33 years of God's Faithfulness

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Scenes from IPC Mumai West District convention


Pr. K.A. Mathew \& Evg. V.C. Justin


Pr. V.P. Philip preaching


Pr. K.A. Mathew conducting Lords supper


Congregation

Pastors from different districts of IPC Maharashtra


Pastors fellowship meeting of Nanded, Parbhani and Hingoli Dist. held together at Puma IPC church.


Servants of God of IPC Nanded after a monthly meeting


Pastors of IPC Jalna Dist.


Pastors of IPC Beed Dist. on a monthly fellowship

Parbhani Dist. Pastors fellowship meeting at Manewath Taluk

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# Part 10 <br> Jesus Christ: His Love is unique! 

The love of Jesus Christ is the theme of New Testament, Christian faith and Christian Ethics. Since Jesus Christ is embodiment of love, Christianity stands for love. He is the greatest lover born in this world. His love is not romantic as narrated in the Song of Songs but it is divine. He is not a man but God. He is sensitive to the desires and needs of His people and willing to love those who accept His sacrificial death for the sinners. Many emperors established empires and they disappeared in history. None is now prepared to die for those emperors, whereas millions of people died for Christ and are prepared to die for Him. He established His empire out of love. He conquered people with love and not with swords.

Incarnation of Jesus is consummation of the love of God: "for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). His love for us made him to come to this world, suffer and die for us because there is no other way to redeem us and take us to heaven.

Jesus showed His love as compassion (Matthew 9:36, 14:14, 15,32, 20:34, Mark 1:41, 5:19, 6:34, 8:2, Luke 7:13). He had compassion towards the blind, demon possessed and lepers and healed them. He raised the dead out of His compassion. He performed miracles to help people. Jesus wept along with the bereaved (John 11:33.35). Jesus touched lepers and healed them (Matthew 8:13). When blind beggar Barthimaeus cried Jesus stood still (Mark 10:49). The beggar had no name but known as son (Bar) of Thimaeus. How many of us stood still at the cry of a beggar and spoke with him? His manifesto of mission: "Preach the gospel to the poor ..and preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised' (Luke 4:18)

Jesus taught His disciples to love enemies and pray for them (Matthew 5:44). How many of us pray for our enemies? He told His followers to do charity out of love without publicity. He
said, when we give alms let not our left hand know what our right hand does (Matthe 6:3). Our giving should be out of love and our Father in heaven who sees in secret shall reward us silently. Once I murmured in heart when some people whom I helped financially and arranged employments failed to express thanks. Then one Pastor reminded me the advice of our Lord and told me that there will be no two rewards for one work. If we get rewards in this world for our charity we will not get reward from heaven. I remember the advice and continue my charity.

Jesus loved children (Matthew 19:15) and blessed them. My hero was Jesus Christ when I was a boy. I used to imagine Jesus holding my hands when I walk alone.

Jesus loved His disciples (John 15:9) and called them friends (John 15:15). He defended them when Pharisees found fault with them for having picked some heads of grain and ate them on Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-5) and when they did not observe fasting.. We see His love for us in the John chs 14 to 17 . When Peter denied Jesus, He looked at Peter with loving eyes, with compassion and went after him and restored him (John 21). He felt compassion and love for the hungry multitude and fed them (Matthew 14:15-16). His love is divine Agape. Romantic love Eros is selfish as narrated in the Song of Songs. He went after two disciples who left Jerusalem and went to Emaus after hearing the news of the resurrection of their master and restored them (Luke 24:13-15).

Jesus loved and respected women and considered them equal to men. Certain women provided Jesus and disciples from their resources (Luke 8:1-3), He called the woman who had spirit of infirmity, "daughter of Abraham" (Luke 13:10-17). Jesus loved Mary and Martha (John 11:15). His encounter with the Samaritan woman (John 4:6-39) shows He is against caste and loves the down-trodden in society. Samaritan woman was rejected by Jews because of her caste, Samaritans rejected her because of her immoral life. His encounter with the Samaritan woman is role model for personal


> Pastor John Mathew Bangalore

Jesus loved and respected women and considered them equal to men. He called the woman who had spirit of infirmity, "daughter of Abraham". Jesus loved Mary and Martha. His encounter with the Samaritan woman shows He is against caste and loves the downtrodden in society. His encounter with her is role model for personal evangelism.

