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33 years of God's Faithfulness
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Pastors waiting for ordination


Common worship of IPC Thane Dist.


## Sunday School Council of IPC Maharashtra

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Care takers Visiting under construction church building


Some of our Pastors from Ahmednagar Dist.


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## As we enter 2024--- -

## Entering the New Year with Thanksgiving!

Our thanksgiving gives a spiritual dimension to our earthly blessings. We acknowledge the mysterious
hand of God working for us. Gratitude makes the impossible possible. It gives us the power to start again in the face of apparent failure.


Johnson
K. Samuel

We enter the New Year with a grateful heart, giving our heart-felt thanks to our Lord for enabling us to publish Suvartha Magazine for the last 32 years. We have faced many obstacles in this endeavour amd the Lord has helped to overcome them. All honor and praise to Him.

A sincere nature of gratitude to God connects the earth with heaven. We acknowledge the fact that all spiritual and material blessings that we enjoy on the earth come from heaven through God's abundant grace. We have no strength of our own to accomplish anything. We can join with Apostle Paul when he says: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Our thanksgiving gives a spiritual dimension to our earthly blessings. We acknowledge the mysterious hand of God working for us.

Gratitude makes the impossible possible. It gives us the power to start again in the face of apparent failure.

Gratitude to God's mysterious hand releases a reviving power. When pressures are telling us to give up and quit, we learn to identify such situations, seek the Lord's help and be on the road to recovery. That is the reviving power of thankfulness.

Gratitude gives us striving power, too, under the most difficult situations because of the assurance that the myaterious hand of God is working for us.

Thankfulness develops two qualities: 1) Humility -because we do not accomplish anything through our own efforts alone and 2) Unselfishness -- because gratitude is saying "we share the credit with the Lord". With such an attitude, it is impossible to become a vain, selfish person.

Let us enter the new year with a thankful heart for all that the Lord has helped us to accomplish and be a working partner witrh Him as we strive for the exrtension of His kingdom..

## We, in the 'SUVARTHA MAGAZINE" family, wish all our readers <br> A blessed and peaceful NEW YEAR 2024

# My Top Three Reasons To Hold On To JESUS CHRIST 


#### Abstract

"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades"


(Revelation 1:17-18)

I had a good spiritual bringing up since by the time I was born my parents were already believing Christians. They took me to a vibrant church, sent me to Sunday School and youth camps. But the reason why I am a follower of Christ is not my bringing up, though it must have made it easy. The reason I follow Christ is that he met me when I needed a savior. Ever since he became my savior and I handed over my life to him, I have been walking with him. I have three main reasons why I still cling to him for the fifty years of life with him. These may not be my reasons only; thousands of disciples who follow Jesus Christ may share the same reasons as mine.

The first in my list is the truth that Jesus Christ is living. Jesus Christ came to this world to die on the cross for my sins and the sins of the world. Though Joseph of Arimathea buried him, the tomb could hold him only for two nights. On the third day he rose from the dead. This happens sometimes between AD 28 and 30 . By appearing to over 500 people over many weeks, he convinced his followers that he is alive.

Sixty-five years later when one of his beloved disciples called John was in exile in the island of Patmos, Jesus Christ appeared to him declaring that he is still alive. He said, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades (Revelation 1:17-18). The Book of Revelation that John wrote describes him repeatedly as the "one who lives forever" Another apostle, Saint Paul also affirms this truth. In Romans 6:9 we read that, "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

Not only is he alive but he is continually active on my behalf right now. The Book of

Hebrews tells us that Christ who ascended to heaven is interceding for God's children as a perfect, sinless high priest. He is a priest who knows my weakness. Every time I mess up, when I do things that does not please God he pleads on my behalf.

I have friends. But I do not have a friend who will never die. Some of my best friends are already dead and gone. Those who live haven't promised me to outlive me. The reason I still cling on to Jesus Christ my savior is this: He is alive, he is alive for me. The hymn writer, Alfred Henry Ackley, puts it this way:
"I serve a risen Savior
He's in the world today.
I know that he is living,
Whatever men may say.
I see his hand of mercy;
I hear his voice of cheer;
And just the time I need him
He's always near.
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and
Talks with me along life' s narrow way."
My second reason to cling on to my Lord Jesus Christ is that he is loving. He loved me when I did not deserve it. He loved me when I was unlovable as Saint Paul writes in Romans 5:6, "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

He expressed his love for me by giving himself fully up on the cross on my behalf. He gave up his body to be flogged, pierced, to bleed and die on the cross. We often consider donating a few bottles of blood for patients going to surgery or donating a kidney to a parent for transplant is sacrifice. Jesus did not just donate a few bottles of his blood nor limit his sacrifice to an organ that he could dispense with, but he gave the whole of himself enduring much pain.

His sacrificial love cannot be quantified, nor

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## The Book of

 Revelation that John wrote describes him repeatedly as the "one who lives forever." Another apostle, saint Paul also affirms this truth. In Romans 6:9 we read that, "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him".We do not care if people hate us because the excess of his love we enjoy compensates
for people's hatred. When I have
experienced such an ocean of love why should I worry about the hatred of puny little men and women who try to make my life miserable? When we are completely steeped in the love of the creator of this world, the hatred of the creatures does not matter.
it can be described as we read in Ephesians 3:18-19 where Paul wishes that we "may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge."

His love for me demands a commitment as Saint Paul declares in Galatians 2:20. "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." The love of Christ controls our love as it demands the entirety of our life.

