

A Journey

From

Religion

To

Relationship

- Mrs. Grace Joseph.

A Journey from Religion to Relationship



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Prayer

Lord Jesus by faith in your merits, I now take your Precious Blood and anoint myself right from the crown of my head to the very soles of my feet. I claim total and complete protection for my life. Lord Jesus, keep me free today from evil, sin, temptation, Satan's attacks and afflictions, fear of man, sickness, disease, doubt, anger, all calamities and from all that is not of Thy Kingdom.

Fill me Lord JESUS with the gift of your Holy Spirit and grant me the gift of wisdom, knowledge, faith, understanding and discernment, so that I live today for your glory by doing what is right. Jesus, I praise you, thank you, love you and adore you Amen

Foreword

I believe sincerely that the call of God was upon me to write this Book..

In my walk with the Lord Jesus, the thing that baffled me, that which worried me and for which I struggled was to have a meaningful time with Jesus. The prayers I recited gave me satisfaction, but I knew that it was not reaching to the THRONE ROOM of God.

I began to have inner convictions that the Lord was asking me to change inwardly and He did not approve of my lip service. I began to read books and books on prayer and it led me to prayers in the Bible. I learnt three things. 1] Repent with godly sorrow 2] forgive from the heart and forget the hurt 3] love those who persecute you. I realized that Jesus alone can bring the change in me and I just have to cry out to him. I am learning to pray for the last eight years and am still at it. I have borrowed matter from the books/magazines I read; and those that I learnt at the feet of the Lord..

I learnt to rejoice in the Lord and it was a great leap in my walk with Jesus. The Holy Spirit began to show me my hidden sins and repentance thereof, I experienced great freedom and experienced the joy and peace of the Lord.

It is my heart felt desire that every reader will be touched by the double edged sword of the lord and receive an anointing to pray the way the Father wants us to pray. [John 4:24 (KJV) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.]

Prayer is our avenue to communicate with God Job 13:3 (KJV) Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.'

C. H. Spurgeon wrote, "Let your thoughts be psalms, your prayers incense and your breath praise"

Let your thoughts be psalms: We can turn our thoughts to psalms by meditating on God's holiness, His worthiness of our worship and our need for Him.

Let your prayers be incense: Our prayers are like incense to God

Psalms 141:2 (KJV) Let my prayer be set forth before thee *as* incense; *and* the lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice.

Let your breath be praise: **Psalms 150:6 (KJV)** Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Let praising and thanking God become as natural to us as breathing.

Worship praise and adoration,

All belong to Jesus' Name ;

Freely give your hearts devotion,

Constantly His love proclaim- Anon

I believe that this book will help you to enjoy the goodness of the Lord and a newness of life in the Spirit.

Acknowledgement:

I want to thank my Lord Jesus for the gift of my brother Jose Anathanm who in his unassuming way put the torchlight into the tunnel of darkness I was walking and the one word he gave to ponder throughout my life and which demolished all my pretense of piety

1 John 1:10 (KJV) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

For the gift of my sister Molly who helped me in a silent way to see a life beyond this horizon and to aim for it.

For the gift of my pastor Celestine Raj for his encouragement, prayers and his availability at all times I needed help spiritually. There were times I needed deliverance, restoration, and acceptance. He was patient and understanding. For the Gift my brother in Christ Deepak kataria who kept me in prayer always and was sensitive to the Spirit of God to give me a Word of encouragement at times I felt weak and lonely

God in His mercy sent me so many more people to help me in my walk with Him.

Not to us , not to us O lord but all glory to you

Grace Joseph

Introduction

This Book is the result of my search for True God. I was born in an ancient Roman Catholic family. The Lord blessed me with parents who were very religious and brought us up to obey the Catholic Church, which laid down rules and regulations. We went to church every day, confessed every week, abstained from meat on Fridays, observed days of fasting during Advent and Easter. , recited rosary everyday said novena to various saints and multifunctional prayers which we learnt by heart to say at various occasions. After I got married, I did my best to bring this discipline into my family. As years rolled by and I began to have ambitions in my life to be rich, to be known , to see my children well placed ; in short I was fully immersed in a world competing to get the best out of it. I succeeded in many things. Of course, I never stopped my religious activities. As the years passed by, my children were married, my husband retired and the best way I found to waste away my time was to enjoy horseracing and a stint at the stock market. I lost, I won, I lost I won. It was fun.

By the time I was over 52 years of age, I began to loose my health, swelling on the knees, spondyloisis, spondylitis, severe form of vertigo, loss of immunity, recurring high fever ,and fear of death gripped me Where will I go after death? What is in store for me? The fire of purgatory and hell gripped me. I began to read the Bible. However, I understood nothing. Moreover. I found it boring after five minutes. To cap it all there was failure in my personal life. The laughter and the gaiety seemed to wane away.

With my ego deflated ,fortunes devastated ,friendships crashed, relationships broken, talents tucked away, health ruined, I fell flat on my back gazing up at nothing because everything was bleak and dark .I was wearing a mask of happiness to impress those around me. I was too self righteous to admit that I went wrong somewhere. I knew nothing about the Lordship of my Savior, His love, His power, mercy and compassion. The Hand of God led me to revival, restoration and rebirth. Praise be to the Name of Jesus

It was around this time my brother who is also a Gospel Preacher; Jose Anathanam came to preach in Bangalore. (1994) He had come many times before, but I never attended the retreats. This time in a hopeless condition in the sick bed, I asked him to pray for me. As he prayed, I felt like going with him to church and participated in the Praise and worship. I participated by worshipping Jesus by raising and clapping my hands. At that moment, the 103 degree fever left me and I felt strong. I made a decision to know Jesus more closely. As days went by, I realized that all my sickness, illness and disease left me one by one. I had a problem of sneezing a thousand times and it used to embarrass me greatly. Praise God, I never sneezed after that. The healing of my swelling and pain on my knee was much later. I took up my Bible again. I read it, but with no comprehension. I continued in horseracing and Stock Broking!

My brother Jose was conducting a retreat in Athirampuzha Kerala. (1995) I went from Bangalore to attend it. He asked all of us to go for confession on the fourth day. I was still in the Catholic Church. 1 John 1:8 (KJV) if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (The Bible I had at that time read like this if we say we have no sin, **we make God out to be a liar**) I began to prepare for my confession. Looked at the list, went through the commandments and honestly I could not find any sin. There was simply no time to sin. I was a hard working mother, wife, Businesswoman, socialite. No, I had no sin. As usual, I will mumble something to the priest I thought. I tried to lie down and read. However, the above word did not allow me to rest. I was praying on my knees to show me my sin. No there was nothing! God! How can I make You out to be a liar! Please please help me! I started this exercise around 5pm and it went on past 10.30pm. I could not lie down or sleep. The double-edged sword of God was dealing with me. I did not know it then. I again knelt down and cried. In addition, called upon the name of Jesus and I said I want to know my sins, help me please. I heard within me Grace you are proud. . At that moment I was happy to write about that sin, and as I took the note book and wrote saying lord if you say I am proud, I am proud and then sins after sins were recorded with tears flowing down my cheeks. It was the beginning of a new life. The Lord Jesus began to deal with me. My burdens of sins

were washed in His precious Blood. Yes even before I made the ritual of confession to a human being. JESUS ALONE CAN FORGIVE OUR SINS. I was still in the learning stage.

1 John 1:9 (KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I felt free.

I came determined to follow Jesus. Because I was blessed mightily that day. I began to read the Bible. A new interest dawned for the word. I wanted to study the Bible. The next day I saw an advertisement in the newspaper of a worldwide Bible course. They send the material and I had to study and return the answers. It was free. I was serious about my study. So even when it was boring I did not give it up. I gave up horseracing and stock broking. I spend time in reading the Bible. Mean time a spiritual book IN CHRIST JESUS by Colin ouquart, which was presented to me by my sister years ago and which I had thrown away many times surfaced. from nowhere. I was so thankful for the book. The Bible and this book, showed me my spiritual condition and I shed tears of repentance at times , some times I rejoiced in the freedom I felt and I began to love Jesus.

I continued in my rituals and traditions and God my Father, ever so patient was leading me to green pastures in His way.

Exodus 23:29-31 (KJV) ²⁹ I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field multiply against thee. ³⁰ By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.

. I did not know it then. The Lord motivated me to organize a group to worship Him and impart the knowledge that He revealed to me. The group was started in 1997 and there were many. who joined the group and all of us looked forward to the day of our fellowship. We were a close-knit group. We shared our difficulties and prayed for one another. Jesus moved in our midst and we experienced answers to our prayers. Finally, the group met at my home to my great delight from 2002. We began intercessory prayer also during the week. I spoke of Jesus to all I met in the meat/fish/vegetable shops, in the bus, air, trains, and shops. I praise

God; Jesus worked out His plan for them through me. I was so excited about Jesus. Once we went to Orrisa from Bangalore by train. There was a young Lieutenant traveling with us. I was singing and praising God softly in the early morning about 5.30 am onwards and I took up my newly bought KJV Bible and was reading ps.19:13 I had to forgive someone and that word gripped my attention. This sardarjee (same young officer) asked me if I am reading the Bible. I shook my head without looking at him, as I was fully engrossed in the word. He asked a second time. and I did the same thing. The Lord spoke to me then and commanded me to tell him of Jesus... It was a very powerful and strong speaking from the Lord. So I looked up at him. He smiled and asked me again if I am reading the Bible. . I asked him if he heard about Jesus. He said yes. I began to tell him about the joy of knowing Jesus. He was looking spellbound and I shared my experiences with Jesus. Because I did not know anything better then. He asked me to sing a hymn. I said I have a hoarse voice, but Jesus loves it. I sang "Jesus Name above all names" I experienced the power of God and I know I never sang so well before or later. I sang the same hymn repeatedly. He felt that presence too; his hands were opened up and eyes closed. A Divine moment. We talked the whole day till late in the night. He said he has no Bible to read. I cheerfully parted with my newly bought, leather-bound gold edged Bible. I taught him some prayers. He asked me a question: The meaning of Good shepherd. A word I used; but never thought about. Jesus did not allow me to fumble. . I saw like a picture the activities of the Good Shepherd and I was able to satisfy him by my answer... He was going to a remote area for joining a parachute company of the army. I could not contact; Jesus used me to sow the seed! Well these experiences continued to happen in a lesser scale, but I am happy to say that except one, all came into a new life with Jesus and they are all working in different areas. today. We were known as the Good Shepherd Christian community. , I had to leave Bangalore in the year 2005. May be God has a different plan for me. I believe this book is a product of His new design for me... I felt a prompting to write this book. I have no experience of writing a book. These are all personal experiences at different levels of growth. I am also including wise sayings, topics that I have read from magazines, spiritual books and preaching from men of God. Nothing is

recorded which is not my experience. I am not able to record the source as it was all collected from the day I became excited about Jesus. I know it will profit my readers too.

I do believe the Lord God who moved me to write will move in the hearts of the readers as the scripture says **Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Therefore, the word of God is given where necessary and I encourage you to read it with reverence. I have gone through various stages of growth in my relationship with Jesus.

Isaiah 43:2 (KJV) When you pass through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walk through the fire, thou shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” According to His promise He was there always

Isaiah 43:4-6 (KJV) Since thou were precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. ⁵ Fear not: for I *am* with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;.” These words comfort me and I wait upon His promise.

I am writing about areas I struggled and conquered (**Romans 8:37 (KJV)** Nay, in all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.) Yes, Jesus helped me to separate myself from religion and to develop an intimate relationship with Jesus.

As the Lord worked in me to develop a relationship with Him, He started with repentance, Forgiveness, Love and Prayer. I am recording all that I learnt at His Feet.

Only Jesus our mighty God can teach us. May the good Lord Jesus give you His grace to experience deep repentance? Only that can bridge the gap between religion and relationship and experience His loving Hands carrying you ever so lovingly.

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A Journey from Religion to Relationship

The Lord's unfailing Love surrounds
the man who trusts in Him

Psalms: 32:10

The Cross of Christ reveals Man's Sin And
Our Father's Love in all its Fullness

Our Greatest Freedom is
Freedom from Sin

Chapter-1

What is sin?

SIN is lawlessness, wrongdoing, wickedness, enmity against God. Sin is a power that enslaves us and corrupts us. Sin is rooted in human desire brought into human race through Adam .Sin brings spiritual and physical death and can be eliminated only through faith in Christ and by HIS Precious Blood

Sin shall not have dominion over you (Rom: 6:14) for ye are not under the law, but under grace. We cannot enter into the holy Presence of God with sin in our hearts.

.Lord, show me any area in my life where I am not living in obedience to your ways. Help me to bring every thought and action under your control. Enable me to hear your instructions to my heart, so that I may do your will. Lead me in your paths of righteousness, wholeness and peace.

