

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings!



We had very powerful, anointed and glorious meetings in Germany. Thank you so much for all your prayers and support! Many testimonies are pouring in and people are very excited. God is good and His mercy endures forever!

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for you, O God!” (Ps. 42:1). Let this be your song and let your soul long for Him more. Spend more time in His presence, meditate and ponder His Word day and night. Let His Word become flesh in you. You will see a great transformation in your life, family, ministry and everything around you.

By God’s grace we have telecasted more than five episodes of our German TV program. All glory to God! Introduce to as many people as you can. With much burden for Europe and without any expectations we are working very hard for these TV programs. We need special prayers for this work. You can be updated by visiting our European website www.berachah4life.org. Enjoy and be blessed!

We have started to receive applications for STC and SOHS which will both be held in August. ***Apostle David Hogan from Mexico is going to minister in this STC. He is a founder of hundreds of Churches and God has used him powerfully time and again to raise people from the dead.*** If you desire to attend these programs, please apply immediately. As we are mentioning every month, to improve the service and comfort we can offer you, this time only people who applied before August 15th and BRING THEIR CALL LETTER will be allowed to attend the STC. There will be NO ON-THE-SPOT REGISTRATION THIS TIME for STC. Kindly cooperate with us. If for some reason you cannot yet fully decide to attend, please contact our office at info@ezekiahfrancis.org or +91-44-2650-1290/1390 and explain your situation so we can keep you in a waiting list.



CONTACT

BERACHAH PROPHETIC MINISTRIES

#81, 4TH CROSS STREET
SENTHIL NAGAR, KOLATHUR
CHENNAI - 600 099

PHONE

+91 - 44 - 2650 1290 / 1390

EMAIL

info@ezekiahfrancis.org

WEB

www.ezekiahfrancis.org

We have started our fencing work in our Poondi Campsite. Pray for peaceful completion of the fencing work and all the initiatives that we are taking to develop our Campsite. We need good cook for our School of the Holy Spirit. If you are interested kindly contact us at +919884328797.

Ladies are very excited about the School of the Holy Spirit exclusively for them in November 2012 and already they have started to apply. Sister, this is YOUR time to rise up and work for JESUS. If you DESIRE to serve Jesus better in the power and liberty of the Holy Ghost, make plans to attend this heavenly time in His Presence!

Visit our website www.ezekiahfrancis.org and Facebook for updates, and follow us on Twitter EzekiahBPM.

Continue to pray for my dear wife, our aged parents, counselors, key leaders, coordinators, staff and partners.

May God bless you and your generations!

In Him,

Your loving brother

Abdul Francis

INTIMACY TONGUES

We will ponder the privilege of intimate communication with God through tongues. All the other gifts of the Spirit bless others, but this unique gift of tongues helps our own personal life. It is the heart beat of our prayer life.

Prayer of understanding

There are two sides to a victorious prayer life. One is prayer in our understanding and the other is prayer in the Spirit. Most of our prayers and praises are done from our mind and emotions. Yet even those who excel in this kind of prayer are not perfect in their prayer lives. In fact, many prayer warriors become faint-hearted when their flesh becomes weak, their minds become feeble, their emotions lose their vigor, the answers are delayed and hindrances mount up.

Mighty prayer warriors fumbled in their prayer life. Those who stood in the gap slumbered. Jubilant worshippers became terribly discouraged. One of the main reasons is that they all prayed in their understanding only. Our minds and will power are not as energetic in our old age as in our youth. Those who pray hard face the temptation of discouragement. That's why Jesus connected the danger of losing heart with prayer life (Lk.18:1). At such times, the prayer language of the Holy Spirit comes to our aid. That doesn't mean you don't need the help of the Holy Spirit in your prayer of understanding. Of course, you need the help of the Holy Spirit in every area of your life. Only a Spirit-filled man can find fulfillment in his family life and fruit in his ministry. All kinds of prayer need to be energized by the Holy Spirit.

That's why Paul says: "Pray in the Spirit on all

occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests..." (Eph.6:18,NIV). Note the words "all kinds of prayers".

