

FROM THE DEPTH OF MY HEART..

OUR ADDRESS

Berachah Prophetic Ministries
#81, 4th Cross Street
Senthil Nagar, Kolathur
Chennai - 600 099

PHONE

+91-44-2650 1290
+91-44-2650 1390

EMAIL

info@ezekiahfrancis.org

WEBSITE

www.ezekiahfrancis.org

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My dear precious partners in Christ,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

God has carried us all through these seven months in His arms. Let us thank Him always for all things that He has done in our lives. He is alone worthy to all our praises.

We had a wonderful ministry in Germany. God refreshed us and used us to bless Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Thank you so much for lifting us up in your prayers and supporting us. May the Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given to you by the Lord God of Israel (Ruth 2:12).

Our first "Liberty Camp" started with eighty students from different parts of India on July 1st in our Campsite. We faced resistance and many struggles from the enemy, but always victory is ours. Our dear brother Binush and his team from Life Challenge Ministries did a powerful ministry along with our team, full of God's burden and compassion for the students who came hopeless and feeling so worthless. God opened their eyes and delivered them emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. The chains of addiction were broken and the people were set free. Few of them stayed back to attend our three months course. Pray that they all should become mighty servants of God and take vengeance against the devil who is trapping people in this cruel addiction and destroying individuals, families and societies.

Pray for our School of the Holy Spirit for Men and Couples which started on 1st of August. Pray that the students may experience a total transformation in every area of their lives and enjoy the fullness of Christ's glory. Watch out for the detailed report in our next magazine. Encourage and send right candidates for the 6th batch of our School of the Holy Spirit for Women in the month of November.

Our 37th batch of Short Term Intensive Course starts from August 12th to 22nd, 2014. God is so faithful to fulfill His vision given to this ministry. He has raised mighty servants of God through this course over the years. Already we closed the registration but if you have not yet applied, we give you one more chance to do it today. Go to our website www.ezekiahfrancis.org and register online, or call our office immediately. Get ready for greater levels of manifestation in your life and through your life.

Good News: We have organized Holy Ghost Explosion seminars in Hyderabad, Bhopal, Pune and Delhi. The Holy Ghost is ready to

explode through your life. The question is, are you ready? Join us and register online or by phone. See the advertisements in this issue. Please pray and encourage people to participate.

God has given us a vision to establish schools in other states of India and in Europe. We are praying for the clear guidance of the Lord to show us the right place and the right people. This is the time of harvest. The mandate God has given us is to raise up Jesus-kind of harvesters. Pray and participate to fulfill His vision.

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph.5:18-20).

Never forget: You are called to praise, not to speak problems. Jesus, your role model, never complained even once. You are in Christ. His sweet nature springs up within you. Draw from this well of salvation in you constantly. You are God's spring of fresh water. No bitter or salty water comes from your spirit, only rivers of living water (Jn.7:38). Only blessings proceed from your mouth. You are God's grapevine. No matter how pressurized you are, only sweet, heart-delighting vine will ooze out of you. You will please God and men with your new nature. The destroyer cannot use your tongue to destroy you or anyone else. Live in your new nature TODAY!

Pray for my wife, our families, our leaders and our staff in Poondi and Chennai. Pray for all our programs.

May the Lord use you mightily in this end time harvest and empower you to face all the challenges victoriously. The One who began a good work in you will complete it (Phil.1:6).

Yours brother in Christ,



Worship – The Beginning and the End

Dr. Ezekiah Francis

The Bible can be called a book of worship. The main theme of the scriptures lies in the opening phrase of Genesis “In the beginning God”.

Since worship lingers around God, worship was also there in the beginning. It was the personal experience of all the saints of yore. Their whole attention was on God and it was their prime purpose in life. Of all the aids of grace, worship is the highest and the important. As God reigns supreme over the entire universe, worship is above all other experiences. Prayer is a marvelous gift of grace, but it stands only next to worship in importance. Evangelism is of course essential but worship has greater significance. Praise and worship need to be restored to the church once again. Let us examine the bible as a book of worship.

Angels

The angels, who praised and worshipped God, still serve Him in glory. But those who would not, have lost their glory and wander as Satan and his hosts. Just think how disastrous it is to fail in the matter of worship.