It is a love that binds us to him despite all adversities of live. We read in Romans 8:3739 that, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We do not care if people hate us because the excess of his love we enjoy compensates for people's hatred. When I have experienced such an ocean of love why should I worry about the hatred of puny little men and women who try to make my life miserable? When we are completely steeped in the love of the creator of this world, the hatred of the creatures does not matter. That is the reason despite persecutions and hatred and problems hundreds of Christ followers still hang on to him. They hang on to him because they have tasted and seen the love of God. Once tasted that love, no one can detest it.

I still have one more reason to cling to him. My reason number three is that he comes. Jesus promised to his disciples that he will come back to them. Just before his death he comforted his disciples assuring them that he will come back to take the place he is going (John 14:3). While he was ascending to heaven, the angles repeated his promise to the disciples that, "this Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven (Acts 1:11)."

It is particularly important to note the words "this Jesus" which means it not another person or incarnation, but it is the same person who walked with them, did miracles before their eyes, who died and rose from the dead is going
to come back. Moreover, the angels used the name that his parents gave him on birth, "Jesus" to emphasize the point. They also emphasized the way he will return, "the same way." That is the way that Jesus had promised his disciples in Matthews 16:27-28. Just as he ascended on the clouds with the accompaniment of the angels, he will descend on the clouds accompanied by the angels.

This hope is incredibly unique. Many religions teach about incarnations. My Hindu friends believe in the incarnation of their gods but none of them will be the same as the previous. The Bahai's believe that every 1000 years God sends a new prophet. But the Bible assures me that the same Jesus who loves me, lives for me will come back in the same manner that he ascended to heaven.

He is coming back to complete the unfinished work. First, he came to save humanity by dying on their behalf. Now, he is waiting for them to repent and turn to him. He will come back again to judge the living and the dead. The Bible says that he is coming to gather his saints (2 Thessalonians 2:1). That is his promise. The Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible closes by repeating this promise. "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon"' (Revelation 22:20).

I had a childhood friend who was raised by a single mother. His father left for the north-western part of India a few months after he was conceived. This man who left his young, pregnant wife ended up in what later became Pakistan in 1947, soon after his arrival. He was not able to return since he found himself in a foreign country and no way to exit out of it nor did he attempt to do that. He was probably settled in that part of the world with a new family. My friend and his mother had been waiting for him all their life. They have not heard from him for years. They are not sure if he is still alive. If he is alive, does he love them or is he committed to someone else? Even if he is alive, and loving will he ever come back to him? Now, they are almost sure that he is not going to come back. It has been over 75 years now. Can they still hold on to him?

Our Lord Jesus is different. He is alive, he continues to love me, and he is going to come for me. What more reasons do we need to walk with him and talk with him along life's narrow way?


Dr. Shibu Cherian MS, MBA, D.Min., Ph.D.

# DIRECTING our LIVES towards GOD's VISION! 

Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry". (Habakkuk 2:2-3)

During the days of prophet Habakkuk, public notices were engraved in large and clear characters upon clay tablets and openly exhibited in the marketplace. The writings were to be sufficiently large so that one running by could instantly decipher the meaning. If the notice was a warning it would also cause the reader to run quickly to prepare for what was coming.

Bible scholars believe that the vision that Habakkuk was to write down was concerning the fall of Babylonand the restoration of Judah (Daniel 5:30, 31). God guaranteed that what was written would surely come to pass, which was an indispensable test of a true prophet (Deut. 18:21, 22). In fact, the judgment on the Babylonians was fulfilled through Cyrus in 539 B.C - long after Habakkuk's vision.
A. J. Pollock says that this verse also refers to the hope of the Christian. When verse 3 is quoted in Hebrews 10:37, the "it" (i.e., the vision) becomes "He" (i.e., the Lord), who will surely
come and will not tarry. So, in theNewTestament context, this verse may signify the hope of the Christian, which is "the Rapture of the Church".

Let us clearly understand that God knows His plan and is working out all things according to His purpose. We are responsible to study and proclaim His revelation while awaiting its fulfillment. The assurance of fulfillment lies in God Himself, and the fulfillment of the vision would not take any longer than God had planned. Let us direct our lives towards the fulfillment of God vision!
"Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 'for yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.' But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul." (Heb 10:35-39)
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## Trusting the Lord with unwavering faith!

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23)

John V. Samuel Ph.D. *Houston, USA

By coming to Jesus Jairus risked his position in the synagogue and status in the community. He knew that it is inappropriate for a Jewish leader to come to Jesus. The onlookers will brand him. That thought did not hinder his determination to come to Jesus.

In the gospels of Matthew (9:18-23), Mark (5:21-43), and Luke (8:40-53) we read of a Jew, a synagogue ruler named Jairus, who came to Jesus seeking healing for his only daughter who was gravely ill. Jairus had a very prestigious position among the Jews and in the society. He was affluent. He spared nothing to provide the best medical care for his daughter. The healers of his day could not find a cure for the child. When the earthly remedies failed he decided to turn to Jesus. The emotional turmoil he must have been experiencing as a father watching his ailing daughter suffer drove him in desperation to Jesus. Note that Jairus belonged to a group of people who despised Jesus. They regarded Jesus as an outcast and a crazy man who questioned the practices of Jewish leaders and thereby antagonized them. How can a rich respectable Jewish person come to Jesus whom his sect frowned up on. It is reasonable to assume that Jairus heard about Jesus' healing miracles or teaching, as His reputation had spread throughout the region. Jairus' humility, determination, and belief in Jesus' ability to heal his child brought him to Jesus.

By coming to Jesus Jairus risked his position in the synagogue and status in the community. He knew that it is inappropriate for a Jewish leader to come to Jesus. The onlookers will brand him. That thought did not hinder his determination to come to Jesus. Jairus' unwavering faith defied societal expectations. He came immediately and publicly. He did not wait for the night fall to come to Jesus as Nicodemus (John 3:1-19). Here we observe the

extent of an earthly father's love for a child and his willingness to sacrifice everything for his child.