Yes, there are many kinds of prayers. Prayer of intercession, prayer of supplication, prayer of faith, prayer of sin confession, prayer of spiritual warfare, prayer of intimacy, prayer of thanksgiving, prayer of praise and worship, prayer of authority, prayer of commitment and the list goes on. All these kinds of prayers can be prayed in understanding and also in the Spirit.

Praying with the spirit

When you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit directly communicates with the Father along with your spirit. The Bible is very emphatic that the one who speaks in tongues does not speak to men but to God (1.Co.14:2). Therefore, it is very clear that it is a prayer language.

"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified" (1.Co.14:14-17).

Praying with the spirit, blessing with the spirit, singing with the spirit, all points out clearly that it's a communication language with God. Let's first study

about praying with the spirit.

Praying in the spirit

This kind of prayer bypasses your mind. There is no work for your brain here nor can your feelings, strength or self-will dominate. Your human knowledge cannot limit your prayer in the spirit. One of the greatest sins the Israelites and our modern Church commit is to limit the Holy One of Israel.

Many times we pray only within the limits of what we know. But God has kept wonders for us that our minds can never fathom. He has innumerable, great and unsearchable things for us. Sometimes our own mind becomes a stumbling block to receive them. The widespread teachings of unbelief in our churches today stop us from reaching God's riches. The greatest blessing of this prayer language is that we leave our natural realm to enter God's supernatural realm where we can pray with the mind of God. The mentally exhausted and emotionally damaged can easily break through their barriers by enjoying the blessings of praying in tongues.

If you lament over your distracted thoughts while praying, this is your solution. When you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit totally takes over your prayer life. The Holy Spirit teams up with your spirit and makes your tongue His weapon.

In a nutshell, when you pray in tongues you leave this earthly realm and enter the heavenly realm to pray in God's language. When you pray in the understanding however, you pray from earth to the Father in heaven.

This special prayer is done by the power of the indwelling Spirit Who does exceedingly abundantly above all what we ask and think and dream about (Eph.3:20).

Don't be confused whether it is the Holy Spirit or your spirit who is praying. He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him (1.Co.6:17). The Holy Spirit gives the utterance in your spirit, and your spirit transfers those words to your tongue (Acts 2:4; 1.Co.14:14). This spirit language is not understood by any human being or even by demons. This is the most glorious time of communion between your spirit and God who is The Spirit. No words can explain the

blessings we receive from this prayer. Your mind will not comprehend the depth of it. I believe when we reach heaven we will be surprised at many of the results of our praying in tongues.

Praying in His will

When you pray in this divine language you not only go beyond your human limitations but also pray hundred percent according to God's will. ***"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us"*** (1.Jn.5:14). Our problem, however, is to know whether what we ask is His will or not. We can pray with confidence if our request is clearly promised in God's Word, but the Bible is not very clear about some of our specific questions.

For example, we all know it's not God's will for a believer to marry an unbeliever. It is a clear Bible teaching (2.Co.6:14). Yet how can a believer find out God's perfect match for his life, even among believers? This is a major problem for many believers. Like this, we have many issues where God's will is not clearly spelt out.

Another tragedy is that many believers waste their time crying, fasting and pleading to get what they want, trying to manipulate God. In my ministry experience, this observation has shaken me to the core. I have seen many good believers wasting their life praying out of their own fleshly stubbornness for things God never intended them to have.

We see three dangers in this kind of prayer. We never receive what we ask because we ask amiss (Jas.4:3). It kills our time and energy. Some people might even backslide out of disappointment and frustration. I have even seen people going to the extreme of doubting God Himself.

Another danger is that the devil might deceive them into believing that what they ask is God's will.

Permissive will

There is still a greater danger. Sometimes God punishes our foolishness by granting our request if we are very adamant. Just remember the fate of the Israelites who craved for fish and meat, not satisfied

with the God-given manna (Nu.11:4-35). God heaped them with quail for a whole month until it came out of their nostrils and became loathsome to them.

