never favor any particular party. He should be zealous only for the kingdom of God. We should firmly believe that we will convert even the hardened leaders by our intercessions. When we pray for our leaders, God blesses us.

He, who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Yes, the nations welfare is in your hands!

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PROTECT YOUR BRAIN

Rev. Benita Francis

Dear family of God, in this chapter we will learn some tricky ways the enemy of your soul has devised for your destruction. We will expose the unfruitful works of darkness and overcome them once and for all (Eph.5:11). You will discover the hideaways of satan's tormentors in your mind and cast them out of your life. You will discover your God-given power to protect your brain and determine the course of your life.

Killing emotions

Remember, science speaks of "killing emotions"! Your emotions can really make you sick or healthy, and they can even kill you! Here once again, everything begins in your brain! Let us see:

How are emotions kindled? Surprisingly, brain investigators found out that emotions are actually produced as chemicals in your brain and then carried throughout your body by these chemicals released by your brain! They originate in thoughts and memories and are released throughout your entire body. They change the structure of your body all the way down to the cellular level!

Negative thoughts release negative chemicals that attack your blood vessels and pressurize your heart. They increase your blood pressure, oppress your immune system and flood your body with an overload of stress hormones. They actually alter your body cells so that they accept sickness and disease instead of fighting against it! The tragedy is that this whole reaction happens each and every time you think a negative thought and, as science puts it, "visit a toxic memory" in your brain!

Now, how can you stop "visiting" these negative memories? Let us imagine a situation where somebody hurt you very deeply. Again and again, that painful memory comes to your mind. You even experience physical pain. You want to cry every time you remember, or you get very angry and want to get some vengeance. Maybe you already tried to forget, but it still comes up in your dreams.

As you read God's Word, you will be convicted of your sin of unforgiveness and able to repent. You then

deliberately decide to forgive any offense done against you. By this, you get the old anger, negative feelings, thoughts and images out of your mind! By forgiving, you break the grip of the cruel tormentors sent against you by your own unforgiveness (Mt.18:34). Can you prove scientifically that a change has taken place? Yes, you can!

Positive memories look like lush trees full of foliage. Negative memories look like black holes in your brain. Every time you "visit" (remember) a negative memory, you make that bad memory stronger and bigger. The chemicals released each time you "visit" it will immediately put you under stress and make you sick.

The wonderful news, however, is that the moment you forgive, the restoration starts. You can reverse that destructive process in nothing more than four days! Praise the Lord!!!

Don't suppress - forgive!

We have seen that unforgiveness releases negative chemicals into your body and gives you over to tormentors who torture your soul and body (Mt.18). The problem is that many people only suppress their bad thoughts or memories instead of actively dealing with them. Hurts or misunderstandings are just "put aside" without ever addressing the issue.

People try to forget their problems, sometimes even using drugs or alcohol to achieve forgetfulness. The only thing they might achieve is to push that memory into the subconscious mind where it will continue creating havoc. They tend to suddenly surface and make you behave in a way you normally wouldn't choose.

For example, they can make you very suspicious or negative, unable to trust people, always searching for some hidden agenda behind every kind act. You try to keep everything in and around you under control by being a perfectionist, dominating and controlling. You will show sudden reactions that surprise those around you, or have strong convictions created by negative strongholds in your mind.

Suppressed memories create tremendous ongoing stress in your body and soul as your brain tries to keep them under control. In Mt.5:25 and Lk.12:58, our Lord Jesus warns us to agree with our adversary quickly and to make every effort to settle with him in order to avoid being thrown into prison. Imprisoning is actually a very good description for the mental, emotional and physical torment caused by unresolved conflicts, thoughts and emotions.

You can never erase a memory - but you can put a good one over a bad one! Hallelujah! If you deal correctly with your past hurts, you will be able to remember the situation, but you will no longer experience the pain and the physical manifestations that used to go with it. How does this happen?

Negative memories look like thorns trees, fruitless like a black hole. These thorns are created by the sudden surge of excess chemicals caused by your stress reaction to a negative thought or situation. If these thorns are not taken off the memories, they will keep releasing stress chemicals into your body throughout your life!

The only thing that can take off the thorns is “detoxifying your thinking” which we will study in detail in another chapter. Yet you can start TODAY by deciding to forgive that person and releasing him or her from your judgment. Start thinking and speaking blessing over the person. Actively reject any negative thought and immediately replace it with a positive thought. That takes work and strong discipline, but it is well worth the effort!

In as little as four days, you can get the thorns off that memory! Hallelujah! Then it takes another 21 days to establish a new memory without the thorns. In less than four weeks, you can go from a toxic, health-impairing memory to a healthy, life-giving memory!

