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BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS

Dr. Ezekiah Francis

Last month we saw that we should not doubt the generous nature of God. We read that the triune God desires to pour His bountiful blessings on us. If that is so, we need to know how God wants to bless us. What are the blessings He has in store for us? It is a pity that today many live in lack due to their ignorance.

God laments, *“My people are destroyed by their foolishness. Their foolishness leads them into slavery”*. We must first know our God. Then we must recognize the blessings He has kept for us. If Isaac did not discover Abraham’s wells, how could he dig them and enjoy the benefits? We have not enjoyed even a thousandth of our Father’s blessings. So start seeking and discovering those springs of blessings. When the church starts experiencing the joy of the blessings a mighty revival is sure to explode! Amen!

Jacob suffered due to famine as well as the loss of his favorite son Joseph. As he grew old and senile he lost all hopes of ever seeing Joseph alive again. He resigned to die a miserable man. One day his sons brought the delightful news that Joseph was alive. Jacob’s weak heart grew faint and he refused to believe them. When the excited sons narrated all the conversations they had with Joseph and showed him the carts sent by Joseph to carry his father to him, the spirit of Jacob their father, revived (Gen.45:25-27).

Are you heartbroken like Jacob today? Have you lost all hopes of ever having a prosperous future? Do worries about your children overwhelm you? Have

you resigned to live with what little you have? Do you think it is not God’s will that you should prosper? Do past memories remind you of ‘troubled days’? Have you decided that amidst your struggle for survival, God can never make you a blessing for others?

Take heart and cheer up! Pour out your heart to your Father God to shower all the blessings He has promised to give His children. Visualize the blessings. Your Spirit will be revived. The Holy Spirit will prompt your spirit to rise with faith. He will make you inherit all the promised blessings.

The Lord is giving you a thousand fold blessing like that of Jacob. Joseph contributed from the limited supplies of Egypt. But our Savior is ready to pour over us from the plentiful supplies of heaven and earth. Ignorance is the stumbling block that hinders our blessings. It drowns us in drudgery and we neither know, nor remember God’s promises. If at all we remember those wonderful promises, doubt prevents us from enjoying them. We doubt God’s word and become faint like the unbelieving Jacob.

You are going to possess bounties that you did not even dream of. Pray wholeheartedly, “Father, I refuse to miss all the blessings which you have planned for me because of ignorance and doubt. Please open my eyes to see all the treasures hidden in the Bible”. Drive away the spirit of contentment that arrests approaching blessings.

The Lord is ever ready to bless us in every way.

He delights to see us cherishing them. Repeat this verse over and over again till your spirit vibrates with joy.

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ' (Eph. 1:3).

There is no resource that is not in Christ. When we accept Christ, our spirit merges with Him. He dwells in us and we in Him. The Father's will is to graft us into Jesus Christ who is full of blessings, so that we may overflow with those blessings. How could Paul who got this marvelous revelation refrain from thanking the Father? Do you believe that you are dwelling in Christ? Then you have dominion over every possible spiritual blessing. Hallelujah!

The Bible reveals that both spiritual blessings and material blessings co-exist. Peter says, *"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue" (II Pet. 1:3,4).*

When we accept the Lord who calls us, His divine power bestows every need of our life on earth. And it doesn't stop there. That power directs us into a god fearing life of godliness. Once you accept Him you have double fold blessings of earthly as well as spiritual needs.

John agrees with Paul and Peter in this regard. *'Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers' (III John. 2).* It is God's divine will that you live a

prosperous life spiritually and materially. When this truth dawns on you, you will not hesitate to ask Him for all those gifts according to His will.

We have the assurance that when we ask in accordance with His will, God answers our prayers. Unless you are deeply assured of this, you cannot fully inherit any blessing. First search the word and find all the blessings God has designed for you. Pick out God's promises from the Bible and write them out separately. Continually read them until your spirit is set ablaze. Picture yourself enjoying them. Change your attitude to suit the promises.

I have summarized God's blessings meant for you below. Add your individual findings to this list.