The wrath of God burned hot against them while the meat was still between their teeth. They were struck with a very severe plague. That place became the graveyard of those who craved and was therefore named Kibroth Hattaavah, the Graves of Craving. What a tragedy!

Friend, never stubbornly ask for anything if it is not clearly promised in God's Word. Don't waste your years and tears. Let not your tomb be found in that "graveyard".

You live in God's permissive will if you ask adamantly in your flesh. It was never God's perfect will to rule His people through kings, but because they kept asking, God gave them kings (1.Sam.8). From Saul's time all through history, Israel lived in God's permissive will, missing His perfect will. Just think about it! The people suffered under almost every king, with very few exceptions. Their lives became bitter. They were taken captive. It is all written for our warning.

Beloved, this fact is enough to shake us all. I tremble to say that **the majority of God's people today are not in God's perfect will. They live most of their lives in God's permissive will.** With much pain I have witnessed this time and again in my ministry worldwide.

A life that is not in the center of God's will is definitely a second grade life. Such life never gives full satisfaction. Life itself becomes a great burden. Of course, such people may see a few blessings and fruit in their ministry, but they will not enjoy the abundance of His perfect blessings. Yet there is no limit for those who live in the center of God's will. Their ministry also will shine brighter and brighter like the light of dawn (Eccl.4:18).

For me, it is better to die than to live in His permissive will. I constantly ask God: "Lord, never grant me anything outside Your perfect will even if I ask".

Dear reader, maybe you have already missed His perfect will in your life. Maybe you long for a solution. Don't lose heart. God is well able to compensate. If you can turn back and do His will in any possible area,

do it now. At least from now, stop asking and craving anything against His desire.

Praying in tongues is a great bonus for praying in His will. Paul made it very clear: ***"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God"*** (Rom.8:26-27). God wants to enlighten our spiritual eyes to see this vital truth. We all have our own weaknesses, and our failure in prayer is the worst of all. Victory in your prayer life is victory in your life and ministry. Failure here is failure everywhere.

Here you need the great help of your comforter. He prays through you with unutterable groanings. Your heavenly Father who searches your heart knows the thoughts of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit intercedes in God-pleasing ways. This kind of prayer works all things together for your good (Rom.8:28). That's good news for 'prayer-weaklings'!

Experiences

Let me share my prayer experiences. Whenever I am burdened and confused, not knowing how and what to pray for, I heartily welcome the Holy Spirit. I honestly confess my ignorance and start praying in tongues. Then God takes over and brings His burdens before my inner eyes. Keeping that in mind, I continue to pray in tongues.

Sometimes, I burst out into loud crying. Other times, tears stream down profusely. That makes me see the deep concern of the Holy Spirit for that specific need. I don't stop praying in tongues until my crying stops. Once the tears of my spirit man stop, the peace of God that passes all understanding fills me thoroughly.

My tears turn into joy, my prayer turns into praise. Sometimes I even burst into laughter. All these things happen when I intensely and extensively pray in tongues.

There are few times I just groan and sigh in the spirit without a single word. This could be called groaning in the spirit. However, it doesn't happen

regularly because our physical body cannot withstand such experiences frequently.

Sometimes even when I stand on the pulpit and look at the people, I am overcome with tears and groanings. At such times, I struggle to control myself from crying out loud in front of the crowd. I share this with you to show you there are greater depths to a life in the Spirit. I am convinced that we have hardly touched the shore line of an ocean of deeper prayer experiences.

Ezekiel's vision of the river from the temple portrays this truth. Never be satisfied with ankle-deep, knee-deep or waist-deep water level! It is high time you reach for the swimming level (Eze.47). The waves of the Holy Spirit should sweep you along. Such depth of prayer lives would bring down heaven, shatter hell and create a new world.

This kind of prayer becomes your experience only when you walk hand in hand with the Holy Spirit. That doesn't mean the Holy Spirit does all the praying while you are passive; nor does it mean you do the praying while the Holy Spirit is passive. The Word in Romans 8:26, *"He helps us in our weaknesses"* literally means a combined effort where two people together carry a heavy load.

