

From

My Heart...



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Dearly Beloved,

Greetings in the mighty name of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ!

Our God is reviving His work in the midst of the years, even of this year (Hab.3:2). Hallelujah! What is your part in it? Avail at least these remaining months to do something for the Kingdom of God. Don't be entangled in worldly affairs but give yourself fully to His eternal purpose. Spend more time in God's Word and Presence. The Holy Spirit wants to take you higher and higher from one level of glory to another level of glory. Expect and experience the supernatural.

Thank you so much for your wonderful support and prayers. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself (Pr.11:25). You will definitely experience a breakthrough as you keep standing with God's purposes for the nations.

We had a very powerful ministry in Germany and Austria. Continue to pray for Europe. We are planning to build some more accommodation in our new land. Please pray for all the procedures to finish quickly and to start the work. Open your heart and hand generously for this Kingdom work. It is not that we seek your money, but we seek the fruit that abounds to YOUR account (Phil.4:17).

Our 'Spirit Filled Leadership Seminar' will be held in Bhopal from October 17th to October 20th. The dates for seminars in other states will be announced soon. Prepare, pray and participate. God is expecting

*Christian life is not a formula life
it is a fellowship life*

- Prophet Ezekiah Francis

YOU to rise up from your place and to shine for His glory. For updates please watch our website www.ezekiahfrancis.org and Facebook page Dr.EzekiahFrancis.

We are receiving testimonies almost every day from our dear School of the Holy Spirit students, both men and women, who are challenging the kingdom of darkness with mighty words and deeds. If you are ready to spend three months in the Presence of God you will reap a real life-time transformation. Get ready and come for our three months School of the Holy Spirit from July 10th to October 6th. Apply online today itself.

Ten days in the upper room made the early Apostles world shakers. Ten days in the Short Term Intensive Course from August 7th to 17th will also definitely make you a world shaker. By the grace of God, more than 50,000 ministers were trained through this BPM program. Why can't you be one among them? Decide today and apply immediately.

Continue to pray for Europe and for God's clear guidance how to impact Europe. Pray for all the programs in this year and also for me and my wife, for our ageing parents, as well as for our leaders and staff. May the Lord Almighty establish your territory and make you a blessing to the nations. Be the head and never again the tail. Lend to nations and never borrow again. Let the blessings run before you and overtake you, in Jesus Name!

Yours in Christ,



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See Yourself In Christ



Prophet Ezekiah Francis

BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE **IN CHRIST**

If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Lev.26:3-4; Eph. 1:3)

It is always God's pleasure to bless His Covenant people. He chose them just to bless them. If you read all the promised blessings of God, you will be surprised at His generosity in blessing. Of course, in the Old Testament, all His blessings were conditional, based on human effort. God's language here was, "I will bless you IF YOU...". In Christ, God's blessings are based on Christ's accomplishments on the cross. God's language now is, "I HAVE blessed you...".

OT and NT obedience: In the Old Testament, people had to do something to obtain blessings. In Christ, you are already blessed with all His blessings. Now, faith is the only key to

unlock His blessings and bring them to manifestation. In fact, your level of faith determines your level of obedience to His voice. In the Old Testament, God gave them His laws and statutes to obey. In the New Testament, His Spirit whispers in your heart what you should do every day, based on His Word. In the Old Testament, people had to obey with their own fleshly efforts and rituals. In the New Testament, you have Christ's obedient nature within you to obey spontaneously. In the Old Testament, the law was powerless because of man's weak, sinful nature. In Christ, God condemns sin in sinful man so that all His righteous law might be fulfilled in us. Now, living in the Spirit makes it easy to obey every one of God's requirements.

Prosperity: In Leviticus 26, God's bountiful blessings are enumerated. You should enjoy every one of them as a child of God. Rain in its season is always God's blessing upon the nations. If believers in Christ humble themselves and pray, they can exercise their authority over nature to bring rain. Fertile ground, fruitful fields, bumper harvest and surplus food are always God's blessings (Lev.26:3-5).

Peace: Living safely and peacefully without fear is God's great blessing (Ps.29:11; 37:11; 85:8;

Ps.147:14; Isa.26:3). Undisturbed, peaceful sleep is yours in Christ (Lev.26:6; Ps.3:5; 4:8; Pr.3:24). Even dangerous animals and insects will become harmless before you (Da.6:21-22). Wars and strife will cease (Isa.60:18). In Christ, you enjoy perfect peace that passes all understanding (Phil.4:6). You will trample on snakes and scorpions, and nothing shall by any means harm you (Lk.10:19; Mk.16:17-18).

Power over enemies: Victory over all the enemies is God's promised blessing to you. You will pursue your enemies, and they will flee and fall before you (Lev.26:7-8). Five will have enough power to chase a hundred. Hundred will chase ten thousand. Extraordinary power will operate through you against all those who oppose you. When you wield the sword of the Spirit, the demonic kingdom will collapse before you (Eph.6:18).

Power to increase: God's favor will make you fruitful and multiply (Ge.1:22; 17:6-7; Neh.9:23). You will always increase, never decrease (Ps.107:38).