Adam

As long as Adam and Eve sought God and worshipped Him, they were immersed in exuberant joy, in His presence in the Garden of Eden when Eve heeded Satan and Adam in turn inclined to her they drifted faraway from God, lost their divine glory and the joyous life of Eden. They lost everything and plunged mankind into spiritual darkness. Worship brings forth radiance of His Glory where neglect of worship pushes people into the gloomy presence of Satan.

Abel

Abel, who worshiped aright, has been hailed as righteous man and first martyred. Cain, who failed, became a murderer and fugitive thus worship is the scale by which a person is exalted as righteous or condemned as wicked.

Seth

The descendants of Seth worshipped God and received glory (Gen.4:26). The descendants of Cain, who did not worship, bore the curse. Enoch and Noah who walked with God descended from Seth. Only the true worshippers can beget upright servants of God and bring blessings upon their descendants. Those who failed to worship God were drowned in the mighty flood. Indeed praise and worship determines the eternal destiny of an individual.

Noah

Noah knew the power of praise built an altar to God and worshipped Him with burnt offerings. When the Lord smelled it as a ‘sweet savour’ he said in His heart, “I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake

While the earth remaineth

Seed time and harvest

And cold and heat,

And winter and summer,

And day and night

Shall not cease” (Gen. 8:21, 22)

It is due to worship that we enjoy all the

blessings of seasons, harvest and seed time. The mist and rain that water the ground are the results of true worship. Truly worship pacifies the wrath of God and brings Prosperity to the nations.

Abraham

Abraham, a descendant of Noah was an incomparable worshipper. God called him out of idol worship and made him a Jehovah worshipper. Through his descendants all the nations are blessed. Yes, the generations of the worshippers are a blessed race upon the earth.

Abraham built altars wherever he went and worshipped God. His most treasured relationship was with God. Each time God made a fresh promise to him; he built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord. The Lord appeared to him ten times. Yes, only the one who has made worship a practice can see God; can become an intimate friend of god; can receive revelations from God and be a prophet. Worship is essential in order to receive and inherit God's promises.

Isaac

Isaac rejoiced perceiving God from various angels. He saw God as his Master, as Jehovah, and as Elshaddai - The Almighty God. He built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord. Immediately after this, King Abimelech who once drove him away with enmity came voluntarily to make a covenant of peace with him. He also bore witness "Surely God is with thee". Yes, worship wins for us the respect of our enemies. When our ways please Him, even our enemies would become our friends as He promised (Gen. 26:25-31).

Jacob

Jacob also venerated God. He too built an altar and worshipped Him. His children were blessed of god, so that each became the head of a tribe. Esau who failed to worship God inclined his heart to his fleshly desire and lost his birthright. But Jacob worshipped God even in dying moments (Heb. 11:21). He was renamed Israel and a nation was named after him. Even today the

names of true worshippers are honored.

The Israelites

When the Israelites were In Egypt, they did not worship God. How could they, when in bondage? They were in the great agony when there was no worship. They groaned under the weight of the yoke. The Lord heard their groaning and looked upon them. He remembered His covenant with His true worshippers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He delivered the children of Israel and brought them out of Egypt so that they might worship Him. We too have been set free only to worship Him. Through Moses the Lord spoke to Pharaoh again and again," Let My people go, that they may worship Me". When he refused, the lord sent terrible plagues to correct him. Yes, it is dangerous to prevent people from worshipping God. Opposing worship is the main cause for most of the plagues and afflictions in the lives of many today.

Prosperity and Adversity

Redeemed Israel arrayed behind mosses singing and praising God. They progressed every time they worshipped God. But whenever they lost the sense of gratitude and murmured against Him, they were destroyed. This was their history during their forty years in the wilderness. Worship determines a person's advancement or annihilation. Three thousand who worshipped the golden calf faced death. Twenty four thousand died of plague when they were lured by the beauty of the Moabite woman and went after their gods. Whenever they swerved from the worship of God, death and destruction was their portion. Wrong worship engulfed many.