Spiritual blessings

God sees an individual as a full man. But for a better understanding I split it up as spirit, soul and body. The Greek translation for 'Spiritual' is 'Nimoticus'. It denotes all the gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit. God is not to be blamed if you fail to experience them.

Salvation, forgiveness of sins, deliverance from sin, deliverance from demon-possession (the clutches of Satan) adoption as heirs, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, a life filled with the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit, answers to prayers, soul winning, a powerful ministry and the glory of God are some of the blessings within your reach. Your inheritance of them is in direct proportion to the measure of your faith.

We boldly say that we are saved. 'Salvation' has several meanings. Did Jesus Christ die on the cross only to deliver you from sins? If that is so, your life has to end after the 'sin-confess, sin-confess cycle'. But remission of sins is only one of the blessings of the cross. We have just tasted a few drops of the flood of blessings flowing from the cross. *'The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin' (I Jn. 1:7).* In short, the first spiritual blessing God gives us is a pure life cleansed of all sin. The first promise the angel told Joseph *"And she will bring forth a son,*

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and you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). Therefore, as a child of God, you do not lead a life of continual sinning, but a cleansed life, free from sin. You must inherit this blessing first.

Deliverance from Demon Possession

Having accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you should not be afraid of satanic forces. The Lord has granted you a second deliverance on the cross. He has freed you from darkness and made you subjects of His loving Son’s Kingdom. Thank God for this blessing. *‘Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold from your aimless conduct traditionally transformed from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish or without spot’ (1 Pet. 1:18,19).* Start praising God and enjoy this second grace that Christ is your deliverance today.

New man

In Jesus you are a new creation. The old and the past are gone. The fresh attributes of Jesus have filled your spirit. This is a sublime gift you received from Jesus. Don’t whine, “Lord, turn me into a new man”. Just praise and thank Him for transforming you, for you are already transformed. You are a new man!

The Spirit of Adoption

Now you have become a child of the Most High God. This reflects God’s merciful will. When you are adopted as sons, you are the rightful heirs to all God’s blessings. When this truth is embedded in your heart, you become joint heirs with Jesus Christ attaining the right to inherit every blessing belonging to Him. So you share in the attributes of Jesus. You can enjoy His authority. You are not only children in God’s family but also grownups sharing His divine nature. So, claim each and every perfect attribute of Jesus instead of begging for them. Hurry to claim your birthright with the possessive cry of “Abba Father”.

Answers to Prayers

Being God’s child you possess the right to ask and receive answers. A new grace of receiving answers to prayer is offered to you. Here again Jesus delightfully acknowledges every prayer with an “Amen”. He assures that *‘Whatever you ask the Father in my name He will grant it to you’*. It is not a fickle human promise. But the steadfast promise of the Son of God. You possess the gift of receiving what you ask in prayer. God is glorified while fulfilling your prayers. Jesus emphasized that the Father has called us to grant us our desires. And there is no doubt about it.

Holy Spirit

1. Anointing of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts
2. The Filling of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts
3. Holy Spirit Baptism and the gifts

The Bible promises that the anointing of the Holy Spirit is a gift for all, though the apostles first received it. In Acts 2:39 Peter clearly says, *‘For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call’*.

The instant you are filled with the Holy Spirit, He sweeps into you with all His dynamic powers. His supernatural power, the gifts of healing, revelation, prophesy and all the gifts operate from within you.

Faith translates into operation of miracles like Jesus Christ Himself. The Holy Spirit baptism imparts the power to prophesy, to lay hands upon the sick and heal, to speak in tongues and to interpret tongues. Yes all spiritual powers within Christ become yours. Stop languishing that you do not have the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Rise up and seek the gifts, find them, claim them, have dominion over them and operate in them. God bless you.



Worshippers in the Holy Bible

Bro. Manuel Jeyaraj

In the previous issue we learnt some truths from the life of Abraham. Let us continue to look into the life of the father of faith and heed to the voice of the Holy Ghost. Get ready in the name of Jesus Christ.

