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# From My Heart

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

It is our great joy to share with you through this magazine what God is doing in our ministry. We had a very powerful 10 days STC (Short Term intensive Course) in our campsite at Poondi. Ministry leaders, pastors, and believers from many nations as well as from different states of India attended. We had people from Germany, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Burma and also from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi, Orissa, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Gujarat, Goa, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Chandigarh. May God bless you richly for your prayers. God blessed us with a pleasant climate, comfortable stay, good food and enough water for the almost 1500 delegates. There was no discord, no grumbling, no complaining. God's Holy Spirit could flow mightily without any hindrance and transform lives for time and eternity.

God revealed His mysteries and enlightened the eyes of every participant by His profound truth about 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Gal.2:20; Col.1:27). People were delivered, healed emotionally and physically, challenged to perform miracles, signs and wonders, confirmed in their callings. They operated in the gifts, healed one another, prophesied to each other and went out full of the Spirit, truth and power. Continue to pray for them to keep growing into the full potential of their calling.

All the messages me and my wife gave during this 40th STC are available in DVDs. You can order multilingual DVDs with soundtracks in English/Tamil, English/Telugu and English/Hindi. Immediately place your order and be blessed.

We are preparing for our Spirit Filled Leadership Seminar in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, from 27th evening to 30th evening of September. North India needs

*God's word in your mouth can do what  
God's word in God's mouth can do*

*- Prophet Ezekiah Francis*

miracle workers with mighty signs and wonders. Only preaching is not enough., Preaching with the demonstration of the Holy Spirit is desperately needed to touch the unsaved. With this burden we have organized this seminar for people who are already leaders leading ministries or those who have the desire to serve God full-time. Encourage such people to register immediately and don't forget to pray for this life-transforming seminar.

The Holy Spirit is doing mighty works among the students in our 3-months School of the Holy Spirit. He is deeply working in them and opening up to them the supernatural realm. Pray for each and every one of them to be transformed into a different person.

November is a special month for ladies. We will conduct the 12th 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. Our hearts are overflowing with joy to see marching Deborahs, dancing Miriams and praying Esthers who were once oppressed and hopeless now taking revenge against the devil. We want to see your life touching families and influencing societies. Rush for your seats and apply today.

Keep visiting our website [www.ezekiahfrancis.org](http://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.

Continue to pray for TV ministry as we are planning to launch programs in new 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,

*Afr. Ezekiah Francis*



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# Pinnacle of Tongues

Dr. Ezekiah Francis



Continued from last month...

## 5. Speak out of love

Every tongue-talker must pursue love. One of the main reasons people don't enjoy tongues is lack of love. Please search your heart whenever you struggle to speak in tongues. Most of the time you will find bitterness in your heart, thereby you have grieved the Spirit of love. Confess it immediately and seek reconciliation. Then you will see the mighty release of tongues.

Husbands and wives must be very careful here. Any difference or barrier between you will quench the Spirit of prayer and steal the joy of it. That is why Peter gives a strict warning to the husbands: ***"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel... that your prayers may not be hindered"*** (1.Pe.3:7). Prayers are definitely hindered by any breach between husband and wife.

If the prayer of understanding can be hindered by it, how much more the prayer in the Spirit. Tongue-talkers should take extra care here. Do not ever let your wrath last until the sun goes down (Eph.4:26). Forgive one another freely. Grow in friendship every day. Any bitterness or grudge will make your tongue-talking time utterly useless. No matter how many decisions you make, you cannot continue tongue-talking. Even when you stubbornly speak in tongues, it will not benefit you

in any way.

Tongue-talking ministers of God must be more vigilant in their love walk. Paul spoke in tongues more than his congregations. Every minister must be able to say, 'I speak in tongues more than my believers.' The more you speak in tongues, the more you must walk in love. Never allow any bitterness, hatred or grudge against any man of God. It is a great danger to continue ministering while harboring bitterness in your heart.

Gifts without love are dangerous. Gradually, these gifts will grow dim. When Paul was writing about the things of the Spirit, he very much connected it with the subject of love (1.Co.12-14). You cannot divide what God has joined together.

The one who spoke in tongues more than any other laments, ***"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal"*** (1.Co.13:1). Will the sound of brass and the clanging cymbal edify anyone? So are tongues without love. It will be just a wild, loud shouting.