Psalms 43:3- (KJV) ³ O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill and to your dwelling”

Ezekiel 18:32 (KJV) For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore repent and live ye.

1 John 1:9 (KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ezekiel 18:28 (KJV) Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Hebrews 8:12- (KJV) ¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

SINS

If Sin were not deceitful, It would not seem delightful.

Psalms 139:23-24 (KJV) ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”

The reason for giving the meanings for each sin is this that when a sin was revealed, I was not always prepared to accept it. So I was asked to look up the dictionary to see its meaning. Yes, Jesus allowed me to go deep into the depth of my heart to detect sin. I continue even today to find out my sins, weakness, and transgressions. I want to be His Bride spotless and without wrinkles.

Wrath= stern indignation, divine vengeance, an act Resulting from anger

Anger= feeling of great annoyance, antagonism as a result of Some real or supposed grievance

Clamor= a loud persistent cry, vehement expressions collective feeling or outrage,

aloud and persistent noise

Evil speaking= malicious, spiteful. When anger lingers in our heart, it poisons all we think, and do. However, faith seeks ways to show God's love.

Malice = desire to do harm or mischief, evil intent, the state of mind with which an act is committed and from which the intent to do wrong may be inferred

Bitterness = strong unrelenting hostility and resentment

Jealousy = resentfulness, envy, of another's success Rom: 13:13

Law breaking = rebellious, ungodly, sinful, unholy, irreligious, kill their parents, murderers, adulterers, perverts, slave traders, liars, and perjurers (who gives false evidence and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine is sin (1 Tim: 1:8-11)

Sexual vice = all impurity, lustful, rich wasteful living, greedy, filthiness (obscenity, indecency), silly and corrupt talk, coarse jesting Romans 1:29 (KJV)" Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers",

Fits of rage= explosive anger that flames into violent words or deeds

Selfish ambition= seeking power

Dissensions= introducing divisive teaching and not accepting the written word of God

Factions = divisions within the congregation into selfish groups or cliques that destroy the unity of the church

Note: Here I like to inform those traditional Christians who accuse me and others many times saying that in the last days false teachers will arise. False teachers are there from the beginning. Those who learn the word of God and struggle to live accordingly are true followers because we are asked to follow the teaching of Christ and not a traditional church

Drunkenness= orgies, perverse speech, wanton behavior Psalms 101:4 (KJV) A perverse heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person".

Pride= arrogance deceit. Psalms 101:7 (KJV) He that worked deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that tells lies shall not tarry in my sight.

Self-sufficiency= failing to turn to God for help.
(2 Chronicles 10:14-15 (KJV)

Idolatry= Exodus 20:3-6 (KJV) 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the

iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me Exodus 23:24 (KJV) Thou shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shall utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images." {This commandment was never taught to me in my catechism class or later on in the Apologetic class in my college. I got a first class!!! In my search for the Truth , I read this commandment in EXODUS 20 and I was shaken to untold sorrow to see that such a great Truth was hidden from me and other Christians by the so called teachers of Christianity}

Melancholy = Always sad

Telling Lies = White lies included

Covetousness= Robbery, sensuality, unworthy riches.

Grudge = One thing that does not get better when it is nursed. When anger lingers in our heart, it poisons all we think and do. But faith seeks ways to show God's love. In addition, keep our spirit strong and true.

Greed= idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God)

Witchcraft = Bad feeling toward others, unholy desires, curses, slander, foul mouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips (col. 3:8)

Sin of unbelief in Jesus. John 16:9 (KJV) of sin, because they believe not on me; All wrongdoing is sin 1 John 5:17-18 (KJV) ¹⁷-all unrighteousness is sin Not giving Thanks to God. is sin

Foolishness = folly, lack of sense, recklessness, thoughtlessness Lying, gossiping, disobeying parents, discouragement, fear of future, neglect of God's word, worry over finances

Romans 1:21-) (KJV) ²¹ because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **Romans 1:23 (KJV)** And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.

Apostasy 1 John 4:6 (KJV) We are of God: he that knows God hears us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Leading others to sin Matthew 18:6 (KJV) But whoso shall offend one of these

little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

Psalms 105:14-15 (KJV) ¹⁴

He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes; ¹⁵
Saying,

Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Things that cause people to sin :-

humanistic teaching, immoral films, pornography, drugs, worldly entertainment, consumption of alcohol, wicked examples, false teaching and unrighteous companions – is to join with satan who is the great tempter

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (KJV) ⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionists, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-22 (KJV) ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envy, murders, drunkenness, retellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

2 Timothy 3:1-7 (KJV) ¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with diverse lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Hosea 4:6 (KJV) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God,

I will also forget thy children.”

UNFORGIVENESS is the root of many sins. Unforgiveness brings in negative thoughts. We become cynical, critical, particularly towards the person who offended you; also towards other people and situations. Every situation is an emotional prison that takes your mind and spirit captive. We fail to experience joy or peace. Unforgiveness can cripple some one’s life. It can be a person who refuses to forgive or it can be the one who is not forgiven. There are times when we say, I have forgiven; but I cannot forget. I can confidently state that such a person has not forgiven. It is the love of God poured into my heart that revealed this truth to me. (Rom: 5:5) When God forgives, He forgets. We can really love and accept the offender if we really forget the offense. If not the wounds open up and spontaneous loving attitude is impossible.

The Bible gives us specific directions about how God expects you to deal with bitterness and broken relationships. If you are, the offended party the Bible says forgive from your heart. If you are the offender, the Bible says that you must seek to be reconciled with your brother. **Matthew 5:23-25 (KJV)** ²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remembers that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. ²⁵ Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison”

This means broken relationship can block your relationship with God.

We cannot press on to spiritual pursuits until we make a sincere effort to be reconciled. This tells us that God is not pleased with your worship when you are not concerned about broken relationships. Our efforts at restoration please God. **Matthew 5:9 (KJV)** Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Swallow your pride and overcome your fears. Prayerfully seek to heal those relationships where unresolved conflicts exist. We cannot control another person’s response towards us; but we can do everything on our part to heal the relationship, trusting God to work.

The process of forgiveness begins as we repent to God for unforgiveness. Unforgiveness is a Sin against God. Forgiveness is a process that moves from a decision of the mind to an attitude of the heart. An attitude of humility and brokenness grows from the recognition that unforgiveness is serious and we are obligated to others because God’s grace has forgiven us... If you first determine in your mind that a change is needed, then your heart can follow.

After repenting, you must release the other person from your condemnation. If you hold a person captive in your heart, you are denying God’s power to work in your life and the life of the other person. God truly gives the power of reconciliation. . For true forgiveness to take place, we must commit, to never slander, speak evil of a person or seek revenge. God is the true avenger and judge of all people and we must not try to take His place.

Jesus tells us in **Luke 6:27-28 (KJV)** ²⁷ But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, ²⁸ Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."

Why would God insist on such a thing when we are not the ones who committed the offense? Because God loves us and He knows that the poison of unforgiveness damages the vessel it is stored in much more than the person upon whom it is spewed.

First make a decision to forgive, feelings will come later. Our obedience releases God to overcome our feelings and bring true emotional healing.

The release that comes is incredible. And God blesses the person who forgives. beyond understanding.

Do not let unforgiveness rest in your heart any longer. God will carry you through if you are obedient to Him. Nothing is worth our separation from God. . Nothing is worth the pain that unforgiveness causes, and the blessing of forgiveness are great.

Scriptures that help you forgive. Psalm 32:1-2, Isa43:25, Mathew6:12, 14, 15 18:21- 35 John 8:36 2 cor. 5:19

Mark 1:15 (KJV) And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent you, and believe the gospel.

Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'

Romans 3:23-24 (KJV) ²³ for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God ²⁴ being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Our Greatest Freedom is Freedom from Sin

Detecting Sin is the first step to deliverance from sin. We are so quick to find out little imperfections in others. Therefore, slow to see our glaring sins. As we study the Word of God, the true light of our Lord Jesus Christ shines on us and our moral flaws become alarmingly visible. Jesus' purity, holiness genuine love and unmixed motives reveal specks of sinfulness in everything we do .Little white lies, selfish anger, small hypocrisies and muddy motives stand out vividly. And they are in all of us to some degree.

1 John 1:10 (KJV) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us". when we confess our sins and transgressions, God cleanses us, even those tiny specks we do not always see. 1 John 1:9 (KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Jesus Christ takes each sin, each pain, each loss and by the power of His cross transforms our brokenness and shame so we may glorify His Name

Lord help me see my hidden sin
, That secret wrongs that lurk within

I would confess them all to thee,
Transparent I would always be (DE Hann)

.There are sins that are plastered into us and only the Holy Spirit can reveal to us. We need to repent and pray, to help us to be without wrinkles and blemish that we are transformed to be the Bride of Christ.

The most deadly sins do not leap upon us, they creep upon us

**THE ONLY SURE PLACE TO BURY SIN IS
AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS**

Here is a beautiful prayer in the Bible to lead us to Repentance
2 Chronicles 33:18-20

Manasseh confesses his sin and appeals for forgiveness,
: "My transgressions abound, O Lord, my transgressions abound. . . . Forgive me, O Lord, forgive me!" "And now I bend the knee of my heart, beseeching thee for thy kindness." Despite his unworthiness, he pleads with God not to destroy him, nor be eternally angry with him, nor condemn him to the grave, because the Lord is "the God of those who repent". Manasseh becomes confident that God, in his goodness and mercy, will save him and he shows the appropriate response of a forgiven sinner when he says, "I will praise thee continually all the days of my life" Repent and enter into the presence of the most Holy God.

Chapter-2

REPENTANCE

We cannot enter into the presence of A Holy God without Repentance. The times of refreshing will come from the Presence of the Lord. Repentance enables us to continuously remain in His presence. Repentance is the means that God uses to throw open the gates of heaven. It is the spirit and attitude of repentance that produces brokenness in God's people. .. A way to open the windows of heaven is to be broken vessels that would release torrents of repentance and worship among His people.

There needs to be deep brokenness within us to move forward and experience a breakthrough in our spiritual lives. The Holy Spirit cannot bring a 'breakthrough' into our lives unless there is a spirit of brokenness. Brokenness on earth creates openness in heaven. This is so real. Acts 3:19 tell us very clearly that when God's people repent and are broken, He will send times of refreshing from His presence.

The following incidence may help us to understand Repentance better. Vincius, the young Roman falls in love with a Christian girl. She has nothing to do with him, as he is not a Christian. One night he follows her to the secret gathering of the Christians and listens to Peter the apostle. Something happens to him." He felt if he wished to follow that teaching, he would have to place on a burning pile, all his thoughts, habits and character, his whole nature up to that moment; burn them into ashes and then fill himself with a life altogether different and an entirely new soul and spirit" That is Repentance. The change is not necessarily from robbery, theft, murder, adultery and such glaring sins. The change has to be from a life that is completely selfish, instinctively demanding and totally inconsiderate, the change needs to be from a self centered to God centered life—and a change like that hurts. Repentance is no sentimental feeling- repentance is transformation that is why so few repent! Repentance is a daily experience. Repentance is confessing and forsaking sin. Repentance is the first step towards Jesus.

All of us need to distinguish clearly between two common occurrences in our lives – worldly sorrow and godly sorrow.

{2COR:7:9} The former comes from the self, but the latter, that is godly sorrow, works repentance in our lives.

(This truth, the Lord taught me Himself long before I read or understood the Bible 1995).

I heard in my spirit that sorrow was worldly and true repentance must come because I offended God who loves me .I began to weep and asked for His grace to teach me. Elsewhere I can give instances He taught me. The working of the Spirit in our lives brings forth a godly sorrow. We can have tears because of our own sorrows .The Holy Spirit brings forth a godly sorrow that eventually produces brokenness in our beings. The work of the flesh or the will and the mind of man produce worldly sorrow, which results in spiritual death. We can be men/women of

sorrow and tears because of our life style. We need to know that not all sorrows and tears are the product of the Spirit. They are not the result of a godly sorrow. Believers often imagine that their tears are shed unto the Lord. Truly, every one of us is capable of shedding many tears purely because of the frustrated desires of our heart. Tears come easily out of the shattered expectations of our self-life. On the other hand, the tears we shed when the Lord does something in our inward man are quite different. The working of the Spirit within us brings a brokenness that is in no way self-generated. The Spirit works brokenness within us. Men have feelings and emotions that lead to tears, but only the Spirit is able to work in us and produce a godly sorrow. The godly sorrow that comes from the Lord is a precious thing in our lives. Godly sorrow and brokenness are a part of God's work of total repentance in our lives. May God help us to experience a deep brokenness that is a work of the Spirit? What we need, is the working of the Spirit to convict the soul and bring about a godly sorrow that is genuine and life changing.

Yes, we all need the help of the Spirit of God in this profound work of repentance. The person with godly repentance will get up and ask forgiveness to those he sinned and to God immediately as **Luke 15:18-19 (KJV)** ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. (Even after knowing this truth, it was difficult to humble myself. But He made it possible for me to ask forgiveness to many people whom I treated harshly.)

