



### May be ... But!

May be you don't know God but God knows you.  
May be God is not important to you but you are important to God.

May be you don't love God but God loves you.

Perhaps to you God has no purpose but God has a purpose for you.

You are not master of your life and destiny - God is.

You see, God is there whether you believe in Him or not.

He is not a figment of someone's imagination or a product of wishful thinking.

He did not suddenly start existing just because someone started believing in Him.

Sure, there have been lots of 'gods' in human history that have found a place in various religions because they popped up out of man's fertile imagination. But the real, true and absolute God who is there is so different and opposite to man's ideas that He could not possibly have come from the mind of man.

The entire history of our universe is just a fleeting second in the mind of God.

The true God of the Bible is so different in character from man that to claim that He came from man's imagination is to be very ignorant about the nature of God and the nature of Man. Just as to claim that a computer was designed by a monkey shows ignorance of both computers and monkeys.

We did not create God — God created us. It is humbling to discover that there is One far greater than us, who made us. But we have fallen from His standard of holiness and transgressed His perfect laws and are under His wrath.

God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross of Calvary to take the punishment for our sins and thus open the way for us to return to our rightful Father, a loving God, who does not want to exploit us but share His life and joy with all those who accept and believe in Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Will you not change your mind and trust Him for salvation from your sins and to receive eternal life today and now ?

" For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans 6:23.*

> Free copies can be ordered from :

Green Pastures, P. O. Box 71,  
Thane- 400 601. Mumbai.

> Order Audio/Video CD/DVDs

> Online resources on our websites:

[www.aothniel.net](http://www.aothniel.net) & [www.ctouch.org.in](http://www.ctouch.org.in)



> [www.ctouch.org.in/calvarytv](http://www.ctouch.org.in/calvarytv)



touching lives with  
God's love  
- rebuilding lives  
on God's Word

#### MINISTRY VISION

- To make quality, reproducing disciples. Mat 28:18-20
- To present each one perfect in Christ. Col.1:28-29.
- To reach the unreached. Rom.15:20.
- To defend the faith once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

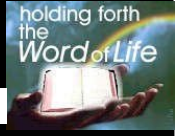
- Welcome
- Worship
- Doctrine
- Foundation
- Spirit Fruit
- Encourage
- Youth style
- ForStudent
- Practicallife
- ForWomen
- Family life
- Leadership
- Min. Skills
- Biblestudy
- News,views
- Missions
- Qs & Ans
- Good news

## Green Pastures

[www.ctouch.org.in](http://www.ctouch.org.in)

Psalm 23

- to encourage, edify & equip you



Volume 1 Issue 1

Magazine - January 2010

Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Welcome to the first issue of this magazine. You may wonder why again one more magazine when there are already so many being circulated! From a long time, I was planning to bring out a quality and spiritually edifying and equipping magazine and it is now time to launch this. Clear and uncompromising teaching of God's Word is the need of the hour as so much manipulation and confusion is prevailing all over the Christian world.

The purpose of this magazine is to boldly take a stand for the truth of God's Word and to defend the faith once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3. Biblical, Christ-centered and God honoring and practical articles relevant to the present day situation and challenges are included in this for every member in the family.

What is Life all about?

The greatest question today is: What is life all about? Is it to enjoy the pleasures of sin? Is it to become rich and live comfortable life? Is it to be healthy, wealthy and wise? As many today are preaching, is it to be prosperous and pray hard for all the blessings one can get? or to make a name for yourself by becoming popular?

Here's what the Bible says, Life is all about God's glory! For He says, He created man and all in the universe for His glory. And He is worthy of all glory. 1 Chronicles 16:28-29. Psalms 96. And we need to do everything for His glory. 1 Cor 10:31.

We only have to learn how to glorify Him and rejoice in doing His will. The result is more than what we need or expect. He has already blessed those who believe in Him, with all blessings. Ephesians 1:3. And has given all things pertaining to life and godliness. 2 Peter 1. The purpose is to share in His divine nature and to be conformed to the image of His Son. Romans 8:28-29.

And what you think is the Holy Spirit doing today? He is changing His people from glory to glory. 2 Corinthians 3:18.

This magazine is sent free of cost to all who ask for it. Gifts are welcome to cover the cost of stationary, printing and postage. Feel free to recommend your friends and contacts to receive this regularly as a ministry to them. You will be get complimentary gifts of CD/DVDs. The magazine is written and produced by A. Othniel. Your comments are welcome. To God be all the glory. Amen



" God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

One of the great tragedies of contemporary Christianity is that we have allowed the concept of worship to degenerate so that Christ can be neglected or even opposed by those who think they are worshipping Him. We think we are celebrating Him, while in reality we're preoccupied with fulfilling our own selfish desires, unconcerned and uncaring about the real reason we're gathered.

What is Worship? Many are not certain what worship is. Some Christians think of worship as sitting quietly and piously, dreamily contemplating some abstract and ethereal noumenon. Other Christians see worship as liturgy-a structured system to be followed at a certain time, in a specified place with the proper atmosphere and just the right words and music. Still others equate worship with motion or emotion or even volume. To them, intense feelings, loud noise or frenzied activity are essential to fervent worship.

Modern Christianity as a whole tends to view worship as an activity that takes place usually in Church on Sunday and perhaps occasionally in the prayer closet during devotions or with a Bible study group. Consequently the spate of books and articles recently published on the subject has focused largely on the forms of worship-style, order of service and ritual-often missing the real point that worship is a lifestyle, consuming the whole being. Worship is not just mystical, it is intensely practical. It is not rigid, void of spontaneity, but neither is it mindless emotion and activity. Worship is nothing if it is not continuous, deliberate, purposeful, active and dynamic. It is all that we are, reacting rightly to all that God is.