Dearly beloved, pursue love and covet His gifts. God's very love is poured out into your spirit man (Ro.5:5). The Spirit that brought tongues also brought His love into your spirit. As tongues bubble out of you, love also should constantly bubble out of you.

This love is a divine love, selfless love, a love that never gives place for irritation, a love that never thinks

***The gifts of the Holy Spirit is for every believer - Prophet Ezekiah Francis***

evil, a love that never boasts, a love that tolerates anything, a love that never doubts anyone, and a love that suffers long. Please meditate upon this love as often as possible. Speak words of love. Search your heart in the light of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 13 every now and then. Underline every word about love in the Scriptures and meditate upon it. You will see your tongue-talking time increase a thousand times in joy and blessings.

The anointing and power you longed for a long time will come very quickly. This is the time to show the love of Christ to the world. This is the time we need to grow into maturity ignoring our little differences. Millions are waiting for you. Don't waste your precious time in bitterness, quarrels and resentment.

Overcome evil with good. Overcome accusation with your appreciation. Show kindness to those who attack you. Kiss those who kick you. Embrace those who embitter you. Smile at those who spit at you. Everything happens for your good. Believe it and thank God for it. As much as possible, live at peace with all men. This is one of the very important steps to reach the pinnacle of tongues.

## 6. Speak regularly

Set apart a specific time just to pray in tongues. When I was a college student, I used to set apart at least half an hour of my prayer time for tongue-talking. Initially, even five minutes of tongues seemed to me like many hours. So I would keep an alarm clock before me and force myself to speak in tongues.

As a man disciplines himself for regular exercise, you need to exercise yourself unto godliness. Anything would seem difficult initially. You must learn to bring your body under your control.

You can never excel in any art, no matter how determined you are, unless you take specific time to practice it. Tongue-talking definitely demands a

specific time. At first, it may look very hard, but as you practice more and more, you will relish the sweetness of it.

It's a very good habit to pray in tongues early in the morning. That will enable your spirit man to control you throughout the day. You won't live as you please. Your mind will be very clear the whole day, and your thought life will be pure. Your will shall become His will. The Holy Spirit who knows the temptations and assaults the devil planned for that day, will take you into victory through your prayer language. Your spirit man will find out God's secrets for that day early in the morning.

You will experience many miracles as you begin the day tongue-talking. You will be very sensitive to the leading of the Spirit even in minute details. As soon as you wake up, even still in your bed, start praying in tongues. In your devotions, separate a time for tongue-talking. Drift into sleep speaking in tongues. Even while your body sleeps, your spirit man will be active.

Your spirit man never sleeps nor slumbers. He will never grow old. Even when you are 100 years old, your spirit man will still be young. When you go to sleep while speaking in tongues, your thoughts become serene. You will not go to sleep with a troubled mind, but enjoy a deep, peaceful sleep. When you wake up, you will feel a new vigor. Psychiatrists say the last thought before you go to sleep and the first thought after you wake up mold your entire life. Hearing Bible cassettes while going to sleep is a good habit, and tongue-talking is another.

If you make it a continuous practice, God will begin to speak to you while you sleep. He will speak in dreams or your spirit man will gather divine secrets during your sleep. Many times, I receive God's messages in my dreams. When I practice this, I clearly hear the voice of God when I wake up.

We know the person that develops timely eating habits develops his physical strength. Similarly, your spirit man becomes very active throughout the day if you develop this habit of speaking in tongues regularly at

***The last day revival will be the revival of gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophet Ezekiah Francis***



specific times. Your spirit man will grow from strength to strength.

Try to speak in tongues at all times. You can also speak in tongues while walking, taking a bath, traveling, even while talking with others. Let this river of tongues constantly flow through you. Of course, all this will come only by constant practice. Beyond any doubt, regular specific times of tongue-talking will take you another step closer towards the pinnacle.