Presence: The Presence of God Almighty with you and in you is the greatest blessing you could ever imagine. When God's people walked in obedience, God put His dwelling place among them. When they sinned, He left them. Even the Tabernacle had to be pitched outside the camp (Ex.33:7). In Christ, His Presence never leaves you. He abides with you forever through His precious Spirit (Jn.14:16). Sin and disobedience grieve and block His Presence in you. Let Him manifest freely through you!

Beloved, you are already the most blessed person on this earth! You are the blessed child of your blessed God. By His obedience, Christ purchased all the blessings for you. Your mere presence brings blessings upon this earth. Know that you are blessed in Christ! Walk in daily obedience to His voice. You will lack no blessing!

Thank You, Lord, I shall eat my bread to the full, and dwell in my land

safely. You will give peace in the land, and I shall lie down, and none will make me afraid. I will chase my enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before me. For You will look on me favorably and make me fruitful, multiply me and confirm Your covenant with me because I am in Christ.

DEVOTED TO GOD IN CHRIST

Nevertheless no devoted offering that a man may devote to the LORD of all that he has, both man and beast, or the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed; every devoted offering is most holy to the LORD.

I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints (Lev.27:28; 1.Co.16:15).

The last chapter of Leviticus deals with persons, animals, houses and land devoted to the Lord. People voluntarily made special vows to God for specific purposes. To redeem the devoted persons or animals, they had to pay the religious tax according to their age and sex. The priests would appraise their value (Lev.27:3-7).

Whatever animal was devoted to the Lord was considered holy (Lev.27:9). Since an unclean animal could not be offered to the Lord, the owner had to redeem it by paying the price the priest fixed. Likewise, the value for houses and lands was assessed by the priest on basis of the year of jubilee (Lev.27:14-25). All firstborn of both men and animals and all the tithes already belong to God and therefore cannot be given as special vows (Lev.27:26-33).

Vowed and valued: The moment you came to Christ, you and all your belongings were dedicated to the Lord. You have no choice here. Jesus valued you higher than His very life and bought you with His precious Blood. You are God's purchased possession, redeemed by His precious Blood

(Eph.1:14; 1.Pe.1:19). You no longer live for yourself (2.Co.5:15; Ga.2:20). You are totally devoted to God and thus became holy unto Him. No matter what is your age or sex, you are of highest value to Him. Only the Blood of Jesus was precious enough to buy you! Rejoice!

In His earthly walk, Jesus esteemed people higher than the law. He valued people so much that He healed the sick even on the Sabbath. To His critics, He clearly answered that man is more valuable (Mt.12:11). He valued the innocent little children so much that He rebuked His disciples for keeping them from being blessed (Mt.18:10; 19:14; Mk.10:14). In Christ, there is absolutely no partiality (Ac.10:34-35).

Devoted wholly: Whatever the Israelites devoted to God was totally His. The offerer was obligated to keep his vow lest he would be snared (Pr.20:25). The word “devoted”, in Hebrew “charem”, has a powerful meaning. It means “shut in as in a net” or “something doomed forever”. It is totally shut up or cut off from common use and given wholly to Jahweh, without any right to revoke or change. In Christ, you are totally devoted to God, never again to be used for a common purpose. In the Bible, this word is even used in its negative sense, “to utterly destroy” (1.Sa.15:21; 1.Ki.20:42). You are utterly destroyed for this world (Ga.6:14)!

Go beyond! Though you are utterly dedicated and devoted to God, God still expects your willing dedication. Hanna dedicated her first son to the Lord to live in the Temple of God and to serve Him

all his life (1.Sa.1:22,28). God made her mother of the first prophetic movement. Prophetess Anna devoted her life to constant worship, night and day prayer and fastings and became the first prophetic evangelist (Lk.2:36-38). John the Baptist even forfeited his right to delicious food, comfort, decent dress and a home and became the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Himself (Mt.3:4). The Early Church devoted itself to the teaching of the apostles, to fellowship, prayers and the breaking of bread (Ac.2:42). The twelve apostles happily devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word of God, despising their right to administer. Later they shook their world and became the foundation of the Church (Ac.6:2-4; Eph.2:20). Paul and Barnabas willingly offered even their right to marry and their salaries to serve God at their own expense. They became the pioneers of the missionary movement (1.Co.9:1-15). The Macedonians devoted themselves to be generous givers, even in their extreme poverty, and became a model for Christianity throughout all ages (2.Co.8:2-4). The list goes on and on... Everyone who made such special vows became God’s channel of blessing to this world.

Beloved, God is calling you for a life of dedication and devotion. Decide TODAY!

Thank You, Lord, I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave

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Himself for me. The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world because I am in Christ.

CHASTISEMENT IN CHRIST

Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins.

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons (Lev.26:21; Heb.12:8).