Look at the blessings of a worshiper. You need not panic about where to settle. You will surely be guided by the Lord. The Lord's promise to us is "My presence shall go before you". Always remember that only worship paves the way for this kind of blessing. Your praise brings His presence to guide you and lead you. Abraham and Lot had to separate as there was strife between their herdsmen.

Abraham was sure that God had blessed him with all kinds of blessings. While Lot chose to settle in "all the valley of Jordan" (Gen.13:10,11). i.e. the cities of Jordan and journeyed eastward until Sodom, Abraham settled in the already Promised Land of Canaan. Lot did not know that God was about to destroy the city of Sodom and Gomorrah but Abraham was surely guided by the Lord in the right direction.

Dear worshiper, you can see your future blessings even from the place where you are right now. Abraham may not have known exactly how the Lord was going to lead him! But the word of the Lord came swiftly to Abraham, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are" (Gen.13:14). Northward or southward, eastward or westward, any direction belongs to the true worshiper. Any place is yours, if you begin to see. But don't begin to see if you haven't seen (worshiped)

the Creator of heaven and earth. "The earth and its fullness is the Lord's". **If you haven't practiced seeing (worshipping) God for who He is, the blessing for which you seek Him will never become a reality though you read the word.**

Blessings to generations are transferred through worshipers (like Abraham). God said to Abraham, "I will give it to you and to your descendants forever" (Gen.13:14,15). God said, "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you" (Gen.13:16,17). This was the driest moment when Abraham didn't have a child. But God is basically a Faith God and Abraham worshiped a God full of Faith, built altars to a Faith God who promised to make him a nation. I will come to this part at a later stage because I want to elaborate on this.

Remember only your stay in Hebron (here, worship Place) accelerates the move of God. Only an active lifestyle of worship propels the works of God. The Bible says, "then Abraham moved his tent to the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord" (Gen.13:18).

This is not only a principle for individual lives but also for the corporate. The church has to practice this lifestyle. When the church remains faithful in this ministry, nations will come into the church to see the risen God's glory.

At this stage, I humbly request all Pastors to release all the worshipers from your church into cities, towns and villages to conduct worship festivals so that worshipers' feet would touch the ground of the place where you want to win souls and start a church.

When worshipers rise up and take worship walks through out the land, the land and its people become ours. Since our God dwells in the praises of His people, we need to conduct worship festivals at different places so that God's presence is released in different places and as a consequence, sharing the gospel becomes very effective and fruitful. Demons and evil spirits will have to flee from those places and the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of the people to receive the gospel of the kingdom. There will be a sure change in the spiritual atmosphere of that particular place and there will be a great release of His Spirit. Amen!

Let's worship. Sing *"Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise, Take Your place, Be enthroned, On our praise, Arise, King of Kings, Holy God, As we sing, Arise"*.

Whenever I read Gen. 14:1-16, **I see worshipers as warriors and rescue teams.** We are called to overthrow the kingdom of the devil. The Bible says, *"Christ is revealed to destroy the works of the devil"* When the Head did this job while on earth, the body must also continue the work of the Head. It will be a great injustice if we don't continue the works of Christ Jesus (Head) on earth. The ultimate tool for demolition of the works of the devil is not only authority but also praise and worship. Abraham and his family acted as a rescue team and brought back Lot, his family, his men and his cattle alive.

Worshipers can see God in human form. After this, Abraham met Melchizedek, King of Salem, and a priest of God Most High who brought out bread and wine and gave him a tenth of all. He

blessed Abraham with words that we normally use for blessing the holy name of God. Many Bible scholars say that **Abraham had visitations of God and His angels.** It is true in this case. In Hebrews, we read in detail about Melchizedek who didn't have a genealogy. Many saints of God say that **Abraham saw God in human form.** I very strongly believe this truth. Some say that it was Jesus. Some say that it was Father God Himself. Some say that it was the Holy Spirit.