Warfare tongues

There are times we wrestle with the powers of darkness in tongues. Those who pray in tongues for many hours can easily discern it. It's not hard for a man who lives in the Spirit to discern when he is talking to God and when he is together with God fighting against demons.

You might have heard many testimonies of people like Paul Yonghi Cho fighting with demons in tongues.

He openly talks about his battles with the strongmen of different nations. In some countries, it takes him five or six hours of praying in tongues to get a breakthrough. In other countries, he could easily penetrate within two or three hours. In his own nation, Korea, he enjoys the liberty in prayer within an hour of tongue talking. Such experiences from the pastor of the largest church worldwide should not be taken lightly.

I love to narrate many such experiences of great men of God. Yet generally in my messages and writings I share only experiences even a new believer would venture to attempt.

However, you always need to desire greater and mightier things, as God is no respecter of persons. It is my firm conviction that any of the extraordinary experiences of the men of God in the Bible and in history could be experienced by any man if he covets more, believes like a child, and is willing to pay the cost. Earlier we saw that when Paul wrote about spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, he mentions all kinds of prayer in the Spirit. Obviously tongues are included here. So we conclude: praying in tongues is one of the weapons of spiritual warfare. I believe that through this prayer language my spirit will be united with the Holy Spirit and raise up a banner against the enemy that comes like a flood. As Jonathan and his armor bearer smote the enemies as a team, you can team up with the Holy Spirit and combat the devil. Yet this is only possible when you are totally under His control and there is no barrier in between.

At times, the Holy Spirit will rise up in you and command the powers of darkness with authority. It could be in your own language or in the angelic language or in His own language. It is His choice. God is eagerly looking for such fellow prayer warriors in these last days of intense battle. Would you become His soldier?

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Worshippers in the Holy Bible

Bro. Manuel Jeyaraj

In the last issue I concluded by highlighting faith as real worship (Abraham believed and gave glory to God). In this issue, I would like to explore more truths from the life of Abraham, a powerful worshiper (Gen.15:7-21).

Worshippers, God volunteers to make you understand His plans and gives you signs and prophetic words regarding His plans for your life. Though Abraham believed what God had said regarding his descendants, he did not know how God would fulfill His words. So Abraham asked God how he might know. God gave Abraham a clear-cut blue print of how His plans were going to come to pass in his life. Many times we don't understand the plan of God and the way God would fulfill it.

We some times rely on our own strength or the counsel of others. His ways are not our ways. His ways are mysterious. They cannot be understood. God has unique ways to fulfill His plans in our lives. The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. The best way to fulfill God's plan is to get along with Him as per His style (His Spirit). The Spirit searches the deep things, even the deepest things of God. The Holy Spirit is there to tell you and show you what you can become in future.

Worshippers, today you may not know the reason for your sacrifices, but God wants them to show His works to you and through you. God asked Abraham to bring Him some animals (clean animals) and birds (clean birds) to be sacrificed. Abraham cut the animals in two but the birds he did not. He laid each half opposite the other (Gen.15:9-21). Usually God expects such special sacrifices for special purposes. Abraham may have presumed it was a usual sacrifice. But God wanted to show him something he had never experienced.

God wanted to perform a miracle in the body of

Abraham and He needed some sacrifice that would bring His fire or smoke or torch or anything. Give your holy body which is the best sacrifice of a reasonable service to Him. The psalmist writes about Jesus' sacrifice saying, "You have prepared a body for me and lo, I come to do thy will". God dwells in the praises of His people. God lives in His temple. Know ye not that you are the temple of God. **Praising people become His abode.**

Worshippers, your holy body belongs to God. Don't allow anything to prey on it. After Abraham laid the sacrifices, he was waiting for some thing to happen. Birds of prey came to eat the sacrifices. But Abraham drove them away. You need not give your bodies to the unclean spirits for evil works. You should not submit your body to worldly pleasures such as adultery, fornication and any kind of lawlessness. You are God's temple. Drive away the unclean spirits which affect your holiness (your reasonable service to God). Don't budge even an inch. Stand against those evil spirits and command them to leave in the name of Jesus Christ. Satan tries his best to stop you from sacrificing your holy body (Rom.12:1-2).