The next thing Jairus did was that he fell at Jesus' feet. That is, he bowed down and worshiped Jesus. He pleads with Jesus to come with him to his house immediately and heal his gravely ill daughter. It is against the Jewish practice to bow before an idol or man. A Jewish person is to bow down only before God. In Exodus 20:3-6 God specifically commands that the children of Israel should have no other gods or idols, and emphasize the exclusive worship of God alone. Jairus knew the 10 Commandments Moses gave to the children of Israel. We read stories of people like Mordecai (Esther 3:2), Shadrach, Meshach, andAbednego (Daniel 3:3-12), Daniel (Daniel 6:10-14) who refused to bow down to men or idols in accordance with the Law. There are also stories of martyrs who refused to worship Roman emperors. In spite of the inevitable punishment the Jews kept the Law by bowing only to God. Jairus' unconventional act of bowing before Jesus violated his tradition along with his position.

Another thing happening here is that Jairus risked opposition from community in addition to the Jewish ruling class. People are watching him coming to Jesus in the thick of the crowd. They see a synagogue ruler coming and bowing before Jesus. Despite societal disdain and potential repercussions to his standing, Jairus driven by paternal love, sought out Jesus. The crowd is slowing Jesus. Jairus' request is urgent. He knew that if Jesus could move faster

[^0]to come home with him his daughter will be healed. But at this point seemingly to make matters worse a woman with an issue of blood for 12 years, ceremonially unclean according to Jewish Law, crawled through the crowd, hoping not to be detected fearing people could stop her as body contact with her would make others unclean, touched the helm of Jesus' rob. She believed that if she touched the helm of His robe she would be healed. She was healed instantly. Jesus stopped and asked 'who touched me'. Jesus' disciples thought such a question was irrelevant when the crowd is pressing from all sides. Jairus might have been thinking "Jesus don't worry about who touched you, let us go forward, my daughter is gravely ill". But Jesus stopped to hear the report from the woman. Jesus told her that her faith has healed her, not really the edge or fringe of His robe. She went home completely free from her infirmity and ceremonially clean. Jesus loves to hear praises and thanksgiving from His children. We may wonder whether Jesus should have taken time to heal the woman and receive the praise report publicly when Jairus was anxiously waiting for Him. God's timing is beyond human comprehension, and His plans are not swayed by our impatience. Jesus is never in a hurry. He lives beyond time and not constrained or limited by time. God never wrings His hands and wishes He had made a better choice. He never worries about what is going to happen next or stresses over how things are going to turn out. God's plan is not thwarted by our spiritual vacillation. Jairus' faith was vacillating but not Jesus' plans.

Let us consider for a minute what is going on through Jairus' mind. He came to Jesus filled with hope. Now he is losing hope. He wished Jesus never stopped to listen to the woman who was healed. But Jairus still walked with Jesus toward his home. By this time men from Jairus' house came to inform him that his daughter has died and asked him not to trouble the Master anymore. Jesus overheard the message the men brought to Jairus. Jesus, however never confirmed the news with Jairus whether his daughter was dead indeed. He already knew it. He knows every situation you face. Jairus is
thinking that he made himself a fool by coming to Jesus to save his daughter. Jairus risked everything by coming to Jesus and what is now waiting for him since the child is dead. Jairus is at a breaking point now. Jesus knew that Jairus' faith is diminishing. When Jairus is in total confusion, Jesus intervenes with the reassurance: 'Be not afraid, only believe’. Jesus may not intervene on your behalf immediately when your faith is real strong. He instructs us to trust Him no matter how things may go or whatever people may do or say. He teaches us to trust Him when common sense, reason, and even every subtle instinct of the natural heart would rebel, knowing that He is preparing us for eternity, and realizing that the understanding of what He do will come later. Jairus is being instructed to trust Jesus' words 'only believe' even when he doesn't fully understand it at that moment. Jesus knew when to intervene to keep Jairus' faith going. Jesus did not allow Jairus' faith to stumble and fail. Jesus knew His tender care was needed to keep Jairus' faith through this narrow path. He is close to the broken hearted.

Nothing is too late for Jesus. Jesus was aware the risk Jairus took and the sacrifice he made to come publicly to Him. Would the risk he took be in vain? Did Jairus commit a big blunder in coming to Jesus? But Jesus says 'only believe'. Now Jesus walked with three of His disciples and Jairus into the house where the child lay dead. When you are fearful Jesus walks with you. Jesus knew that a miracle is going to happen. When you are in the deepest despair, remember a miracle is about to take place. He will walk with you until that miracle happens. At Jairus' house, Jesus said "... the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth ..." The devil mocks at the little faith left in Jairus. The devil is telling him to 'get ready to bury your daughter, also your faith in Jesus with that'. At this point Jairus is totally confused. He came to Jesus with big faith and now his faith is at the lowest point. Jesus knew that. Now Jesus is protecting Jairus. Jesus knows exactly when you and I are at 'low' times. His timing is impeccable and His care is gentle, keeping us close in our moments of brokenness. When we struggle to

Jairus came to Jesus filled with hope. Now he is losing hope. He wished Jesus never stopped to listen to the woman who was healed. But Jairus still walked with Jesus toward his home. By this time men from Jairus' house came to inform him that his daughter has died and asked him not to trouble the Master anymore.