To a certain extent, I would agree that maybe it was the Holy Spirit and not Jesus because Jesus Christ has two genealogies. The Bible says, *"His son who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh...and declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead according to the spirit of holiness (Holy Spirit)" (Rom.1:3,4).* Now let's not enter into an argument of who it is. Rather understand the truth that **God's visitation is possible through worship.**

Now elaborating on what I mentioned earlier, let us look into the life of Abraham as he worshiped a Faith God. Whenever I read the 15th chapter of Genesis, I am overwhelmed with joy at how Abraham acted out his faith towards God. Abraham thought his heir would be Eliezer of Damascus and later on he thought Ishmael would be the heir. But God made it very clear to him saying, *"the one who would come forth from your body would be the heir" (Gen.15:4).* *"Again God took Abraham outside and said, 'Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them'. And He said, 'So shall your descendants be' (Gen.15:5).* *"Only then he believed in the Lord. And He reckoned it to him as righteousness" (Gen.15:6).*

Until God took him outside to show him how great He is, Abraham was not in a position to believe. But when he began seeing the stars of

heavens, he had no other go except to put his faith in the words of the great God who created the heavens and the heavenly objects. The stars were too many for him to count. So great was God's splendor and majesty.

In the New Testament, the Bible projects Abraham's experience in a different light. It says that Abraham believed God and gave glory to God as a response to what God had already promised. *"Yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, **giving glory to God**, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform"* (Rom. 4:20,21).

Many times we see faith only as an authority or power or command or an act of confessing or acting out the confession. But Oh! **Church you have failed to see faith as worship towards God.** It is time for you to learn and put this into practice. Faith is also worship towards God. Let me quote one more verse from the New Testament *"Without faith it is impossible to please God"* (Heb.11:6).

What is pleasing in the sight of God? What do we call something that pleases God? It is obviously worship. Only worship pleases Him. You attract Him only through your worship (Faith). That's why I believe Faith is nothing but worship towards God. Worship is the other side of the coin of faith. Faith cannot stand alone. The Bible says that Abraham believed and then gave glory to God. Many see Faith to be a magic tool but remember it is also a love tool.

You need to love (worship) your Lord to work out your faith. Many stop with the stage of confess-

ing the word and keep emphasizing only on confession. I don't say that this kind of practice is wrong. But in a few days when they don't see the miracle, they get dejected. Don't stop with confession. There is something more than that. Take the word that you confess and worship God who is in it, the owner and author of it, and the one who is able to make it come to pass.

For example, when you want healing from God, you keep saying the word, *"By His stripes I am healed"* (Isa.55:3). Nothing wrong in confessing. Even I confess the same word of God some times for hours. But I don't stop with that. I start worshipping God singing ***"You are the Lord that Healeth me, You are the Lord my Healer, You sent your word and You healed my disease, You are the Lord my Healer"***.

Now when I start singing this word, I am not merely confessing the word but I am worshipping God as my Jehovah Rapha who became Jesus. This is the beauty in it. The Spirit of God who listens to my worship, accepts the invitation, comes and hatches the word that I sing. Then my healing becomes definite.

When the angel spoke to Mary saying, *"Thou shall be found with a child by the Holy Spirit"* the very next stage was, the Holy Spirit came and overshadowed her. The word went into Mary but the Holy Ghost overshadowed her to hatch the word that went into her. **Worship many times hatches the words of God you have been hearing for a long, long time.**

Beloved, may worship arise from within your spirit.

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Water Wonder

Rev. Benita Francis

In the beginning...

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.** Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light (Ge.1:2-3).

The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters to bring perfection and fullness to His formless, void creation. Could we infer that still today the Holy Spirit is bringing perfection to your health by hovering over your water intake?!?

Do you suffer from heartburn, arthritis, back pain, memory loss, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, kidney disease, head aches, migraines, allergies, diabetes or low immune powers? Have you tried all kinds of doctors and medicines? Then you might now be worse off physically and financially than you were at the beginning (Mk.5:26)!

Did you know all these diseases can be prevented and even cured just by drinking plenty of pure water?! Unfortunately, people rely on medications for all these diseases without taking into consideration that each medication has some good effect but also many bad side effects. If you cannot avoid taking medicine, please at least make sure you drink as much pure water as you can to help your liver and kidneys detoxify your body especially after an anesthesia!