Your free will

Brain investigators have now found out a specific region in your brain where your free will is located. You DO have a free will - your God has never left you as an impotent victim to the circumstances and happenings around you! You are the one who holds the key to your bright future by deciding to forgive and forget any offense.

The opposite is also true: you can lock yourself into a horrible, hellish suffering, tortured by tormentors, if you refuse to decide to forgive. Why is that? Can we find out through the improvements in techniques and science? Yes, definitely! All studies confirm and ex-

plain what our wise Creator commanded us in His Word thousands of years ago! You can really trust and rely on His Word. It is the sure Foundation to build your life on (Mt.7:24-25; 24:35).

In the thought process, God has actually placed three “checking stations” where you can decide to receive or discard a thought. This is very important because once you allow a thought or any information to come into your brain, it will be with you forever. It can never be erased! It could be placed in your conscious mind if you think about it strongly enough. If it was just a fleeting thought or impression, the connection to it could be “pruned away” during the night by little “vacuum cleaners” called glia cells - but it will remain in your brain for your lifetime!

That is the reason why our Lord Jesus admonishes us to “Take heed what you hear” and “Take heed how you hear” (Mk.4:24; Lk.8:18). **Whatever** you hear will stay with you - so better decide if you really want to hear what you are hearing! **However** you hear will decide where the information will be stored - in your conscious or in your subconscious mind. But make no mistake - even things in your subconscious mind will release chemicals into your body and can make you sick or healthy!

You can decide!

The funny thing is that if you decide to discard a thought, it actually evaporates into heat energy: it becomes hot air! You have the powerful, God-given ability to prevent a negative thought from becoming a memory in three “checking stations”!!! God has actually given you three possibilities to discard a thought, not only one. That means, even if you let a negative thought “escape” your control once and even twice, you can still “catch” and discard it at the third station!

You can thus prevent the installation of a factory that produces poisonous chemicals right within your own brain and body!!! You can just disapprove of the building plans, so to say, and cancel the whole thing! You are not a poor victim at the mercy of satan and his onslaught of negative thoughts and hurts hurled at you! YOU are in control! YOU have the power of decision! YOU can exercise your free will to decide what kind of memories you want to build in your brain, and what kind of memories you want to avoid!



This article is from the best seller
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Worshippers in the Holy Bible

(ABRAHAM)

Bro. Manuel Jeyaraj

I would like to write more truths from the life of Abraham (Genesis 17th & 18th Chapter). We have already learnt many things but God's word is a never drying fountain. We will try drawing as much as we can from it. May the Holy Spirit help us and show forth His light on whatever He desires to.

Worshippers can be empowered at any stage of hopelessness. So don't get dejected. When you think everything is over, when you think every word God spoke to you is nullified, when you are physically zero without any strength and power, that is the best time for God to empower you. Keep worshipping God. Keep giving glory to God. The Bible says, "And they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles" (Isa. 40:31). An eagle brings its strength down to zero to gain a fresh and renewed energy level. It plucks its feathers from its body until it loses everything and then waits and waits for the sunlight and the rain to fall on it. It sits and watches the sun for hours and hours together, gets drenched in the rain and thus receives its strength. After gaining fresh strength, it soars higher and higher in the sky and enjoys an elevated life style.

Abraham thought he had become old. Indeed he was old. He was ninety nine years old when the Lord appeared to him. Age is not a problem for God. But waiting on God will seem like a real test of patience. Many think waiting on God is a waste of time. It is not so. Even now, God likes you to wait on Him. But this waiting time is very different from what you have already learnt. This was not the time for Abraham to pray for the child blessing miracle because God had already completed the work (miracle) in his body. Even 25 years after the promise was given, Abraham continued to worship God by giving glory to Him and increased his faith. Imagine if you were in Abraham's place without hearing or seeing God for 25 years. That's it. You would have ended your life then and there. But our father of faith was faithful in one thing. He gave glory to God without doubt in his heart. What a great waiting upon the Lord! To me '**waiting' in this context means 'worshipping God unceasingly until**

God Himself shows up'. Time or age is not a problem for God because He holds times and seasons in His hands. **Everything is possible with Him at any time for anything and for any cause.**

A worshiper knows (should know) the name of the Lord and the power of His name. Abraham knew the name of the Lord that He is '**I am God Almighty**'. That was the Abraham's secret. In another context, Abraham called on the name of the Lord, '**The Everlasting God**' (Gen. 21:33). Maybe no other person in the world knew the name of the Lord except Abraham during his days on the earth. That is why in the New Testament Paul prays for the believers "that they may know Him". The real knowledge of God (His name) leads us to real worship. Worship God by saying out His names. Then little by little you will start knowing His name and the power of His name.