## 7. Speak until you feel a release

Jesus said we should pray without fainting (Lk.18:1). Sometimes you may feel dark clouds while praying in tongues. Your mind may wander. The hosts of hell will try their best to hinder your tongue-talking time. You must be tenacious here. Sometimes, the spiritual battle may continue for hours, but all of a sudden, heaven will open up for you. Discouragements will be dispelled. Continue until you feel that breakthrough. Other than your regular tongue-talking time, the Holy Spirit might drop a sudden burden into your spirit. For unknown reasons, you will feel heaviness. At times a fear may grip your heart. You need to discern where it comes from. If the devil burdens your heart, rebuke in the Name of Jesus. If the burden persists, plunge into tongue-talking. It may be an urgent call from the Holy Spirit for some specific need.

Keep asking the Holy Spirit to pray through you for that burden. Never stop speaking in tongues until that burden is lifted. Sometimes you may go from one language to another. You may cry or rebuke or whisper. Somehow, speak in tongues continuously. Slowly you will feel the burden removed and a joy or a song or a tune rises up from your spirit. You will give a deep sigh of relief.

Someone or something may come to mind as you pray in tongues. Continue praying in tongues for that

person or that need until you feel a total freedom. Then enter into high praises. This is another step on the ladder toward the pinnacle.

## 8. Speak audibly

You can speak in tongues loudly or softly. Some will always yell and scream in tongues while others always whisper. Nothing is wrong in itself. Where the Spirit of God is there is liberty. Consider some of my practical tips.

When the 120 were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke in loud tongues. Their voice was heard by all the people of Jerusalem. ***“And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language”*** (Ac.2:6).

It's clear they spoke in tongues loudly. You must have times like this to speak in tongues with all your might, giving the Holy Spirit total freedom. When God moves mightily, it's not unusual for some to yell in tongues.

As a student I learnt the secret of releasing the power of God through loud tongues. A great man of God who is mightily used in the gifts of the Spirit counseled me to pray in tongues every morning with all my strength. This helped me to a great extent in my budding years of Christian life and gave me breakthrough.

Is it always necessary and possible to shout in tongues like this? Not really. There is a time to shout in tongues with all freedom, and there is a time to silently whisper. These are the two sides of the tongue-talkers' life.

When Paul was talking about speaking in tongues in the church, he said, ***“But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God”*** (1.Co.14:28). From this we understand we can speak so softly that only God can

***Gifts of the Holy Spirit are the manifestation of the ONE who lives in you - Prophet Ezekiah Francis***

hear. This is a soft and silent tongue.

When surrounded by people, you can silently speak to God in tongues. You can whisper so softly even the one who sleeps next to you won't be disturbed. In your travels, you can talk to your co-passengers while speaking in tongues. Sometimes, in my counseling ministry, when people elaborate their problems to me, I silently speak in tongues. Before praying publicly for others, I silently speak in tongues. The great man of God Oral Roberts said that speaking in tongues is to him like breathing. Wow!

Some speak in tongues very fast. That's ok. You can speak in tongues as naturally as you speak to your friends. It's good to speak in tongues loud enough so you can hear. In the initial stages, some would shiver and shake while speaking in tongues, but as you grow in tongues you must learn to speak naturally.

Because your mind and thoughts are not involved,

you can cook while speaking in tongues. I humorously use to say, whatever you cook speaking in tongues will be a healing miracle-meal. Traveling time is the best time for tongue-talkers. Swim in the Spirit while swimming in the sea. Dive into tongues while driving.

In traffic jams and at red traffic lights, use the time to charge your spirit man. Let your generator work continuously. Any annoying waiting time can become an anointed praying time!

*To be Continued...*

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After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God (**Ge.5:22-24; Heb.11:5**)