We see gods sitting on mountains. But our loving Lord stood with His disciples on the plain. A God who stands on the plain so that all can easily approach, no ascending, no descending, approachable from all sides. A Lord who is on our level because He loves us. Let us come out of pride, egoism, greed, position, controversy, politics and stand on the level with our Lord and other believers.
evangelism. Her need was water. Jesus started conversation with water. When she said "I have no husband", Jesus agreed and continued. His love and compassion for the woman brought her to true worship. He had compassion for the widow of Nain and touched the bier of her son and raised him from the dead (Luke 7:11-17). He praised the faith of a gentile woman (Matthew 15:28). Our Lord values tears of the women. He wept when Mary cried (John 11:35). When Mary Magdalene cried at His tomb, He stopped His journey to His Father God and came to her and asked "Why are you crying?" (John 20:15). Jesus loved and felt compassion for the woman who had issue of blood and healed her when she touched His robe (Luke 8:44). It was against the prevailing custom to permit a woman who had issue of blood to touch Him. No untouchabilty in Christ and in Christianity. All are equal. Christ's love is like an ocean and we cannot fathom its depth. We cannot love Him as He loves us because His love is divine (Matthew 5:44-48). He will never forsake us (John $14: 18$ ) and will be with us till the end. A woman taken in adultery was brought to Jesus to be stoned to death according to the law of Moses (John 8:3-11). But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground. What he did write? Some say it is the fulfilment of Jeremiah 17:13 to write names of the culprits Any how none of them did stoop down to examine what He wrote. But all fled pell-mell, pricked in their conscience. Some scholars say Jesus wrote only two words "hypocrisy and forgiveness". Jesus might have written the offence of the woman on the dust so that easily it can be erased, whereas God wrote the law and judgment on tablets of stone Judgment was written on stone with finger of lightning, whereas love wrote the offence in the dust so that it can be rubbed out easily.

What a love of our Lord! Forgiveness out of love is Jesus. I am what I am because of the love and forgiveness of my Lord. I am not a martyr or a saint or an apostle, but only a penitent man and a sinner but loved by Lord Jesus Christ who forgave my sins. He is friend of sinners and publicans and He loved even

those who wronged Him, persecuted and crucified Him. He prayed for them on the cross (Luke 22:34). Though He was sinless, He died for sinners as foretold in Isaiah 53. He died, rose from the dead, went up and sat at the right side of God, mediating for us (1 Timothy 2:5, $3: 16)$. He loved the rich man who loved money more than eternal life (Mark 10:21) We should reciprocate His love through our deeds (Romans 13:8-10). Apostle Paul explained what is love in 1 Corinthians 13. Father in the parable of the lost son shows divine love (Luke 15:20). We see gods sitting on mountains. But our loving Lord stood with His disciples on the plain (Luke $6: 17$ ). A God who stands on the plain so that all can easily approach, no ascending, no descending, approachable from all sides. A Lord who is on our level because He loves us. Let us come out of pride, egoism, greed, position, controversy, politics and stand on the level with our Lord and other believers. Let us open our doors to the poor and hungry because our Lord calls hewers of wood and drawers of water (Matthew 11:28). Christianity is simple. God loves us and we obey His commandments out of love and follow His son Jesus Christ. Jesus sent Holy Spirit to give us power and guide us. He is with us till the end of the world. If we love Jesus we will obey His commandments and produce much fruit (John 15:9) Love begins with thoughts and loving thoughts create loving experience and loving relationship. Communication is the key and let us communicate with our Lord. His love for us made Him poor for us (2 Corinthians 8:9), became curse for us (Galatians 3:13), suffered for us (1 Peter 3:18) and bore our sickness (1 Peter2:24). He will come for us (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, John 14:2-4). In return we should obey Him (2 John 1:6), help the needy (1 John3:18). love each other (John 15:2), share His life (John 17:1), share His name (John 17:6), share His word (John 17:L11-19) and share His glory (John 17:20-26). Let us reflect Him in our lives. As Apostle John writes, "I suppose if I write all traits of love in the character of Jesus, even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written"!!

# "The impact of social media and its relevance in Christian ministry" - A Study - 

Mass media plays very vital role in the society. It helps people to get the information faster. It gives the wide range of information and knowledge.Bible believing churches can effectively use social media to communicate to their members by announcing upcoming events, can preach, give Bible study, sharing audience specific information, and knowing the best time to post on these sites and so on. It is not strange for large organizations to interact with its members and promote their message via digital media.

How Church Members Use Social Media
Communicating with members and to encourage others in their church.

To point others to interesting articles related to Christianity and church life.