According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, every believer is a living, breathing temple in which God dwells. That means believers can worship anywhere, at any time-God goes with them in an abiding defence. A Christian can worship anywhere under any kind of circumstance or condition. The sphere of worship is unlimited and worship reaches its most sublime heights when the worshipper is living continuously in God's presence, in the glow of His glory, a life of worship. Biblically, worship is simply honour and adoration directed to God.

The New Testament uses several words for worship. Two of them particularly are noteworthy. The first is *proskuneo*, a commonly used term that literally means 'to kiss toward,' to kiss the hand," or to bow down.' It is the word for worship used to signify humble adoration. The second word is *latreuo*, which suggests rendering honor or paying homage. The Anglo-Saxon word from which we get our English word *worthscipe*, which is tied to the concept of worthiness. That's appropriate, for worship is ascribing to God His worth, stating and affirming His supreme value. All of those terms carry the idea of giving and worship is what we give to God.

Today much of the so-called worship is focused on entertaining people. Let us study in the next issues what and how of True Worship that is pleasing to God and brings blessings.

>> Send in your comments/suggestions. Recommend addresses of others and get free gift of CD/DVDs! Thanks.

>> Confirm your own interest to receive this regularly.



The Call of God to Go, in Spite of...

Often what God does in us brings greater glory to Him than what we do for him. By a trustful acceptance of His dealings with us we may serve Him better than by our feverish activity. Paul calls himself "God's exhibit" (1 Corinthians 4:9) because he was available to accept God's dealings in his life. The secret of this availability is trust, which willingly accepts the inner dealings of the Lord.

Shall we then pray for mobility and flexibility to fulfill His purposes, for sensitivity to share His burden, and for trust to accept His dealings?

"But should I not be called?" Yes, you must not go without a call!

Dr. Christian Weiss speaks of the four-fold call-

One is the call from the world within you. There is a growing dissatisfaction over your present job and a growing desire to do more for the Lord.

Secondly there is the call from the world around you. Millions and millions of people are without the gospel. The harvest is getting wasted without sufficient reapers.

Thirdly the call from the world under you. Think of the countless millions who are dead and gone to a Christless eternity. They are crying like the rich man from hell to send Lazarus to preach the gospel to their relatives (Lk 16:27,28).

Finally the call from the world above. God's Spirit moves and directs you. He gives you an inward urge and uses the Scripture and the circumstances to confirm you are called.

Why not decide now? Listen to Him! He speaks to you! Obey Him! NOW!

"Ah, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you." Jer. 1:6-7

Go in spite of...

WE are all known for making excuses. "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it; I ask you to have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them; I ask you to have me excused. Still another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come" (Lk 14:18-20).

The call of God comes to us as a privilege. If we fail to respond to Him positively. He will bypass us and He knows how and by whom to get the job done. The entire nation of the Jews was in peril. Esther was God's person for the hour but she was making excuses. Mordecai's warning to Esther was alarming: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Wisdom dawned on her and she said, "I will go... and if I perish, I perish!" We know the result (Esth 4:10-16).

How can we endure to see the evil that will come on our people? How can we endure to see the destruction of our kindred? Whatever difficulties and problems we have, let's not make them excuses but turn them over to the Lord for help and solution and Go! To reach India for Christ!

> You are welcome to involve with us to reach the unreached in India now!



WHYS OF GULLIBILITY

Q: Why are Christians so gullible and so prone to deception? What could possibly be behind it?

First, because the foundation of the Christian life is belief. However, that we can believe the wrong things is made abundantly clear by the Bible. We must know what we believe and why and that we are believing the right things. We cannot just believe anything. Our objects of faith must be God and His Word, not mere men or wild claims.

Second, the Christian is commanded to love. Love tends to be accepting and is willing to overlook. However, love that is not structured in truth is sentimentalism and is so wishy-washy it can be manipulated and led astray.

Third, we have a tendency to want to believe Christian leaders. But it should not be a blind following. Is the leadership we are following really modeling Christ and the Bible? We have to be like Bereans (Acts 17:11) and test all messages against Scripture.

Fourth, we can be brainwashed by religious television and are being told that to question is "heresy hunting" or it is a "religious spirit" or "white cane religion" or a "Jezebel spirit" or worse. We are cowed by being threatened with the possibility of committing the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit even though we are just trying to be discerning. We should not be manipulated by a turning of the tables and a guilt trip laid on us for questioning heresy. We should not be in a church where there is no accountability or church discipline.

Fifth, it is hard for us to believe or imagine that slick magazines such as Charisma could be peddling deception and that such wonderful ministries (as being advertised) could not be on the up and up. It is hard for us to believe that "Christian" bookstores could be part of the problem. It is hard for us to believe that all the money being made is the reason for the collusion (and the advancement of the wild and weird).

Sixth, perverted and unbiblical views that forgiveness means we put up with and overlook everything, even ongoing sin and disgrace. The word "repentance" is being milked and used to justify all manner of evil. True repentance will issue out in biblical change (Matthew 3:8, Acts 26:20, 2 Corinthians 7:9-11).

Seventh, there is an enemy of our souls who goes about like a "roaring lion" (1 Peter 5:8). Satan is a master deceiver and we are called to put on the armor of God and confront his reasoning and errors and bring our thoughts into captivity and in alignment to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Eighth, the Scriptures predict there would be a departure from the faith because of seducing spirits and doctrines of demons and that people would opt for myths and fables over the truth (1 Timothy 4:1-2, 2 Timothy 4:1-4). Jesus warned of deception in Matthew 24:24.

