

FROM THE DEPTH OF MY HEART.....

Greetings in the mighty Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

What a wonderful God we serve! His abounding grace has kept us alive and safe under His wings all these months. He alone is worthy of all our praises. As we are nearing the end of this year, remember all His deeds in your life and shower your gratitude by offering your praises to Him.

“For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Ro.14:17)

You are the righteousness of God and you are transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God. Jesus is your righteousness. He has given His peace to you. The joy of the Holy Spirit is flowing like a river inside of you. The revelation of His Word will make you see and inherit all the blessings that have been already given to you. There is a seed for every need of your life. You have to sow the seed, the Word of God. Read and meditate the Word more than ever before. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the secrets from His Word. I tell you, one revelation from the Word of God will bring solution to all your problems and struggles. Eating and drinking the Word of God will release peace and joy inside of your spirit. Decide today and commit yourself to spend more time in the Word of God, the real ecstasy.

Good news for our dear partners in Hyderabad. **We are visiting Hyderabad on 12th & 13th of October.** We have a fasting and prayer for Andhra Pradesh on 12th October. Please see the advertisement in this issue for details and encourage your people to attend the meeting. We have a partners meeting also. You will receive the invitation letter from our office.

Don't forget to pray for the **Life Transformation Conference in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, from 16th to 19th of October.** The harvest is plenty in North India. Like Paul says in 1.Co.2:5, “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,” we need miracle working preachers. With this burden we have organized this seminar for people who are already doing ministry or desire to serve God full-time. Encourage such people to register immediately.

One more month is there for our present batch School of the Holy Spirit students. The Holy Spirit is deeply working in each one of them. Already they are liberated and started to flow

Berachah Prophetic Voice - October 2013
www.ezekiahfrancis.org

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in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Mighty manifestations are taking place and they are intoxicated in the mighty Presence of God. They are enjoying heaven on earth. We need your constant prayers for them. We want to see them shining all over the nations doing the ministry of Jesus with signs and wonders and miracles.

We are in desperate need builders. We would prefer to have loyal and faithful believers who can help us in our next phase of building. Please keep praying and supporting us as the Holy Spirit inspires you. Continue to pray for the New Testament commentary work and for the completion of the third volume of our Daily Devotion "See yourself in Christ daily".

November is a special month for ladies. We will conduct the fourth batch of our **School of the Holy Spirit for Ladies from November 1st to 30th**. Already many women are eagerly counting the days to attend this life-transforming school. Immediately apply and book your tickets. We are going to have a very powerful month with our Beloved Holy Spirit.

Keep visiting our website www.ezekiahfrancis.org and our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ Dr. EzekiahFrancis](http://www.facebook.com/Dr.EzekiahFrancis) for updates, and follow us on Twitter [@EzekiahBPM](https://twitter.com/EzekiahBPM).

Continue to pray for our European TV programs in German language and also for the new launch of programs in national and international channels. Pray for our literature and media ministries. Pray also for my dear wife, our aged parents, counselors, key leaders, coordinators, staff and partners. God will bless you and your generations as you stand with this God-raised ministry!

With love and heartfelt prayers,

Dr. Ezekiah Francis

**LIFE TRANSFORMATION
CONFERENCE**

Venue:
XIDAS, 4th Mile,
Tilheri, Mandla Road,
Jabalpur

Date:
October 16th
to 19th,
2013

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Come, Let Us Wrestle!

Dr. Ezekiah Francis

Prayer life is warfare. Unless we are watchful we can never become prayer warriors. Prayer pulls down the strongholds of the devil. Satan might be silent at anything else you do but not when you pray. A prayerless life does not affect him. Even prayerless ministry does not bother him. Prayer warriors only can route the devil. Satan's army will tremble when they find even the weakest saint on his knees. Satan gathers his emissaries and attacks the praying man. Only praying people know the fierceness of Satan.