Jesus You are the life giving water. Fill my heart to the brim with your divine life and love. Amen.

Psalms 46:4 (KJV) There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most high.

God's river is the continual flow of His grace, glory and power in the midst of His faithful people (Rev: 22:1)

This pure life giving water flows from the throne of God(Jer.2:13) God the Son(Zec:13:1, Jn4:14)and God the Holy Spirit(Jn7:38-39) it flows from the throne of God and constantly refreshes believers , both those on earth(Jn 4: 13-14;7:38) and those in heaven(ReV22:1) it brings God into the midst of His people(46:5) Psalms 46:11 (KJV) The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

I have personal experience of being cleansed by the rushing waters that comes from heaven after I prayed a sincere prayer of repentance and prayed this psalm. Halleluiah!! God be praised for His mercy

Abba Father, let the Holy Spirit have full dominion over me in my home, in my temper, in every thought of my heart, in every word of my tongue, in every feeling toward all I meet today .Let the Holy Spirit take entire possession of me.

For repentance, Psalms that focus on the acknowledgement and confession of sin. E.g. ps. 32, 38, 51,130, these psalms help us to have deep repentance and receive

forgiveness from God who said in 1 John 1:9-10 (KJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

The call to repentance begins at the very introduction to the New Testament. Israel had to be called back to Repentance Or else the MESSIAH could not be revealed to them. In Mark:1:14-15 **Mark 1:15 (KJV)** And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." The first command that fell from the lips of Jesus was to first, repent and then believe. After His death and resurrection, Christ first commissioned His apostles to go out to all nations with the Gospel The first message was repentance

Luke 24:46-48 (KJV) ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things"

Out of my bondage, shame and sorrow

Jesus led me out

Into His freedom, grace and joy

Jesus here I am!!

After. the Pentecost the multitude asked, "what shall we do" **Acts 2:38 (KJV)** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Here again, first repentance, then Baptism and remission of sins **Acts 20:21 (KJV)** Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." First repentance, then Faith.

The foundation doctrines of Christian faith are first, repentance from dead works, then faith, Baptism and so on. God demands or expects a response to His call to repentance. Nothing else can come before it and nothing else can take its place. We cannot receive faith without true repentance. Repent and Believe.

Acts 17:30 (KJV) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commanded all men every where to repent: **Hebrews 6:1 (KJV)** Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, **Acts 20:21 (KJV)** Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Therefore, in the act of repentance, we turn away from our dead works – all acts

and activities not based on repentance and faith even activities of charity.

Our acts of charity, prayers, church attendance every kind of pious acts, if not based on true repentance and faith are merely dead works and filthy rags **Isaiah 64:6 (KJV)** But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteous nesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." There is no mention of sin and wickedness. If our acts of righteousness are not done **based on repentance and faith are not acceptable to God**

True repentance begins with God and not with man. A man left to himself cannot repent, but only in the free sovereign grace of God. Therefore, the psalmist cries out for restoration. **Psalms 80:7 (KJV)** Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved... **Lamentations 5:21 Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again! Give us back the joys we once had!."**

When we respond to the Spirit's prompting to repentance, we are led to repentance, faith and eternal life. When we reject, God's call we continue on our way to eternal damnation. **Luke 13:3 Not at all! And you will also perish unless you turn from your evil ways and turn to God."** Jesus was telling them about the Galileans who died in the very act of religious rite. Jesus tells that these perished. Their religious acts of sacrifice in the temple could not save their souls because it was not based on true repentance Jesus says you will likewise perish"

Let us ask Jesus to move in us and restore us to Him, to give us true repentance that we may change our lifestyle, attitudes and make a total change. Holy Spirit of God! Help me to examine my conscience, show me the areas to change, help me turn away from sin and face my Lord Jesus and give me divine grace to keep away from sinning

Lord Jesus, I invite you to my heart an enthrone you - my loving master, I need you to change me to your image. I am helpless and empty without you.

There are two instances, which I like to share with you where I knew Jesus taught me personally. I happen to employ a very good servant by name vijaya. Her job was to clean the house/wash etc on a part time basis. The pay in those days was Rs 400/ She was a sincere worker and I was so pleased with her that I gave her two of my sarees with blouse and gave her Rs 500/ and told her that she worked well. She did not turn up the next day and no one knew about her. As days went by, I accused myself for being so generous and I vowed that I will never give gifts and show any extra patronage and there were only curses for her. I still went to Church without realizing that I was sinning. One day at prayer, which was becoming drier and drier, I was asked these questions. 1) Grace when did you last wear that saree? Did you like that saree? I said no. Then you lost nothing why did you give Rs100 extra? Is it not selfishness on your side? Yes, I agreed, I did not give it out of love for her or concern for vijaya,

but out of selfishness to get my work done better. The sarees were not used for five years because I did not like it. I knew the Lord was teaching me to repent on

my selfish behavior and on my self-designed act of charity! I repented then and there and prayed for Vijay's well being. This was 17th day of her departure. The next day vijaya returned and I asked her the reasons. She said she was tired of her work and went back to her village. But the night before she had strong urge to return to me. I shared with her all that happened to me. And she was to me a member of the family. This teaching helped me to be sensitive to the needs of people and how I lacked it!

2) One day a friend accused me of an offense I did not do and used strong words, which hurt me deeply. I did not react; but stored in my heart and conveyed it to as many people as I could. I felt happy that they all condemned her. I thought of ways and means to get even with her.

I was always looking for an opportune time to hit her with the right words in the hearing of people who thought well of her. I was happily unaware of my sin. One day the Lord spoke to me and said write down your sins. Your friend hurt you; but you have committed, revenge, gossip, slander, anger, unforgiveness, self-pity, accusation, condemnation. To her one sin of hurt, I committed eight sins.

Jesus thank you for revealing my sins. Give me the grace to forgive and that day itself, I met her at a prayer meeting and I fell at her feet and asked her forgiveness in front of the people I vowed to revenge her. I felt a great weight, shedding off my back and real praise and thanksgiving came from my heart. To the ONE who gave me so much peace.

These teaching were the beginnings of my walk with the Lord. Today with more revelation, I know that revelations come only with obedience to HIS Word.

One of life's greatest illusions is
that sin has no Consequences
Do not hide Your Sin and Cover up,
Pretending that there is nothing wrong,
Instead, confess it and Repent,
And God Will Fill Your Heart with Song---

Repentance and forgiveness are major gifts, and only the Lord Jesus as the Leader and the Savior is qualified to give them. No one else is qualified to give repentance and forgiveness of sins to others. We need to realize that in this universe He is the only One qualified to give repentance and forgiveness of sins.

The BLOOD of CHRIST sets us free from sin, bondage, curses, satan and death. How do we apply the Blood and receive freedom from sin. Ephesians 1:7 (KJV) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to

the riches of his grace”;

1) We are redeemed from the clutches of satan.

2) We have forgiveness through the Blood of Jesus. When God redeems us, he forgets our sins.

3) **1 John 1:7 (KJV)** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin”. It is a present experience The cleansing is in present tense. Jesus cleanses us from every evil thought, word and deed assuming that you repent

4) **Romans 5:9 (KJV)** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” We are justified and the wrath of God is removed from us. Nevertheless, we have no license to sin. Sins committed in weakness, in ignorance or by accident are forgiven. Willful sin is not condoned.

How do we cover ourselves with the Blood of Jesus?

We must know what the Blood of Jesus has done. His Blood:-. The Blood of Christ is the means by which our redemption comes. The old and the New Testament teach clearly that there is no forgiveness without the shedding of the Blood.

We must have Faith in what we know

Speak aloud what we believe. in our hearts

It is written; that through the Blood of Jesus, I have forgiveness of sins. It is written that I am redeemed by the Blood of Jesus. I am bought back. It is written that I can apply the Blood of Christ to my thought life, my work life and my walk life. I apply the Blood and all of my life is protected

The unending Power of the Blood of Jesus:

1) Satan is destroyed **Hebrews 2:14 (KJV)** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

2) Destroyed the fear of death **Hebrews 2:15 (KJV)** And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Today I am not afraid of death because I know where I am going.

3) Purged our conscience **Hebrews 9:14 (KJV)** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

4) cleansed heaven (**Hebrews 9:23 (KJV)** *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

5) Given boldness **Hebrews 10:19 (KJV)** Having therefore, brethren, boldness to

enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,". Yes Jesus threw open the gates of the throne room and having washed in His precious Blood, we can enter into the presence of our Father boldly. When we enter, our Father sees the Blood of His beloved Son. Halleluia!!Then why use devious ways ??? If you have not heard about this route, Take heed now!!!

- 6) promised perfection **Hebrews 13:20-22 (KJV)** ²⁰ Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen
- 7) Guaranteed the Second coming **Hebrews 9:28 (KJV)** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

There is a power of selfishness
The proud and the stubborn
Willful I'll be;
And if I want to change my life
And give it over to Jesus,
The proud old self must die

We need to humbly kneel before the lord to reveal to us our hidden sins and we need the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to experience repentance. In my search to develop a relationship with my savior Jesus, I need, to know to pray as Jesus wants me to. Jesus convicted me many times that the prayers I recite are man made. I must pray led by the Holy Spirit. I just did not know. I read various books and articles on prayer, & relationship with Jesus. Jesus Himself taught me. The following is a compilation of all that I learnt over the years.

Chapter-3

WHAT IS PRAYER

What is Prayer? Prayer is closeness to God. Prayer is touching the heart of God. Prayer is a dialogue between people who love each other, because prayer is the language of the heart. We must be in constant state of communication with God. Prayer does the impossible. It releases God's wisdom and power into every situation we face. When we pray, we open the door for God to move; allowing Him to heal emotional and physical wounds, over turn our disappointments and break the power of habits and addictions that hold us hostage. When we touch the heart of God, He moves into action. Satan is well aware of this, so he tries his best to silence the prayers of every believer.

The heart of Christianity is a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ .Our aim and purpose should be to know God intimately through Jesus Christ. We can build up this intimate relationship only through spending time with Him. The more time we spend with Christ, the more we become like Christ. Acts 4:3 when people saw Peter and John, they realized that they had been with Christ. The apostles became like Jesus because they spent time with Him, listened to Him teach, walked and talked with Him and followed His example. The most exciting relationship in this world is with Jesus. Knowing Christ is an experience filled with adventure and joy we must cultivate a relationship with Jesus. In prayer, we hope to achieve this. Prayer is not talking all the time,

but listening to His voice. We learnt to recite prayers. And repeat it over and over. That even a parrot can do. Or even a toy doll. We should not recite prayers, but pray; means, convey our inner most feelings, thoughts with freedom. Express our joy, excitement, sorrow, bitterness, agony, frustration, helplessness. Be honest with God .Express your feelings as David did. David said; help me, listen to me, do not be mad at me, where are you Lord? Deliver me. Do not be afraid to tell Jesus our thoughts and feelings. God fills our hearts with peace as we pour out our hearts to Him.

When I first came to know the Lord in 1994, I did not know how to pray. I knew only repetitive prayers. I recited the rosary on my knees with outstretched arms getting up at 3am in the morning. There was a kind of satisfaction because I knew I did my duty well. However, my prayers were dry and empty. Yes, there was a vacuum... In the many retreats I attended, I came upon a formula for prayer.

ACTS

A=adoration;

C= confession

T= thanksgiving;

S= supplication.

I struggled through that, trying to keep the time given for each. I wanted more of Jesus; more of his presence and my soul were searching for fulfillment. It was then a friend presented me with a book. There was praise, spiritual battle, confession, repentance, forgiveness, thanksgiving petition/ intercessions and Bible reading .I spent more than 3 hours in praying from my heart. I began to get inner healing confessed my sins in a day today basis, learned to forgive and to sing praise songs. The Holy Spirit led me to write songs in words and in tongues. I began to enjoy the time for prayer.

It was no longer boring and tiring. I wanted more and more of Jesus.

. (As in psalm 63:1 "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.3 Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee (I began to pray this with all my heart with tears of expectancy, hope and faith for the power and glory of God to descend on me)

I learned to praise God. We can praise God only when we know and experience His love. ; When we know who He is, and what He has done for us. We can praise only when we are set free from certain sins and sinful attitudes we can praise Him only when a hidden sin is revealed and dealt with; we can praise Him only when he reveals Himself to you more and more.I am confidently stating this as I experienced it in my personal walk with Jesus. My passion for Christ increased and I wanted to know Jesus more through His word. (The lord spoke to me through JN4:23" But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." **Psalms 27:8 (KJV)** *When thou said, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek."* **Romans 2:15 (KJV)** Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

{Our spirit is composed of three parts: the conscience, the fellowship and the intuition Our spirit is mainly to have fellowship with God. When we have fellowship with God, we contact God. This contact with God spontaneously gives us a sense of God, a consciousness of God. Intuition denotes the direct sense and consciousness that come from God. Through this intuition, we can know whether we are right or wrong. If we are wrong, we shall be condemned by our conscience. But if we are right, we shall be justified by our conscience. Our conscience, therefore, either accuses and condemns or excuses and justifies. The way to preserve our spirit is first to exercise it to have fellowship with God If we fail to exercise our spirit in this way, we shall leave it in a deadened situation Whenever we Christians come together in a church gathering, we need to pray, praise, or give a word of testimony.