Jairus was willing to go through any humiliation and risks to get hold of Jesus to save his girl. If an earthly father has such compassion, what about our heavenly Father? Jesus went to the cross to die on our behalf to give us eternal life.
hold on to our faith, the enemy is always there to discourage us and urging us to give up. Jesus protects you from the world, from the unbelieving family, and from the devil. Jesus knows who can persevere in prayer. Trusting God is more than wishful thinking. It is knowing that if He said it, He will do it. It's realizing He doesn't just control creation, He controls your circumstances. In Hebrew 10:23 we read 'let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm for God can be trusted to keep his promise'. We read in the gospel of Luke 22:31 Jesus telling Peter that Satan tried to sift him like chaff, but He intervened.

Once inside Jairus' house He asked the wailers to go out. Jesus went inside the girl's room with His three disciples, and the child's parents. There are three instances in the gospel where Jesus raises the dead. In the first two instances women were pleading for their dead male family members (Mary and Martha pleaded for Lazarus in John 11:1-45; the widow of Nain pleaded for her son in Luke 7:11-15). Jesus had compassion on all of them. In this instance it is a man, a father who came to plead for his daughter. Many dads can identify with this situation. Jairus was willing to go through any humiliation and risks to get hold of Jesus to save his girl. If an earthly father has such compassion, what about our heavenly Father. Jesus went to the cross to die on our behalf to give us eternal life.

When Jairus was at the breaking point

Jesus performed the miracle. Jesus held the girl's hand and commanded 'Talitha Kumi' (little girl, wake up) demonstrating His authority over death itself. The little girl woke up, opened her eyes, and saw the Son of God face to face. Psalmist David says 'when I wake up I will see your face in righteousness and be satisfied with your presence' [Psalm 17:15]. Jairus now understood that the step of faith he took was completely vindicated as his daughter restored to life. One may wonder whether Jairus ever realized that he bowed down to the eternal God Himself and not to a man or idol.

If you are waiting for a miracle today, you need to come forth and publicly announce it. The world will mock you, discourage you, and try to persecute you. The devil will try to destroy you. But you are coming to Jesus who controls your destiny, and your miracle. Many people miss a miracle today because like the Pharisees they want 'position in the synagogues', and 'greetings in the market' [Luke 11:43]. Like the Pharisees a lot of people today 'love human praise more than the praise of God' (John 12:42-43).

But Jesus is telling you today that if you want to walk with Jesus and experience that miracle, come out of that bondage you are in today. Accept Him as Lord and Savior publicly, risking worldly judgment and embracing the transformative power of walking with Jesus. He who has promised is faithful and will take care of you.

## Quotable Quotes

"Jesus calls us to his rest, and meekness is His method. The meek man cares not at all who is greater than he, for he has long ago decided that the esteem of the world is not worth the effort"
"The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One"
"It is important that we get still to wait on God. And it is best that we get alone, preferably with out Bible outspread before us. Then if we will we may draw near to Gd and begin to hear Him speak to us in our hearts"
"We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts"


Rev, A.W. Tozer

## A Sturiy on the Bo James (Part 7)

Rev. K.M. Varghese

## The Temporality of Wealth


#### Abstract

"Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits" (James 1:9-11)


## Let the humble brother glory in his exaltation

The rich man and wealth are among the main topics James deals with (2:1; 15:16; 4:1,12; 5:1-6). Wealth, or possessions, is an important theme in the Bible, not just in James. There are around 500 references to faith in the Bible. The Bible talks about prayer almost as many times. But, there are over 2,000 references to possessions (wealth, money) in the Bible alone. Half of Jesus' forty parables are about wealth. Ten percent of all verses in the Gospels deal with this topic.

James, who encourages a person lacking in wisdom to pray to God, does not encourage a poor person to pray to become rich. He is educating the rich and the poor about the temporality and uncertainty of wealth. He does not see wealth or poverty as a scale of God's pleasure or spirituality. He exhorts the poor to glory in his high state and the rich man in his low state.

At least the rich man has wealth to
boast about.The poor man has nothing to boast about. But that is the world's view. James' view is different. From his point of view, both sides have something to praise. It is not vain praise that he is suggesting. Behind vain praise is a lack of reasoning. Aesop tells the story of a raven. Desiring of the fresh meat the raven held on his beak while sitting on a tree branch, a fox praised the raven's color, voice, and skill. The fox decided to make the raven king of the birds. When the raven heard the praise of the fox and felt that this was true, he crowed to prove the beauty of his voice causing the meat to fall. On the way with the meat he stole, the fox said this to himself:The raven's lack of intelligence does not qualify him to become the king of the birds.

Although he is required to praise both the poor and the rich, James speaks first to the poor. "The humble brother must rejoice in his exaltation." Although James is certain that his humble brother has an exaltation, he
does not reveal what that is. He should glory in his exaltation without blaming his lowly situation. What may be the praiseworthy exaltation of the poor?As his poverty or humility is clearly in the material, the exaltation can only be in the spiritual. Some think that it is the glory of the position of ministry that they have received in the Christian church. But it does not follow that all the poor Christians have that status. Therefore, it can be understood that the exaltation that James intends is the spiritual status that the poor receives in the presence of God.

The root word for humble is Tapeinos. Before the world, it has the meaning of being insignificant, relatively weak, humble, and lacking in earthly things. The poor man should not look at the earthly wealth that he does not have, but at the spiritual wealth that he does have. He is exalted and is rich in spiritual wealth. The poor should boast in what he has and not in what he has not. It requires some maturity and wisdom. The root word

Kouchaomai has the meaning of praising and rejoicing.

The poor Christian, like the rich, by being born-again enjoys the title of a child of God and all the blessings that come with it. There is no partiality. Because of that, the poor man while still being humble, should rejoice and boast in spiritual exaltation he experiences in the presence of God.

Let the rich man boast in his humiliation, for like the flower of the grass he will vanish.