The Old Testament saints give us the shadow of life in Christ. God picked some of His saints to show forth His blessings to us. Every time you see those saints enjoying God's Presence and glory, be encouraged! In Christ, you have far more than they could ever imagine. Never put them on a high pedestal and feel inferior. None of them could see the totality and reality of the blessings you can enjoy in Christ. Let us taste the firstfruits Enoch tasted and proceed into the fullness. Remnant of God: Your God is a God of remnants. Though He drove out His first man from His Presence, He still didn't totally estrange Himself from humanity. He stooped down to touch Abel with His approval (Ge.4:4). He talked to the murderer Cain (Ge.4:9). When Cain left His Presence, God replaced him with Seth. Then, men began to call on the name of the Lord (Ge.4:26). From his lineage, He picked His great friends like Enoch, Lamech, Noah and Abraham. It clearly shows the love-hungry God craving for fellowship with His people. This Father-heart of God was fully satisfied in Christ. As you received Christ, you received the greatest blessing of walking in deep fellowship with God. Walking with God: Enoch, the seventh from Adam, enjoyed the great privilege of walking intimately with God for over eighty percent of his life. He was not a super-saint with a halo around his head but just an ordinary family man who had sons and daughters (Ge.4:22). Not much is said about his achievements. His greatest feat was his intimate walk with God. Wherever he went, God went with Him. They walked at the same pace. Enoch rested and relaxed with Him, moved and conversed with Him. What a privilege! In Christ, God has become your Immanuel (Mt.1:23). Now, God is with you, in you, amidst you, upon you, around you (Col.1:26; Mt.18:20; 2.Co.6:16). Every cell of your body is throbbing with His life and glory. This is God's free gift to you! He never leaves you nor forsakes you even a single minute of your life (Heb.13:5-6). Pleasing God: The only thing we hear about Enoch other than his walk with God is that he pleased God (Heb.11:5). It's not any man's testimony, it is God's testimony! God's divine nature was not imparted to Enoch. The Blood of Jesus Christ had not been shed for him yet, neither could he receive Jesus as you have received Him. Just by trusting in the blood of animals, he could please the righteous God. His faith pleased God, for without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb.11:6). In Christ, you are given enough faith to please God (Ro.12:3). How much more can you please God with all the privileges of the New Covenant (Eph.5:1)! Revelation of God: This ordinary man could predict the glorious second coming of Christ. He saw the Lord coming down with ten-thousands of His saints to execute judgment on all (Jude 14). What a foresight! Imagine, he was not born after the day of Pentecost where the Spirit was poured out without measure (Jn.3:34; Ac.2:17). His spirit was not made alive like yours (Eph.2:1). With all such limited grace and provision, he could enjoy God's intimacy and get a glimpse of God's future plans. How much should this kindle your spirit to expect more!? Transportation of God: When Enoch lost himself in God's fellowship, God literally took him away (Ge.5:24). Enoch never experienced the death that came through Adam (Ro.5:17). What only the great prophet Elijah could experience was experienced by this ordinary farmer (2.Ki.2:11)! Thereby, he became the foreshadow of the New Covenant believers. When Christ Jesus comes back, all His saints will be taken up together with Him (1.Th.4:17). Beloved, only few saints of God under the Old Covenant could experience such intimate walk with God, but in Christ, every believer has free access to it. You can walk with God as Jesus walked in His earthly life. You can please God as Jesus pleased Him (Jn.8:29). You can know God's plan for the future and prepare beforehand as Jesus saw the future. This is your birthright. Don't settle for anything less! Decide to enjoy His constant communion. You are called into intimacy with God (1.Co.1:9; 2.Co.13:14).

**Thank You, Lord, You are with me always even until the end of this age, as God's Immanuel. You don't call me servant for a servant does not know what his Master is doing. You have called me Your friend for all things You have made known to me because I am in Christ.**

## *Jewels in His Crown*



**John G Lake**  
*A Man of Healing*

***“No words of mine can convey to another soul the cry that was in my heart and the flame of hatred for death and sickness that the Spirit of God had stirred within me.”***

John Graham Lake (March 18, 1870 – September 16, 1935), usually known as John G. Lake, was a leader in the Pentecostal movement that began in the early 20th century, and is known as a faith healer, missionary, and with Thomas Hezmalhalch, co-founder of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa. Through his 1908–13 African missionary work, Lake played a decisive role in the spread of Pentecostal movement in South Africa, the most successful southern African religious movement of the 20th century. After completing his missionary work in Africa, Lake evangelized for 20 years, primarily along the west coast of the United States setting up “healing rooms” and healing campaigns, and establishing churches.

In February 1893, Lake married Jennie Stevens of Newberry, Michigan, and the two had six children and adopted another before her death in 1908. During the 1890s Lake and many members of his family began appearing regularly in Dowie’s services, where they were invariably healed and allegedly brought back from death’s door. In 1898 Lake opened a small chapter of Dowie’s Christian Catholic Church in Sault Ste Marie and held meetings in the attic of his parents’ home. In 1901 he relocated his family to Zion, Illinois, where he worked in the theocratic town’s construction department.