This is to exercise our spirit and not allow it to remain dormant} **reproduced from English manna**

Soon I realized God longs for fellowship with me and He draws me into His

Presence. God calls me to seek His face. So when I respond to His call I experienced a beautiful time of prayer without worrying about time, events or other distractions. Our Lord longs to be with us.

God is not partial. He says in His word to seek Him with all your heart; anyone who seeks Him thus; He calls.

Songs of praise come out spontaneously and Jesus leads me to His Word. It is no longer reading the word but Jesus speaking to me. The words are alive, active and I am transported to the throne room of our heavenly Father, and I have no more words to utter.

I am experiencing His presence, His love, His joy. I silently offer gratitude to my Father in heaven for this exhilarating joy that is in His presence. That is WORSHIP. Kissing the Lord.

He himself shows you the people to pray for, their needs, their healing and deliverance. That is intercession. You are interceding with Jesus moved by the Holy Spirit. There are days when I come to the presence of God within minutes as I enter my prayer room. There are days when it takes longer time. At times, I do not have this experience for months together. Yes, prayer time became so precious. There were no longer any set rules; formula for prayer The Holy Spirit led me always. I clap my hands, I jump, and I dance before Him. My right knee was hurting as I had arthritis. It used to swell and I could not bend to kneel down...

As I matured in my relationship with the Lord and as I experienced His love for me., I claimed healing for my knee and I said that I would use it for His glory. I got up, the swelling disappeared, and there was no pain. My Jesus is so real, I know it, I know it and yet how many times I fail!

During this time of my learning to pray, the Holy Spirit taught me two very important things. 1 To confess my sins on a day to day; moment to moment basis .1Jn 1; 9:" But if we confess our sins to him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His word has no place in our hearts"

.2.To love and to strengthen my relationship with everyone. Love not as the world loves but as Jesus loves. Accept people, as they are with all their shortcoming .Empty yourself completely. This was not easy. Jesus Himself taught me and walked with me in difficult situations. He disciplined me by focusing my attention on 1 cor:13:Jesus taught me to bless those that hurt me ; that was loving them, caring for those who rejected me that was loving them, loving and blessing those that accuse you and humiliate you. Miracles happen when we love, as Jesus loves .It is not easy as our flesh is weak. When we fall Jesus picks us up and helps us to do what He intends to do through us. During such periods of our despondency, people criticize you. Their comments make you cry out to Jesus saying, "I can not love. Jesus! You please love that person for me. The most marvelous thing happens. Jesus loves that person through you with no effort on your side... It comes spontaneously and naturally. Their offenses are forgotten and forgiven. Halleluiah!

It is easy to love people outside your family, but most difficult to love those within the family. Rom. 5: 5 is a prayer that helps to receive God's love in our hearts. Our prayers are without result if we cannot love, and if we cannot forgive. We must get rid of all anger, resentment, bitterness, jealousy, hatred greed and all vices listed in the scriptures.

OUR prayers will be effective only if we meet God's conditions.

Faith and love are vital to effective prayer.

Obedience to the word of God is necessary for fruitful prayer.

Prayer does not require eloquence, but earnestness. Jesus cares about our attitude not words or posture. We can have communication with God even without a word because He knows the intentions and

desires of our heart Psalm 139:1-4

In Mt:6:7, Jesus said; not to pray on and on with vain repetitions like the pagans because our Father knows what we need before we ask. Then why Pray? God has chosen to give us the privilege of being His partners in both physical and spiritual areas of life .

Through prayer we work with Him in defeating the enemy and bringing about the fulfillment of His purposes. We are partners with God .What an incentive to pray. !! When we pray God works for us.

Some people pray in a crisis. They see God as a problem solver--- A Santa Claus. God is not a vending machine.

Be grateful to the lord for His mercy and kindness .The Israelites took the Lord's mercy for granted and God called that rebellion. Expect great things from God. Do not expect God to come at your disposal. Instead Psalm.106:7 verse 13to 15 say that they chose to ignore God .We must be at His disposal. eager to fulfill His will.

(There is this story of a rich young girl, afraid to climb up steps. Her house cleaner used to take her up and put her to sleep in the bed. One day the house cleaner was on leave and the young girl pestered her mother to go with her to the room upstairs. The mother suggested that she ask Jesus to take her up. Finally, she agreed to give into her mother. On reaching her room, she said, "Thank you Jesus you may go now"} look into our hearts and see if that is our attitude to Jesus.

Prayer is not the way to get God to do whatever we want. A blind man once said, "I don't believe in the power of prayer, I believe in the power and presence of God". He says we know God brings light out of darkness, life out of death, and hope out of despair. That is what scripture teaches us. Therefore, prayer is an expression of our trust in His power, wisdom and grace. Our attitude should be not as I will but as You will

Our Heavenly Father wants us to have complete confidence in our Father's provision for our spiritual needs. Sometimes it may look; He has given us stones

instead of bread. God in His wisdom is working through our circumstances to give us far better than what we requested
Our purpose for prayer is not to get what we want but to become what God wants.

Delay is not denial Wait upon the Lord. For the Lord is eager to give to those who wait patiently for Him

ISA30:18 (KJV) And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed *are* all they that wait for him."

God withholds answers for several reasons: He wants to change our unhealthy beliefs and attitudes; He builds in us an earnest spirit; He builds our faith; He develops patience in us.

A quiet time with God is essential to the spiritual well being of every believer.

"I sought the Lord
In addition, afterward I knew,
He moved my soul to seek Him
It was not I that found O savior; true
No I was found of Thee"

TALK WITH GOD HE LONGS TO HEAR FROM YOU
WHEN LIFE KNOCKS YOU TO YOUR KNEES YOU ARE IN A GOOD
POSITION TO PRAY

Just as our body needs exercise, our spirit also need exercise it is through reading of the Word and meditating on the Word. Psalm 119: 98

"Your commands make me wiser than my enemies .Commands are my constant guide..."

1 cor. 2:16" we have the mind of Christ"

It means knowing His will and redemptive plan and purpose .It means to value things as God values., loving what He loves, hating what He hates .God's word contains the spiritual principles that will help us avoid many sorrows ,pitfalls, tragedies, brought on by wrong decisions and choices. We must treasure its wisdom and hold on to its precepts in all life's situations. .So read the Word, meditate and pray each day to change our images, to be like Christ. It can transform your day. We must come daily before our God Lord Jesus .And receive His instruction. He guides us in our daily walk with Him.

LUKE: Martha was much distracted with much serving. Charles Spurgeon says

Martha's worry was not in the serving but rather she allowed it, to distract her attention from Jesus.

Spurgeon believes that we should be both Martha and Mary. He wrote " We should do much service and have much communion at the same time. For this, we need great grace .It is easier to serve than to commune.

Jesus taught us to pray during His life on earth

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV) ⁹ after this manner therefore pray you: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil:one. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name = May Your Name be honored, - how great, mighty, good, awesome is Your Name

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. = in my life, in everyone, in our land in the people around us, in all nations

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven- a desire , a thirst to know His will, may your will be done in my life, in my family, in my relationships, business, ministry
Give us this day our daily bread - for preservation of life, for my spouse, children, our spiritual, physical, and emotional needs; nothing too small to pray for our daily needs

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Ask forgiveness for our sins, ask for the grace of God to love those who wrong you, ask for help to forget the hurt; the wrong done, and forgive from your heart.

And lead us not into temptation-The word of God says that He will not test us more than we can bear. I may not fail in my test, but be strengthened

but deliver us from the evil one - All believers are the special target of satan's enmity and evil purpose For this reason we must never forget to pray for deliverance from his power and schemes After conversion satan's power does not end but continues as a never ceasing menace There is safety only by full commitment to Christ: by obedience, Word and prayer.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. We are acknowledging His ownership, His complete control over the universe and His great power. He is the gloriest master over all (psalm134:3)

If you truly want to move God's heart, put aside the prayers learnt by heart/ prayers in books and instead begin to practice prayer that seeks the Giver more than the gifts.

Psalms:118:21" I will confess, praise and give thanks to You for You have heard and answered me and You have become my Salvation and Deliverer" (Amplified)

1 Chronicles 16:29 (KJV) Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. (Amplified).

It is a command to confess, worship, praise and give thanks to our Lord

Psalm 118 recounts a list of difficulties (v.5) personal distress, (v10) national Insecurity (V18) spiritual chastening. Yet it declares in verse 24) **Psalm 118:24 (KJV)** This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Notice **Psalm 118:14 (KJV)** The LORD *is* my strength and song, and is become my salvation. This is a shout of triumph because of the realization that the Lord is my Strength. .

Even when circumstances pin us down – our God – Elohim enables us to thank Him for the gift of life and to receive each day with joy. Be thankful for the gift of life

Alive in Christ

Alive to worship

Thank and Praise my creator

For this gift of Life

Jehosaphat based his prayer and his confidence in God on five principal truths

2 Chronicles: 20:6-20.1) God has power over all people and situations .2) God has been faithful to His people in the past and present

.3) God's people are helpless without Him

4) God's promises are a sure foundation for faith.5) God's active presence among His people means deliverance and victory

In our Relationship with Christ, He asks for our obedience not a warm feeling. Or a statement of belief. . So Jesus asked those following Him "Why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do the things which I say (Lk 6: 46) Jesus illustrates this point with the parable of the wise and foolish builders (V.V 47-49). What we do, more than anything, we say, reveals what we truly value the most.

Chapter-4

WORSHIP

Psalms 99:5 (KJV) Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

And worship Him for He says in Exodus 15:13 (KJV) Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation."

No day is complete without worship.

Worship, praise and adoration;

Render now to Jesus' name;

Freely give your heart's devotion;

Constantly His love proclaim

In order to worship the living God there needs to be a transformation of our inner man . True worship emerges out of a practical life of dependence up on the Father
Real acts of worship must be the overflow of a worshipping life.

Worship is bringing forth from the heart an appreciation of the perfection of Christ. Worship means to feel in the heart. A person who merely goes through the form and does not feel anything is not worshipping. The goal in Worship is to approach God to adore Him. To do this we must empty ourselves of self, come to Him with open hands and open hearts

There are some differences in Praise and worship

Praise originates in the soul psalm: 103:1)

Worship is in the Spirit (John4:24, Philippians: 3:3)

Praise is the means by which we come into the presence of God (Psalm 133:4, Ps: 22:3)

God dwells in the praises of His people

Worship is the response of the believer in the presence of God (1CHR:16:29)

Praise is a spiritual sacrifice or offering (Heb:13:15)

Worship is as if smoke that ascends to God after the fire of God has fallen on and consumed the sacrifice. It is incense unto God (Malachi: 1:11)

Praise can be taught, but worship cannot be taught because it is done in the Spirit

Praise is concerned with thanking God for what He has done (Psalm: 147)

Worship is a response to God because of who He is (REV4:11)

Praise is the overflow of a joyful heart

In our relationship with Christ, He asks for our obedience, not a warm feeling or a statement of belief.

So Jesus asked those following Him "why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do the things which I tell you"(Luke 6: 46) Jesus illustrates this point with the parable of the wise and foolish builders (Verse 47- 49)

How can we strengthen our worship?

Our worship is strengthened when we realize the truth that Job found through his sorrows – that some day we will see God.

God is a Spirit and those who worship him must worship God in Spirit and in Truth (JN: 4: 24)

.Worship in Spirit: filled by the Spirit, led by the Spirit and it is the Holy Spirit that leads you to praise God. Truth is incarnate in Christ. Psalms 31:5 (KJV) Into thy hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth."Rom. 1: 25 says they exchanged the truth of God for a lie. John 16:13 (KJV) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come."

Therefore, Worship must take place according to the truth of the Father that is revealed in the Son and received through the Spirit. If we set aside the truth of God as given in the

Word of God, we are not people worshipping God in Spirit and Truth.

Get closer to God by praising Him

Ascribe= Psalms 29:2 (KJV)

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Exalt Him=Psalms 118:28 (KJV)

Thou art my God, and I will praise thee:
thou art my God, I will exalt thee.

Magnify= Psalms 69:30 (KJV)

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Bless His Name =Psalms 103:1 (KJV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Keep hands open before the Lord. He can give to those who open their hands. He will

draw us unto Him.