>> ( to be contd)

>> Send your questions/doubts for clarification. God's Word has answers. Study the Word as per 2 Tim 2:15, 3:15-17.

"... contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." Jude 3.



The Importance of Doctrine

" Defend the faith once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 3

As believers we are often guilty of quibbling over foolish questions and arguments which can only engender strife rather than godly edifying which is by faith (see 1 Timothy 1:4; 6:3-4). Our desire should always be to build up and edify our fellow believers in the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:26; 8:1; etc.).

On the other hand, some have the following attitude: "It doesn't matter so much what you believe as long as you 'love' one another."

Doctrine is extremely important. Biblical love never minimizes the importance of Bible doctrine. If we truly love a person then we will desire that person to be totally indoctrinated in the truth of God from Genesis to Revelation, including every jot and tittle of God's precious Revelation. True unity can never come at the expense of truth. In fact, true unity is only realized and enjoyed as believers harmonize together and function according to truth (Ephesians 4:11-16). The only basis for the enjoyment of true Christian unity (Ephesians 4:1-6) is a COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF AND OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD. The ones who are hindering the cause of Christian unity are those who refuse to stand faithfully and obediently upon the written Word of God. When doctrine becomes the issue, truth must prevail!

Doctrine is the Bible's teachings. Doctrine is what separates truth from error. It is what separates biblical Christianity from groups that claim to embrace the Christian faith, when in fact their beliefs bare little resemblance to the teachings of the Bible. Doctrine is what separates Christianity from Hinduism, Mormonism, Unitarianism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Word of Faith, etc. Doctrine is that one dividing line which separates what is truly biblical from what is not.

Part of the reason why much of the church has no appetite for doctrine is because that is how it has been groomed by its leaders over at least the last several decades. Modern leaders have failed to fulfill their task of teaching the full counsel of God (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 3:16-17) and this has resulted in a tremendous lack of discernment. To a large degree Christians are unprepared to determine the difference between truth and error, and that is what is behind the sentiment that unity is more important than truth. The main question is, Do we, like the early church, desire the apostle's doctrine? If not, then there is a huge discrepancy between our profession of faith and the genuineness of that profession.

Proper application of these principles needs to be made with respect to some modern movements that talk of unity at the cost of compromising the truth, etc. Much discernment is needed in these difficult and declining days. May we learn to want to feast on the teachings of the apostles. May we demonstrate our love for God by wanting to be saturated with His truth. May we love and abide in the truth! Amen.

>> Let us know your thoughts on these articles. Join us as Volunteers/Partners in the ministry to multiply disciples. God bless you. ><<

"Prove all things, hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).



## The Need to Lay Strong Foundation

"Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock." Matthew 7: 24-27.

The Lord Jesus was talking here of laying a strong foundation on the rock to withstand and remain firm against all sorts of problems like rain, floods and wind. It is compared to life in this world. In order to maintain our faith in the midst of problems and persecutions, we need to lay a strong foundation upon the Rock, the Lord Jesus Himself, by obeying His Word.

In order to build our lives on the Rock of God's Word, we need to first know the truths one by one and systematically, so we can take each stone and lay the foundation to last longer.

If the foundation is not laid or is laid on sand, as the Lord explained further in the above passage, the house collapses when the wind blows and rain and floods beat upon it. That's why many people's faith is so shaky and floating as they never bothered to take time and make effort to lay the all important foundation for their faith.

Here you will find the fundamental truths systematically explained to help you lay a strong and unshakeable foundation for your faith. The reason many newly born again believers are not growing is due to the lack of systematic teaching on these basic fundamental truths of the Scriptures.

"wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, as new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:1,2.

God is Holy: To begin the study of the basic doctrines or the Fundamental Truths, we have to start with the very nature of God we are dealing with. In relation to who God is in essence, we can define how man is today or how he needs to change in order to have a relationship with such God. So, let us see what the Bible says about God.

\* God is Holy and Righteous: Ex. 15:11; 1 Sam. 2:2; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:16; Ps. 116:5; Ezra 9:15; Ps. 145:17; Jer. 12:1.

But in regard to man, Rom. 3:23; 5:12 say that all have sinned as through one man (Adam) sin entered the world and hence all became sinners.

What is Sin? Sin is an attitude or action contrary to God's Holy character and will (law). There are two aspects to sin: One is the principle of sin- the sinful nature;

Secondly, the acts of sin- the sinful actions. Romans 3:23-25; 5:12-21; 6:1-23; 7:5-25; 8:2-3.

Though sin originated with Satan long before man was created, through Adam, the first man, the seed of sin has been passed on to the whole human race.

Isa. 14:12-14; Jn 8:44; Rom. 5:12; Gen. 3:1-6; Ps. 51:5.

4 The Manifestation of sin: Sin is manifested in many ways: > to be contd

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus



## Calvary's touch Ministries

~ making a difference since 1985!

==> launching into cities in India now! <==

Welcomes Volunteers/Partners to involve in planning/hosting the following services all over India:

- Counseling Services/Workshops: for youth & leaders.
- Personality Development Seminars:- for youth/students. ~to improve communication skills, relationships, and lifestyle.
- Systematic and Practical Bible study Classes:- for all believers. ~to understand & apply God's Word correctly to daily life.
- Mentoring & Disciple making Training & Network: International- to equip you to multiply and maximize your potential for leadership
- Planting Disciplemaking Churches: start churches in new places ~ to make quality & reproducing disciples. Not just converts!
- Internet Ministry: All in one Website Solutions: global presence. ~ Websites for ministry at lowest rates! Resources online.