If there was ever a man who walked in the revelation of “God in man,” it was John G. Lake, a man of purpose, vision, strength and character, his one goal in life was to bring the fullness of God to every person. He often said that the secret of heaven’s power was not in the doing, but in the being. He believed that Spirit-filled Christians should enjoy the same type of ministry Jesus did while living on earth, and that this reality could only be accomplished by seeing themselves as God saw them. John G. Lake lived his life and fulfilled his ministry in the earth with this type of spiritual understanding. If we would just grasp the reality of our position through Jesus Christ, as Lake did, every nation would ring with the praises of God.

### NEWS

- Flood in several northern, north eastern and western states of India suffered huge flood. Parts of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal were the worst affected. Official figures indicate the death of 217 people in the three states till mid-August
- The death of about 70 children in just a few days in a government hospital in Gorakhpur, the home constituency of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr Yogi Adityanath, has shocked the whole country.
- The BJP government in Jharkhand has passed an Anti-Conversion Bill in the state Assembly.
- In Nigeria, Islamic militants fired in a Church on the first Sunday of August and killed at least 15 worshippers.
- The state of Queensland, Australia, is recommending a policy that would ban any references to Jesus—including Christmas cards—from public schools. According to the Department of Education, they’re afraid “non-religious children” might feel forced to consider the Christian beliefs of their friends. Christian leaders oppose the move, saying that banning Jesus’ name won’t change the fact that He is the Son of God and one day every person will have to confess it.
- In Pakistan, Mr Nawaz Sharif has been disqualified from the Prime Minister post by a five-judge Bench of the country’s Supreme Court, holding him guilty of amassing huge undisclosed income.



# ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD

Rev. Benita Francis

Continued from last month...

## Sword Soil

Of course, every soldier needs a sword. Guess what is your sword as soldier in God's army? It is nothing but God's living, active Word (Eph.6:17)!

God's Word satisfies not only your deepest inner needs, but also your secret longings. God's Word pierces so deeply, it can divide between your soul and your spirit! What a tremendous blessing! How easily could we go astray, following the dictates and fancies of our souls! The worst part is that we could even think we are walking in God's will, if God's Word would not inspect and correct us so faithfully! See what God's Word does:

*12 For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb.4:12)*

The division between soul and spirit is not easy to make, even for mature believers. There are so many things that seem to be "good" ideas, but how can you make sure what you want to do for God is really a "God" idea? Did you know that the greatest enemy of your calling can be your desire to do something for God?

If you don't allow God's Word to point the searchlight into your innermost being, you may run off with some beautiful and really needed project. You may work hard throughout your entire life, serving God, only to find out later that God had never intended for you to do

this work or ministry.

It makes me shiver to think how easily God's great King Saul lost his kingdom - and worst of all, he was all the time fully convinced that he had done God's will! God's instructions through His prophet Samuel had actually been very simple and easy to understand and to keep. He just had to wait seven days for God's prophet, but he didn't take God's Word serious enough to keep it even against outside pressure. See here:

*8 Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.*

*9 So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering.*

*10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.*

*11 And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,*

*12 then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."*

*13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the*

***Your Father is the possessor of heaven and earth - Rev. Benita Francis***

LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you” (1.Sa.13:8-14)

What a tragedy! What a warning! Even a beautiful God-fearing thing like giving a burnt offering was not acceptable in God’s eyes. The only thing acceptable was and is keeping His Word!

You would think King Saul would have learned a lesson, but tragically, this was not the case. See here his next half-obedience which is nothing but disobedience. God had again given him a chance by commanding him to utterly destroy the Amalekites. Saul thought and said he did it. Let us see what happened:

7 And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

8 He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that

they utterly destroyed.

10 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,

11 “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.”

13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD.”