Recognize the presence of God=

He lives in the praises of his people. The level of praise determines the level of His presence. Psalms 22:3 (KJV) ³ But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel". The presence of God makes the enemy powerless. We can sing our way through every battle and win the victory the same way as Jehoshapat
2 Chronicles 16:9 (KJV) For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

Let us praise God specifically for His appearance, character, nature, His works, his love, and attitude. For this, we need to know God intimately.

How do we worship God?

God has given us instructions in His Word. Are we doing what He told us to do?

We cannot get Jerusalem's blessing in Egypt. Read MT 2:1to11 -----

Matthew 2:11 (KJV) And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" Bow down and worship Him. If we want to get heaven's blessings, we should not be doing things in our way but in God's way Worship Him in Spirit and Truth. God opens up windows of heaven and pours out health blessings, financial blessings, joy, peace, wisdom blessings. Bow down and worship Jesus, in your closed room or in the church. God rewards us openly' Mt: 2:10. Wise men approached with rejoicing. We should not approach Jesus in our own ways of set standards. Use God's ways. Mt.2:11—they fell down. They opened their treasure and presented Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They worshipped God. They gave gifts.

Worship the Lord in our giving, as we present the gift worship him. Worship His wonderful Name

You will go forth a little stronger
With a fresh supply of grace,
If each day you meet the savior
In a secret, quiet place (Adams)

Faithful service grows in the soil of faithful worship.

Therefore, we have entrance into the mighty presence of our Abba Father Halleluiah!

We are sanctified by God the Father

Jude 1:1 (KJV)

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

We are sanctified in Christ Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:2- (KJV) ²

Unto the church of God, which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours

Through the sanctification of the Spirit

1 Peter 1:2 (KJV)

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Believers are chosen to be included in God's family not on the basis of what they have done but on the basis of God's eternal wisdom. Sanctification is an ongoing process whereby the Holy Spirit works in believers making their lives holy separated from their old ways and changing us into His image. Halleluia!!

Psalms 47:7 (KJV) For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding."

Jesus Lord, give me understanding that

I may praise you with the knowledge of your power, your might, your glory, your majesty, your divinity your greatness and awesome presence.

Psalms 51:15 (KJV) O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall declare your praise.

We can look into the Book of Psalms to help us to Praise and Worship the Living God.

Praise songs --- These magnify the name, majesty, goodness, greatness and salvation of God . (e.g. Psalm. 8, 21, 33, 34, 103, 111, 113, 115, 117 135; 145- 150)

Job 42:5-6 (KJV) ⁵I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye see thee. ⁶Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Yes, we can really praise God only when we really experience as Job says.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO WORSHIP
GOD
BUT ONLY ONE GOD TO WORSHIP

Chapter 5

Thanking God

Begin to Thank God for his love, care, protection, healing, provision, mercy, forgiveness for his nearness, for His revelations. Count your Blessings St. Paul says, we are blessed with all spiritual blessings claim what you already have in Christ. Go through the Alphabet and thank God, for something that begins with each letter.

Psalms 107:21-23 (KJV) ²¹ Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! ²² And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Psalms 119:62- (KJV) ⁶² At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments

Hebrews 13:15 (KJV) By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Psalms 30:12' O lord my God I will give thanks to you forever"

God commands us to thank HIM

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV) in every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

When things go wrong, I WOULD NOT BE A GRUMBLER, COMPLAINING SEEING EVERYTHING AS GRIM; for when I think how the Lord has blessed me, I cannot help but give praise to him.

Meeting every situation with thanksgiving is not a denial of trouble. It helps us see those situations from God' perspective as opportunities to discover His power and Love.

Instead Of Complaining About The Thorns On Roses, Be Thankful For The Roses

Our prayer life is not complete without reading the word of God

We must eagerly hear the word of God.

1 Isaiah 1:10-11 (KJV) ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah"

2 We must seek to understand it Matthew 13:23 (KJV) But he myself in that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

3. We must praise God's word. Psalms 56:10(KJV) In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

4. Love the Word Psalms 119:47 (KJV) And I will delight thy commandments, which I have loved.

5 psalm 119:50 " This is my comfort and consolation in my affliction that your word has revived me and given me life"

6, **Psalms 119:11 (KJV)** Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

7, The power of the Word **Jeremiah 23:29 (KJV)** Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces?

We must accept what the word of God says. Acts 2:41 (KJV) then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:13- (KJV) ¹³ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe:

Hide it deep within our hearts. Psalms 119:11 (KJV) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Trust in it Psalms 119:42 (KJV) so shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproaches me: for I trust in thy word. Put our hope in its promises Psalms 119:114 (KJV) Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

We must obey what it commands James 1:22 (KJV) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. We must live according to the word.

Psalms 119:9 (KJV) Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

To understand the word of God, rely on the Spirit of God

Psalm 119: 105- 112 show how understanding of the Bible can help us—

It lights our path (V105)

It teaches us how to please God (106'108,112)

It encourages us in affliction (107)

It helps us not to stray from God's Truth (110)

It gives us joy (111)

Ask God to give you wisdom to understand the Word and apply it to your daily life

Give the insight Lord, as I read your Word today; that I will truly understand your message and your way. Amen

God wants us to intercede for the needs of our country, nation, leaders, and authorities.

To Influence others for God; Intercede with God for Others.

Commit to pray and intercede

The Battle's strong and great's the need

And this one Truth cannot be ignored

Our only help comes from the Lord.

Pray for those who, we know are in bondage to sin or who are facing challenges in life.

Commit them in God's Hands.

Isaiah 50:4 (KJV) The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he awakens me morning by morning; he awakens my ear to hear as the learned"

Lord Jesus, just as you gave the ability to Isaiah ;{ because of his awakening and listening to the Lord ;} .to say the right word to the right person in the right place at the right time; give me the gift to be sensitive to listen to your word and a spiritual response

I claim Proverbs 6:22 (KJV) When you go, the word of God shall lead thee; when you sleep, it shall keep thee; and when you awaken, it shall talk with you"

Oh, may my mouth be open, ears open and mouth open to receive thy word and obey. May the Lord give me a word of peace, love and joy? Thank you Jesus. May my life be serene knowing; it is guided by your word; the sleep be peaceful knowing it to be guarded by thy word and my waking inspiring as I know a word would be given to me from the Lord for each day

Pray To live A Holy Life

Personalize Colossians 3:12 clothe me Abba as your chosen vessel 'as your representative who is purified and holy and well beloved by God himself by putting on behavior marked by tender hearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of myself, gentle ways and patience which is tireless and long suffering and has the power to endure whatever comes with good temper.

Thank you Jesus for listening to my prayer.

Chapter-6

Sanctification

Only God can bring about a change in our thinking, speaking attitudes and actions. The process of sanctification is done through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word.

The real Measure of Our Wealth Is What Will be ours in Eternity

When you are wronged, do not do what comes naturally do what comes supernaturally

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts. Phil: 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say Rejoice" .God can bring showers of blessing out of storms of adversity.

You cannot loose when you help others to win. Hold tightly to what is eternal and loosely to what is temporal.

It is easy to be kind and good to those who show us love. However, loving those who will not respond, take grace from God above.

O Lord! Correct my vision,

So dim and warped by sin;

That through Your Spirit is blessing,

Your Truth may shine within

Fellowship with Christ Is The Secret Of Fruitfulness

Christians are like coals of fire-together they glow;

Apart they grow cold.

. Psalm 86:11 " Unite my heart to fear your Name"

Dear Loving father, make me one with you and make me realize that I am one with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

"O God inclines my heart toward you".

Lord subtract the spiritually dead parts of me and replace them with your life

Lord help me feel the hurt that others feel

When life inflicts some bitter pain

And use me in some loving way to heal

The wounds that in their hearts remain.

Amen

Isaiah 30:15 (KJV) For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall you be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Exodus 14:14 (KJV) The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

The Lord will fight for you, you need to be still.

Lord, I am high strung, but as a believer, I can come to you. My Jesus, my God in prayer, and learn to renew my strength, in quietness and confidence. I want to take more time with you to learn to be calm

We often grow weary in life's race. We are driven by its hurried pace. But when we wait upon The Lord, His strength becomes our sure reward

Chapter-7

Practical Reflections

To get perfect liberty----deny thyself

Do not be self seekers and self lovers bound in chain; full of desires, full of cares, ever unsettled and seeking always their own ease and not things of Jesus Christ For all shall perish that does not come from God

Wait for the Lord's bidding and also for his/her who God appointed over you. Then the peace and joy of the Lord will come to you.

Acquire heavenly wisdom, which tramples underfoot all things below

This will please God and you will spend all your life in peace and joy.

So pay heed to:-

Die to yourself

Mortify the senses, the mind and the heart.

Detach yourself from everything that traps you to commit sin

Receive with willingness, submission and rejoicing, when people and things fail you by letting Jesus to enter into your life and your expectation

Learn to love your enemies

Attach yourself only to God, to our duties, to our salvation

Always desire to please Our Father in heaven.

Give me a firm determination to withdraw myself from everything, which does not lead me to Jesus. I constantly desire it, and I pray for it. Help me practice it.

I have an old nature that noisily clamors

To satisfy empty desires

But God in His goodness

Has sent me a Helper

Who whispers "your calling is higher"

The Meaning Of Walk

EPH 5: 2 says Walk in Love

EPH :5:8 says walk as children of light: EPH: 5:18 but be filled with the Spirit;

Walk IN the Spirit--- the root of the word means in unison with, one with or connected to- even fellowship. Saying with conviction 'I don't want , what the devil wants' I want what God wants. It means facing the hell in your life and knowing every part of you wants to do nothing with it because " those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit(Rom:8:5) Walking in the Spirit means focusing on Jesus and choosing to live God's way. When we do that, ongoing freedom and deliverance are ours.

Walk after the Spirit--when he says pray that is what you will do when he says testify that is what you will do you are walking in the spirit. Yield to the Spirit in all aspects of our life.If we try to do all the work on our own, it leads to strife and disorder Proverbs16:9

Walk in love --- esteeming and delighting in one another, as Christ loved us--- a slain offering die to yourself and to your needs

Silence -- the submissive wonder of reverence, which bursts forth into praise

ARE WE KEEPING SPIRITUALLY FIT?

Proverbs 4:24 (KJV) Put away perversity from your mouth, ;keep corrupt talk from your lips

WEIGHT:- Do we need to loose the weight of unnecessary burdens and cares?

PULSE:- Are we maintaining a steady rhythm of gratitude and praise

Blood Pressure:- Is our trust greater than our anxiety?

Diet:- Are we enjoying the life giving nutrients of the word of God?

Have you checked your heart lately?{ Mark De hann)

To Keep Spiritually Fit CONSULT THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

Bible a day keeps the World away

God's Will

Deuteronomy 10:12-14 (KJV) ¹² And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, ¹³ To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? ¹⁴ Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

Sayings

Instead of living in the shadows of yesterday, walk in the light of today and the hope of tomorrow

If you make room for Jesus in your heart, He will make room for you in heaven

The wilderness is God's proving ground for your faith. . Are you in the middle of a trial? Where is your focus- on God- on the situation or on yourself?

When you get your focus right, you will find wisdom, strength, hope and peace

God never starts on anything on a negative and He will never end things on a negative. Anything that is passing through your life now will be replaced by something greater, more positive than what you experienced before It does not matter if you are fifteen or fifty , as you read this, submit all of your past to God, leave the past behind and see what great things He will do!!!

Joy is not dependent on the sumptuousness of our circumstances, but on the richness of Him who orders all our lives, we are joyful no matter what our situation in life

The most deceptive liars are those who live on the edge of truth.

The only leaders qualified to lead are those who have learned to serve.

Chapter-8

What does God want from me?

1 TRUST **Psalms 37:3 (KJV)** Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." **Proverbs 3:5 (KJV)** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **Proverbs 3:6**-In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2 PRAISE **Psalms 100:3-4 (KJV)** ³ Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. "

3 OBEDIENCE **John 15:9-10 (KJV)** ⁹ As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. ¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love"

James 1:22-24 (KJV) ²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was."

WHY Memorize Scripture.

- 1 To encourage others
- 2 To remain alert in battle.
- 3 To renew my mind
- 4 To use against temptation.
- 5 To renew my mind
- 6 To be prepared for unbelievers' questions
- 7 To maintain an accurate picture of God
- 8 To recover fellowship with Him after I sin
- 9 To increase my Faith.
- 10 To obtain power for obedience
- 11 To gain insight and guidance

When you read the BIBLE;
Be sure you are really reading it.

1 Alert your eyes to see READ

2 Stir up your mind to consider REFLECT

3 Write down your observations RECORD

4 And practice what you read RESPOND

God looks for Three Major responses in our hearts
when we read the BIBLE

1 Responding with CONFESSION .

The word convicts us of sin. The word is searching and exposing sin. The Word cuts as a double-edged sword (Heb: 4:12). Always have a heart that acknowledges sin and confess it to God. Then the channel is cleared for further communication with God and the blessing of the Bible reading begin to accrue.