If interested to involve, Contact Today:

><> Mentoring the Next Generation ~ Multiplying Disciplemakers ><>

### Books written by A. Othniel:- available for ordering.

1. To Encourage you: Comfort & Encouraging messages.
2. Basic Foundation Truths- brief lessons for believers.
3. Bible Doctrines: deeper and detailed Bible teachings.
4. The Body of Christ: all about the Church
5. The Doctrine & Gifts of the Holy Spirit: biblical. clear, relevant.
6. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: very practical exposition.
7. How to be A Winner in Life: practical principles to win in life.
8. How to Maximize Your Leadership Potential: equipping skills.
9. How to be A Successful Student: helping students study well.
10. Grace, So Amazing! The Life story of A. Othniel
12. The Challenge & Call of Missions
13. The Partnership in Miss.
14. The Secrets of God's Blessings.
15. From Glory to Glory.
16. How to Discern Truth from Error.
17. Pamphlets and tracts.
18. The Manual on How to Make Disciples- for leaders/Mentors.. Etc, etc

>> Send your Order today!



3. Unto Those who fear God and Keep His Word: Especially, in the O.T. history, God blessed those who feared Him and kept His commandments. That showed allegiance to the One God, Yahweh, in contrast to the heathen multiple gods of idols. From the beginning, the Creator of the universe wanted man to fear Him and obey His Word. Even to His own chosen, God promised blessings if they obey Him, otherwise pronounced curses for disobedience. On the other hand, in the N.T., it is not just fearing God, but accepting His salvation and becoming obedient to His Word., are the conditions for Divine blessings.

4. In accordance with His Eternal Purpose: If and when God wants to bless somebody, it would be according to His eternal plan and not based on man's will or wish. e.g. In case of King Solomon, even though God asked him what he wanted, God had already planned to give more than what Solomon asked and hence, when Solomon asked what was pleasing to the Lord, He gave him more than what he had asked for. In the N. T., we know the famous statement that "the Lord makes all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His plan (Romans 8:28). Even He has chosen those who are going to inherit His blessings, even before the foundation of the world, in eternity! (Eph. 1:3-14).

5. For His Glory: If and when God blesses, it is only for His glory. He never gives His glory to anybody. The very purpose He created the whole universe was to get glory to Himself. But due to the entrance of sin into the creation, Satan has been robbing God of His glory through the disobedience of mankind. However, through the Lord Jesus Christ, He is glorified and exalted by those who are saved and become worthy of His blessings. Similarly, the Adversary Satan, has been offering free blessings to his slaves to drag them to eternal destruction. Those who are set free from the bondage of this Arch-Enemy of God and man, are blessed to glorify God forever.

6. Beyond Human Expectations: God's blessings are always beyond our expectations and imaginations. He is able to do more than what we ask for or even imagine...says, Paul in Ephesians 3:20. The best example is again from Solomon's life. God gave him what he did not expect or even ask for! Though God had given him choice to ask for anything, Solomon chose to limit himself to ask only for one thing! But God knew that he needed still more and He gave him freely. In the N.T., we have this comforting assurance, that when God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up, why not He give us all things freely?! Rom.8:32. Amen.

7. Not in Man's Control: God blesses by His Sovereign Will and nobody can control God's blessings. Some people think that by fasting and other means we can get God's blessings! Not always. E.g. At the time of Queen Esther, fasting worked and God saved them, but in the case of David praying with fasting and weeping for his son, did not save his son but God took him away. It was under God's Sovereign will that such things happened. No man can manipulate. Sometimes God delivered His apostles from prison and persecution and at other times allowed them to be imprisoned and martyred. As it happened to Peter and Paul, etc. Once, when church prayed for Peter, God sent an angel and brought him out of prison. But later, not only Peter but all the apostles were killed in one or the other way. Whatever happens to His people God is in control always! He is the Lord of all and remains so. Amen.



## The Manifestation of Christ's Character

Usually people emphasize more on the gifts of the Holy Spirit than the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. There are many reasons for that. However, there's an urgent need today to meditate about and take effective action towards seeing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit manifest in the lives of those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

The spiritual gifts are limited to the ministry in the Church for the establishing and edification of the Body of Christ. But the spiritual fruit are the spiritual qualities developed by the inner workings of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who follow Christ and are visibly manifested outwardly to the world for the glory of God.

Here, I make an effort to explain what each fruit means and its importance today for our lives and how to cultivate and produce that fruit with the enabling of the Holy Spirit in our (believers of Christ) day to day life in this world. These fruit can not be seen in unbelievers.

So, the focus will be more on the practical aspects of each fruit and its application in our daily life rather than a theoretical or theological study in depth. There are many books dealing with the latter aspect.

To begin with, let us keep in mind that it is not 'fruits' but the 'fruit' of the Holy Spirit. The various qualities like love, joy, peace etc are the 'flavors' of the same 'fruit' which is Agape Love!

Read Galatians 5:22,23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..." (KJV).

### Love

"... the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit." Rom.5:5.

Also Read: Gal.5:22; 1Cor.13:1-13; Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Col.3:14; Rom.5:5; Mat.22:36-39; Jn.13:34-35; 2Tim.1:7.

The Definition:- This love is not from ourselves i.e. it is not our own production of human love, but it is produced by the Holy Spirit as live under His control and facilitate its cultivation and manifestation through our lives as follow Christ.

\*It is more than human, natural and worldly love- Matthew 5:44,46.

\*It is not a sentimental emotion or based on the merit of the other.

\* It is known as the "Agape" love in Greek. This is the highest level & degree of love compared to the other "phileo" (brotherly love) and the "eros" (physical affection).

"Its the outgoing of the totality of one's being to another in beneficence and help."