The Sanctuary

To turn the hearts of the wandering Israelites and make them worship Him, the Lord made them to construct a sanctuary for Him. Detailed instructions regarding the tabernacle, the choice of wood for the ark of covenant, its measurements, the mercy seat, the Cherubim, the table, the lamp, the veils, the sacrifices and the attire of the priests

are all given in Scriptures. So many chapters and hundreds of verses have been set aside for these details. This shows the emphasis God has placed on worship.

As a boy, I used to wonder why such elaborate description of the Tabernacle ran through many pages of the Bible. But when I understood God's expectations concerning worship, all my questions vanished. The book Leviticus is centered on worship. This book explains in detail the sacrifices, offerings, sanctification needed for worship and different feasts to be celebrated. These eventually explain the significance of God attaches to worship. God has taken two chapters of the Bible to explain the creation of the entire universe. But he has allotted several chapters to describe every single details of worship. Has he not expressly spoken, "The people I have formed for myself; they shall declare my praise" (Is. 43:21 NKJV). Oh! How much God's heart longs for worship?

The Priests

The Lord set apart the priests for His service. As priests offered worship, they were the ones to encamp every near to the tabernacle. The Levites encamped only after the order of the priests. This order of encampment suggests that those who worship God dwell closer to him than others.

Among the Israelites a man had to be twenty years old, to be enlisted in the army. But to serve in the sanctuary, a Levite had to be at least twenty five years of age; whereas to serve as priests the sons of Aaron had to pass the age of thirty (Num.1:3; 8:24; 4:3) because the priests who served in the place worship had to be spiritually mature. Worship is the most noble, marvelous, essential and foremost service to God.

The Judges

The time of the Judges too were centered around worship. After the time of the godly generation, there arose a neither new generation which did know the lord nor miracle he had done for Israel. They forsook the Lord, and worshipped the Baal and provoked the Lord to anger.

Therefore He sold them into the hands of the enemies. Whenever they repented and turned back to Him. He raised up the Judges to deliver them. When they repeatedly departed away from Him, He subjected them to be subdued by their enemies. Worship is the secret of victory over one's enemy.

The Kings

The same trend continued even during the period of the Kings. Whenever the people and the Kings sought the Lord and worshipped Him, He established them. When they worshipped false god, He scattered them and stuck them down. Saul who failed in worship was rejected while David the worshipper was exalted. David was one who set the order of praise and worship. Worship is not a David's invention, it organized from God. David was tribe of Judah which means praise. So was David's life. He praised God in all circumstances and therefore was ever victorious.

David

Saul did not seek the Ark of God during his reign.(1 Chr. 13:3). But David desired to bring the Ark of the Covenant right into the capital as soon as he became the King. He changed the order of worship. He blessed the Lord at all times and praise was continuously in his mouth. For him, the lord was worthy to be praised all through the day. Therefore he appointed priests to praise and sing unto the Lord night and day. He poured out his emotions to God and rejoiced in him. He celebrated in His god who reigns in Zion. Besides, he longed to change all the people as people of worship. All the godly kings who followed him were victorious. The wicked kings who worshipped mammon and idols lost their nation and were destroyed totally by their enemies.

The Prophets

The exhorted godly people to raise up, love God walk in his ways. They condemned false worship. People who listened to them were protected from destruction and protected.

The Saints in Exile

The Israelites who were taken captive to

Babylon failed to worship their God. Because of this, they had to face many hardships. There they remembered Zion and lamented. It was during this period, faithful worshippers arose among them. Daniel worshipped the Lord unceasingly. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship anything other than the true God, walked through the fiery furnace and came out of it unscathed. Zerubbabel and Joshua came to Jerusalem and offered burnt offerings as instructed in the Law of Moses. They blew trumpets, sounded cymbals and sang songs of praise in turn, as king David commanded. Ezra and Nehemiah revived the worship at Jerusalem. They gathered the people together and worshipped the magnificent Lord. They celebrated feasts. While singing songs of praise they rebuilt the temple of the Lord and the walls of Jerusalem.