The Bible commands us to glorify God through our bodies. Resist satan and his works. God likes you when you drive away evil spirits. Don't give room to wicked habits which can make you die spiritually as days go by. Repent and turn back to His loving Spirit. Spoiling your health is a sin which is equal to defiling the temple of God. **Worshippers take care of your health.** Many powerful saints die of ill health. In India it is common. Awake Oh! Indian saints and those around the world. After Satan tries all his crafty works with the saints of God and fails, he finally touches their bodies. Be alert. **Worshippers need to stay healthy to give their best in singing in worship.** I could go on and on with this truth. But let us go back to

Abraham's sacrifice.

Abraham didn't know what was going to happen. His usual way to sacrifice was to build altars and then sacrifice animals or birds by burning them with fire. Do you remember Isaac's words to Abraham, "Here is the wood and the fire, but where is the sacrifice?" Abraham usually carried fire with him when he sacrificed. But this time, he did not carry fire for the sacrifice but waited for something different to happen. I don't know where he got this revelation for his sacrifice to be accepted spiritually and supernaturally. He waited and waited for fire to come but then a deep sleep and a great terror fell on him (Gen.15:12). Something supernatural happened.

Worshippers, this is the time to expect deep sleep and great terror to fall on you. When you have such supernatural experiences, you become the mighty presence carrier which terrorizes the satanic kingdom. If you read the whole Bible, you will come across many such instances which have transformed saints into super saints. When a deep sleep came upon Adam, Eve was the result; when a deep sleep came upon Abraham, Isaac was the result; when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, Jesus was the result; when the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus, a powerful and terrorizing ministry of Jesus was the result. When you are under the overshadowing power of the Holy Ghost, you give birth to many new things.

Beloved, I could go on and on. What we need today is an encounter with Him through praise and worship. Apostle Paul had one encounter, that's it. He filled most of the pages in the New Testament with his epistles and he took the gospel to the gentiles and the European world. The worshipping spirit in Paul worked to such an extreme end that people who made money through making idols lost their business, especially Demetrius in Acts 19:24-26.

Worshippers, only true worshippers can get prophecies from God for generations to come. This is the need of the hour. After the great sleep and terror, a voice came and attested the promise of the seed to Abraham. But look at the way God speaks about what will happen after the days of Abraham,

even after generations to come. Let me list all that God spoke to Abraham and what appeared to him.

- a. Your descendants will be strangers-depicts the slavery in Egypt for 400 years.
- b. You shall go to your fathers in peace-informs the death of Abraham.
- c. In the 4th generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete-Israel possessing Canaan and again going into slavery.
- d. The sun had set-spiritually pictures the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- e. A smoking oven-the Holy Spirit's supernatural era.
- f. A flaming torch-the judgment of God on this earth.

I am astonished to see God revealing to Abraham not just things that will happen in his lifetime but all that will happen the rest of the days on planet earth.

Worshippers, your body becomes a miracle body when God's fire passes in and around it. He makes you a miracle. When the sun had set, a smoking oven and a flaming torch passed between the pieces (Gen.15:17). It appeared as though God was doing a surgery in the body of Abraham. The lifeless body of Abraham became a life giving body. Imagine if God hadn't brought the deep sleep and the great terror upon Abraham. Isaac wouldn't have been born and Jesus, the promised child wouldn't have come into this world. Wow! What a great work of God! When the deep sleep and the great terror fell upon Abraham, something happened in his body through the words that God spoke. The words entered the ear of Abraham and went into his cells and he was rejuvenated when the smoking oven and flaming torch passed between the pieces. I say this with great assurance that God healed the body of Abraham and gave life to his body.