James advises the rich to boast also. Just as the poor man can glory in the spiritual wealth he has received from his present humble position, it seems the rich man may glory in the position he has obtained from the high financial state. But that is not what Jamesis advising the rich man to do. The rich man should glory in his humble state. What is the rich man's humble state? It is wealth and temporary luxury. Although both money and the rich man have a fleeting nature, what James is highlighting here is the fleeting nature of the rich man. Money can leave the rich and the rich can leave the money. If wealth leaves the rich man, he will become poor. But when the rich accidentally leaves his wealth, he is equal to the poor in death. Here James emphasizes the transience of the rich man. He is also like the flower of the grass.

He is one who leaves like a flower. Both the rich and the poor are similar in birth and death. As the poor man came empty-handed, so the rich man came empty-handed.James is reminding the rich man that there is a death. King Philip of Macedonia had appointed a servant in his palace. The servant's job was to remind him every day, "Philip, you are a mortal."

There is another thing that James means when he says, "The rich man shall fade away like the flower of the grass in his exaltation... the rich man
shall wither in his labors." That is, James is making him aware that while the rich man is in his upward endeavors, he is in a position to accidentally leave the world when he least expects it. There is something the poor do not have but the rich have, that is money. When you have money, you can become godly rich or worldly rich. If he wants to be godly rich, the rich man must not live in the dim light of time but in the full light of eternity. This is what Jesus taught. That is the essence of the parable of the rich man that Jesus tells after saying that even if one has wealth, his life is not based on his possessions. God asks the rich

> Both the rich and the poor are similar in birth and death. As the poor man came emptyhanded, so the rich man came empty-handed.James is reminding the rich man that there is a death. King Philip of Macedonia had appointed a servant in his palace. The servant's job was to remind him every day, "Philip, you are a mortal."

man for his life on the same night when he has accumulated enough wealth to last him many years (Luke 12:15-20). Jesus calls him a fool. He lacked the wisdom to understand his temporality. Wisdom is essential for the poor man to glory in his exaltation and the rich man in his lowliness. If there is wisdom in the light of eternity, the poor man can measure his height and the rich man his lowness. That is what Moses and Paul did (Heb. 11:24; Phil. 3:7). James does not explain poverty. Abundance is more damaging to the Christian life than poverty.

James quotes from David and Isaiah. The sun rises with a hot wind and the grass withers, the flower fades
and its appearance fades (James 1:10; Ps. 103:15; Isa. 40:6,7). James here evokes a typical view of the Middle East. The scene of the grass standing in the sand forest with colorful flowers is very beautiful at sunrise. As the sun rises and hot winds blow, the grass withers and the flower falls. Grant suggests that James here refers to Sirocco, the southeast wind that blows directly into the desert (Life Application Bible Commentary; James P.18). Wealth and the rich are like grass and flowers growing in a sandy forest. It is in the light of that wisdom that Paul calls wealth uncertain wealth (1 Timothy 6:17).

James means that as the flower in the prime of its beauty is blown away by the heat of the wind, so the rich man in the prime of his growth and effort is accidentally diverted from wealth by the heat of the wind, which befalls him by danger, sickness, or other misfortunes. James points out that this is not likely to happen to all rich people.

A number of public finance experts gathered in 1923 at the Edge Water Beach Hotel in Chicago. The media described them as a symbol of success in life. Their tragic end twenty-seven years later confirms James' idea. Chief among them was Charles Schwab, who spent the last five years living on borrowed money and died penniless. He was the president of the then largest independent steel company. His friends Arthur Cuttan, Richard Whitney, Albert Fall, Jesse Livermore, Leon Fraser and Ivare Kruegar had even more tragic end (Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations, p.1854).

The rich and the poor are equal before God both in birth and death. The position of the poor and the rich before God is not determined by the wealth they have accumulated. James' exhortation is to evaluate wealth and poverty in the light of eternity, and not to praise the perishable but to praise the imperishable.

## Jesus Christ: His Touch is unique!

> "Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me , and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven". And He laid His hands on them and departed from there" (Matthew 19:13-15)


Pastor John Mathew Bangalore

Touching and being touched are important factors in life. Touching is the highest form of communication. When a person is in sad mood or in mental agony or physical pain, we put a hand on him or pat on his shoulder or back and can give him comfort and consolation. Touch on the cheek or face of a child shows love. Hand shake or holding hands shows love and friendship. Touch could express what our lips could not or what our tongues could not utter at the time of sorrow. Touch gives strength to kids, comfort to the hopeless and encouragement to the loved ones

God came as a man -Jesus knowing that we need a touch of living God Holding hands of our Lord gives peace, comfort and strength. CorrieTen Boom in her books illustrates an experience, Her secretary, a young lady, was about to die. She told her husband: "please hold my hand till Lord holds it". He held her hand and she died peacefully. What a beautiful faith and peaceful ending by holding hand by the beloved!

In my younger days we lived in a Rubber Estate since my parents were staff there. During school holidays, I used to walk through the Irows of rubber trees. I found certain joy walking through the rows of rubber trees far from home. Estate was surrounded by thick forests, There were wild animals in the forest. There were snakes and other reptiles where I used to perambulate. Sometimes I hear voices of the animals from the forest and
movements of reptiles from where I used to walk. My simple faith of a boy made me raise my right hand and pray to the Lord to hold my hand. Then I used to get courage and walk lifting up my hand. This practice in my child hood made me raise my hand up, believing that my Lord holds it when I passed through problems and sickness. Raising hands up to praise God is different from raising hand believing Lord holds it. It is not a doctrine but my personal experience. It may be boy like imagination. We see Jesus is able to meet all our needs when He touches us.