The Son of David

The lamp of worship initially lit by David was later extinguished. David's tabernacle had fallen. Jesus, the Son of David had to rise up the tabernacle of David. He restored the spirit of worship. At His birth, praise and worship exploded. Mary rejoiced and sang

“My soul doth magnify the Lord,

And my spirit hath rejoiced

In God my Savior” (Lk.1:46)

Elizabeth and Zachariah both praised the God of Israel with gladness. A heavenly host appeared to the shepherds, praised God and said,

“Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, good will toward men”
(Lk.2:14)

Having worshipped the baby Christ, these shepherds returned “glorifying and praising God all the things they had heard seen, as it was told unto them” (Lk.2:20). Wise men from the East also came to worship Him. They fell down and worshipped Christ though He was only a baby (Lk.2:11). They were blessed ones who saw God

face to face in a dream. Simon took baby Jesus into his arms and praised God. So did Anna, the prophetess, who worshipped the Lord day and night. Thus, at Christ's birth worship abounded everywhere.

If there was so much worship at the first advent of Christ, how much more of the Spirit of worship shall be poured out at His second coming? If those who awaited the first coming of Christ prepared themselves with much praise and worship, how much more should we prepare ourselves for His glorious return?

The Lord commanded at Christ's birth, “Let all the angels of God worship Him” (Heb.1:6). Therefore, it is certain that a similar command would be given at His second coming also. Paul wrote,

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven

With a shout, with the voice of the Archangel,

And with the trumpet of God” (1Thes. 4:16)

With exuberant worship Christ will reappear. He came with worship and He will come again with worship. While lived on earth He was worshipped continually. Now He receives worship from the saints in glory, from angels and from His people living on earth.

During the Gospels

The leper fell at Jesus' feet and worshipped Him. His skin became like that of a child and he was accepted in the society. They had been turned to blessing and worship has brought about the change. When Jairus, a ruler, worshipped Jesus, he witnessed a miracle in his household. His daughter who was dead was restored to him alive (Mt.9:18). Praise inspires God to perform miracles.

When the disciples saw the fierce gale of wind and the tossing sea cease, they worshipped Him saying “Truly you are the son of God!” (Mt.14:32,33). How many times has the Lord stilled the storms of our lives? How often has He lifted us up from the overwhelming problems of

our lives? Should we not exalt such a great God and offer our gratitude and adoration? The more we draw close to Him, the more we should worship Him.

There was a woman of Canaan who came and worshipped Jesus, and her daughter was healed of demonic possession. The blind man who received sight worshipped Him, when He realized that Jesus was the Son of God. Even the unclean spirits trembled and bowed before Him. The man possessed by the legion also fell at His feet and worshipped Him. When Mary Magdalene and her friends met the resurrected Lord, they fell at His feet and worshipped Him. Theirs was a rare blessing of being the first to behold the Risen Lord. The eleven disciples worshipped the Lord as He ascended to heaven. Thus there was worship at the Lord's birth and also at His ascension to heaven. He received worship as a leader, savior and master. All who saw His majesty were impelled to worship Him. Such was His glory!

The Early Church

The early church was also a worshipping church. After bidding farewell to Jesus, the disciples returned to Jerusalem and spent their time in prayer and worship (Lk. 24:52, 53). This was before they received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. But when they were filled, they praised God and as the Spirit gave them utterance, declared in various tongues, the wonderful works of God. There was praise before and after Pentecost.

The worshipping leaders give birth to praising churches. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the lord added to their number daily, those who were being saved (Acts 2:46, 47 NIV). The early church abode the presence of God and abounded in worship. A worshipping church is a joyous church that has favor with all the people. It indeed, grows and expands every day. Not only the church of Jerusalem, but the church of Antioch too was a worshipping church. It was a church which fasted

and worshipped God. At such times the servants of God received the revelations of the Holy Spirit. They sang songs and worships God in the midst of trials and tribulations. Praises bring forth miracles in turn raise up sounds of praise.

The Epistles

The Epistles exhorted the church to praise God for everything. The main theme of the epistles is to glorify God with Spirit, soul and body. The next important purpose is to teach the church what the Lord has accomplished on their behalf for the glory of His grace. Instructions such as "rejoice in the Lord always" and "If a man is happy, let him sing psalms" emphasize continual worship. Epistles affirm that Spirit filled life is a life of worship.