Read the 20th chapter of Genesis, you will find Abraham praying for the barren wombs to be opened in the household of King Abimelech. The healing happened and they bore children. This healing happened even before Abraham had Isaac. What is

special in this? The deep sleep, the great terror, the voice of God, the smoking oven and the flaming torch played a significant role in transforming Abraham's body into a life-giving body. And so, even when he uttered a prayer for an unrighteous king, God answered his prayer because of the life that was sent into Abraham. The life worked out the blessing for king Abhimelech.

Worshippers are powerful dead raisers. I sense in my spirit that this ministry will be the most popular ministry in the end time church. The Spirit of resurrection is at work as never before. Spiritually and physically many people are going to be raised by true worshippers. What Abraham did in the Old Testament, we are to do in the New Testament. It is wholly based on our worship and worshipping lifestyle. Our dear Annan and Prophet Dr. Ezekiah Francis has prophesied about this ever so often and I am excited to remind you of the same prophecy as per this study.

Worshippers, God expects your best sacrifice, a special sacrifice which will result in encounters with Him. Let us expect and get ready for many such encounters with God. Let us first of all live a clean life which will attract God's awesome overshadowing on us. Worship Him as never before. Concentrate on His glorious and ever multiplying presence you have inside your spirit. Attract the Holy Ghost through your love songs. Let me tell you again and again, **worship** helps our dear Holy Ghost to hatch out His works in us and through us. He is longing to possess your body completely to show forth His power to the world. Are you ready? Then sing with me-

"Come Holy Spirit, We need you, Come sweet Spirit, We pray

Come with thy strength and power, Come in your own special way"

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Lazy Man

Rev. Benita Francis

In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty (Pr.14:23)

Let me again remind you of our beautiful verse of wisdom in Proverbs 14:23. We have already seen that there are people who love to talk about what they would do IF... - IF only this and that would be right. We have seen that all labor leads to profit. Think about it. Even faith without works is dead, as the apostle James, blood brother of our Lord Jesus, tells us so clearly and even twice (Jas.2:20,26).

Another clear admonition is found in Proverbs 10:19 which says, "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips *is* wise". Idle chatter leads not only to poverty but even to sin! That is why our Lord Jesus warns us so sternly, "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Mt.12:36-37).

Poverty! Sin! Judgment! Wow! Are you sure you want to keep up these friendships that make you sit and waste your life time, and if you want to be honest, even many times tempt you to become a judge, a mocker or a scornful person. Why not you invest your precious time in God's Word which will bring you great blessing and all kinds of benefits (Ps.1)?

And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not (1.Ti.5:13)

See this warning the apostle Paul gives about widows. It shows us that we can LEARN to be idle, we can LEARN to be lazy, that we can LEARN to be gossips and busybodies! There is only one remedy to this disease: We must keep our eyes on our Lord Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who told us so plainly, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" (Heb.12:2; Jn.9:4). If your beloved Lord Jesus Himself felt this urgency to work, how much more should you and me feel it upon whom the ends of the ages have come (1.Co.10:11)?

Let us keep His example before our eyes and stir up each other to active love and good works, since we are created not for laziness, but for good works which God has prepared before the foundation of the world that we should walk in them (Heb.10:24; Eph.2:10). You are NOT created to be lazy or negligent. You are created in Christ Jesus for good works that bring joy to God's heart, blessings to you and life to your society and nation! So don't wait any longer. Step into your calling today itself and be blessed!

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful (Tit.3:14)

In his epistle to his disciple Titus, the apostle Paul stresses again and again the importance of good works. First of all, he commands Titus to be an example, a pattern of good works for all the believers to follow (Tit.2:7). Then he declares the desire of the Lord Jesus that His own special, purified people should be zealous for good works and commands Titus to speak these things, to exhort and rebuke with

all authority, especially in Crete where one of their prophets said, 'Cretans *are* always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons'(Tit.2:14-15). Finally he tells Titus to affirm constantly that every believer should be careful to maintain good works (Tit.3:8).

He makes very clear that laziness is not something you are born with. Even in a nation and culture where people tend to be lazy gluttons, liars and evil beasts, you can't blame your family, your genes, your character or your upbringing. Laziness is actually a curse, just like barrenness. If you don't maintain good works, you are actually unfruitful. Do you see the connection?