Failure in life is due to failure in prayer. He, who has lost his prayer life, has lost on all fronts. This is the reason for the saints' slogan - "Prayer is the vital breath of Life. Prayer is Victory" Our prayer closet is the armory of our weapons. Hence it becomes the target of our enemy. Much protection is needed here. This is the reason why the Bible speaks of watchfulness every time it speaks of prayer. Watching and praying are inseparable. Jesus repeatedly warned his disciples to watch and pray so that they would not enter into temptation (Mt.26:41). While counseling Ephesians, Paul speaks of "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Eph.6:18).

Steadfastness and watchfulness are the main pillars of a prayer life. Peter faced failure owing to his lack of watchfulness. Out of his own experience, he warns us; "the end of all things is at hand, be ye, therefore, sober minded and watch unto prayer." Sober mindedness and watchfulness are the two eyes of a

prayer life. Many are the arrows that Satan aims at our prayer life. Let us identify a few of them.

Discouragement from outside

The moment you begin to pray, Satan will instigate many people against you. People will discourage you in different ways. People will not understand your thirst for prayer. Your prayers might look strange to them. Many will mock you. No one would appreciate you. Your heart might faint at this all round opposition. Eventually your enthusiasm might die out. Recognize this as the plot of the devil and be watchful.

Nehemiah stood up to build the broken walls of Jerusalem. Trusting God, he began the construction work. Do you know what happened immediately? Sanballat and Tobiah rose up in anger. They ridiculed Nehemiah. "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they finish in a day? Will they revive the stones out of heaps of rubbish, seeing they are burned? If a fox goes up, he shall break down the stone wall." Nehemiah and his friends were not cowed down by these words of mockery. They understood that they were trying to undermine their efforts by mockery. They prayed to the Lord to hear their despising and continued in watchful prayer.

Yes, they who doubt the power of prayer shall despise you. Their negative comments such as, "Why do you waste your time in prayer? This is the time for action. Prayer is the lazy man's excuse. Let us see how

far it goes,” will weaken your faith. This is the time to be watchful. Do not mind despising! It is natural human tendency to lean on active work rather than on prayer. Flesh loathes prayer. Follow the example of David who gave himself to prayer when enemies compassed him with words of hatred (Ps.109:4). Pray for them that spitefully use you and persecute you. Do not lose the spirit of prayer in your attempt to reply to them. Your secret prayer shall bring open rewards. Be patient until then. You are the disciples of the One, who prayed for those who despised him even at the cross!

Discouragement from within

You may tolerate the discouragements from outside but it will be difficult to overcome the discouragements from within. The enemy of your prayer life will attack from within. He will try to wear you out by creating doubts. Doubt, weariness and discouragements are the main weapons of the devil. Many are the victims of these weapons. Thoughts such as: “You cannot continue praying. It is not that easy. Prayer is a gift given to the chosen few, you don’t have the gift” will weaken your praying spirit. Remember these are the devil’s devices. Satan used this technique with Nehemiah. We read, “And Judah said - the strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed and there is much rubbish, so that we are not able to build the wall (Neh.4:10). This negative news could not dishearten Nehemiah.

No, a disheartened man cannot pray. The Lord knows that you cannot pray. He knows well that your flesh is weak. That is why He poured the Spirit of grace and supplication on you (Zec.12:10). He is with you to help you in your infirmities. The Spirit also helps our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom.8:26).

Elijah was a great prayer warrior. James reminds us that Elijah was also a man of like passions as we are. Prayer is a ministry which even ordinary people ought to do. In their early days, Apostles were failing in prayer miserably but later they became stalwarts

giving half of their time to prayer and the rest to their ministry.

It does not require any special gift to pray for an hour or two. This is a ministry which even people without gifts and talents can do. The command to pray without ceasing was given to common believers. Resist all negative thoughts with the thoughts of God, like “the love of God is poured into my heart, Christ the greatest prayer warrior lives in me, the Holy Spirit prays through me,” etc. Have you failed in your repeated decisions of prayer? Let not your past failures deprive you of the present victories!