The final Book

Lastly, the book of revelation reveals the beauty of worship. In every picture of heaven given in this book, the aroma of worship could be sensed. To be practice, the Bible can be called a book of worship. The more read and meditate on the word of God, the more we will see God, praise and worship Him. We have looked into the record of worship and its outcome of the Bible is to inspire God's people to worship Him and taste its sweetness by being partakers of this divine service.

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Prophet Ezekiah Francis

Rev. Benita Francis

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Soul ties and relationships

Rev. Benita Francis

Will soul ties allow you to experience joyful, peaceful, fulfilling relationships? Let me say it once again: A soul tie is an unhealthy connection of two souls that is used by Satan to afflict people. Many people suffer terribly in relationships and finally decide to get out of them through divorce or by taking their own living quarters! In my city Nuremberg, Germany, over 50% of the houses or apartments are occupied by only one person. What a horror!

I never forget our outreaches to mental institutions. We tried to bring the love of Jesus there, but it was very difficult since there, every patient was just living in his own little world, totally oblivious of the others around. Most of these patients had not been able to cope with their relationships and had somehow just 'shut down' their mind and emotions. That is what had brought them into a mental institution! It was horrible to see, like hell on earth!

I have ministered to tramps who took the decision to live on the streets instead of living in a house. Many times, they keep big dogs as their best and closest friends. I remember one extremely intelligent man who used to be a lawyer. He was dirty, stinking, with long cluttered hair and fingernails, and he traveled with a big dog. His story was heart-breaking. He had been unable to cope with the pressures in his marriage and finally 'dropped out of society' by his own choice. What a tragedy! He didn't know the Blood of Jesus can cleanse relationships and make them the greatest blessing on earth, as long as we keep Jesus first (Mt.6:33)!

Soul ties can really destroy your life! I want to study with you the case of one of the most anointed

personalities in the entire Bible. His birth was a miracle since his mother was barren. It was announced by the Angel of the Lord Himself. Even his lifestyle was predetermined by heaven. His mother had to abstain from anything that comes from the vine and eat nothing unclean. He was to begin to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines. God's blessing was upon him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to move him (Jdg.13).

During his lifetime, he did many mighty miracles by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He tore a lion apart and killed Philistines with his bare hands. He caught three hundred foxes, broke ropes like flax burned with fire, killed thousand enemies with a donkey's jawbone, pulled up the city gate and gateposts and destroyed the Philistines' main temple with his bare hands (Jdg.14:6,19; 15:4,14-15; 16:3,30). And yet, he died among his enemies, a blind prisoner, a mockery the Philistines made fun of. Why???

From the very beginning, women were his big problem. He allowed his Philistine wife to entice him and press him (Jdg.14:15-17). A harlot almost cost him his life (Jdg.16:1-3). Since he didn't heed all these warnings, he finally met Delilah who would become his doom. See what the Bible says in Judges 16:16-17:

16 And it came to pass, when **she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death,**

17 that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my

strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man” (Jdg.16:16-17).

When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines to capture Samson. Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him (v.19). When he woke up to see his enemies, he could not shake himself free because the Lord had departed from him. He was taken captive, his eyes were taken out; he was bound with bronze fetters and became a grinder in the prison.

What a tragic end for one of the most anointed people in history! Luckily, Samson came to his senses, repented before God and asked for one more opportunity. Our merciful Lord forgave him and allowed him to kill more Philistines than ever before, but at the cost at his own life (Jdg. 16:28-30).

Had there not been a soul tie involved, Samson could have easily walked away from that ungodly relationship with a Philistine woman. He could have taken authority and not allowed her to pester and torment him so severely. But alas, he was bound by soul ties. His spirit couldn't dominate. The soul ties that bound him were stronger even than the ropes of the Philistines. He was unable to keep the precious calling of God on his life and the secret of his strength. Soul ties can destroy even the most heavily anointed person!

Never be afraid of breaking soul ties! Samson allowed his soul ties and was cruelly killed. Abraham cut his soul ties and received Isaac back from the dead (Heb. 11:19). Allowing a soul tie in your life brings death, but cutting a soul tie brings resurrection! Always make sure your spirit dominates each and every relationship in your life, and be the deliverer God intends you to be!