Since your loving Father God doesn't want you to be cursed, He commands His servants to preach, rebuke and exhort such people sharply so that they may be sound in faith (Tit.1:13)! Thank God, you can learn to maintain good works and to meet urgent needs. Not working is considered a disorderly lifestyle, and the apostle Paul has a very strong word for such people:

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat (2.Thes.3:10)

What a wonderful example we find in Anna, the eighty-four-year-old widow who had lived only seven years with her husband. She didn't sit at home and cry and lament about her loneliness and her tragic life. She didn't waste her remaining life. She was not a burden for anybody. She spent her life in a fruitful way, serving *God* with fastings and prayers night and day (Lk.2:36-38). God was so pleased with her lifestyle that He granted her to see His beloved Son when He was presented in the temple as a baby!

What did Anna do after seeing the Lord Jesus? She didn't consider her age of eighty-four, her physical weakness from old age and her many fastings! She gave thanks to the Lord, went out and

started evangelizing! She spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. Imagine! She could have sat back, happy and satisfied to see her Savior. No way! This little old lady became more active than ever, again putting all her energy into God and His cause. She didn't even allow one thought of laziness. She was a builder of God's Kingdom, and her active life for God is well recorded in the Bible for all generations to read. What a challenge!

And if you are not yet convinced, let me show you an even stronger Word...

He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer (Pr.18:9)

Wow. Think for a moment. WHO is the great destroyer? It is no other than your arch enemy, the devil himself. Slothfulness, laziness, comes at a very high price. You will become famous, but for all the wrong reasons! People will know you as untrustworthy, even as dangerous. Nobody will trust you a second time once you showed a lazy character, promising and not keeping up your word. Nobody will entrust you his goods; and if you are not faithful with what belongs to another, God Himself will not give you what is yours. God Himself has decreed it so in His Word (Lk.16:10-12).

The word "slothful" actually means lazy, idle, sluggish, inactive, apathetic and indolent. Check your work and, most importantly, check your heart attitude. Are you in danger of becoming a brother to the great destroyer? If so, better repent and decide to be the opposite of slothful: Be energetic! Be enthusiastic! Be full of life and zeal!

Did just I hear you say, "Sister, I can't"??? Oh yes, you can! The Power that created this whole universe is living inside of you! You are in God, which means in Greek, "en Theos", enthusiastic. You are full of God's life! God actually is living in you, if you have made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life!

So what are you waiting for? Get up and start moving on the highway of the upright!!!

Another very strong word is given to those who have the special privilege of serving Jesus Christ, the eternal King of kings and Lord of lords, actively:

Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from blood (Jer.48:10)

The Hebrew word translated “deceitfully” in the New King James Version actually means “slothfully”, “negligently”.

So you clearly see: not only will you struggle to excel in your life and your way, you will even bring a curse upon yourself if you do not take God’s work very serious. For your own good, please allow me to give you a good advice: If you are not willing and ready to put God, His Kingdom and His work first and foremost in your life, better leave the active ministry and avoid attracting a curse upon yourself and your generations!

God’s requirements for His servants are very



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high. That is only logical, because also the privileges He bestows on His servants are unimaginably glorious. Imagine! He gives His servants the authority to use His Name, the Name above all names, the only Name in which there is salvation, the Name in which every knee must bow, of those in heaven, of those on earth and of those under the earth (Ac.4:12; Phil.2:9-10).

In the authority of the Name of Jesus, all who believe in Him will “cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mk.16:17-18).

As you can see, these are the works of God, and they are entrusted not only to the “full-timers”, but to each and every born-again child of God! Yes, God requires YOU to do the work of God, and to do it with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, not out of duty, but out of your love for the great Lover of your soul! Hallelujah!

Now, why is your God so keen on having you active, energetic and diligent in His work?



Christian Laughs

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family bible to her brother in another part of the country.

“Is there anything breakable in here?” asked the postal clerk.

“Only Ten Commandments” answered the lady.

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