To share the gospel.
To share prayer requests.
To share activities and ministries in the church.

Growing membership
Fundraising.
Study Bible class
Online counselling
Some church leaders are noticing the opportunity social media creates to change their relationship with members.

## Impact and Effectiveness of the Media

Less than half of the churches surveyed reported that they think that social media is the most effective method of communication, and $25 \%$ preferred the more traditional methods. The reason behind these findings may be the lack of knowledge of the effectiveness of social media in the church. There is a clear divide in a generation that fully understand social media, and one that speaks an entirely different digital language.

The relationship between the churches and the media is one of uneasiness, fear and suspicion. The current church leaders did not grow up in the information society. The media has given man the idea that they are powerful and thus led them to believe that they no longer need to look to God and the churches to supply for his powerlessness. In contrast to the conventional top-down model of preaching Christianity via trained priests, digital media is enabling many ordinary Christians to have one-to-one conversations about their faith with nonbeliever.

Churches have moved from relying heavily on audience participation in their services over the last few hundred years, to a passive model where the congregation receives a presentation. Many people in the church have bought into the idea that what happens online is virtual, rather than an embedded part of our everyday lives.

People turn to the media for personal, social and religious information. The study showed that people turn to the media for information. The primary role of media is to inform. Positive impacts of the media on the church:

- It has united the church members.
- It has brought more people into the church.
- It has facilitated knowledge about our church to non-believers.
- More people are being reached and converted.
- Anybody can spread the gospel, we don't have to wait for pastors, elders or missionaries to do the work that was initially meant to be done by all.
Church Growth
(increase in member number)

There are myths that tend to prevent the church from using the media for growth. Myths such as: Churches are unable to reach people through media and churches don't have funds

Rev. Edison
Thomas
Vengoor

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From the study we can see that there is a big gap between the young people who use the media every day and the older generation. There was such a poor response from the older generations that the research deduced that these participants are either still adapting to the new forms of media, or find it difficult to adapt to change.
or human resources for media based evangelism. The results of the study show that many people have joined the church through the media because the media has made the church more accessible. Many members responded saying that they use the media to share their faith, thus people do not depend solely on the pastor to spread the gospel and bring in the people.

In the study many people weren't sure if the media has increased the membership number of their churches. But those that knew agreed that the media has done a great job in increasing the membership number.

> Church growth (member relations)

Respondents reported that the media has improved inter member and pastor relations. What used to be a once a week interaction has become an everyday interaction. Digital media has allowed members to share testimonies, prayer requests, events and other important church information. What people once had to wait to share on Sabbath they can easily share with their brethren over chatrooms.

## Negative impact of the media on the church

- People use their phones in church.
- People lose their focus from God and spend more time worrying about posting what is happening at church on social media.
- It is expensive to maintain and produce content for the media, distribution costs keep rising and this cripples the church budget.
- A crippled church budget does not allow
for community outreach.
- The church loses control of who says what and when.
- Church gets associated with negative propaganda.
- Churches need to spend more time doing damage control rather than spreading the gospel


## Conclusion

From the study we can see that there is a big gap between the young people who use the media every day and the older generation. There was such a poor response from the older generations that the research deduced that these participants are either still adapting to the new forms of media, or find it difficult to adapt to change. There was a greater response from the younger generations who a media savvy. Nevertheless, these mass media social sites have both advantage and disadvantage so we need to keep in the back of our mind and use it wisely for the productivity of oneself and for the growth of the community.

The study showed the use of media has both negative and positive impact on the church. The media have helped the church grow both in numbers and inter member relations. "There is no limit other than our imaginations in how we might use these new communication opportunities to reach people". The media can be good and bad to any organization, it is the responsibility of the organization to know why they are using the media and how they should use it. The church is satisfied with the results the use of the media is giving them. Nonetheless, the church need to be wise in using these media.

The above article is a study conducted by Rev. Edison Thomas and his conclusions. Readers are welcome to express their opinions.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:23-25)


## Are we 'PRAYERFULLY WATCHING' for the RETURN of JESUS CHRIST?

> "Take heed, watch, and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming - in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" (Mark 13:33-37)

The above parable from Jesus regarding the absent master of the house is unique to the Gospel of Mark. The master of the house gives specific responsibilities to his servants along with the adequate authority to carry out their tasks. This has a striking resemblance to the Great Commission that Jesus gave to all His disciples before He went away to a 'far country' ('heaven'), which is as follows: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."(Matt. 28:18-20)

In the above parable, the master of the house had commanded the doorkeeper who was guarding his house to watch out for any intruder from breaking in while he was away. On his part, he could return anytime, even in the night
during any of the four watches: the first watchevening ( 6 to 9 p.m.), the second watch midnight ( $9 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. to midnight), the third watch rooster crowing (midnight to 3 a.m.), and the fourth watch - dawn (3 to 6 a.m.). The doorkeeper may be compared to anyone in spiritual leadership who are responsible for teaching, guiding and mentoring other people.