Soul ties also make family relationships very difficult and complicated. The undue attachment of soul ties makes people to be easily hurt and offended. It can lead to the formation of hostile groups inside a family. Quarrels and misunderstandings between brothers and sisters, as well as the world-famous problems between mother-in-law

and son-in-law or daughter-in-law are just some of the examples. In many cases, the hidden reason for their fighting is their competing for the love and acceptance of parents or elder siblings or claims family members think to have over each other.

Very often, people who are bound by such soul ties suffer tremendously for years. They suspect anybody who talks to the person their soul is bound to. They fear anybody could break into their relationship or influence that person negatively towards them. This constant strain on their emotions can actually make them sick, causing high blood pressure, sleeping trouble, digestive problems, stress and mental exhaustion. Some victims of soul ties finally rebel against this constant torture and violently break the relationship once and for all. Why should you allow that? Better cleanse it by the powerful Blood of Jesus and make it a God-pleasing relationship where both partners are free to love and obey God first and then only men (Ac.5:29)!

Especially mothers are prone to develop soul ties with their children at the cost of their relationship with their husband. Let me give you a strict warning and advice here: The best asset you can give to your children in life is a happy marriage! Happy parents have happy, emotionally healthy children that will also be able to build happy, healthy homes when their time comes. Soul ties with the children and the resulting marriage problems will very much affect your children's emotional health and well-being.

Our Lord Jesus gives us a wonderful example on how to deal with soul ties. His mother Mary knew very well that He was engendered by the Holy Spirit, not by any human being. Her relationship with her son must have been very special since she knew from the words of the angel Gabriel as well as from different saints of God that her Son was the Savior of the world (Lk. 1:19; 2:25-38). She was chosen to bear Him in her womb and to bring Him up in a God-pleasing way.

Very interestingly, there are different words in Greek for 'son'. One is 'huios', a more general word that is often connected to religious situations. Normally, the Lord Jesus would be described as 'huios', the Son of Man, Son of God, Son of David,

My beloved Son, Thy Son, only begotten Son, David's Son, firstborn Son etc. The other one is 'teknon', which denotes a more intimate, affectionate and reciprocal relationship formed between men by the bonds of love, friendship and trust, just as between parents and children.

We can infer that Mary, although keenly fulfilling her role as a mother, would have kept that sense of awe before her God-begotten Son and used the word 'hyius'. And yet, there was one incident where her soul 'took over'. You can read the entire incident in Luke 2:41-52. When Jesus was twelve years of age, He lingered behind in Jerusalem, listening to the teachers of the law and asking them questions. Mary and Joseph were anxiously searching for Him. Let me add a little side note: If you become anxious about another person, this is a warning sign for soul ties! Better check your heart and purify that relationship by the mighty Blood of Jesus!

48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son (TEKNON!), why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Lk.2:48-49).

See our Lord Jesus' reaction! At only twelve years of age, He instantly countered his mother's soulish approach with the Word of God, reminding her of His heavenly calling and mission! He did not react in a harsh way, nor did He hurt her or show any disrespect. He just made His priorities clear!

You will have to do exactly the same thing many times. There is no need to hurt loving people. Just make sure you keep your heavenly calling and mission before your eyes and proclaim it whenever needed. Peter and the other apostles even had to make this declaration before the highest council of Jerusalem! They could boldly state, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Ac.5:29)! That was the secret of their spiritual success and their miracle power!

Now let us return to the situation in Jerusalem:

50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Lk.2:50-52).

See the reaction of Mary and Joseph! They just could not understand! That will also happen to you over and over again. Don't despair! This is just one of the tests of your faith and faithfulness God puts you through.

I had this experience in my own family. I remember one situation where I was doing ministry in Argentina when I got a phone call from home. My mother in Germany had to be admitted in hospital, and my father was on a business trip overseas. It was a big shock for me as their only child, and the burden of responsibility wanted to make me take the next flight back to Germany.

When I prayed, however, the Lord impressed on me that I had to accomplish my ministry in South America and trust Him and His angels to take care of my mother. That was extremely difficult for me to do, but I just obeyed the Lord and tried to keep the anxiety from attacking my mind and soul. Praise God, the Lord was faithful (as He is always!), and my mother could be released from hospital very soon and without any further complications.