The disciples who drew a blank at Gethsemane did not stop praying. Did they not wait at the feet of the Lord for ten days immediately thereafter? Don’t be disheartened! Don’t say that you cannot! He gives strength to the weak. He gives power to the weak and to those who have no might, He increases strength (Isa.40:29). When men fall down, do they not get up? When a man turns away, does he not return? Get up! Return! Be of good courage! Do not give place to the devil’s discouragements.

Dullness and Drowsiness

The spirit of dullness destroys prayer. Do you fall sleep the moment you kneel down? Do you start yawning? These are the tricks of the devil. He did not spare even the close prayer partners of Jesus. Even on the Mount of transfiguration, they were sleepy. As Jesus prayed, His countenance changed and His face was white and glistening. And, behold there talked with him two men, Moses and Elijah. Look at what our friends were doing! “But Peter, and they that were with him, were heavy with sleep; and when they were awake, they saw His glory, and the two men that stood with Him.”

In this hour of prayer, Jesus experienced glory! The disciples were asleep. They slumbered kneeling. Peter was baffled as he did not hear the conversation. Many pray like Peter did. People as busy as ants, start snoring the moment they kneel. Lips might be moving whereas the mind would be asleep. Dullness makes you fall asleep. There is no depth in such prayers. It is a tragedy! Those who slept at the Mount of

transfiguration slept at Gethsemane also. But look at Jesus! He slept in the midst of the stormy wind and raging waves, which almost capsized the boat but not at the hour of prayer. He knew pretty well that the flesh is weak while the spirit is willing and thus overcame.

Prayer warriors choose to confess that the spirit is willing rather than that flesh is weak. Ask the Lord to fill you with a willing spirit. Choose the best time for prayer. If you are very tired, choose to rest for a while and then pray rather than praying half heartedly. If you plan to pray at night, take a nap during day time. Keep your heart and mind clear. Luke says that the disciples slept at Gethsemane because of sorrow (Lk.22:45). Mental worries cause sleep at times. Worldly cares are the enemies of prayer. Do not confuse yourself for no reason. Worries make your heart heavy. A worried man stops praying and praying man stops worrying. Jesus has warned us of such enemies of prayer. Jesus said, "Take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing (dissipation) drunkenness and cares of this life... Watch therefore and pray always (Lk.21:34).

To watch and pray, you have to be careful about gluttony and the cares of the world. Yes, one who eats beyond limits cannot pray. Many times we do not feel fresh in the presence of the Lord because of over eating. Our body, soul and spirit need to cooperate for effective prayer. Our prayer time will not be sweet even if any one of these three does not cooperate. You

will become sleepy if you eat excessively. Similarly insufficient food too, will weaken your body and force you to sleep. Beware of this. Those who indulge in revelries will also feel sleepy during prayer. Generally speaking, drowsiness is the result of disinterest in prayer. "Reveling, drunkenness, immorality, wantonness, strife and envying" are the works of darkness. But we are not of darkness. Only those who refrain from these things will be alert in prayer. I hope you have understood my point here. So beware!

The enemies planned to ambush Nehemiah and his men. Of this Nehemiah says, "And our adversaries said, they shall not know, neither see, till we come among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease." Beware of these spirits that come unnoticed while we pray. Let us find out from Nehemiah how he overcame this situation. "Therefore set I in lower places behind the wall and on the higher places, I even set the people according to their families with their swords, their spears and their bows." They guarded the city at night and labored during the day. Be watchful! Arise! Accustom yourself to rise up of your own accord. Isaiah laments saying that there is none that calls upon My name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee" (Isa.64:7) Will you watch and pray from today onwards?

(Taken from the book :Prayer - The vital breath of Life" by Dr. Ezekiah Francis)

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GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART....

(Short Term Intensive Course 36th Batch)

Totally Healed

While coming to STC I was completely broken and hurt. On the first day of the meeting while Sis. Benita was prophetically preaching about New Creation blessings, I received God's love and all bitterness, unforgiveness vanished. I received the inner healing and I am completely released.