The key of this parable is the fact that since it is unknown when the master returns to the house, the doorkeeper must stay awake and be alert at all times. Theservants have received their instructions and are to faithfully perform them until their master returns. So,all the servants must be vigilant, and the doorkeeper must be watchfuland waiting for the house master's return at all times (Luke 19:11-27). The servants may be compared to all the believers and followers of Christ who have been mandated with fulfilling 'The Great Commission'.


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As believers, we are citizens of eternity, and so our confidence should be rooted in something far more important
than our positions and achievements here and now. As we live our lives, God wants us to be loyal workers for His kingdom until He returns.God wants us to carry out good works as responsible people in His kingdom


Thus, Jesus has likened Himself to the master of the house who is traveling, and has assured His people (us) that He will soon return. So He left this word for all His people "watchand pray"- which extend even to thispresent hour! This parable reveals the need for constant alertness through prayerful watching from our lives at all times. In light of the certainty of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, we should be doing our tasks responsibly and be ready at all times for the rapture of the church that may happen at any moment.

The imminence of Christ's return should stimulate a new realization of the temporal nature of this life. Enough signs have been fulfilled that Christ could come today. We must always be ready, and our task is to watch prayerfully. Watching for the return of Jesus Christ does not mean that we should idly speculate about the time of His coming. Neither does it give us the license to neglect our earthly responsibilities, but we should "be alert and keep praying!"We should be found faithful when He comes, and He could come even today!

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license to neglect our earthly responsibilities
so our confidence should be rooted in something far more important than our positions and achievements here and now. As we live our lives, God wants us to be loyal workers for His kingdom until He returns. God wants us to carry out good works as responsible people in His kingdom (Eph. 2:10). According to Scripture, our calling should be focused on eternal achievements, not merely temporal ones (Phil. $3: 13-4: 1$ ). Let us serve others while being loyal to the great task that Jesus has given us before He left this earth. Above all else, let us prayerfully watch for the return of our Lord and Master Jesus every day!
"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." (Heb. 9:27-28)"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:11-13)

## A Sturay ont the Bo James (Part 8)

## Beginning a New Series of Bible Study

Rev. K.M. Varghese

## The man who endures the test

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12)


The man who endures the test is the makarios. Makarios is the Greek word for "blessed." It can be defined as being blessed and happy, but these are insufficient. Fortunes, blessedness, and happiness are all in makarios. Yet makarios is not worldly fortune, blessing, and happiness, but divine fortune, blessing, and happiness.

After talking about facing trials with joy, James reminds his readers of the blessedness of the one who endures it. James does not mean to bear the test here with indifference, buthe speaks of receiving it as a friend who receives a guest. The benefits of the Christian who cheerfully endures trials are twofold: 1 . He has the approval of God. 2. He receives the crown of life.He experiences the benefits of testing in this world and in the world to come. In this world, he is approved by God, and in the world to come he will receive the crown of life.

The man who endures the test is alsodokimos. As the impurities pass away in the test, and the metal comes forth bright, the Christian proves himself blessed.

James encourages readers to look
beyond the test rather than into the test. He says four things in this verse. 1. Blessed is the man who endures trial. 2. The crown of life is the Lord's promise to the righteous. 3. The crown of life is for those who pass the test. 4. Love for the Lord is the factor that helps those who pass the test. James does not specifically mention where the crown of life will be received: here or in the world to come. But Jesus made it clear. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life (Rev. 2:10). The Crown of life is a posthumous honor.

## Crown of life

The Greek expression stephanonteszoes is an expression of hope. The crown of life is not the diadema, which is a royal crown, but the stephanos given to the victorious. Paul speaks of perishable crowns for those competing in games (1 Cor. 9:25). Crowns made of oak, ivy, olive leaves, or flowers were given to the conquerors by the Greeks.

Other than James, the New Testament writers who spoke about the crowns of the conquerors are Paul and Peter. Paul talks about three crowns: the crown of praise (1 Thess.