So today I want to introduce you to God's first and foremost medicine in the natural realm! He even goes so far as to use it as a metaphor for His Holy Word and His Holy Spirit (Eph.5:26; Jn.7:37-39)! I'm talking about God's wonderful creation, ***pure plain water!***

It is not a coincidence that water is mentioned six times in the first seven verses of God's great health and life Manual, His eternal Word! God's Holy Spirit was hovering over the waters, and as God's Voice sounded forth, creation occurred! Even today, each new baby

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born into this world is formed, fashioned and protected for its first nine months happily floating in an environment of water in the mother's womb.

At birth, a human being consists of over 90% of water! Unfortunately, this percentage decreases gradually to about 50% with increasing age. The onset of so many diseases in the later years of our life has very much to do with the decrease of water in our body.

We must therefore make it our number one priority to get enough intake of healthy, pure water! Water is an absolutely essential necessity for life. You can survive more than 50 days without food, but only 3 days without water!

Did you know that your brain consists of 75-78% water?!? Just imagine! How can your mind be clear and bright if you don't give it enough water?!? Is it not only logical that you will get a headache if you don't drink enough water?!?

Since water is such an essential necessity to life, God Himself has placed some strong indicators into our bodies to remind us that we need to drink. The body signals its water shortage by producing pain. Dehydration actually produces pain and many degenerative diseases, including asthma, arthritis, hypertension, angina, adult-onset diabetes, lupus and multiple sclerosis.

Let me just share with you some insights Dr. F. Batmanghelidj from Iran learned during his imprisonment in Iran and confirmed in subsequent 20 years of studies (see www.watercure.com for more information). His message to the world is, ***"You are not sick, you are thirsty. Don't treat thirst with medication."*** See some of the problems created by lack of water:

Heartburn is a signal of water shortage in the upper part of the gastrointestinal tract... Not recognizing heartburn as a sign of dehydration and treating it with antacids and pill medications will, in time, produce

inflammation of the stomach and duodenum, hiatal hernia, ulceration, and eventually cancers in the gastrointestinal tract, including the liver and pancreas.

Rheumatoid joint pain - arthritis - is a signal of water shortage in the painful joint... The use of pain-killers does not cure the problem, but exposes the person to further damage from pain medications. Intake of water and small amounts of salt will cure this problem.

Low back pain and ankylosing **arthritis** of the spine are signs of water shortage in the spinal column and discs - the water cushions that support the weight of the body.

Hypertension is a state of adaptation of the body to a generalized drought, when there is not enough water to fill all the blood vessels that diffuse water into vital cells. Water and some salt intake will bring blood pressure back to normal!

Not recognizing hypertension as one of the major indicators of dehydration in the human body, and treating it with diuretics that further dehydrate the body will, in time, cause blockage by cholesterol of the heart arteries and the arteries that go to the brain. It will cause heart attacks and small or massive strokes that paralyze. It will eventually cause kidney disease. It will cause brain damage and neurological disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Migraine headache is a sign of water need by the brain and the eyes. It will totally clear up if dehydration is prevented from establishing in the body. The type of dehydration that causes migraine might eventually cause inflammation of the back of the eye and possibly loss of eye sight.

Colitis pain is a signal of water shortage in the large gut... Not recognizing colitis pain as a sign of dehydration will cause persistent constipation, diverticulitis, hemorrhoids and polyps, and appreciably increases the possibility of developing cancer of the colon and rectum.

Adult-onset diabetes is another adaptive state to severe dehydration of the human body. To have adequate water in circulation and for the brain's priority water needs, the release of insulin is inhibited to prevent insulin from pushing water into all body cells. In diabetes, only some cells get survival rations of water. Water and some

salt will reverse adult-onset diabetes in its early stages.

Not recognizing adult-onset diabetes as a complication of dehydration will, in time, cause massive damage to the blood vessels all over the body. It will cause eventual loss of the toes, feet and legs from gangrene, eye damage and even blindness.