2 Responding in Faith.

Faith involves every part of our Christian life including Bible reading Faith is, Trust, Assurance and Courage to approach God in all circumstances, knowing well that He loves us as

we are !! One scholar has stated "Faith's inner conviction about God is always translated into action and results in a life style through which the reality of faith is expressed." 2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV) (For we walk by faith, not by sight :)

JESUS' Teaching on Prayer

1, Mathew 6: 5-15 7:7- 12 Luke 18: 1- 10
Forgive, Persevere

2 Submission Mathew 26: 36- 46

3 Confidence John 15: 1-8

4 Jesus' prayer for His disciples John 17: 6- 10

5,When Suffering Romans 8: 18- 27

6,For Wisdom James 1: 5-8

7,When we get an answer different from our request 2 Corinthians 12: 7- 10

8, Thank the Lord. Philippians 4:6 (KJV) "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

9, We must pray. It is a command. Isaiah 52:1 (KJV) "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean."

10, Awake= in scripture has to do with prayer. When it says awake, awake, it means pray, pray. Lord Jesus finding the apostles sleeping as He waited for His betrayer in Gethsemane said "watch and pray"

Mathew 26: 41

It is a command. We must pray. Awake! Awake! shake ourselves out of lethargy, seek the Lord with all your might, with all your heart and mind, enter into His presence with deep love Make Him our no. 1 Priority

Then six things will occur

1 We will put on spiritual strength, Strength against satan, Sin and Temptation Our Lord will replace our weakness with His Strength

2 We will put on new holy garments of righteousness. Wear the garment of praise Isa 61: 3-8

3 Sin will not touch us. The uncircumcised and the unclean will not be a part of us. We will no longer have fellowship with the wicked.

Deu: 30:6, Jer. 4: 4 ,Col . .2:11

4 We will stop running here and there looking for someone to pray for us. or get us out of trouble. We will shake ourselves from the mess of our lives we ourselves created. We will arise and be free.

5 And then we can sit down and rest. There will be real peace- the real peace of Jesus We will loose us from the grip of satan and sin that keep coming back on us.

6, We shall know God and His power. **Isaiah 52:6 (KJV)** "Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore *they shall know* in that day that I *am* he that doth speak: behold, *it is I.*"

The postures in Prayer.

1 Lifting our hands **Psalms 141:2 (KJV)** "Let my prayer be set forth before thee *as* incense; *and* the lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice."

2 Standing up blessing the Lord **Nehemiah 9:5 (KJV)** "Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, *and* Pethahiah, said, Stand up *and* bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise."

3 Prostrate like Moses and pray

4 Kneel down and pray like Paul and the apostles

5 Vocal praise shouting **1 Kings 1:40 (KJV)**

And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.”

Psalms 149:3 (KJV) Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the tumbrel and harp”

Luke 6:23 (KJV) Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.”

6, **Shaking and trembling.** Acts 16: 29, Heb: 12:21, Ezra: 3:13

7 **Weeping** Lam 1: 16- 20

Nehemiah 8:6 (KJV) And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.

There are four conditions for revival of spiritual life and the restoration of God’s holy purpose and blessing for His people 2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

1 Humble themselves—must recognize their failures, have godly sorrow for their sins and renew their commitment to do God’s will. Humbling oneself before God means recognizing one’s spiritual povertyThe sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. **Psalms 51:17**

Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 5:3 (KJV)**

2 Pray --

God’s people must cry out desperately to Him for mercy, must depend on Him and Trust Him The prayer must be earnest till you hear from heaven

Luke 18:1- 8; 11:1 – 13; James 5: 7- 18

3 Seek My face.

God’s people must diligently turn to God with the whole heart and long for His presence and not just try to escape from adversity

Seek the LORD and his strength,

seek his face continually. **1 Chronicles 16:11 (KJV)**

Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; **1 Chronicles 22:19**

4 Turn from your wicked ways

Isaiah 55:6-8 (KJV) ⁶

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon”

God's people must genuinely repent by turning from specific sins and all forms of idolatry, renounce conformity to the world and draw near to God for mercy, forgiveness and cleansing(2chro: 29:6-11; 2 Kings 17:13; Zec 1:4)

When God's four conditions for revival and restoration are met, then God's three-fold promise of revival will be fulfilled.

1 God will turn away His anger from His people, listen to their desperate cry and be attentive to their prayers(2 Chronicles 7:15 (KJV)

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place.) In other words, the first evidence of revival is that God begins to hear and answer prayers from heaven. and show compassion for His people (Joel: 2:12-13; 18- 19 Psalm 102: 1,2, 13)

2 God will forgive His people, cleanse them from their sins and restore His favors, presence, peace, truth, righteousness and power among them

(Jer:33: 7-8 Hosea:10:12, Joel2:25)

3 God will heal his people and their land by again pouring out rain i.e. physical favors , blessing and the holy spirit i.e. spiritual awakening among the covenant people and among spiritually lost

(Psalm 51:12,13; Joel2: 28-32)

Jehoshapat based his prayer and confidence in God on five principal truths.

1,God has power over all people and situations
(2 Chronicles: 20:6,7)

2 God has been faithful to his people in the past and present
(2 Chronicles: 20:7- 9)

3.God's people are helpless without Him
(2Chronicles: 20:12)

4 God's promises are a sure foundation for faith
(2Chronicles: 20:14-17, 20)

5.God's active presence among His people means deliverance and victory(2Chronicles: 20: 17)

Chapter-9

Release from Old Convictions

I was trying to climb the ladder to Eternity and I could not as I had to shed a considerable amount of weight I was carrying on my back. I like to state some of that process of my growth

My thirst for the word increased. Many unknown mysteries were unraveled. I recounted about my discovery of the second commandment. I was shocked that such profound truths were swept under the carpet and I unsuspectingly believed the so-called church. God did not want me to view him as one god among many or as the best of gods. He is the ONLY LIVING GOD.

If you say that you believe the same; why do you pray and honor many others in your churches??? Why do you pay homage to them? Why do you give offerings of money, candles chicken, and saris clothes and keep special days for them. Did you read God's word? What did He command you? Why do you keep adhering to man made rules, which is against the word of the Sovereign God? Do you not fear Him at all? **Nahum 1:2 (KJV)** *God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies*

Exodus 20:4-8 (KJV) ⁴

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; ⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments".

I prayed to the Holy Spirit to open my eyes and heart and to give me wisdom to know and accept the truth. This happened in the year 1996. I used to go to a renowned charismatic priest for counseling every week. I questioned him on many truths I discovered. Sad to say he had no answer. Those were the days I used to open the Bible at random and read. The following made me quiver with fear.

Romans 1:25 (KJV) Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."

I began to think of all the creatures I worshipped. I also had the standard excuse that I am not worshipping; but only interceding. Jesus began to convict me through His word.

Deuteronomy 32:17 (KJV) They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

Acts 17:22 (KJV) Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too religious, or very reverent to demons. "

Acts 17:24-26 (KJV)

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"

It was not in one reading that I understood. It took me more than three years, Meantime I was going through great turmoil in my heart I started going to my counselor more frequently with my doubts. His advice was to just obey the church. I sincerely believed that my church was the true church. And yet why oh why are these truths hidden from me. I had the habit of prostrating before the crucifix and kissing it. Slowly, Nay wait!!, a firm resolute voice commanded me to stop that habit of worshipping the crucifix. Kissing and kneeling before any graven image was abhorrent to my Father in Heaven. I must worship Him and Him alone. Worship Him as commanded by Jesus in John 4:23 (KJV) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." (I am giving excerpts from my reading, because at the first reading nothing impressed me. But there was strong inner prompting to read again and again. The book always opened to this subject)Leviticus 26:1 (KJV) Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God. The message of the cross is the power and wisdom of God.

Galatians 3:13 (KJV)

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree": Jesus nailed sin, satan and death on the cross. Jesus my Lord and savior ascended into heaven and is seated at the Right Hand of God and we needed no intercessors because Jesus who delivered me from sin, satan and death was continuously pleading for me. The word of God clearly states in

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (KJV)

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: So until the trumpet blows all who died in Christ are resting in Christ. I found no word for the dead praying for those alive here.

Psalms 115:17 (KJV)

The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence. **Psalms 6:5 (KJV)** For in death *there is* no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? **Psalms 143:7 (KJV)** Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. (See also Isa 38:18, Ps30:9, 88:11) 1 Thes. 4:16 is very clear about the status of the dead. Is it not foolishness to pray to the dead?

John 5:25 (KJV)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." How can a finite man decide the action of an infinite God and declare the dead to sainthood? Why Oh Why did, I not read the word of God in my younger days? I thank you Jesus for keeping me alive until I knew the Truth. Thank you Jesus for your love, compassion and grace. Today my eyes are opened and I see by the grace of God and I cry for

those who are still deceived. !!!

I repented with tears flowing down my cheeks and prostrated before the God of majesty and splendor. I had not known Him as I know Him today. To me God was still distant, waiting to pounce on me for every sin and weakness.

I was afraid of Him and that day there were other issues in my life that afflicted me and there was no one to turn to. I wept bitterly, crying out to Jesus, do not leave me, I am weak, I have sinned, I do not know what to do. Jesus! Have you also left me? Please speak my lord . I was alone in that room-shedding tears of guilt, self-pity, bitterness and it was dark within and without. The Bible was next to me. There was a command to open it.

I opened to Isa: 43:18 "But the Lord says,
Do not cling to the events of the past,
Or dwell on what happened long ago.

19. Watch for the new thing I am going to do
It is happening already- you can see it now!
I will make a road through the wilderness
and give you streams of water there"

Oh, what followed was the most memorable, exhilarating moment of my life. I felt the arms of my Father engulfing me. I felt His presence and the joy I felt within was indescribable. I fell asleep in the Divine Hands on the chair. I knew I was prompted to write. In my sleep, I took a notebook and wrote. . I know not how long I rested in the safe and comforting Hands of my Father. I woke up in the morning delirious of the happenings of the night before and I had to tell about it to my counselor. I stood before the congregation of 500 or more and described the events of the night. To me God was never again distant. He was my Father, caring, loving, and compassionate and my life was no longer the same.

My Father in Heaven gave me a revelation of Himself to me. As I write, I can feel Him around me encouraging me. . I opened the notebook to see my writing. I was praying in English, thinking in English, talking in English, but what I wrote was in perfect Malayalam. I had not read a single Malayalam book or paper from 1947. This was in 1998. In my sleep, it was written on a lined page without any mistake and with a good handwriting. I do not know the reason for it to even this day. Later on, I translated it to English. A great truth was revealed to me; God in Heaven is my Father, yes my Father, I shall not share Him with anyone. I pounced on anyone who talked irreverently of my Father... He belonged to me and I belonged to Him. After reading and understanding Ten Commandments from the Bible, I knew for sure that God hates idols and will not be pleased with me. I love to please my God, so I removed all the idols which I accumulated from my traditional church and gave them a grand burial at the cemetery belonging to the traditional church in Bangalore and after which I could feel the freedom in me which I never felt before. My prayer time became precious as I encountered Jesus always. Halleluiah. It is only when we are freed and the Truth penetrates

that we sense the presence God. Beloved, open your hearts to Jesus. Jesus says the Truth will set you free. Do not accuse those who proclaim the Truth, loosen up and humble before Jesus, He will lead you out of the tunnel of darkness into His marvelous light.

The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment
The growth of a saint is the task of a lifetime

Will I ever go back to a system where the rituals and meaningless prayers were leading me to eternal death and hell!! . My revival started. I wanted to find out people who had the same experience. I shared it to my group. I found a church in Bangalore. I began to attend church there and began to experience the presence of my Father more and more. After an year or so , I invited my group and we regularly attended the worship, praise and thanksgiving service and listened to the word of God which became alive ;to change and mould us to the image of Christ Jesus. These were the days of honeymoon with my Lord Jesus. My prayer life changed. I experienced the presence on a day today basis. I began to look in the Bible for prayers said by various prophets in the Old Testament and by Paul in the New Testament. I constantly asked the Holy Spirit to teach me to pray and still do!! Every day the Holy Spirit takes me and leads me in to prayer. As I began to learn and treasure the word of God in my heart, my despondent nature, bitterness unforgiveness began to diminish and His peace resided in my heart. It did not bother me as to what other people thought of me, I knew I was growing in the Lord. I was no longer a slave to sin. I did sin and repentance came speedily. I remembered the time; I thought I had no sin; and so no repentance in the yester years. Now I was repenting many times a day. O Lord! Who will rescue me from this snare of the devil .

Romans 7:23-25 (KJV) ²³

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members? ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 6:20-23 (KJV) ²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. ²¹ What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death. ²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. I realized that I am no longer a slave to sin and satan. Because I became aware of my sin and repented. According to His word in **1 John 1:9 (KJV)** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". Another version says that I am washed in His Blood continuously. What a relief and comfort. !!!