I had ligament fracture last year and had pain in my ankle but when Prophet Dr. Ezekiah preached about God's love I received complete healing in my intestine and ankle. In my church everyone used to dance and praise but I never did. When Pr. Jayaseelan taught about praise, I prayed for it. Holy Spirit taught me and I started to jump and dance and praise the Lord.

Though I am a believer for the past 17 plus years, I came to know the full Gospel only after coming to Berachah. I really thank everyone for all the love and blessings which I received.

-Anitha Soans, Maharashtra

Confusions Cleared

I am greatly blessed in this STC. Before coming here, I had lot of confusions whenever I read the Epistles of Paul. Even I used to pray 'I want to understand Epistles of Paul'. But now, after hearing Prophet Dr. Ezekiah's message from Paul's Epistles my spiritual eyes are opened and all my confusions came to an end.

The message 'Christ in me, the hope of Glory' changed my life totally. And I assure that I will carry this message to all the people.

- Praislin Alex, Andhra Pradesh

Chronic Itching Healed

On the first day itself, the chronic itching in the toe of my right foot got healed. I received deep knowledge from the Word of God. God showed me the weaker areas of mine and I learned how to excel in family life, spiritual life, ministry and finance. I thank God for Prophet Dr. Ezekiah and Rev. Benita and their team!

-Anand.S.Chougule, Maharashtra

Questions answered

I came here with many questions and unanswered prayers. I was very discouraged in my walk with the Lord. From the day one itself God started to speak with me in unexpected ways. Every word and the revelations I received here removed my mind blocks. I have got the right picture of God after coming here. I know now I am a changed person. I thank God for this ministry. This ministry has been a blessing since my young age. Now I know Christ lives in me. And that's all I need in this life. My heart feels light and I am sure this is not just an emotional feeling. I have learnt to realize my spiritual being. Praise God for this revelation. May God richly reward this God raised ministry.

-Jenny, Chennai

Spirit of boldness

God blessed me through the teaching on 'Soul tie' of Rev. Benita Francis. The Lord delivered me from depression and sadness. The Lord gave me the spirit of boldness through the prophetic teaching of Prophet Dr. Ezekiah Francis and I got healed. There are no words to express my gratitude to every one of the team members of Berachah Ministries.

-Vetolang Nongtdu, Meghalaya

Curses broken

God delivered me from the spirit of condemnation and curse. He answered my doubts very specifically and clearly. I came to senses and enjoyed the ten days completely with word, anointing, presence and worship. Praise the Lord!

-Sundar Singh, T.V.Malai

Ready for ministry

The STC has been an eye opener for me in more ways than one. The Lord prepared me for His ministry. Revelations, prophesies and encouraging words of Prophet Dr. Ezekiah and Rev. Benita and the team will definitely make us to shine for Christ in our areas. Thank you for everything that you have invested and poured into our lives. May God bless you all abundantly!

- Shiny Rhema, Karnataka

Found my calling

This is the first time I am attending this meeting. I was discouraged because of my health and instability in my career. I came here to know my calling and to hear the voice of God. I felt the mighty presence and touch of God and I am totally refreshed by His presence. I found my calling and the revelations brought a big change in my life. My prayer life is changed. I am taking these revelations with me and I will again and again mutter and ponder it and will digest it and will do great things for God. Big thanks to Prophet Dr. Ezekiah and Rev. Benita for being a role model and preaching from their life. God Bless you.

-Benny Varghese, Andhra Pradesh

Tremendously blessed

I was very much blessed by this ministry. I am able to speak tongues and filled with the Spirit. I came here with nothing and I am going with a lot of blessings & responsibilities. Thank you.

-Monika, Andhra Pradesh

Ministry to my spirit

I am really blessed by this STC. I enjoyed every bit of this prophetic seminar. The messages by Prophet Dr. Ezekiah and Rev. Benita went deep into my Spirit. Now I can boldly minister Jesus Christ anywhere in the world as I believe Christ in me is the hope of glory. It's an amazing feeling in my heart that Christ in me and we became one now! I love this Berachah Ministries so much. All glory to Jesus Christ!