Why to drink?

All doctors agree that we need to drink at least 2-3 liters a day. You don't need to get the 2-4 liters of water your body needs daily only by drinking water! If you eat fresh fruits and vegetables, especially the 'juicy' ones like watermelons, oranges, pomegranates etc., you can cover a good part of your body's daily need of water in a very pleasant way.

Isn't our God a wonderful, loving Father?! He created so many beautiful and healthy fruits, grains and vegetables even before He created Adam, His first man! Once the earth was ready and the garden of Eden fully furnished, God created Adam and put him there to enjoy, subdue and have dominion (Ge. 1 and 2)! What a love!

How to make yourself drink?

You might want to set an alarm every 1 or 2 hours to remind you to drink a glass of water.

You can use buttermilk or herbal teas with lemon or honey to add some taste.

You can drink it hot or cold.

Just make sure you drink 2-3 liters a day!

In hot climates, this measure must be increased to at least 4 liters daily.

Black tea and coffee do NOT have the same beneficial effect as water! They can dehydrate the body even further.

Modern soft drinks and even many of the commercially packed fruit juices contain many chemicals that are not good for your health!

Use freshly pressed fruit or vegetable juices, herbal teas or just plain water to enjoy health and strength as God intended!

Happy Father's Day

Bro. Philip David

There is great excitement when a child is born! The initial days are good because the elder parents are around and they all pitch in to help with taking care of the child. Then as time goes by, the parents are left to care for the little one. Absolutely adorable moments mixed with bitter tears make up our lives as parents! Though this is the most important phase of our lives, no one trains us for parenthood!!

Over the last 23 years, it has been my privilege as a father, to learn about fatherhood from the Word of God. I have had my share of failures and victories in bringing up our two wonderful children aged 23 and 21. In this short exhortation, I would like to address key areas as a father.

The New Testament instructs fathers: “*Fathers do not exasperate your children*” (Eph.6:4). “*Fathers do not embitter your children or they will become discouraged*” (Col.3:2). While all other family members are given positive exhortations, (wives-submit, children-love, children-honor your parents) only the father is given a negative exhortation. He is instructed not to exasperate or embitter the child. In our position as the head of the family and in our pursuit to be the ‘justice and law minister’ in our households, we tend to overdo our part in implementation. In the process-every fault is identified; every error has to be described in detail; every sin requires saying sorry; every failure at home or school needs punishment. We also have enough verses from the book of Proverbs to support us. While we may be absolutely right, the impact on the child is quite negative.

I thank God for my wife who has helped me bring about a balance in this area over the years. Our

guideline for correction is: correction is good but the way in which it is dealt is what matters. The rod of correction should break the rebellion not the spirit of the child.

In the Old Testament, we find a ‘model to follow’ in Isa.42:1-4. Isaiah 40 onwards speaks of Jesus Christ as the Servant King, the One to come. This was written seven hundred years before Christ and was fulfilled in the life and completed work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today, we are called to live out the Jesus Christ-life as His representatives on earth.

From this view point, the words in Isa.42:1-4 apply to all believers especially us fathers. This passage has 7 ‘will-nots’ that describe three virtues that we as fathers need to have.

God has ‘chosen us’; God has ‘called us to be servants’ and God has ‘put in us’ the Holy Spirit (Isa.42:1) to bring justice to nations. God trains us in our home.

Cool father: I remember a child who lived under constant verbal abuse of the father. Every waking moment, his memory of the father was that of one who was shouting and verbally abusing relatives, family members and friends. The impact of such an abusive atmosphere in the family is very devastating. Children growing up with the father shouting at them at home and in public tend to develop personality disorders. Sometimes children believe in the father’s model and when they shout outside the family, may face harmful consequences. Furthermore such a negative environment created by the father bruises, crushes and exasperates the

child. This is what we are called not to do. Only the weak and immature will shout and raise their voice to be heard. God calls fathers to be of a cool temperament. A cool father will not cry out, shout or raise the voice in public (Isa.42:2). Your children do not like to be corrected in public. Take them aside and correct them. Don't shout because you need to vent your anger and frustration. Correct them that they would walk in God's ways. Imagine if Father God yelled at us every time we made a mistake! He is loving and compassionate. With loving kindness He draws us to Himself. May God give us strength and maturity to be fathers of a cool temperament.