You may wonder what the outcome would be of knowing His name. Verily, verily I say unto you that **your name gets changed when you come to know His name.** That is what happened to Abram. God repeatedly told Abram that He is 'God Almighty' and that became the secret of Abraham. Well, He has a name that can not only change your name but your history and background as well. Abram's name became Abraham. 'Exalted father' became 'the Father of a multitude' and 'Sarai' became 'Sarah'. 'Woman' became 'Princess'. God reduced their age and made them feel young and energetic. If you feel you have lost your strength, renew your strength by knowing His name. Today, God encourages his real worshippers saying, "I am always a young God of complete youthfulness and they that come to me can never become old but shall be renewed again and again to youthfulness. I really worry when some saints of God stand on the pulpit and say that they have become old and weak. Let God give them the Spirit of revelation and understanding that they can never be old and weak because Christ Jesus is still alive in them with absolute youthfulness.

Worshiper, God admires you for who you are and what you give. You are His own possession. He

said to Abraham, “Walk before me and be blameless”. He could have said, “Walk before me blameless”. What do we learn here? He is asking us to walk (commune) so that he can admire us. Many want God to walk before them. But God commands Abraham to walk before Him. Now ‘walking’ here doesn’t mean ‘the real walking’. It actually means being in His presence continually so that He keeps His admiration on us. This is possible only through praise and worship. Ultimately, we become blameless. He literally admires us when we are full of worship (love) for Him. This becomes the breakthrough for many things in our lives. Many think they must worship God only at the time of worship in church and prayer meetings. No, we can also worship God continually which is simply ‘walking before Him’. This praise life is nothing but admiring Him by saying out His names and walking around Him and His goodness.

Now God said, “I will establish my covenant between me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly”(Gen.17:2). We all know that our God is a God of covenants especially to worshipers. But the amazing thing I found here are the words “I will multiply you exceedingly”. It comes at least 3 times in this passage just as the word ‘I’ comes several times. When God blessed Adam, He said, “Multiply and replenish the earth”(Gen.1:28). But to Abraham He said, “I will multiply you”. Ah! What an amazing word! God Himself multiplied Abraham by bringing His nature and strength into Abraham. He didn’t want Abraham to strive for this. God by nature never stood alone. He created man in His own image. Likewise, Jesus died so that he can give birth to many sons and daughters into His glory. Only when the seed dies, it produces bountifully. So God multiplies by nature. He brought that creative and productive power into Abraham. He multiplied Abraham in order to bring Jesus Christ into the lineage of Abraham. And that is why God Himself came forward to multiply Abraham. His plan was to make a holy generation to stand before Himself. His plan was to bring into existence a worshiping generation. His plan was to bless and increase a faith generation. His plan was to make Jesus to be born in the faith generation. To bring all the blessings of God on gentiles like us, God made Abraham believe in Him ‘God Almighty’. Look at the mystery behind the will of God. How can God forsake a worshiping man? God completely nullified the strength of Abraham to prove that His strength is greater than human strength. **A worshiper’s nature is to draw his strength from God.**

Worshippers are circumcised to worship God in spirit and truth. God made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants and asked him to practice this covenant for generations and generations. Remember this was initiated by God to be an everlasting covenant so that God would be God to all generations to come. Initially circumcision was of the flesh, but after the death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection, circumcision had a different meaning. **The cross-the circumcision crucified the flesh-the old man** on the cross with Jesus. The cross nullified and buried our flesh with Jesus. We do not belong to the flesh anymore but to the Spirit. Thus we became a spirit man with a regenerated spirit. A regenerated spirit is a worshiping spirit and a faith spirit. The flesh cannot dominate us because we belong to the Spirit. This circumcision was carried out in us by the Spirit of God and not by ourselves. We can never do this by ourselves. It is a free gift of God carried out by the Spirit of God. We need not work for this but only believe that it has already been done. God made Abraham to get circumcised so that we would receive the Spirit's circumcision. That’s why the Bible says “we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh”(Phi.3:3). Look at the very great plan of God. Look how a worshiper is given importance. You can never worship God in flesh. If you are capable to do so, you are not worshiping God but only satan and his angels. The spirit of man is the only part in man that has the ability to commune with God. And so, from your spirit you worship (commune with) God through the Spirit of God. And this worshiping process is not carried out by us but His Holy Spirit.