Read and meditate these passages: Matt.10:8; Jn.10:11,15,17-18,28; 15:13; Ac.20:31; Eph.5:25; Phil.2:17.

The Characteristics & How to Express Love: >> to be contd

5 \* A Book on the Fruit of the Spirit is available. Ask for it now!

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.



## A Fresh Start

Setting Goals to Achieve Peace

"Remember ye not the former things,  
neither consider the things of old." Isaiah 43:18

The most sought after thing today is 'peace', in the personal life, family life and in the society. In the new year, as people make many resolutions, it is necessary to think and plan for peaceful living.

There may be many ways people think of getting peace, but real peace is eluding mankind ever since the first man and woman rebelled against the creator and lost peace. However, the Heavenly Father of all has not left us without any means of attaining the peace, He always wanted us to have. He has given us some timeless principles to apply to our lives and experience the peace that is beyond human understanding, but possible. Why not make these principles as goals for this new year, to have a life filled with peace? Determine to write and make these your goals to achieve peace in your life.

1. To be Joyful Always: Every body wants to be happy and joyful. But the pressures of life make us often so depressed and hopeless. It is because we depend so much on external things and favourable circumstances to entertain and keep us happy. As conditions change, our feelings also change. We need to focus on the Lord who alone can give us real joy. The Lord Jesus promised that His joy in us can make our joy complete. So as you seek to find your joy in Him, nothing can disturb you, whatever the situation around you! For the injunction we have from the Word of God is to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil. 4:4).

2. To Control Your Behavior: "Let your gentleness (moderation) be known to all" (Phil. 4:5). Everybody has some good and bad character traits in life. We need to make concerted effort to display our good qualities rather than our bad nature. Of course, our weaknesses are often seen by others so easily. Make plans to learn and improve your behaviour before others. You will be exalted and promoted as you become an example to others by your good conduct.

3. To Pray When Hard-pressed: Human life is filled with various experiences including times of pressure and tension when you feel it is too much for you to bear or to accept. Then normally we try to give vent to our feelings and release them on others. Other may not be capable of bearing our burdens or sharing in our sorrows. They may even get disturbed because of your experiences. The only way to find peace in pressure situations and crises is to go to God in prayer. It should happen immediately. The moment you feel pressure on your mind or something disturbing you, go to your knees and pray to the Lord Jesus pouring out your heart and sharing your feelings. You will find release. God's peace will fill your mind and heart. That's supernatural. You can not even understand it! But you can experience the abundant peace. That's very true, because it is God's Promise.

Read and meditate on Phil. 4: 6-9. The Promise for this year is:

"For I know the thoughts I think toward you, saith the Lord; of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11.



## The Secrets of God's Blessings

The real blessing began with Abraham. He was the one who was truly blessed by God and through him all the nations of the world received the promise of God's blessings.

What is a Blessing? How do we define a blessing? Normally, when you see a wealthy man, you say God blessed him so much! When you see a family owning a big mansion and moving around in an expensive car, you say, they are really blessed by God! When you see a healthy man, without sickness and sorrow, you say again, it is God's blessing! On the other hand, when you see a poor man staying on the footpath wearing rags and walking barefoot, you say, he has no blessing of God! That means, we normally associate God's blessings with riches, wealth, comfortable lifestyle, a life free from problems, sickness and sorrow. Is it right? Yes, and No!

God's blessing, according to the Word of God, may not always bring riches, and make life problem-free! Nor can you associate all good things in life on earth to be from or the result of God's blessings.

The perspective of the world and the teaching of God's Word on God's blessings, differ so much as the earth is far away from the heaven! Let us see what the Bible says, not what you or anybody thinks or what the world believes blindly!

A General Definition of God's Blessing:

God's unlimited and unmerited favor to anybody who fears God and keeps His Word, in accordance with His Eternal purpose and for His glory. Often beyond human comprehension and control.

There are seven important key words in the above definition of God's blessing.

1. Unlimited favor of God: when you see the lives of those whom God blessed, it was unlimited. Not in small quantities, or sparingly, but abundantly. His promises are like that. e.g. when God promised Abraham land, He simply told him to look around, far and wide, and claim all that land for himself! When God blessed Solomon with wisdom, there was no limit, in degrees or measurements!

Even in the N.T., Apostle Paul testified that He is able to do exceedingly abundantly more and above all that we can ask or even imagine; that is unlimited! (Eph. 3:20). He blessed us with all, given us everything...(Eph. 1:3, 2 Peter 1:3). Note the words: all and everything!

2. Unmerited favor of God: God's blessing is not based on our worthiness or qualifications. Human conditions do not matter or merit in His eyes. It is His sovereign will to bless whom He wants to. This unmerited favor is also known as His grace. We have everything by His grace! We are not worthy of anything good from Him. We are only fit for His wrath and condemnation, yet by His grace, the unmerited favor, He bestowed upon those who have been chosen for His eternal salvation. And through this precious salvation, all His unlimited blessings are released to His saints. >> contd in next page

## Methods & Motives



" Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2Tim 2:15.

That good intentions never justify forbidden actions is seen again and again in reading the Holy Scriptures. David's intentions were good when he sought to bring up the Ark (IChron.13), but the Philistine method he adopted was displeasing to Jehovah. Saul's disobedience in sparing the sheep and oxen of Agag could not be balanced by the fact that he kept the best to sacrifice to the Lord. His method could not be justified by his motive. Jehovah's Word was, and still is, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams". The end never justifies the means in the school of God. The new cart could never take the place of the shoulders of redeemed men. We must not allow things that minister to, and please the flesh to take the place of the Word of the Lord, the only sure guide (Psalm 119: 105). Nor should we allow our tastes to influence us in our judgment. Saul was a representative man set aside by Jehovah for his disobedience, as unfit to lead His people.