So here, I am separated from sin, the world, and the clutches of religion

I am at last free to serve my Lord Jesus who loved me even before I was born

and has a good plan for my wellbeing. I am building up a relationship with Jesus. No one can separate me from that decision. I am bound to Jesus with cords of love, gratitude and His ownership on me. Halleluiah!!!!

Next doubt on Mary's Immaculate Conception. Romans 3:23 (KJV) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" The Bible does not say that she was born without sin Luke 1:46-49 (KJV) 46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." Mary recognizes her own need of salvation She was a sinner who needed Christ as Saviour .

Romans 3:9 (KJV) What then? Are we better *than they are?* No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

It was a revelation Mary was rejoicing in her savior. And my doubts on her Immaculate Conception was gone How foolish of me to accept it as truth and hold on to that senseless belief.

The assumption of Mary John 3:13 (KJV) And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Why? I am taught teachings other than in the Bible.

This question stared at me giving me no peace.

Revelation 22:18-20 (KJV)18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Deuteronomy 4:2 (KJV) Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

There are many words in the Scripture to show that Mary had other children and it gives me great comfort that she lived the way God intended her to live after Jesus was born.

Matthew 1:24-25 (KJV)

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." How could any one make her more holy by saying that she abstained from being a normal wife???

That settled it. No, I ran to my priest counselor with all these truths and questioned him as to why the church has no fear of God. The same answer 'obey the church'. Fear still lingered. I kept crying out to the lord for clarity, for peace and the lay people to whom I spoke, they avoided me, and cautioned me to remain in the church. No, I could not. The Good Shepherd, my Father in heaven was watching me and guiding me all the time. So one morning I opened the Bible to Hebrews 10:26 (KJV) for if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remained no more sacrifice for sins, and the following.

The question of purgatory came up I searched days together to get a clue. But nothing.

Then one day the following words hit my heart. Ephesians 2:6 (KJV) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: " **We are already seated with Christ in heaven** (It is all in the past tense!!!! Halleluiah!!!). What a revelation!!! Not you, not you and you. Only who accepted Christ as Lord and Savior and obey His, yes HIS commandments. So you little of faith, do not glee because of a sprinkling of water on your head when you were a baby who knew nothing of our savior's saving grace. !! You are fooled; you are deceived by worldly

systems. Just as I was !!! You are accepted in the society, but examine! Are you accepted before the Almighty God???? No NO NO because you are violating the command of Him who created you.

Deuteronomy 1:39 (KJV)

Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it." Your little children who have no knowledge of good and evil will inherit the kingdom of God. **Matthew 18:3 (KJV)** And said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Luke 18:16 (KJV) But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God".

So when you reach the age of knowledge, hear the word, repent, believe and be baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. This is serious. If you DO NOT OBEY your ticket and visa is already prepared for you to go to hell. Jesus the sinless one took baptism at the age of 30 to fulfill all righteousness of God. Obey! Obey!

1 Samuel 15:22 (KJV) And Samuel said, Hath 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 hearken than the fat of rams.

We were examining on purgatory. We come back to it.

. No longer, any fear of purgatory it is the belief of a cult. One day I accosted a priest friend and told him of my discovery. He told me he does not believe it either. Then why do you have all souls day?? He had no answer.

I belong to Jesus, I have no fear because I decided to believe in the Divinity Of Jesus Christ and once again I will pour out my heart to Jesus asking forgiveness and I will take water Baptism .

Even Jesus the sinless one took Baptism. Matthew 3:15 (KJV) And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness."

Do you know what happened? Do not say it is a ritual. It is obedience to Jesus God Almighty. Baptism means immersion - yes totally immerse in water.

Romans 6:3-9 (KJV) ³

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. ⁴ Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. Read it carefully. We are no longer slaves to sin. The body of sin is destroyed. If we are dead with Christ, we shall live with Him. Amen. You come out of the water a new being.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Who am I a sinful creature disobeying God?

John 3:3 (KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:4-5 (KJV)4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

This word of God kept convincing me day and night until I took a firm decision to be baptized. I began to share to my group the truths I learnt and on that blessed day 2 January 2002; 25 of us were baptized. It was a great moment in my life. I became a citizen of the kingdom of God where my Father resides. I can enter there boldly and talk to Him. I can call Him Abba and He responds not like those idols in the churches silent and helpless. I am delivered from sin satan and death. I am no longer a slave to sin. Romans 8:1 (KJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Born again did not mean born again in your flesh . Because we are children of Adam, we are born with our spirit dead or with no relationship with God. It is when we obey knowingly the word of God to repent, believe and be baptized we come into relationship with God.

John 6:63 (KJV) It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

As these truths were revealed, I began to learn about the church Christ instituted.

John 14:21 (KJV) He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:23-26 (KJV) ²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. ²⁴ He that loveth me not; keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. ²⁶ But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Jesus clearly says that the Holy Spirit will teach and bring into our remembrance only that which Jesus taught us. All that I learned till now in my church were opposite to what Jesus taught. ; (the myths about Mary, giving sainthood to human beings who according to the word of God wait for the trumpet call of Jesus;; the purgatory the prayers for the dead and prayers to the dead, the sacrifice of the mass, the priest hood to some, the locking up of Jesus in a cupboard, the rosary which are recited by pagans even before New testament days.

Luke 11:27-29 (KJV) ²⁷ And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed *is* the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. ²⁸ But he said, Yea rather,

blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it. **Mark 3:31-35 (KJV)** ³¹ There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. ³²

And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. ³³ And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? ³⁴ And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! ³⁵ For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

John 19:27-28 (KJV) ²⁷ Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*. Notice the singular term used. But see what Jesus tells about His Father **John 20:17**

(KJV) Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God.”)

Chapter-10

The True Church

Now the all important ant question on the true church

The Greek word ecclesia means the people who are called out. It refers to the congregation of God's people in Christ who come together as citizens of God's kingdom

Ephesians 2:19 (KJV) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;" for the purpose of worshipping God (and not, I repeat, not to say and hear mass; but worship God)

1 The church is the company of Redeemed Believers

made possible by Christ's Death. 1 Peter 1:18-19 (KJV)

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: It is a pilgrim people no longer belonging to this earth. Heb13:12-14)

Whose first function is to live as a community in a living personal relationship with God?

1 Peter 2:5 (KJV) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

2 The church is a people called out of the world and into God's kingdom.

Separation from the world is inherent to the church's nature having the LORD as one's God and Father.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (KJV)

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.(Very strong and powerful words)

3,The church is the temple of God and of the

Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

(2cor:6:14-7:1; Eph.2:11-22; 1pet.24-10) This truth about the church demands separation from unrighteousness and worldly immorality

4, The church is the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:15-16 (KJV) ¹⁵

Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid. ¹⁶ What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. (1cor.10:16-17;12:12-27) The head of the body is Christ

Ephesians 1:22 (KJV) And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Colossians 1:18 (KJV) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. (Eph.4:15, 5:23)

5, The church is the Bride of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2 (KJV) For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ." (Eph.5:22-27; Rev.19:7-9)

6, The church is a spiritual fellowship

2 Corinthians 13:14 (KJV)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen. This includes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit **John 20:22 (KJV)** And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: The unity of the Spirit **Ephesians 4:4 (KJV)** *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling and the baptism in the Spirit **Acts 1:5 (KJV)** For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.; **Acts 2:4 (KJV)** And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (.Acts 8:14-17 ;10:44;19:1-7)

7, The church is a spiritual ministry.

It serves through the use of Gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit **Romans 12:6 (KJV)** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

Ephesians 4:11 (KJV) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (1cor.1:7;12:4;-11; **1 Corinthians 12:28 (KJV)** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:29-31 (KJV) ²⁹ *Are* all apostles? *are* all prophets? *are* all teachers? *are* all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? ³¹ But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

8, The Church is an army involved in spiritual conflict. The church is in a spiritual struggle against satan and sin. Acts 26:18 (KJV)

To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them, which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (There are many verses)

9,The Church is the pillar and ground of the truth

1 Timothy 3:15 (KJV)

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.,supporting the truth as a foundation supports a building. It must uphold the truth and keep it safe defending it against distorters and false teachers.

Jude 1:3 (KJV) Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Galatians 1:9 (KJV) As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.(Oh!! I learned all distorted truth)

10,The church is a people with a future hope.

The hope centers in Christ's return for his people **John 14:3 (KJV)** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. **1 Timothy 6:14 (KJV)** That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Hebrews 9:28 (KJV)** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation". Halleluiah.

The Catholic Church taught the burning in purgatory.

We have to have money to offer mass may be for untold years, candles and prayers. But , My Jesus says that I am seated with him in heaven as of now if only I accept his lordship and divinity and sovereignty and believe in Him. I simply had to sit at my Lord's feet and his leading. What a relief!!! No, I am not afraid of death. I am looking forward to meeting my savior God who is sitting with outstretched arms to receive me.

11,The church is both visible and invisible.

The church invisible is the body of true believers united by their living faith in Christ. B) the visible church consists of local congregations containing faithful overcomers (Rev2: 11,17, 26) as well as those professed Christians who are false

Revelation 2:2 (KJV) I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: fallen

Revelation 2:5 (KJV) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. Spiritually dead

Revelation 3:1 (KJV) And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These

things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. and lukewarm
Revelation 3:16 (KJV) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

So the essential characteristics of a church of Jesus Christ is as follows

1 The local congregations will be united by the Holy Spirit, diligently seeking personal relationship with Jesus

2 Through its powerful witnessing, sinners will be saved, born again, baptized in water and added to church.

They will partake of the Lord's supper and wait for Christ's return.

3 The baptism in the Holy Spirit will be preached and the Spirit's power and presence manifested.

4 The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be in operation including wonders, miraculous healings

5,God gives fivefold leadership for the work of the ministry

6,Believers will drive out demons

7,The Original teaching of Christ and apostles will be taught. The people will devote themselves to studying and obeying the word. Of God

8,On the first day of the week **Acts 20:7 (KJV)** And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

9 The church will stand in humility ,awe and fear before the presence of a holy God(Acts5:11)

10 Those who have persevered in godly character and the righteous standards set forth by the apostle will be ordained as elders to oversee local churches and maintain their spiritual life

11 Likewise the church will have deacons responsible for the temporal and material affairs of the church.**1 Timothy 3:8 (KJV)** Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

12 There will be observable love and fellowship in the Spirit among the members and between other Bible believing congregations (2 cor: 8:1-8; acts 15:1-31)

13,The church will be a praying and fasting church
(Acts 1- 14; 6:4; 12:5; 13:2 etc)

14 Believers will separate themselves from the prevailing worldview and the spirit of their surrounding culture (I did not see this exercised. I was told to show respect by keeping quiet for fear of hurting them)

15 **Acts 2:40 (KJV)** And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." **2 Corinthians 6:17 (KJV)** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,(Gal1:4) **1 John 2:15-16 (KJV)** ¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

16 There will be suffering and affliction because of the world and its ways (Acts 4:1-3; 5:40; 9:16; 14:22)

17 The church will actively help send missionaries to other lands (Acts 2:39; 13:2-4)

I was sad, upset that I could not find these characteristics in the Catholic Church, I believed is the true church.

I grew up in it; I boasted about it, I loved dearly many priests and nuns. It was not easy to turn my back on it. I went to my counselor priest with all these truths under my arm and to hear from him his opinion. I was disappointed.

Because, he could not answer me at all.

All he said was ' you are carrying the Bible like a Pentecost. I was proud of it. Yes, I said "I enjoyed the Pentecostal experience, without which, we can not really be a true follower of Christ. That was in the year 2000. We never met after that. Jesus became my only counselor.

As the scripture says **John 6:45 (KJV)**

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.'

It was not easy to leave all that I believed and the belief of our community, home family, society and church. There was a tug of war inside of me. The tempest was raging and the waves rose and fell with fury. Jesus do you not see? I am of little faith. Give me more Faith. Speak to me Jesus I cried out. Jesus heard me. The ONE who called me is faithful and true. I did not have to do anything. Jesus made it all happen to lift me out of the kingdom of Darkness into His kingdom of Light.

God Be Praised!!! **2 Corinthians 4:6 (KJV)** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

My Father in Heaven was preparing me all through these years patiently to draw me to Him.

Unfathomable Love of the Father!!!! Nothing can separate me from that love. To experience that Love, open your hearts and minds and read the Word of God. He is waiting to teach you. Draw near to Him who is able to give you Eternal life. !!!!

1 John 2:17 (KJV) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

This world is fading away. . . . But if you do the will of God, you will live forever. 1 John 2:17

Religion seeks to reform a man
Relationship seeks to crucify his flesh
Religion may fail to bring about
The desired result
But Relationship never fails to
achieve its end

Chapter-11

Relationship

How To Bring Excitement In Your Relationship With Jesus

Colossians 2:6-7 (KJV) ⁶ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him: ⁷ Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Read from Amplified.)