A worshiper’s lead song should be “Is anything too hard for the Lord? Everything is possible with God”. Miracles will flow like a river unceasingly when you worship your God, the God of all possibilities. Sing to your God that He is enough for any situation in your life. The angel of God challenged Abraham with this promise. Great was the outcome of the power of God.

A worshiper is an intercessor. God was unable to hide His plans of destroying Sodom and Gomorrah from Abraham. He had to transfer this message from His heart to Abraham because Abraham was His friend. **Worshippers are friends to the Holy Ghost.** He cannot hide His plans from a worshiper. He couldn’t hide His plans from Abraham. Why? Because, Abraham was a mighty worshiper before God. It was customary in Bible times for a high priest

to sacrifice animals on the altar to God and then sacrifice animals on the altar to God on people's behalf which was like an intercession. In the New Testament, we see our savior Jesus Christ who has become the Chief High Priest in the order of Melchisedek, not in the order of Aaron, worshiping God and interceding for us. We all have both the ministry of worship and intercession which are happening in heaven. That is what is also written by Apostle John in the book of revelation (Rev.5:8). Every worshiper has the ministry of harp and bowl. On one hand, you will have to worship God and on the other, you will have to intercede for nations and others. Apostle Paul says in Hebrews 3:1 that we are partakers of this heavenly calling (Apostolic calling). What God has united, let no man divide. I can never forget our dear annan Dr. Ezekiah Francis talking about the times he cried for India and the rest of the nations and also the hours he took to worship God concentrating on the presence of the Chief High Priest Jesus Christ. **Worshippers play a major role in the ministry of Intercession.**

A worshiper is a prophet and a mighty prince. When Abraham went to king Abhimelech, God warned king Abhimelech in a dream to restore Abraham's wife to him. At that time, God designated Abraham to be a prophet. In God's sight every worshiper is a prophet. All prophets can also be called worshippers. Both play their roles in this calling. Abraham functioned both as a worshiper and a prophet. It's up to you to specialize in any of them. Worshippers have a great responsibility of building the church and leading the church into His glorious presence so that nations will come to see His glory.

Worshippers, laughter and joy are the results of your true faith worship (prophetic worship). When Abraham continued to build altars and call on the name of the Lord, God was not silent about it. He decided to fill Abraham's heart and life with laughter. He gave Isaac to Abraham. 'Isaac' means 'Laughter'

Many times the church has believes that one needs to strive hard for joy and laughter. There is also another belief that laughter and joy come from outside a man. Both these beliefs are hundred per cent wrong and deceptive. God sent His Holy Ghost in us to lead us into the Kingdom of joy and laughter. That's why the Bible says, "The kingdom of God is nothing but righteousness, peace and 'joy' in the Holy Ghost". When you worship God, joy must fill your heart otherwise your worship is a waste of time and energy. Your sorrows will turn into joy if you start worshipping. It is meaningless if you cry for the situation wherein you are. Instead, praise Him with all joy.

Worshippers, you all have the ministry of leading the church into the joy and laughter of the Holy Ghost. Do not fail in this ministry. The joy of the Lord is our, your and my strength. Satan knows this and that's why he doesn't like the church to enter into this experience. He raises strong critics against this revelation and ministry of the Holy Ghost. Oh! Church, allow this ministry and bring thousands and thousands into this joy of the Lord. Oft times I have seen our dear annan Dr. Ezekiah Francis leading people into this joy followed by countless and outstanding miracles.

Beloved, I can write many more truths from the life of Abraham. But I have written only from what the Holy Ghost taught me. I believe you have learnt the blessings of worship from the life of Abraham. And I also believe that you are determined to worship the Lord as never before. God has many special things for us who live in this age of great outpouring of His Spirit. The Holy Ghost wants to show His power to the whole world. He trusts true worshippers. Will you be trustworthy? Can He believe you?

Then start worshipping with me - "How Great is our God! Sing with me, How Great is our God!, And all will see, How Great!, How Great is our God!..."



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→ In the third leadership change in four years of BJP rule hit by intra-party feud, Jagadish Shivappa Shettar was sworn in at the head of a 34-member ministry with two deputy chief ministers for the first time in Karnataka's history.

→ Three dozen Indian passengers have died in a bus accident in Nepal's southern district of Nawalparasi. The bus carrying unspecified number of passengers, plunged into the Gandak canal near the Nepal-India border on 15th July.

→ Indian-American record-setting astronaut Sunita Williams along with her two colleagues on 15th July took off for her second space odyssey on a Russian Soyuz rocket, which blasted off successfully from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

→ Britain's oldest working bulb was found at Margate, Kent, in 2008. Experts estimated it was made in 1895-15 years after US genius Thomas Edison invented the light bulb.

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