14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”

15 And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.”

17 So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did

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*not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?*

*18 Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'*

*19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?*

*20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.*

*21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.*

Shocking, isn't it? King Saul adamantly insists he perfectly performed God's will. When God's prophet confronts him with the facts, Saul is quick to blame "the people". What a shame. What a disgrace! This is the context in which God through His prophet Samuel spoke words you must hide in your heart for time and eternity:

*22 Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.*

*23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the Word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.*

Please, please never underestimate the eternal importance of God's Word. The entire universe was made by it and is being upheld by it (Heb.11:3; 1:3). The Word was with God, and the Word is God (Jn.1:1; Rev.19:3). God gives utmost importance to His Word, and so should we!

*24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I*

*have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.*

*25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."*

*26 But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."*

Here Saul finally acknowledges he sinned. He even understands and confesses why. Did it help him? Not really. He lost his kingdom. He lost the support of God's prophet. He lost God's Word and voice to the extent that he had to go to a medium, a witch, to get God's answer for a war strategy (1.Sa.28). This fact and "his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD" are given as reasons for his early, shameful death (1.Chr.10:13).

Can you see it? Your God is not interested in all the sacrifices and offerings people bring. He is not pleased by burnt offerings of rams and cattle nor by the blood of bulls, lambs or goats. Incense and futile sacrifices are an abomination to Him (Isa.1:11-20). There is only one thing He insists again and again:

*19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;*

*20 But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword (Isa.1:19-20)*

As always, God puts before you two options to pick from. He sets before you life and death, blessing and curse, and commands you to choose life so that you and your descendants may live (Dt.30:15,19). You can allow the Sword of God's Word to pierce and divide and show you the thoughts and intentions of your heart - or you can allow the sword of God's enemies to destroy you (Eph.6:17; Isa.1:20).

So please, for God's sake, grow deep roots into God's Sword Soil, His Word. Your soul may command and

***The battle for your future is the battle for your tongue - Rev. Benita Francis***

demand, but praise God! The Sword of His Word will always put you back on the right path and help you truly fulfill His will.

### Searching Soil

God's Word does even more than that - it also discerns the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. No human being can really understand our deepest intentions. God's Word gives us a very strong warning:

**9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? (Jer.17:9)**

Of course, in New Testament times, this dilemma has been solved because God's promise spoken through His prophet Ezekiel became reality:

**19 Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,**

**20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God (Eze.11:19-20)**

As a new creation in Christ Jesus, you have received that new heart and that new spirit!

I used to pray according to King David's wise prayer in Psalm 139:23-24, "Lord, please check my heart, check my motivations!" Try that. It is a very eye-opening experience. You might find out that you actually do things more for people's sake or to satisfy your own conscience than for God and His Kingdom. If that should be the case, don't worry and don't feel condemned. You can just repent and ask the Lord to change your heart. You can make King David's beautiful prayer your own:

**23 Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my anxieties;**

**24 and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Ps.139:23-24)**

How does God search your heart? He already knows

***Every small decision you make for Jesus makes a big difference - Rev. Benita Francis***

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everything about you, even the many things you don't know about yourself! Remember how your Lord Jesus lived His life? As the Creator of humanity, of course He has "root access" to everything inside His creations. So what lifestyle did He live as a result of this knowledge? See here:

***24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,***

***25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man (Jn.2:24-25)***

I had a beautiful experience with this reality many years ago during my God-ordained training period in Argentina. Through some squeezing incidences and God's response through His Word, I had discovered some ungodly attitude in my heart. I had never even known that such a selfish, ugly thought pattern had been hiding in my life all these years. Very dismayed, I did what I always do: I RAN to Jesus! "Jeeeesuuuus!!! Look what I found in my heart! What an ugly thing! Are You sure You can still love me with such a horrible attitude in my heart?" To my great comfort, my desperate cry received an immediate response. In my spirit, I could see His loving, soothing smile as I heard Him say, "This is nothing new to Me. I have known it all your life, but still, this has never stopped Me from loving you." Wow!!! What a God!!! What a wonderful Savior! Truly, He knows all men and women, but still He loves us with an everlasting love and draws us toward Him with His loving kindness (Ac.1:24; 15:8; Jer.31:3).

Okay. So we know that God knows our heart, but still, King David asked Him to know his heart. Why? Well, this wise man after God's own heart wanted to make sure he lived a God-pleasing life, and he knew he couldn't really fathom the depth of his own heart. So he trustingly asked his beloved God to do it for him.

***To be Continued...***

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