We need point of contact to increase our faith. We may use cloth, oil, laying hands, medicine and word to heal the sick. Only God is the healer and all these items are only catalytic agents. Jesus laid hands on sick persons to heal them. It is not His hands but His power as God only healed the sick.

Lord touched children for blessing them (Matthew 19:13,15). because they requested Him to lay hands on them. We can also lay hands on kids for blessing them. Sick woman touched the edge of the cloak of Lord and she got healed (Matthew 9:21). Jesus touched hand of Peter's mother in law and she was healed immediately (Matthew 8:15). It was not her faith but His power that healed her. Jesus healed the servant of the high priest by touching his wounded ear (Luke 22:51). Touch of Jesus opens heart to see God anew. Jesus touched the
leper to clean him (Matthew 8:3). Jesus touched eyes of two blind men and their sight was restored to prove He is God (Matthew 9:28-29). Jesus touched His disciples to assure He is Unique Lord and God (Matthew 17:7). Lord touched the hand of the dead girl and she got up (Matthew 9:25). His touch can raise the dead. To liberate a deaf and dumb man, Jesus put His fingers in to the man's ears and touched his tongue and healed him (Mark 7:33,34). His word healed Centurion's servant (Matthew 8:13). Jesus never touched possessed person but he cast out demons from such persons; We should not touch or lay hands on possessed person to cast out demons but command evil spirits to come out in the name of Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord shown us. Never play with devil and cobra.

When we are in trouble, depressed, we should pray to Lord to hold our hands. Have you ever prayed to Jesus to hold your hands? Love language is: "Time, Touch, Talk, Give and Serve". If we love our Lord, we will spend time in His presence, talk with Him, give ourselves and everything to Him and serve Him. When His work on earth was over Lord said: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). He finished His work and gave Hmself to Father. It is an exammple for His followers.
"Dr W.A. Smart tells about a father who brought his little daughter to the doctor. She had cut her eye lid, The doctor needed to take some stitches

# Apostle Paul: A forerunner for those who run the race 

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7,8)

Pastor Simon John Houston

Apostle Paul known as the second founder of Christianity. When started the race he was young and an enthusiastic to Lord's ministry. Apostle Paul was able to keep the same spirit and enthusi-asm until his death. In between his journey he faced many crucial situations, but he never gave up his calling to finish the journey. For next generation, he trained missionaries and he encouraged them to finish the race. 2 Timothy 4:6-16 is a clos-ing statement in his life. In verse 7 he shares that, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my race, have kept the faith." Apostle Paul being a prisoner for Christ and began to think of a successor. Because it was a time to pass his mission to next gener- ation. Paul decided on young man Timothy and
wanted him to become a missionary for next generation. Paul was eagerly waiting for Timothy to meet him. But Timothy de-layed seeing him. Paul realized the reluctance in Timothy, because people who were with Paul

## Model for: A Champion in race!

 charged with criminal cases. As a Roman citizen criminal cases were the most shameful thing in those days. Those who followed Paul did not want to associate with him. It shows that they were not only ashamed of Paul but also reluctant and fearful of their life. Therefore, to be with Paul is notonly a shame but also ending up in defeat. Not only that, even some began convincing others about Paul's life as a failure. This might have influenced Timothy and become the reason for his delay. But Paul wrote this letter to Timothy and tried to convince him. It shows that he is not a failed forerunner but a victorious champion. From all these experiences Paul tried to keep his faith. He fights against the untruth, a step towards to finish his race. Thus, proving to Timothy that he is a man of champion and a forerunner for him. The outcome of every bitter experiences in our life determines whether one responds to it in fear or in faith. Outlook determines the outcome. Therefore, we can finish our journey unchallenged and unquestioned till the end.

## "Jesus Christ: His touch is unique!" ------ (Continuation from previous page)

.He asked the little girl if she could keep from jumping when he used the needle. She answered, "I can if daddy will hold my hand" and she did not flinch once" (quoted from Charles L Allen).

When Jesus was in the power of Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14), He performed signs and miracles of healing sick by laying hands on them (Luke 4:40, 6;19)

When the Holy Spirit comes on us we will receive power to drive out demons and lay hands on sick to heal them (Acts 1:8 Mark 16:7-18). We get
authority, power and presence of Christ when we receive the Holy Spirit. The signs or proofs that we received power of Holy Spirit (Acts 1;8, Luke 24:49) are: (1) Will be His witness, (2) Will preach about uniqueness of Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:22-40, John 1:1), (3) Will be bold to stand for the Lord (Acts 4:8), (4) Stand for the truth that Salvation and Blessings only through Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16,5;25), (5) Reflect His love and compassion to sick, down trodden and hungry (Matthew 4;24,14:14, Matthew 11:28, 14;26). (6)

Speak in other tongues (Acts 2:4, Mark 6:17), (7) Lead a holy life because He is holy (1 John 3:2), (8) Will be light in this dark world (Matthew 5:11) and (9) Life will become worship (Romans 12:1)

Since we have the Spirit of Christ in us we have the authority and privilege to address our God as "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6) and we are led by the Holy Spirit. We need the touch of our Lord and power of Holy Spirit to lay hands to heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons!


## Children's

## EYES ON JESUS

$\quad$ Luke
h a d
recently
joined the
Scouts
marching
troop. He
was quite
anxious to prove himself as a good marcher. His first task was to learn to march correctly.

The troop captain explained that the key to marching is to stay focused and to listen and do what the captain commands. The captain asked his troop to look far into the horizon and to fix their eyes just above the horizon. He reminded themto keep their ears ready to hear the captain's instructions. They were told not to look at anybody or anything around them because they could get distracted very easily.

Luke was confident that he would not get distracted by anybody or anything. He would keep his eyes focused above the horizon and listen to his captain's commands.