-Issac Prabhu, Tamil Nadu

Eye opening

I am truly blessed by Berachah Ministry. I knew nothing about this ministry. The Holy Spirit inspired and brought me here through my friend. It is an eye-opening to me, especially knowing the mysteries of God by Prophet Dr. Ezekiah. Rev. Benita's messages on soul ties, breaking the cruel bondage has delivered me from the sins of my forefathers. I am really blessed and will be a blessing to others by spreading this truth in my church, with my family, friends, colleagues, children and youth. May God bless both whole Berachah team abundantly.

-Priya Krishna, Karnataka

Secret revealed

I could see the 'God's Glory' in Rev. Benita's face. Also I was attracted by her messages on 'Marriage' and 'New life-New start'. I got the secret from her message to lead my marriage life happily with my husband. I bless Sis. Benita as a 'mighty woman of God'.

-Sindhuja, Tamil Nadu

DELIVERANCE FROM PORNOGRAPHY AND MASTURBATION

(Excerpt from the Book "MARRIED - HAPPILY EVER AFTER")

Rev. Benita Francis

The way out of pornography can be long and difficult, since it doesn't only involve repentance and deliverance, but also a total change of lifestyle. Accountability and strong discipline are vital for the success of finding freedom and winning back the life God intended for you to live. Psychologists suggest strict abstinence from porn and masturbation. Even then, it normally takes at least 6-12 weeks until normal emotional and physical responses are restored. Don't worry, though. You serve a God of resurrection. If Jesus could rise up from the grave, can't you rise up out of that miry clay you got caught in?!

In the beginning, you will have to force yourself to read your Bible, and it will probably seem very dry and meaningless to you. As you persevere, however, God will reward you with powerful revelations and many personal words right into your situation.

See here the challenge and wonderful promise your God makes you:

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does (Jas. 1:21-25).

Blessing in everything you do can and will be yours as you persevere in God's Word! What a wonderful promise! This "perfect law of liberty" will set you free from any addiction, including the addiction to pornography! Remember, your Lord Jesus Christ Himself said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn.8:32). So don't despair. Keep reading His Word until it starts speaking to you. Don't give up too easily. It's the doers of the Word that will be blessed!

ACCOUNTABILITY

Another very important step to breaking the addiction to pornography is accountability. Just by confessing your sin of addiction, you already broke most of its power. Satan can only hold his firm grip on you as long as you don't expose him and his works (Eph.5:11). To make sure you don't fall into the trap again, have somebody of your confidence checking on you at any time. A Spirit-led person will call you exactly in the moment of temptation and pray with you to overcome. Never hesitate to ask for help and prayer support. Never hide anything, since satan works in darkness, and hiding things brings you directly under his domain.

It is also very important to remember and proclaim that there is therefore now no condemnation for you who are in Christ Jesus (Ro.8:1). One favorite weapon of satan is to first tempt you, then condemn you. Use this scripture as a sword of the Spirit and break his attack of guilt and condemnation right in the very beginning of the attack.

Take heart! You can do all things through Christ

who strengthens you (Phil.4:13). If you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1.Jn.1:9). Your God always leads you in triumph in Christ (2.Co.2:14). Rejoice!

MASTURBATION

Let me add a point here. Many times, I am asked if masturbation is a sin. Well, there is no such verse in the Bible, but 1st Corinthians 7:5 tells us not to deprive one another except with consent for a time, that we may give ourselves to fasting and prayer. Masturbation takes your mind, your emotions, even your physical strength away from your spouse and directs it into a form of self-gratification. Is that not contrary to God's desire, even contrary to God's very character?

Listen to God's Word and compare it with the act of masturbation and pornography or lustful imaginations. God says through His apostle Paul to the young disciple Timothy,

8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works (1.Ti.2:8-10).

Can you find yourself in these men or in these women? Can you really lift up holy hands, or do you get flash-backs that condemn you and make you ashamed even in God's Presence?