2:19), the imperishable crown (1 Cor. 9:25), and the crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8), and Peter talks of one unfading crown of glory (1 Pet. 5:4).

William Barclay talks about four views of the ancient world regarding the crown.

1. Joyful crown of flowers worn for festivals and weddings

A crown of joy is made out of flowers (Isa. 28:1,2 Song of Solomon 3:11)
2. A royal crown as a symbol of authority. The royal crown is made of gold; sometimes it was made of linen (Ps. 21:3; Jer. 13:18).
3.A thistle crown, which is given to winners in sports competitions (1 Cor. 9:25, 1 Tim. 4:8)
4. A decorative crown as a sign of dignity and honor (Prov. 12:4; 16:35; 17:6).

The Christian believer now experiences joy, power, victory, and honor. It reaches its fullness with the coronation.

The crown is named after what it is made of. For example, a gold crown is made of gold. It will be all gold. The floral crown is made up of flowers. It's all flowers. Likewise, the crown of life is made of life. It is all life. If it is a material such as gold or flower, it is
visible and tactile. But life is not like that. Life is not material. So, it is difficult to say whether the crown of life is literal or figurative.

The Lord has promised the crown of life to the tested. Only those who love the Lord can face trials with joy. Love is paramount in testing.

## Temptation and sin

1:13-15 No one is to say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death.

In 1:2-4 and verse 12, James was talking about testing. But in verses $1: 13-15$, it is written about the test. The root word peirasmos can have two meanings. One means external examination for goodness. That is what James has written ofso far. But it can also mean inner impulse to evil. That is what he is referring to here. Verse 13 contains the false theoryabout temptation, verse 14 the true theoryabout temptation, and verse 15 the genealogy of death.

1. False theory about temptation
"No one is to say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone

There is a theory that there are two principles that pull in opposite directions in all men (Rom. 7:22,23). They called the principle of good YetserHattoband the principle of evil Yestser Hara. Similarly, there were two theories among them about the source of temptation. According to the first theory, the source of the temptation is the devil and according to the second theory, the source of the temptation is God. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden were tempted, and God sentenced them.

These theories were formed in the light of Eve's direct blaming of the devil
and Adam's indirect blaming of God when questioned. James completely denies the theory that God tempts man to sin.

After sinning, placing the blame on others and conveniently avoiding responsibility for the sin is a common tendency seen in those who have sinned. To some extent, modern psychology has also discovered that those who are trapped in the prison of guilt due to their vices can shift the blame onto parents, spouses, or others to free them from it. It is unacceptable in James' view to place the responsibility of the sin they commit on others or God. James sternly warns that no one should say, "I am being tempted by God" when tempted. James gives two reasons for that. 1. God cannot be tempted by evil. God is not tested by anyone. 2. He does not tempt anyone. These are the glory of God's character. In other words, men cannot make God their object of temptation. Likewise, God has no plan to tempt man. Therefore, attributing the source of the temptation to God is a false theory.

## 2. True theory about temptation

"But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust" (1:14).

When selfishness, attraction to the forbidden, and being seduced come together, it becomes a temptation. Lust or temptation is not a sin in itself. It is a sin to submit to them.

A certain type of ant has a strong craving for sweets. These ants are addicted to the sweetness of a type of substance produced by the caterpillar. They have a craving for it and it's not just the sweetness that the butterfly produces, they carry the whole pupa to its nest. On the other hand, the pupa which has reached the nest of ants, likes the ant's eggs and eats them with delight. Ants enjoy the sweet excrement from the moth while the moth now devours the guest host's offspring from the ant nest. The ants do not know that the sweet-supplier arriving butterfly moth is the killer of their generation. Such is lust and
temptation. Lust turns toattraction, attraction turnsto submission, and submission turns to temptation.

## 3. Genealogy of Death

"Then lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death" (1:15). Lust is not an act, it's an emotion. "Attracted by lust," according to Jamesisan attraction to an external object. Attraction is not an activity, but another emotion born of desire. James is speaking here of lust and $\sin$. Sin is born out of the coming together of internal lust and external attraction. Sinas an embryo grows in lust and in due time gives birth to an offspring called sin. Thus,lust becomes a mother.