As Luke was marching, he proudly lifted his knees nearly to his chest with

every step, which he thought was important for a good marcher. He wanted to do a good job to please the captain. The captain noticed Luke's marching style and shook his head. He gently told Luke that he did not have to lift his knees up in show but to place one step in front of the other in harmony with the captain's commands. Luke's marching style had distracted him from true marching with the rest of his troop. Luke promised to change his style.

Luke tried hard to keep his eyes above the horizon and listen to his captain's commands. His eyes often wandered, but he tried his best.

Soon Luke started critiquing his fellow marchers with comments like "march slower", "swing more", "loosen your arms". One morning, Luke was completely focused on his fellow marchers that he did not hear his captain's instruction to halt. Luke walked several paces in front of the rest of the troop and finally realized that the rest of his troop had halted several paces behind him. Luke heard his captain's command to fall back in line and to keep his eyes and ears for himself and that the captain will take care of others if there is a need.

Luke realized that staying focused is not easy. To stay focused, one must put conscious effortinto focusing for the entire time. Distractions are easy and can come in any form.

As a Christian, we must live a life focused on Jesus. Though many distractions come our way, we must keep "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).


## जीवितों का परमेश्रर पास्टर अमित गुरनानी, मुंबई.



सदूकी कहते थे कि मरे हुए जी नहीं उठते क्योंकि वे पुनरूत्थान पर विश्वास नहीं करते थे (मती. २२:२३; लूका.२०:२७; प्रेरितों.२३:८)। यीशु ने उनसे कहा कि पवित्र शास्त्र में मूसा की पुस्तक की झाड़ी की कथा में, परमेश्वर कहता है, 'मैं अब्राहम का परमेश्वर और इसहाक का परमेश्वर और याकूब का परमेश्वर हूं। परमेश्रर मरे हुओं का नहीं वरन् जीवितों का परमेश्वर है' (मती.२२:२६,२७)। परमेश्वर ने आदम से कहा कि यदि वह भले बुरे का ज्ञान देने वाले वृक्ष का फल खाए तो वह मर जाएगा। आदम ने जब परमेश्वर की आज्ञा उल्लंघन करके उस फल को खाया तब वह आध्यात्मिक रीति से मर गया। मनुष्य आज पापों और अपराधों में मरा हुआ है जहां वह परमेश्वर के प्रति कोई विचार न रखता है और न करता है। परंतु हर विश्वासी को परमेश्रर ने ऐसी दशा में से जिलाया है (इफि.२:?-६)।

एक मसीही व्यक्ति कैसे पता करे कि वह मसीह में जीवित है या अब भी कब्र में पड़ी हुई एक शव की दशा में अपना जीवन व्यतीत कर रहा है। मुझे तीन बातों से अपने आप को परखना होगा जिससे कि मैं जान सकूं कि में जीवन की दशा में यीशु मसीह में हूं या मृत्यु की दशा में एक कब्र में पड़ा हुआ हूं।
१. कब्र में पड़ा हुआ व्यक्ति, स्तुति नहीं कर सकता (भ.सं.६:५;३०:९)

इस्ताएल का राजा दाऊद कहता है, 'मृत्यु के बाद तेरा स्मरण नहीं होता, अधोलोक में कौन तेरा धन्यवाद करेगा?'
‘क्या मिट्टी तेरा धन्यवाद कर सकती है ? क्या वह तेरी सच्चाई का प्रचार कर सकती है ? जब राजा दाउद ने पाप किया उसकी स्तुति नष्ट हो गई तब वह कहता है, 'हे प्रभु मेरा मुंह खोल दे तब मैं तेरा धन्यवाद कर सकूंगा'। जब हम कत्र से जी उठते हैं, परमेश्वर हमें नया गीत सिखाता है जो उसकी स्तुति का है। (भ.सं.५१:१५५; ४०:२,३)।
२. कब्र में पड़ा हुआ व्यक्ति, परमेश्वर की करणा का अनुभव नहीं कर सकता (भ.सं.८८:३-६,११,२२)

इन वाक्यों में एक मरे हुए व्यक्ति को लाचार बताया गया है जो छोड़ा गया, बिसरा दिया गया और सहायता रहित है। वह परमेश्वर की करणणा को महसूस नहीं कर पाता और इसलिए परमेश्वर के अद्रुत कामों का वर्णन नहीं कर पाता, उससे छुटकारा काफी दूर है। इसलिए, वह मनुष्य का आसरा ढूंढने लगता है।

## ३. कब्र में पड़ा हुआ व्यक्ति परमेश्वर

 की आवाज़ सुन नहीं सकता (भ.सं.२८:?)एली के दिनों में परमेश्रर का वचन दुर्लभ था। परमेश्वर न स्वप्न और न दर्शनों से अपने लोगों से बातें करता था (?शमूएल.३:?)। शाऊल भी जब परमेश्वर से पूछने गया तब परमेश्वर ने उसे कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया (१शमूएल.२८:६)। परमेश्वर आमोस के द्वारा कहता है कि वह अन्न या पानी की नहीं बल्कि अपने वचन की महंगी करेगा (आमोस.८:११,१२)। इसलिए जब परमेश्वर वचन कहता है तो हमें उसे सुनना और

मानना चाहिए, नहीं तो ऐसा समय आता है जिसमें हम परमेश्वर के वचन को सुनना चाहेंगे परंतु परमेश्वर कुछ उत्तर न देगा।