Compassionate father: A growing child is much younger and less experienced in the world. The child is just beginning to explore what the father has experienced for 25-30 years. There is always a 20-30 year gap between father and child. However, when the child rebels, when they fail to meet our requirements, or when they err, we treat them as our equals. The Bible says that when we err, Father God remembers that we are dust!! Should we not show Christ-like compassion to our children?

Two word pictures are given here for the compassionate father to follow. The pictures are bruised reed and a smoldering wick (Isa.42:3). A growing child is bruised enough by the world around. Every day they encounter friends in the world whose mould they do not fit in. The light of God's word that we have fed them is constantly snuffed out by the world. Father God tells us that He will not cast aside a broken and a contrite heart. Fathers, we are called to help our children. We should not criticize them like the rest of the world. Their faith in God may have received a bashing in their circle of classmates who do not subscribe to what we do. If they return with the wick struggling to burn, as a father, we need to be careful not to put out that wick. We are accountable to God if we exasperate our kids. May God help us to be compassionate fathers.

Confident father: Children are looking for leadership in the father. They are happy when they know that daddy will not stumble or daddy will not fall. The more they see a confident father, the more their faith is built. If you are one who is constantly in doubt and is constantly discouraged, there is no room for faith to be built. Fathers you are called not to falter, not to be discouraged (Isa.42:4). The only way that we as believers can display this faith is by building our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible exhorts us to *build ourselves in the most holy faith*. The Bible also says that *faith comes by hearing the word of God*. Spending time in the presence of God in worship, Bible reading and prayer is imperative as a father. We must lead from the front. We must lead by example. When your children see you, they will respect you and honor you. Learn from the word on how to be a child of God. The Bible says that God chose Abraham because He knew that Abraham would guide his children in the ways of God. God trusted you and gave you your family. The Bible says that he who has been given a trust must prove faithful.

While children are looking for a perfect father, fathers are struggling to live up to their expectations. It is natural to fail at times. Humble yourself and go back and say sorry to your kids when you exasperate them. This brings healing in your child and you. This also allows the Holy Spirit to work both in you and in the child. You did not accidentally walk into this vast landscape of fatherhood. God designed for you to walk in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. He will be your shepherd and guide.

The good news is: God has put His Holy Spirit in you to empower you and help you (Isa.42:1). God says *"I the Lord have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the gentiles"* (Isa.42:6). God bless you. Happy Father's Day again!

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◆ According to the Opportunity for Action report by the International Youth Foundation (IYF), there are an estimated 270 million Indians aged 15 and older who are illiterate, while young women aged 15 to 24 are twice as likely as young men their age to be illiterate. And among the working youth, approximately one in four is illiterate, and fewer than one in five completes secondary education, said the Microsoft Corp commissioned report.

◆ Thirteen Indians were among the 14 people killed as a Dornier plane crashed in the northern region of Nepal on Monday. Reports said that there were 16 Indians among the 18 passengers on board the plane. The plane belongs to local airline company Agni Air.

◆ Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics in Berlin have now discovered that liquorice root also contains substances with an anti-diabetic effect. These amorfrutins not only reduce blood sugar, they are also anti-inflammatory and are very well tolerated. Thus, they may be suitable for use in the treatment of complex metabolic disorders.

◆ Rising temperatures are triggering severe outbreaks of new, invasive pests that could threaten southeast Asia's multi-billion dollar cassava industry and the livelihoods of thousands of small farmers, a study reveals. "Warmer conditions and longer dry seasons linked to climate change could prove to be the perfect catalyst for outbreaks of pests and diseases . . . affecting food crops," said Pramod K Aggarwal, regional programme leader for Asia at CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research).

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