James says that not only lust, but sin, the daughter of lust, becomes a mother. Even though James does not say that sin conceives, hesays that sin gives birth. After sin reaches maturity, it gives birth to death. Sin does not necessarily conceive death. When sin was born, there was death in its womb. Where sin is, there is death. Sin is the separating factor between God and man. Man is separated from God by the death of the soul. He may remain physically alive. But man, also has a death after his physical death called the second death (Revelation 21:8). Man is separated from God forever through the second death (Rev. 20:14,15). Lust is the power behind $\sin$ and death that separates man from God. It is said that sin breeds death. Sin is like a wild beast that breeds death.

The evil desire that springs from the heart leads one to sin and sin to eternal separation from God. Lust begets sin; sin begets death. That is the genealogy of lust. Thelineage of lust is very short. Lust and sin are here given motherhood,but death is not given motherhood. From death nothing is born, it has no fertility. Death does not eliminate the sinner, only alienates from God forever.

Sin has a pleasant beginning of lust and a sad end of death.

# "Foundation of LOVE in Biblical perspective" Contributed: Mumbai East District PYPA, Maharashtra State 

## "Foundation of Love"

The "foundation of love" refers to the fundamental elements that sustain and strengthen a loving relationship. It encompasses qualities like understanding, empathy, trust, and respect, forming the bedrock upon which a deep and meaningful connection can flourish.

If we see Foundation of love from Biblical point of view, we can see many emotions like joy, love, faith etc. In a Biblical context, the foundation of love is often grounded in passages emphasizing virtues like selflessness, patience, and forgiveness. The famous passage from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 speaks of love being patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, not dishonoring, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeping no record of wrongs, rejoicing in truth, always protecting, trusting, hoping, and persevering. This serves as a spiritual blueprint for the foundation of love. Love is a basic fundamental rule in Bible.

What are the qualities of Love according to Bible ??

1. We will show anger or hate to someone, when the person has done evil deeds to us or even try to harm us. But Bible says, in Matthew 5:44 (NIV): "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

2. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:4-$7-$ NIV) It says that Love is an emotion, which does not consist of envy, boastfulness or pride.
3. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (John 13:34-35-NIV): It says, Love is an essential part of life. Love one another.

Anyone who does not love does not follow the teaching of Jesus Christ.
4. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). It says that we should be thankfull for the sacrificial love that Christ has done for us. Through his love, we become the children of God and heirs of Kingdom of God. As believers, we should not fall into worldy love or desires that will ruin our life. I am not saying, don't love, but keep a distance between that we love the most. Our first love should be Jesus Christ. As it is written in Bible, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24-NIV):

As children of God we must remember this, our first love and the goal is Jesus Christ. This worldy love is a temporary love. Today or tomorrow that love can be finished. But God's Love is everlasting love. Humans can betray us, but God will not betray us, if we love him. As David says in Psalm 27:10 (NIV): "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me"
"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body [a]to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

## Youth Forum

## "What is Love?"

They asked me what is love? I said one that was by my parents, also my brother who annoys me with everything, still he loves me, the one my friends show me, that is love. And something happened unthinkable and my hope was shattered, everything was lost. I cannot face tomorrow, cannot move forward with my back pulling me up, pulling me behind. I thought where did it go wrong, how do I change it and at last why did it happen to me. I was traveling in a bus with head full of thoughts all I could see was people travelling, going somewhere with their own purpose, with their own life, with their own sorrows and happiness, with their own life. But my eyes followed a writing in a wall that said, "When all else fail try Jesus".

I was taken aback. Even though I was born and bought up in a Christian family I didn't knew the whole meaning until one day - a day that changed everything. You know when the end is

coming and you accept it somehow eventually but the wordings in the wall kept coming in my mind like someone's is repeating it a thousand times. It did change everything, changed you, changed the whole perspective. You knew you were alone but never lonely, you knew there are tears but also knew there is a hand to wipe it off. You had a reason to crawl back in the room to move behind forever but now you know there's a hand always telling you the direction
a voice to show you the right path. You had battles and scars but you know theres a victory, there's a daily reminder of His glory to you.

After everything, it did dawn to you that everything is changed even though His love remained the same. It was later that you realize it was always there... Just that you didn't see it, your sin didn't stop Him from loving you, so also your circumstances don't! After every rain there is rainbow, after every cloud there is sunshine, after every insult there is contentment, after every hate there is love! And that love is unconditional, that love only had one name "JESUS"

That love was nothing but the 'love on the cross', that love which had scars - battle scars present in His hands and legs. Still that scarred hand never lets you go, that hand holds your hand, that scarred hand removed your scars forever. I knew that moment, "the cross before me the world behind me"!

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## Focus on the watermelon!

Josephine was a young girl. One day the eager Josephine approached her dad and said, "Dad I want to learn the secret to happi-ness".