A very pure, highly anointed man of God whose shining eyes I used to admire because they are full of God's holy fire told me a very interesting testimony about masturbation. In his teenage, he had been told by leaders that masturbation was not a sin since it didn't involve other people. Apparently, however, God had a quite different opinion. He gave him the word from Genesis 38:9-10 where Judah's second son Onan was killed by the Lord because he emitted on the ground. Of course, that situation involved Onan's selfish heart attitude and refusal to give an heir to his brother, but the word came to him so strongly that this man of God

never again had any doubt as to God's idea concerning masturbation. He repented and never again succumbed to the temptation of relieving himself in this way. Actually, once he had taken the clear decision to entrust even this area of his life to God, the temptation lost its grip and edge.

Dear brother, dear sister, please don't misunderstand me. It is not my intention to put you under condemnation. There is actually no verse in the Bible that condemns masturbation as a sin. I do want to challenge you, however, by assuring you that there is a higher level of purity and walk with God which we can enjoy if we just take a few important decisions. Remember, it is the pure in heart who will see God and experience His goodness in a very special way (Mt.5:8; Ps.73:1). God won't force it unto you, but He will greatly rejoice if you decide to forego even such self-centered pleasures to draw closer to Him (Js.4:7; Jer.30:21).

As you know, satan is the great deceiver, God's and your adversary and the murderer of your soul (Rev.20:3; 1.Pe.5:8; Jn.8:44). Crafty as he is, he devised strategies to draw us into his territory. Psychology and even science may tell you that masturbation relaxes you, clears your skin of pimples, helps you to sleep better, or any other benefit. The truth is, however, that masturbation robs you of your strength and ability to concentrate on other important matters of your life.

I have heard people say, "Well, God is not cruel. He understands that while I am unmarried - or because my spouse is less interested in sex than I am -, I still have sexual feelings, desires and even needs. He will not condemn me for satisfying my needs in my own way." Well, did you know that your wonderful God has actually already taken full care of this problem? Your God created your body in such a way that you can easily fulfill His will, if you will just entrust yourself fully into His hands.

You don't need to release sexual tension through masturbation or other means. One sign of sexual health is a spontaneous emission of semen or sexual arousal and release of bottled-up emotions during sleep. This works beautifully for both men and women. How else could a loving Creator ask us to remain pure until

marriage? There is only one reason for such request: He knows it is not only better, but even healthier for us to save our sexual energy for our one and only God-given spouse. Does He want to deprive you of any pleasure? No way! He actually wants you to be enraptured by your spouse's love when the right time has come (Pr.5:15-19; SS.2:7; 3:5; 8:4). Just read the Book of Song of Solomon in the Bible. You will be surprised at the expressions of love and ecstasy you will find in it. Your God is a God of love, in each and every aspect!

Yet there is actually even a grave danger in masturbation. This danger emanates from the very real, omnipresent spiritual world we live in. Somehow, any sexual activity outside of God's ordained boundaries of marriage seems to be something like an open invitation to satan and his cohorts. I have ministered to both men and women who thought they could innocently enjoy a little self-stimulation because their spouse didn't show as much interest in sexual activity as they did. In the beginning, this seemed to be a good thing for both spouses. After some time, however, the innocent little pleasure started occupying more and more of the person's mind, demanding to be satisfied in ever shortening intervals, till the point of turning into an obsession.

When the person noticed he had become addicted, it was already too late. A demon spirit had gained entrance through this willful act of self-gratification. The little pleasure had gained a life of its own. I have heard both men and women desperately begging for help and deliverance from spirits of incubus and succubus, demons that had entered their lives through the inroad of masturbation. Don't forget, satan roams around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. The good news is that you CAN resist him, steadfast in the faith! You CAN be sober and vigilant (1.Pe.5:5-8)! You CAN set your mind on the things above and fulfill God's calling upon your life (Col.3:1-3). You CAN live a fulfilled life in God's ways and keep the mighty force of your love for your God-given spouse alone (SS.8:6-7; Pr.5:16-19).