Many who seek to lead the people of God today are disqualifying themselves for that work by Philistine methods and worldly tastes. Instead of being guided by light from the sanctuary, they are carried away with the current of the world's ways, adopting its system, and looking for large and quick results. Thus they miss the reward of waiting upon God, a renewed strength for godly movement, without which there cannot be a going on: "from faith to faith" (Rom.1:17); "from strength to strength" (Ps. 84:7); "from glory to glory" (2 Cor. 3:18). God's people never were, nor ever can be, delivered or helped by Egyptian methods. Moses tried it and failed. Before he could lead the people of God, he had to know the leading of God. Raw haste and undisciplined zeal caused him to act before God's time when he slew the Egyptian. Therefore when he supposed that his brethren would have understood he was to be their deliverer, they did not (Acts 7:25). Learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and mighty in words and in deeds, his first forty years in Egypt ended with his killing the Egyptian and hiding him in the sand. Habits form character; Moses had taken on the features of an Egyptian himself. (See Ex. 2-19). The Hebrew's motives were all right, but his Egyptian methods were all wrong.

Many are seeking to deliver God's people today on the same principle. Their motives, too, may be all right, but as to their methods and movements, surely they were never so taught in God's school. When Moses had learned to keep the flock, then God said to him, "Come now, therefore, and I will send thee" (Ex. 3:10). In this work, God only uses vessels of His own molding; and while He does use the faculties we possess, developed, it may be, in the Egyptian world, yet He never borrows anything from the Egyptian system.

The great apostle Paul testifies about himself and his methods-"... When I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words." I Corinthians 2:1-4.

>> What you think of the modern methods & motives? Tell us!



## How to be a winner

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

You are in a race whether you want to be or not. In a race, all runners run, but only one gets the prize. Run in such a way as to get the prize.

Once you decide that you want to be the one who wins, the one who gets the prize, then you have another question: "How do I maintain what I have until I obtain the prize?"

Here are ten principles that will help you:

1. Work hard.

Pursue work compatible with your interests- your vision and goal- and work with your abilities and talents.

'Never try to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time and annoys the pig'.

Successful people do the things other people do not like to do. Those people who only do what they like and do not want to spend time on tasks that are tedious, boring, or strenuous usually are the people who fail at life.

'Work is a four-letter word, but it is not a dirty word'.

2. Never give up.

The moment you decide to have a turning point in your life, you will have some great opportunities to quit, to throw in the towel, to give up, to say, "It's not worth it."

But there is a difference between quitting and wanting to quit. Just because you want to quit- which is natural-does not mean you have to quit.

Someone has said, "No pain, no gain." How true!

3. Learn to enjoy the climb.

Striving for success is like climbing a mountain. It is great to reach the top, but learn to enjoy the climb. There are some things that will happen during a mountain climb:

You will be stretched. You will be pulled. You will run out of breath and have an opportunity to quit or to stick to your goal. You will learn how to pace yourself for the long haul.

It is in the climb, not in reaching the top, that you are developed.

You may have great talent, but without character development or the developing of skills, you may not be able to build that talent into a successful career.

4. Prepare for tomorrow.

One of the ways to prepare for tomorrow is to develop a vision and a goal. You need to get involved in continuing education.

The immature mind hops from one thing to another; the mature mind seeks to follow through. (to be Contd) ><>



## The Techniques of Learning

From the outside, learning looks like one single process. In fact it is not. When we learn, we use a combination of techniques which, because they don't belong to any particular subject, can be applied to all subjects. Benjamin Bloom in his book 'Taxonomy of Educational Objectives' identifies five techniques of learning. These can be summarized as follows:

**Comprehension:** Take as an example the statement "All human beings are either introverts or extroverts." You almost certainly know what it meant by the terms "introvert" and "extrovert" and understand that the statement is generalizing from them. In other words, the assertion means something to you. You comprehend it.

**Application:** It is possible to comprehend statements (or ideas, or arguments, or books) that are untrue. "All cats are green" is a false statement, but that does not stop you from comprehending it. How do you know it is false? By application. The statement does not match up to experience: Cats come in a good many colors but never in green.

**Evaluation:** To evaluate something is to judge its value for a given purpose.

**Analysis:** When the sentence is short, it is easily comprehended. Longer works, like Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, need to be broken down. Structure, concepts, themes, patterns, language, character, and style (to name but a few) each become separate subjects of comprehension and evaluation.

**Synthesis:** Molding of ideas into a single argument is a process of synthesis. "Of making many books, there is no end," concludes the writer of Ecclesiastes glumly, "and much study is a weariness of the flesh" (Eccl 12: 12). He is right on both counts. Like it or not, knowledge is passed on through books. Since you can not possibly read all of the books available on any given subject, you must be selective in your reading. This changes the impossibility of reading everything on a given subject into the possibility of reading what is most important on the subject. Also, you need to read in the most efficient manner possible.

**Efficient Reading:** ([A book with 35 lessons is available. Ask for it](#))

**Overview:** Use the book's own entry system—the contents page. Browse over chapter headings, illustrations, photos, and tables. Skim it to get a long range impression.

**Preview:** Zoom in on the chapters relevant to you. Concentrate particularly on opening paragraphs (of chapters or sections), since most writers tend to summarize ideas here.

**Intview:** Move on from relevant opening paragraphs to follow the ideas further. Aim to comprehend the argument of a complete section or chapter without getting bogged down in complexities. Get a feel for the place of this section in the wider sweep of the book.