Daddy smiled and said, "I will tell you the secret to happiness, but first go to the store and get the largest watermelon. Once you have bought it carry this on your head and walk home. Remember always focus on the watermelon and bring it home intact"

Josephine excitedly went to the store and selected the biggest watermelon she could find. With great care, she balanced it on her head and began her journey back home. Along the way, she encountered different reactions from

people. Some cheered her on, while others chuckled and teased her. Despite these distractions, Josephine kept reminding herself of her dad's advice: "Focus on the watermelon on your head". Despite the bumps and challenges of the journey, she persevered. And at last, with a sense of relief and accomplishment, she arrived home, her precious cargo still intact.

Once home, Josephine went to her dad and showed him the watermelon expecting to be praised for the accomplishment. Dad laughed and
said, "Well done!" and explained, "Throughout the journey with the watermelon on your head, you faced a hard time because you were subject to mockery, bumpy road and a heavy watermelon! However, because you focused on the watermelon you were able to complete the task even though it was tough."
Josephine understood the secret of happiness and thanked her dad for the valuable lesson.
Dear friends, Bible says, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:2-3 NKJV) . When you focus on Jesus and eternity, the things of this world will grow slowly dim. The suffering and the troubles would not bother you and you will be able to find happiness in God through all your struggles. So when we face difficulties in our lives, let us focus on the things above: Jesus.

## Baby Moses in thie Gasket



Shawn Thankachan


Sneha Thankachan


Dr. Shalom David

# अदुल्लाम की गुफा पास्टर अमित गुरनानी, मुंबई. 



एक समय था जब इस्राएल का राजा शाऊल दाऊद से अति प्रसन्न था और उसे अपने पास रहने देना चाहता था (?शमूएल १६:२२; १८:२)। परंतु पलिश्तियों से युद्ध जीतने के पश्थात् जिस युद्ध में दाऊद ने गोलियत को मार दिया और उसके विषय में इस्राएल की स्त्रियां नाचती हुई यह गीत गाने लगीं, 'शाऊल ने तो हजारों को परंतु दाऊद ने लाखों को मारा है' (?शमूएल.?८:७) तब से राजा शाऊल दाऊद को मार डालने की ताक में रहा और उसे मार डालना चाहता था ( ? श मू ए ल . १८: ? ७, २ ? , ?०; १९:१,१०,११)। और दाऊद अपने प्राण को बचाने के लिए एक भगोड़े के समान जंगलों, गुफाओं की दरारों, अन्य देशों में परदेसी होकर राजा शाऊल से यहां वहां दूर भागता फिरा (१शमूएल.१९:१८,१९; २१:१०; २२:१)। इस प्रकार दाऊद बचकर अदुल्लाम की गुफा में पहुंच गया। और इसी समय में दाऊद ने अपने कई भजनों में से भजन ५७ और १४२ लिखा है।

## दाऊद का अकेला होना

ऐसे समय में दाऊद अकेला और तन्हा हो गया था, जिसमें उसे यह नहीं पता था कि आगे को उसके साथ क्या होगा। कई बार उसके ज़हन में यही था कि राजा शाऊल के हाथों उसका अंत हो जाएगा परंतु यहोवा का अभिषेक उसे पर था और वह उसके संग-संग था। सिर्फ गोलियत की तलवार अदुल्लाम की गुफा में उसके साथ थी और वह इंतजार कर देख रहा था 'परमेश्वर मेरे लिए क्या करेगा’ (?शमूएल.२२:३)।
?. हालांकि वह था तो एक गुफा में परंतु वह अनुभव कर रहा था कि वह परमेश्वर

के पंखों तले शरण लिए हुए सुरक्षित है (भ.सं.५७:?)
२. परमेश्वर की ओर से राज्य की प्रतिज्ञा सुरक्षा की प्रतिज्ञा प्रदान करती है।
३. वह अपने देश में रहते हुए एक न्यायी, सेनापति या प्रधान होकर अपने लोगों को बड़ी और अच्छी सेवा प्रदान कर सकता था परंतु वह एक ऐसी अंधेरी गुफा में अकेला बंद था जहां पर कोई सुख-सुविधा, आनंद नहीं है (इब्रा.११:३८)।
४. जब उसे देखने वाला कोई नहीं था, उसके लिए कहीं शरण नहीं थी और उसे कोई पूछता भी न था फिर भी वह परमेश्वर पर दृढ़ और स्थिर आशा लगाए हुए था (भ.सं.१४२:४,५,७)।