Years later, my parents told me that they had heard a message about the life of Jesus and His relationships with His parents, disciples, well-wishers and enemies. They confessed that they couldn't sleep the whole night, discussing many events from our family life. They told me, "Now only we understand many of your actions! You were really putting God's Kingdom first in your life, and even though it looked cruel to us at that moment, we now see the blessings that came even upon us as you tried to follow God's will for your life." Praise the Lord!

You will never be put to shame if you keep Jesus your first love (Rev.2:4)! Keep your humble, loving attitude. Patiently await your God-given time. Keep your heavenly goal before your eyes, and you will

not be shaken (Ps.16:8). As you refuse to allow people to develop soul ties with you, you will increase in wisdom and favor with God and men! You will run straight toward your calling without allowing any strings to entangle you!

Soul ties can cause death and destruction and even the breakdown of national relationships. Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, violated Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and his soul was strongly attracted to her. This soul tie brought war and great trouble over two nations. Let us see in Genesis chapter 34 how it all began. Dinah went out to see the daughters of the land...

2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and **lay with her, and violated her.**

3 **His soul was strongly attracted** to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he **loved** the young woman and **spoke kindly** to the young woman (Ge.34:2-3).

As we have seen, soul ties can develop by sexual contact. This young man was a noble man and tried to direct this soul tie into a healthy relationship, but to no avail. What begins badly will end badly. He sent his father to ask the young woman to be given to him as a wife. Imagine! Hamor, the prince of the country, went to ask Jacob for his daughter as a wife for his son! Who would not have rejoiced at such an opportunity to come into blood relationship with the royal family? See all the benefits Hamor offered:

8 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "**The soul of my son** Shechem **longs for your daughter**. Please give her to him as a wife.

9 And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves.

10 So you shall **dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it.**"

11 Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and **whatever you say to me I will give.**

12 Ask me **ever so much dowry and gift,** and I **will give according to what you say to me;** but give me the young woman as a wife" (Ge.34:8-12).

And yet, even here we see that ungodly soul ties never lead to a good end. Dinah's brothers were grieved and very angry and spoke deceitfully to Hamor and Shechem because he had defiled their sister (Ge.34:13). I infer that even here a soul tie was at work: Simeon and Levi were so angry because of the blood relationship soul tie with Dinah.

7 And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were **grieved and very angry,** because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done (Ge.34:7).

Dinah's brothers apparently consented to Shechem's plea and asked for only one thing: all the males of the nation had to be circumcised. They gave a beautiful spiritual explanation for it, but it was nothing but a war strategy born out of anger over sin and a soul tie. Hamor and his entire nation agreed and were circumcised. Let us see what happened after that.

25 Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.

26 And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out (Ge.34:25-26).

What did this anger actually accomplish? It totally destroyed their sister's life! According to that culture, she had to remain a widow in her father's

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house until her death. In a few hours of horror, she was plucked out of her position as future queen of the nation and cast into widowhood and shame. Soul ties never accomplish anything good!

The entire nation was plundered and destroyed by the sons of Jacob. Did God agree with their deed? Definitely not! God decided not to have His secret counsel with them because of their anger, self-will and cruelty. They actually brought a strong curse of scattering on their descendents forever: “Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel” (Ge.49:5-7). See here again: Soul ties never bring anything but curse and destruction!




30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “**You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I**” (Ge.34:25-30).

The outcome of this ungodly soul tie was

national destruction and fear. Not only Hamar’s nation but also other nations would rise up to destroy. Once anger and bitterness is conceived and released, it will spread like cancer and defile many (Heb.12:15).

Even today, people sometimes try to attract others to themselves in order to accomplish their goal. Sex and soul ties are used as a tool or a weapon even in national relationships. National leaders try to marry their children to the children of another nation’s leader in order to assure peace and good economic relationships. If such marriages lead to trouble or divorce, however, the peace among these nations is also at stake! In European history, horrible wars have been sparked by such soul ties turned hatred and the vengeance taken by family members.

Soul ties have the potential to spread a hatred and bitterness that can even disturb the peaceful relationships of nations! Make sure you are free of them, and use all your influence and abilities to warn others against them, in Jesus’ Name!

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