**Review:** Now move back to work through the difficult passages (you should know by now whether this is worth the time). Make notes summarizing the writer's ideas. Make quotations short, apt, and memorable, not forgetting to note the page number. At the end—or in the margin as you go—jot down your evaluation of what you've read. <><



## What is Leadership

"...he that ruleth, with diligence.." that God in all things may be glorified.." Rom.12:8 1Peter 4:11.

What images do you have in mind when you use the word "lead"? How do you see yourself in your future role as a leader? If the position is a prominent one, you will probably be tempted to attach to leadership some of the same features that popular culture attaches to it—glamour, toughness, power, wealth. You will see yourself as respected by your enemies, admired by your friends, and obeyed by your followers. You will, in short, want to savor the benefits of leadership before counting its costs.

I don't want to cool your ardor, but I do want you to understand what leadership is really about. W.C.H. Prentice said in the *Harvard Business Review* in 1961: "attempts to analyze leadership tend to fail because the would-be analyst misconceives his task. He usually does not study leadership at all. Instead he studies popularity, power, showmanship, or wisdom in long-range planning." So, from this observation, we can arrive at the following definition, as per Dr. John Haggai:

Leadership is the discipline of exerting special influence within a group to move it toward permanent beneficial goals that fulfill the group's real needs.

This has Three implications for you as a potential leader.

First, leadership is not the same as dominance. You don't force others to do what you want—you motivate them.

Second, you operate in the context of a group—a collection of individuals who share certain characteristics or interests and whose cohesion depends on unity of purpose. It is the ability to mobilize unity (often by visualizing goals invisible to others) which sets you apart as the leader.

Third, the goals you aim for must be high-quality goals. They must establish changes that are both beneficial and permanent, and enhance the future welfare of the group.

The importance of the definition is clear if you remember what happens to leadership once the restraints have been removed. Let's see the paradox of leadership as taught in the Bible. Nowhere in the N.T. do we find any approval for the power-concept of leadership. The Lord Jesus is perfectly clear in that—

"...whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. and whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all" (Mark 10:43,44).

As the ultimate leader, Lord Jesus "made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7).

"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." John 13:15.

>> Join the Disciple-makers (Mentoring) Network. Contact us

>> Plan Leadership Training programs. We will help you.

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. Joh 13:17



## How to become the Real You?

Today, the problem with womanhood is- women are under pressure to become what other people want. We have number of roles for women to play, and those roles together define our understanding of "womanhood". Whether full-time homemakers or professionals-all these are valid expressions of womanhood.

Roles are important. They are like sets of clothing. You wear different ones for different tasks. You are important than the roles you play, just as you are more important than your clothing.

It would be wonderful if the people around you-husband, family, friends, neighbors, colleagues-saw the essential inner you all the time instead of whichever role you happen to be playing when they're around them. But often they don't. In fact, they may expect certain things of you just because you are a woman and not a man.

You don't have to be bound by other people's expectations of you. You are more than just a homemaker more than just a professional, more than just a female.

Transforming impossibilities in your life has a lot to do with becoming "what God has made you, and you alone to be." How to become the real you?

Discrimination is a major problem for some women, and its not always their fault. Whatever role they play, some feel undervalued unappreciated, or deserving of more respect than they get.

In the scriptures, men and women have equal worth before God, though have different roles to play. Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5.

In her book, " You can too" , Mary C. Crowley (of USA) talks about building self-esteem and self-worth. Her solution was to encourage women to put God first in their lives. Why? because -"God don't take time to make a nobody". If God is molding you into a unique & special person-worthy of respect, remember God's promises-give Him first place. take a stand and He will be with you. Read: Isaiah 3:10, 65:22; Psalm 31:19; Philippians 2:15; i Timothy 4:8,6:6.

Building self-esteem or self-worth: (Mary C. Crowley) She has done much to motivate the women of her generation toward success & fulfillment. She built a multi-million dollar business from scratch, made her slogan "Think Mink", a byword for professionalism, and wrote a bestselling book titled "You can too".

\* Do you believe that God takes an interest in who you are? are you trying to become what He would have you to be? then don't make a career out of self-abasement.

\* Learn to respect yourself so that others will respect you too. In short, " be somebody".

\* Have the right self-image: Romans 12:3, "...not to think himself (herself) more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

\* Say and believe that "you can do": (Philippians 4:13.) - all things!

These days wherever I go to speak or teach, the young people are very interested to know how to relate to others- how to develop relationship with others. This is a real need everywhere in the world. Everyone needs some one to relate to and be friendly. We are made with certain in-built qualities that long for expression.

How do we go about starting a relationship or if started, to maintaining it for long? Here are some simple keys to help you begin a good relationship and to keep it going, if possible, for life-long!

1. Concern: To relate to others, you need to develop some concern for them. By nature, we are all selfish and self-centered. We show concern for others only when we need their help or if others are badly in need of our help! But, if you want to make friends with others, you need to go out of your way and show concern in some way- there are always opportunities to show concern and care towards others around us. And others are also looking for such friendly move from us.

So to start a relationship, develop genuine interest in others-in their daily practical living. For this you need to be sensitive and be observing. Turn your focus onto their well-being and you will win them soon too. Remember the Golden Rule, "Whatever you want others to do for you, do ye also for them." (Matthew 7:12). Take initiative and move first to relate to them. And they will turn to you.

2. Contact: Someone aptly said, 'there is no impact without contact!' How true it is! Once you have concern for others, maybe in your heart or attitude, plan to contact them somehow. Through offering some help or asking for some help, inviting them over to your place for tea, or inviting yourself to their place- making yourself available to them. These days of advanced technological innovations, there are a myriad ways of contacting others. Among all these, personal contact is the most effective and caring one. We are always surrounded by people. We need to take time and have interest to contact others. Then, keep in touch always, wherever you may be. My classmate in the college (about 30 yrs ago!) still contacts me even though he is married and has grown up children, and is an Airport Manager. Keeping in touch is very crucial to maintain a relationship, whether you are physically near or far away.