## दाऊद का अकेलापन दूर होना

अदुल्लाम की गुफा में अकेले रहते समय एकाएक लोग उससे जुड़ने लगे अर्थात उसके भाई, उसके पिता का समस्त घराना और राजा शाऊल के राज्य में जितने संकट में पड़े थे अर्थात् जितने ऋणी और उदास थे आकर दाऊद के पास इकट्ठे हुए और वह उन सब का प्रधान हुआ (१शमूएल.२२:१,२)।

दाऊद अपने भजन में इस रीति से कहता है, ‘मेरे माता-पिता ने तो मुझे छोड़ दिया परंतु यहोवा ने मुझे संभाल लिया' (भ.सं. २७:१०; २२:९,१०; ७१:६)।
१. उसके पिता ने राज्याभिषेक के समय उसे दूर रखा और न बुलाया यह सोचकर कि वह उसका छोटा लड़का है अर्थात भाइयों में आठवां है, जो केवल भेड़ बकरियों को चरा सकता है (? शमूएल ?६:??) और उसके

भाइयों को खाना पहुंचा सकता है (१शमूएल १७:१७-१८)।
२. उसके भाई भी उसे छोटा जानकर उसे कम अहमियत देते थे (?शमूएल ?७:२८३०; भ.सं. ६९:८)।

परंतु समय आया कि उसके भाई और उसके पिता का पूरा घराना दाऊद की शरण में आए।
३. अन्य लोग जो सब मिलकर कोई ४०० पुरुष थे उसके साथ मिल गए। तत्पश्यात् उसके साथ और २०० पुरुष मिल गए और कुल ६०० लोगों का वह प्रधान हुआ (? शमूएल २२:२; २३:१३)। और जब वह इस्नाएल का राजा हुआ तब उसकी सेना इतनी बढ़ गई कि मानो परमेश्वर की सेना के समान एक बड़ी सेना बन गई (१इतिहास १२:२२)।

एक समय था जब दाऊद अकेला और तन्हा था परंतु परमेश्वर ने समस्त इस्राएल घराने को उसके अधीन कर दिया। दाऊद पर परमेश्वर ने किया हुआ राज्याभिषेक निश्यय रूप से था परंतु वह लोगों के सामने पूर्ण रूप में धीरे धीरे प्रकट हुआ। उसे कई मुसीबत, परेशानी और तनाव की परिस्थितियों से जाना पड़ा परंतु जब समय आया परमेश्वर ने उन्हीं लोगों के सामने उसे बड़े आदर पूर्वक खड़ा किया जो एक समय में उसे तुच्छ समझते या जानते थे।

इसलिए हम भी जीवन की परिस्थितियों में तनाव ग्रस्त ना हो परंतु परमेश्वर पर भरोसा और आशा रखें जो आपके लिए सब कुछ अच्छा कर सकता है और वह अभिषेक जो हम पर हुआ है हमारे परिस्थितियों से मुकाबला करने के लिए हमें सामर्थ और शक्ति प्रदान करता है।

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Lecture hall of Tyrannus／School of one Tyrannus．He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus．（Acts．19：9） This went on for two years．．．


































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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 brought up in Nashik seeking alliance

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## MATRIMONIAL

Invite marriage proposals for their baptized, daughter, Nazima Mohammad Sayyed, Ramabai Colony Ghatkopar. DOB :12/07/1989, Education qualifications : Bachelor of Arts, Church name: Indian Pentecostal Church Ghatkopar. Pastor Name: Thomas M. M., Baptism 10 year Church : Ghatkopar Ramabhai Colony.

## Contact No.: 9004583417

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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What more would you like to see on the pages．Share your experience with us we would love to hear from you．

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 ஹறை கூூกவงஸ゙．













 வఎகృం．














 கூபி வm．
 （๑囚๑ை．3：18－19， 2 டிดைง．4：2－4）．







 ஜிவிஙைைிை வகைைைாலுல விவுவை












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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 boys with God fearing， spirit－filled，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

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Pr．Biju P．Samuel，West Bengal



















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Scenes from Nagpur District of IPC Maharashtra


Pr. P.M. Cherian preaching

Pr. John George preaching


Some of our team members standing in front of IPC Shalem Church, Nagpur


Pastors and their family members of IPC Nagpur Dist. with care takers

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## Scenes from Solapur District of IPC Maharashtra



Lords supper led by Pr. K.A. Mathew