## ४. धर्मीजन विश्वास से जीवित रहेगा

 (हबकूक.२:४, रो.१:१७; गला.३:११; इब्रा.१०:३८)अब्राहम, इसहाक, याकूब विश्वास ही में जीवित रहे। परमेश्वर ने उनसे जितनी प्रतिजाएं की, उन्होंने परमेश्रर पर विश्वास किया। उन्होंने जीवित रहते समय प्रतिज्ञा की हुई वस्तुएं नहीं पाई पर उन्हें दूर से देखकर आनंद किया और वे सब विश्वास की दशा में
 इब्रा.११:८,९,१३,१७,२०,२१,३९)। उनकी मृत्यु के बाद परमेश्वर इस्ताएलियों को अपनी पहचान देते समय कहता है, मैं अब्राहम, इसहाक और याकूब का परमेश्वर हूं। इसलिए यीशु भी कई वर्षों के पश्यात् इस वाक्य का उद्धरण लेते समय कहता है वह जीवितों का परमेश्बर है।

यदि परमेश्वर अपना मुख हमसे छुपा ले तो हम सच में एक कब्र का अनुभव करेंगे (भ.सं.३०:७; ८८:१४; १४३:७)। इसलिए परमेश्वर के भत्तों की प्रार्थना है कि हे परमेश्वर, हमें कब्र से छुड़ा ले (भ.सं.४९:९५) अर्थात हमें जीवितो के संग रख कि हम तेरी स्तुति करें, तेरी करणणा का अनुभव करें और तेरी वाणी सुनें। और सच में परमेश्वर हमें अपनी महान दया से कब्र में से जिलाता और गड्ढे में से बाहर निकलता है (भ.सं.३०:३; ४०:२)।

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## MATRIMONIALS

Parents settled in Nashik, Maharashtra invite proposal for their son date of birth $25 / 02 / 1997$, height 179 cms, Psycho-therapist having postgraduate degrees in psychology and theology. Ordained Pastor, worship leader, musician and a Missionary in India and Africa. Proficient in English, Hindi and Marathi, Malayalam. Has his own national level registered Foundation affiliated with various NGOs, born and brought up in Nashik seeking alliance from Parents of eligible Christian girls with heart for Gospel and Social Service.

## Contact:9881148088

Parents settled in Nashik, Maharashtra invite proposal for their daughter born at Ahmednagar and brought up in Nashik, date of birth

11/11/1984, height 167 cms , Asst. Professor in a reputed College in Mumbai having M.A. B.Ed degrees. She is from Hindu (Vanjari Maharashtra) background, a spirit filled girl, strong in faith and alone from her family accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour and hence prayerfully rejected many proposals from non-believers. She is the eldest daughter having a sister and two brothers all of them married. Proficient in English, Hindi and Marathi. Seeking alliance from Parents of eligible Christian boys with heart for Gospel and Social Service.
Contact:9881148088
Maharashtrian Pentecostal Parents settled in Nashik, Maharashtra invite proposal for their son date of birth 28/07/1995, height 178 cms , Electrical Diploma Holder, born and

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## MATRIMONY

## WANTED BRIDEGROOM

Christian Pentecostal Parents Settled in Navi Mumbai. Proposal for their Borm Again Daughter Age 27
(22006/1994)/ 158 cm . Completed her MBA Finance.
Currently She is working in Mumba ina Finance Company. Seeking for Alliance From Parents of Eligible
Malayali Pentecostal Boy, Spiritual and Post Graduate, Preferably Raised Outside Kerala and working in Abroad or Interested to Nigrate in
UK, Canada, Australia, Ireland or any other Western Countries
FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:
Mobile \& Whatsapp: +91 9821236319/Mobile: +91 9969072119 varghese20763@gmail.com
brought up in Nashik seeking alliance from Parents of eligible Pentecostal girls with recent (full) photos and details. Contact:9881148088
Maharashtrian Pentecostal Parents settled in Nashik, Maharashtra invite proposal for their son born in Jalgaon, brought up in Nashik, date of birth 07/04/1994, height 175 cms , working as a Mason, seeking alliance from Parents of eligible Pentecostal girls with recent (full) photos and details. Contact: 9881148088

Maharashtrian Pentecostal Parents settled in Kolhapur, Maharashtra invite proposal for their daughter date of birth 31.10.1997 Height - 4.10 Education - BBA, MBA Occupation CRO Manager in Namma Homeopathy Hospital, Worship leader and preacher. Language - English, Hindi and Marathi. Seeking alliance from Parents of eligible Pentecostal boys. Contact-9922231190

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## MATRIMONIALS

Parents settled in Kannur, Kerala, invite proposal for their son date of birth 17/04/1991, height 163 cms , Graduate (B.Com). Currently working as Quality Analyst (QA) in Thane. Proficient in English, Hindi and Marathi, Malayalam. Seeking alliance from Parents of eligible Christian girls with God fearing and educated.

Contact: 7208844658

Parents settled in Maharashtra, invite proposal for their daughter date of birth 20/05/1991, height 5'3". B.Com (Accounting and Finance). Currently working as Sr Advisor with an MNC. Proficient in English, Hindi and Marathi, Malayalam. Seeking alliance from Parents of eligible Christian girls with God fearing, spiritfilled, baptized.

## Contact :

9699184808 / 7045080127

Invite marriage proposals for their baptized, daughter, Ruchita Devendra Borge Ramabai Colony, Ghatkopar (East), Mumbai, DOB: 5th July, 1996, Height: 5 Ft , Graduated in Bachelor in Accounting and Finance, Executive MBA in Finance. Working in a private sector, Salary: 60k Church Name: IPC (Bethel Gospel Mission, Ghatkopar)

Contact No.: 9004583417

## 2024－（1T） 



















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Bro. Varghese Kollakompil - Mob.: 09821332273

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Pastors from different Districts of IPC Maharashtra with Pr. Santhosh Samuel



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[^0]:    * Formerly: Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.