3. Communication: It is not enough to have some concern and to contact others. You need to know how to communicate with others. Many are failing here. Communication is an art and is learned by practice. How do you begin communication? With commendation. Look for something to appreciate the other person. There are always some qualities in others you may like. Focus on such positive traits and encourage them. As they respond to you, try to understand them from their perspective. Listen enough to express your opinion/thoughts. Listen to their feelings and not only the facts. Share your inner feelings, and not only your observations or ideas. As you open your heart, you'll find the other person too opening his/her heart to you.

Remember, communication can build or break a relationship- it depends on how you communicate your thoughts/feelings to other person and also respond to theirs. To sum up, be concerned for others, contact them by all means possible, keep in touch with them always, and communicate effectively and meaningfully to maintain a relationship, even for life-long! All the best. "And to do good and to communicate, forget not, for with such sacrifices, God is pleased." He. 13:16.



## Signs of Domestic Disintegration

" Children, obey your parents in the Lord." Ep. 6:1

These days we see how the family is disintegrating and homes are breaking all over the world. What are the reasons or rather what are the signs of domestic disintegration? We have a typical example in 1 Samuel chs 1- 4.

Meet the Family: Here's a family of a priest called Eli and his two sons who were in line with him to serve in the temple. Read about Eli's life: Professional, Personal & Physical. Observe the activity in the temple. See how his sons are committing sins in the temple and making the people to abhor the worship of the Lord. 2:12, 17, 22.

Eli hears what people say and also the warnings from God regarding disciplining his sons. ( 2: 23,27,30-34; 3:11-12, 15-18).

Surprisingly, we see how Eli admonishes his sons so lightly against all their sins and the warnings he received from people as well as from God. He did not try to restrain them nor warn them strictly. He did not even plead with God on their behalf to save them! (2:23-24, 29, 3: 13,18b).

Evaluation: From the foregoing account, we come to see 4 corrosive agents that helped erode Eli's family.

1. Preoccupation with his profession to the exclusion of his family's needs: It appears, Eli gave so much of himself to his profession that there was nothing left to care for his family. They were never there in the focus in the first place. He never spent enough time to discipline nor minister to his own sons. How, being born and brought up at Shiloh, where the very presence of the Lord was, and not know the Lord?! Because the father was never at home.

This is the condition and situation in many families these days. The father is never at home, nor does he look into the personal lives, needs of his children. When he finally wakes up, it is too late; for the children have already grown up to live their own lives. Parents have to give top priority and importance to the family life in relation to their careers.

2. Refusal to face the seriousness of his sons' lifestyle: When all were complaining about his sons' bad lifestyle, Eli, their father did not take it so seriously as to warn them and restrain them. He refused to believe the facts of the report. Sons, being priests themselves, became examples to be avoided rather than emulated. For the Scripture admonishes parents: "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Proverbs 19:18.

Parents are commanded as well as authorized to chasten and discipline their children while they are very young and still under their control. Hebrews 12:7-11. The fruit of this exercise is the peaceable fruit of righteousness. The children become a blessing to one and all.

>> Contd on the next page >>

>> For any help- counseling or prayers:

Call Calvary 98920 93534 for Victory! Anytime, Any day!



## (Contd) Signs of Domestic Disintegration

" Honor thy father and mother (which is the first Commandment with promise);..." Eph 6:1,2.

3. Failure to respond correctly to the warnings of others: God, sometimes, uses others to warn us and to protect us from the coming dangers or His judgments. People gave correct information about his sons' behavior to Eli.

But he never responded correctly to what he heard, except to faintly tell his sons. If we are receptive and sensitive to hearing from others as from the Lord, we will be saved. The Scripture says, in Proverbs 11:14, " Where no counsel is the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." We have to be grateful to God when we have many around us who care to warn us and admonish us so that we keep to the ways of God.

4. Condoning the wrong, thereby becoming a part of the problem: Eli did not straightway condemn strongly the actions of his sons and hence God says, "honourest thy sons above Me" (1Sam.2:29). When we condone the wrong, we become one with the perpetrators of the sin. That's what we read in Lamentations 5:7, " Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities." As far as possible, we need to dissociate ourselves from other people's sins so that we don't become partners with them. Romans 1:32.

Insights: These thoughts prompt us to think deeply about what is a "good family"? As per society's standard, what is a good family outwardly, may not be so. The life inside the family is important too. Professional reputation may not guarantee parental reputation. Those who do well in their professions may not be so at their homes in their parental roles. Success at work does not necessarily guarantee success at home.

We often mistakenly think, a successful businessman may have a happy home. But it may not be true. Because many are not willing to put as much effort in making their homes as they do in their offices. It is necessary, however, to take as many pains in your parental responsibilities as you do in your professional duties.

Some questions for reflection: Hophni and Phinehas lived separate lives with their father under the same roof!

1. When was the last time you really talked alone, uninterrupted with one of your children?

2. In what ways have you shared yourself with a family member rather than just sharing an activity?

3. In what ways have you developed closeness with your children? Have you spent as much time & energy with them as with your friends?

4. What would you share about your faith if you had your child's company for 6 hrs?

>> We would like to hear from you. Let us know your comments/suggestions on this family life article. You are welcome to share any problems for counseling and prayers. We are available to help you. God bless you. Be encouraged! Write to: ao58@live.com