What a tragedy it is when God's called and chosen people waste their time and energy in things

like masturbation! I am reminded of an unmarried sister who tried to convince me that God wouldn't mind her drinking a glass of wine in the night and doing some masturbation to get a better sleep. Well, today, many years later, she is still sleeping, frustrated with her life, never able to get into active ministry, and still unmarried. I often wonder how her life could have been if she had decided to let God take care even of her physical and emotional needs instead of taking the matter into her own hands...

You don't need to allow your mind and emotions to be sidetracked into a perverted pleasure. Why do I call masturbation a perverted pleasure? Well, it has been perverted, which means, altered and misused, away from the purpose of sexuality which is procreation and bonding inside of the loving, committed relationship of marriage.

Somebody joked that 98% of people masturbate, and the other 2% are lying.

Well, this high percentage of masturbators was proven to be a lie. An American study from 2007 among different ethnic groups found that 61% of men and 38% of women had been masturbating anytime during the previous year. So, why would you want to be one among the majority? Why would you want to risk missing your life purpose for just a little bit of pleasure (Ge.25:29-34)? Since you know that satan roams around like a roaring lion, better do what God's Word commands:

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you (1.Pe.5:6-7)

You don't need to satisfy each and every desire of your physical body, mind or emotions. You CAN discipline your body and bring it into subjection, lest you should become disqualified of the great things God has in store for your life (1.Co.9:27)! You can entrust your soul to your loving, faithful Creator in doing good (1.Pe.4:19). He will exalt you even into the heights of true pleasure when the right time has come. Rejoice in your God-given authority to resist temptation and enjoy happy, healthy purity (Mk.14:38; Lk.4:1-13).

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Read the following paragraph and find out the names of the books of the Bible hidden in the text:

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for other it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. YES, THERE WILL BE SOME REALLY EASY ONES TO SPOT. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible in this story.

(Hint: Parts of the words can be combined)

Answers of the last month FIND THE WORD FROM THE WORD

1. PAUL
2. JESUS
3. LOCUST
4. COLOSSIONS
5. ESTHER

And the Word: ALLURING



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◆ Voyager-I ,the space probe launched by NASA 36 years ago, has crossed the boundaries of solar system. It is the first human-made object to go into the inter-stellar space, which made its exit on 25th August this year. Voyager-II, launched the same year as that of its sibling, is also approaching the brim of our solar system in another direction.

◆ US President Barack Obama has agreed to put on hold his plan of launching a limited attack against the Bashar-Al-Assad Administration of Syria for its alleged chemical attacks on his opponents. Faced with grim chance of getting the Congressional approval, Mr. Obama announced that if Syrian President Assad is genuinely coming forward to subject his stockpile of chemical weapons to the international community, he would keep in abeyance the limited strike plan. Meanwhile, US and Russian Foreign Ministers have arrived at an action plan on subjecting the stockpile of Syria's chemical weapons to the lock and key of global community

◆ A Fast Track Court in Delhi has awarded death sentence to all the four convicts in the December-16th Nirbhaya case in which the paramedical student was brutally violated in a moving bus and severely attacked, leading to her death. The fifth accused died in Tihar jail during the hearing. Another convict was handed over 3 years of critical observation in a juvenile home as he was a minor. The capital punishment has polarized public opinion, though a majority of the people of the country welcomes the verdict.

◆ The main opposition party in the country, the BJP has announced that Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi would be its prime ministerial candidate during the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. This has been welcomed by many of its cadres, though the senior leader Mr. L K Advani has been sulking. His suggestion was that the crucial announcement could wait till the 5-states assembly elections are over. However, Mr Advani has praised Mr Modi for his performance in Gujarat.

◆ In the US Open Tennis tournament, India's Leander Paes and his Czeck pair Radek Stepanek lifted the coveted trophy in the Men's Doubles category. The 40-year old Mr. Paes has got the distinction of having won the cup as the senior-most player. Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal of Spain has won the cup in the men's category and Serena Williams of the US has defended her title. The US Open is one of the four Grand Slam events that happen every year.

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