1) Walk in Faith

2) Rooted in Christ

3 Built up in Christ- God is working in you to fashion you to Christ's image.

4) Establish in Christ; then you become strong by receiving fire, power and excitement from the word of god

5) Be thankful- overflowing with it

To achieve it, we must do certain things.

1. Begin the day by consecrating it to Jesus

2 Read the word of God

3 Communicate with God

4 Increase your commitment to Christ's church

5 Be Committed and Enthusiastic about involving in the Great Commission business

The best commentary on the Bible is a person who puts it into practice. **Ezra 7:10 (KJV)** For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. The most important focus should be learning God's word and doing it. That was the top priority of Ezra's life

The Conversion of a soul is the Miracle of a moment.

The growth of a saint is the task of a Lifetime

I desire a heart willing to love and serve

As I hear His word today;

Knowing that the One I serve

Is the Great Rewarder

Lord Jesus your word says," You shall know the truth and the Truth shall set you free"

If your words set me free, then I will make no account of the vain words of men. Jesus let thy Truth teach me, let it guard me and preserve me unto a saving end. Let it deliver me from all evil desires and inordinate love and I shall walk with Thee in great freedom of heart. Amen

When you are caught in the daily rush, remember you have a goal that surpasses this world--bringing others to Christ.

Chapter-12

Prayer

I am giving some prayers, which helped me as I struggled to learn to pray

I am breathing in the life of my God with every breath I take and therefore I give you praise for my very life health and strength. Amen

Loving heavenly Father, I thank you, because I believe that the life of Thy Spirit is within me working toward health and strength. Amen

I surround myself with the protection of Almighty God and in the Name of Jesus Christ; I say nothing shall get through to hurt me. Amen

Teach me to feel another's woe, to hide the fault I see. That mercy show to me.

Prayers of Deliverance

In the Precious Name of Jesus, I dare to say, "I direct and command the forces of the body to throw off this disease and make me well... Let it be so in Jesus' Name Amen.

In the Name of Jesus, I direct and order that from this time forth, satan, you shall not afflict me (specify areas: sleeplessness, unforgiveness, fear, pride, hatred, aselgia (selfish spirit) etc

Lord Your Word is the cutting instrument. I lay the axe to the root cause (name the affliction) -----in my family tree. I claim freedom from the problem in my family, which have been passed from one generation to the next. Thank you Father for this deliverance .Amen

2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV) in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them".

The Blood of Jesus is already shed; the Gospel has already been given. The light is already there, it cannot shine because of what the devil has already done. (Now break the power of satan over them) In the name of Lord Jesus Christ, I break the power of satan and his demons over ----- life and claim deliverance; yes, I claim deliverance from that blindness and that bondage of satan. I claim his/her full salvation in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Confession of Faith

Romans 16:20-21 (KJV) ²⁰

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen Luke 10:19 (KJV) the Lord has promised” Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”. I am ready for the imminent victory –right now in Jesus name.

Psalms 32:7-8 (KJV) ⁷ Thou art my hiding place; thou shall preserve me from trouble; thou shall compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. ⁸ I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way, which thou shall go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV) ⁹ that if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus; and shall believe in your heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

My Jesus mercy

When you judge my thoughts, my Jesus mercy
When you look upon my desires, My Jesus mercy
When you count my works, my Jesus mercy
When you search my heart, my Jesus mercy
When you inspect my senses, my Jesus mercy

Yes with every breath and every beating of, I desire without intermission and with a humble and contrite heart, to cry my Jesus mercy. My Jesus mercy as many million times as God’s infinite wisdom is able to count, I wish to repeat, my Jesus mercy.

Take Lord and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will- all that I have and call my own, you have given all to me, To you Lord, I return it, everything is yours ,do with it what you will; give me only your love and your grace . That is enough for me.

To Keep Spiritually Fit , Walk Daily With Christ

It is a continual relationship with Jesus, not external acts of devotion. It is a daily walk 24 hours. The time we spend in fellowship with Jesus each day in Prayer will strengthen us to stand against temptation’s evil snare.

Lord help me walk with you each day. Attune my heart to what you will say and show me how to read and pray when pressing needs get in my way.

Good Morning Abba, my heavenly Father, I worship you. I pray that I live this day

in your presence and please you more In addition, more. Fill me with your love.
Good Morning, Lord Jesus, my Savior and Lord,
I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you cheerfully without complaint.
Fill me with your love and forgiveness.
Good Morning Holy Spirit, the gift of God to me, I pray to fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Holy, Blessed and glorious
Trinity has mercy upon me. Amen

Psalms 32:7-8 (KJV) ⁷ Thou art my hiding place; thou shall preserve me from trouble; thou shall compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. ⁸ I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way, which thou shall go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Lord, I desire to love you with my entire mind. Help me to discover new ways to show my love for you in my thought life, in my worship and in my relationships
Amen

To Grow In Your Love for God

Keep God in Your Thoughts.

Your Task Today is to honor God in All You Do

Holy God, let my eyes be open to your presence

And your Will through out this day

Holy Spirit of God, Soul of my soul, Life of my life, I adore you, I worship you, and I bow down before your majesty.

Holy Spirit of God guide me in all my thoughts, words and deeds.

Destroy the thoughts that come to me from self, from the world, and from satan.

Give me thoughts that are healing, that build a bridge between relationships and deeds of love and concern.

Holy Spirit of God strengthen me in all my weakness----- mention it

Holy Spirit of God comfort me in my disappointments -----

Holy Spirit sanctify me from all my sins -----

Holy Spirit heal me of all my sickness. Holy Spirit I

Love you for being my comforter, counselor, my friend my guide and my teacher.

Please take me to my Father. Show me the way, teach me your ways. Help me to be

obedient to you Holy Spirit, teach me to love as Jesus loves me teach me to forgive as

Jesus forgives me. Give me wisdom, knowledge, understanding and discernment.

Reveal yourself to me

Holy Spirit. Do not delay. I wait upon you, walk with me and help me to walk with you daily. Psalms 43:3" (KJV) ³ O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill and to thy tabernacle".

Lord show me any area in my life where I am not living in obedience to your ways. Help me to bring every thought and actions under your control. Enable me to hear your instructions to my heart,

so that I may do your will. Lead me in your paths of righteousness, wholeness and peace. Jesus You are the life giving water. Fill my heart to the brim with your divine life I

Abba Father, let the Holy Spirit have full dominion over me in my home, in my temper, in every thought of my heart, in every word of my tongue, in every feeling toward all I meet today Let the Holy Spirit take entire possession of me.

I want to be a woman of absolute surrender to Jesus. Help me to be able to get up from bed every morning of the week with that blessed thought directly or indirectly" I am in God's charge. My God is working out my life for me"

"Mighty God, I claim your Almightyness" "all that omnipotence can do, I am going to trust my God for"

"O God, my Father, my savior, my Lord, make me as holy as a pardoned sinner can be made"

"Keep me away from sin; do not let me be dominated from it. May the words of my mouth and meditations of my heart be pleasing to Thee"

Lord everything in my life has to be in most complete harmony with my position as a branch of you, the blessed vine"

Absolute surrender to you O Christ I have chosen "

Dear heavenly Father, King and Commander of the Holy Armies, though you have lifted me up to reign in the Holy places with Christ, remind me that your armies are engaged in a fierce struggle to take earth from heaven.

Do not let me relax as if there is no war going on. This is not a time of peace Never let me let down my guard and fail to look to my armament. May I be strong in you and in the strength of your might In the Name of Jesus faithful warrior, I pray Amen Jesus! May my heart radiate silence, solitude, humility, gentleness and prayerfulness? Jesus may I experience your presence and use me as your donkey.

Christ the Rock is our Hope; we rest secure in His word.

To refresh your prayer life, review the Book of Psalms, which is filled with prayers. Read and pray Psalm 8 as your own. Morning Prayer leads to Evening praise.

I had to clear one more doubt. Which I cleared before my Baptism. The Church was not built on Peter. It was built on Peter's confession of Faith that Jesus is The Christ, the Son of the living God." Without this revelation, no one can love or serve the Lord. **Deuteronomy 32:4 (KJV)** *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

2 Samuel 22:2 (KJV) And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

Psalms 18:2 (KJV) The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

1 Corinthians 10:4 (KJV) And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Peter is not the Rock Christ is the Rock. (There are more scriptures on it)

Ephesians 2:20-22 (KJV) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:9 (KJV) But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"

Are you not excited to know that you belong to the royal priesthood!!!

Wake up my brothers and sisters. Live victorious lives. We are in God's Army.

Jesus is our Captain. No one can take that place. Take up your arms and fight our enemy with the double Edged Sword of God.

Romans 8:37-39 (KJV) Nay, in all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our

Lord. Amen

Epilogue

ABBA FATHER

It was a day of disorder, of dissipation, of despondency, of rejection, sorrow and I could not pray. Deep within in spite of the dryness and despair, my spirit longed to be with my Father. Even though my spirit was willing, my flesh did not yield to its promptings... I sat broodingly in front of my Bible in an attitude of prayer; weeping within of my helplessness. !

The words of the Scripture began to impress upon my obstinate heart. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth, For the Father is seeking such to worship Him" [JN: 4:24]

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [Jn: 14:6]

Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV) Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knows not." **Psalms 91:15 (KJV)** He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble;
I will deliver him, and honor him . I claimed these promises with a sincere heart.

I yearned to pray in spirit and in truth. I longed to meet my Father. Oh, Yes! God has given us His Spirit to help us to pray. The Holy Spirit leads me to my Jesus, Jesus is the Truth, and this Truth is the only way to my Father. Prayer came from my heart to my lips and I was transported to the presence of my Jesus I begged Jesus my Savior to reveal to me my Father. I need to know His love. Please, oh please reveal Him to me. All on a sudden, I felt as if a door was opened or a blind removed. I was in the presence of my Father. I cannot recount the joy, the peace and the exquisite rapport that my spirit enjoyed. I just know that I rested in His presence. I went off to sleep on the chair. For how long I do not know. However, these divine moments of exhilaration and tranquility cannot be expounded in human terms.

Do you remember the experience of the warmth of the love of your parents at any given time? No! It is not that no
Do you remember the excitement of beholding the smile of your baby in your arms? Do you remember rejoicing with your son when he got his first job? No, it is not that. Do you remember the pounding of your heart when your spouse returns from work? No! It is not that either!

Have you ever experienced the exultation of winning the horse you bet on? No, No. Have you experienced the marvel of a rosebud unfolding itself in the sunshine

revealing the richness of its hue? Have you experienced the wonder of the setting sun with its array of colors sinking into the depth of the sea?
Have you watched the calm of the sea standing at its edge?

Do you remember the jubilation when India won the cricket test?

No No It is none of these. All of these count for nothing because they are transient and of no consequence

How I wish to expound the richness of the splendor of His mighty Presence !!!; the wealth of His Love, the refreshing rest under His wings, the tender touch of the mother, the rock of my refuge, the all encompassing peace that surpasses all understanding!! I basked in the sunshine of His unconditional Love and my rebellious mood melted away in the warmth of His Presence. Is this Heaven? Then I want to go there right now and hold my Father's Hand and look down through the stars and plead with Him to advance the day of His coming and remove all the evil, wickedness and misery of His people... In my sleep, I know not for how long, I took up my journal and began writing of things I never dreamt of, or even thought of; for how long I do not know!

Was aware of my Father all through the night, feeling so free and my pounding heart revealed the excitement that was within and experienced the passing of electric current through my body. The despondency of my heart melted away in His consuming fire of love. The wounds of rejection, loneliness and hopelessness were wiped away by His divine touch. HE planted within me His Love, patience, forbearance, forgiveness and compassion

My Father! He is benevolent, He is gentle; He waits for me patiently with arms open wide. I encountered the father of the prodigal son, waiting and watching running down to embrace with open arms; The ever watchful eye of the Good Shepherd seeking His lost sheep! Oh He is gentle and kind. He is protective. His presence brings in the warmth of His protective love, compassionate concern, steadfast love; Oh the abundance of the richness of His glory rested on me He is a faithful God .This is His promise He will allow His children to experience His Glory.. I am His child. I assert again and again I am His child there is great confidence of His love and a deep desire to share my Father with all, His true nature as He revealed

How foolish of me to entertain thoughts of Him as a cruel, strict and punishing God. Father! forgive me and have mercy on me. My Father planted within me His love, forbearance, forgiveness and compassion. He is supplying me all I need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. My Jesus my savior thank you for revealing my Father to me. Amen

[I had written in page no ? About the visitation of my Father in heaven and it is a translation of what I wrote in my journal as I sat sleeping in His presence]

Mrs. Grace Joseph.

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