God never curses or chastises His people happily. His righteousness forces Him to chastise His people if they persist in disobedience. God's righteousness and mercy are parallel. In Christ, you need not suffer curses or chastisements. Your Savior became a curse and was chastised for your sake (Isa.53:5; Ga.3:13). And yet, if you don't walk in implicit obedience to His voice and Word, chastisement becomes inevitable. In His great love, God chastises you to make you a partaker of His holiness (Heb.12:10). Your repentance and obedience determine the degree of His chastisements. In Leviticus 26, five degrees of chastisement are specifically mentioned. Even here, we see God's great mercy. He gives enough opportunity to repent and to return wholeheartedly.

First call: All kinds of sudden terror, wasting diseases, fever that can destroy even your eyesight, sorrow of heart, constant failure in anything you do, enemies ruling and overpowering you and fearful imaginations are all God's call to repentance (Lev.26:16-17). In Christ, you can live totally free from sickness, sorrow and defeat, yet you can forfeit this privilege by your disobedience. Quick repentance will revert God's chastisement upon you.

Second call: When you make light of His first call, you will have to face a second level which is seven times worse. God will break whatever you are proud of. You will experience closed heavens,

barren earth, and you will spend your strength in vain. You will labor much, but reap little. Nothing you do will prosper or bring fruit (Lev.26:18-20).

Mercy in anger: Even in His fury, God remembered His mercy and Covenant and made provision for them to repent and be blessed. He would not completely destroy them if they humbled themselves to confess their iniquities and the iniquities of their fathers (Lev.26:40). Time and again, the disobedient Israelites were defeated before their enemies and scattered among the nations. All the curses pronounced here were literally fulfilled in their lives. In the whole world, Jews were hated and killed more than any other nation, even to the extent of a holocaust. And yet, God was faithful to His Covenant with Abraham. He always preserved a remnant to show His mercy and salvation to the world. Mercy triumphs over judgment (Jas.2:13)!

Beloved, in Christ, God will cause you to triumph in whatever you do and wherever you go. Jesus was chastised to annul all your curses. Walk free TODAY!

Thank You, Lord, You were wounded for my transgressions, You were bruised for my iniquities. The chastisement for my peace was upon You, and by Your stripes I am healed. You did not spare Your own Son, but delivered Him up for me. How shall You not with Him also freely give me all things because I am in Christ.

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✿ I am attending the School of the Holy Spirit for the first time. Previously I had participated in Apostle conference and I was blessed greatly. Quiet time and tongue talking time in the school was very exciting to me. It has given me the encouragement to discipline my spiritual walk in effective ways. I will continue to do it. - **Mini Lovely**

✿ I was unable to sleep in the night since one and half years due to my past bitter experiences and hurts. I was in depression and rage and was unable to get peaceful sleep. Since I entered BPM, I am having a sound and peaceful sleep at night. All my past hurt and pain is vanished. I received inner healing and peace and joy in my heart. I was unable to forget my past hurts and was not able to forgive those who wounded me but now I can boldly say that I forgave them and received mental and emotional healing. All of my curses are broken and I am free now. I received so many physical healings also.

Since 6 years I was having moderate pain in my right side pelvic region. Sometimes it increases like anything and I feel like someone is nailing it. I went to many gynaecologists but every test came back normal. I had not been able to find out the root cause of the pain for six years but I got complete healing here. The healings I received I cannot explain in one page here. I received joy anointing. I came to know my calling. I started to speak in different tongues almost every day. My dead spiritual life gained a new life here. I heard the voice of God. I started to relish my quiet time. I had gold dust for five days continuously. - **Mamta**

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Jewels in His Crown

*"A spiritual law that few recognize is that our confession rules us.
It is what we confess with our lips that really dominates our inner being."*

On a cold winter morning in 1925 in a schoolyard in Scranton, Pennsylvania, a group of children laughed were playing. Suddenly, Nine-year-old Raffaella Serio fell and clutched at her chest. Doctors attended shocked them saying, she got sarcoma cancer with slim chance for a recovery. After days of agony one of the physician referred them F. F. Bosworth. The Serios drove to Scranton that very evening to hear F. F. Bosworth preach a sermon on Christ's salvation and divine healing. They got a copy of Bosworth's book *Christ the Healer*, which would become a Christian classic on the power of Christ to heal. They read the book aloud to Raffaella so that all three of them could understand the biblical promise of healing in Christ. With their faith greatly increased, the family drove back to the crusade the following Sunday. During the time of prayer for healing, F. F. Bosworth stepped toward the little girl and prayed for God's healing power. He prayed that God would heal her and use her as a living monument for His praise and glory.



F.F. BOSWORTH
'PIONEER FAITH HEALER'

After returned to home later that night, Mrs. Serio got ready for Raffaella's daily treatment. Raffaella looked at her mother in astonishment. "Why, mother dear, where is your faith? Didn't you hear the man say that Jesus healed me? I don't need any more bandages. I am healed." Neither the large lump nor the swelling had gone away, but the little girl had begun to see herself through the eyes of faith. The morning dawned with the mother's joyous cry "Praise our wonderful, precious Jesus". Her little girl had been miraculously healed because a man of God had been faithful to preach complete salvation in the atonement of Christ—salvation for the mind, body, and spirit. And God had been faithful to perform His Word.

F. F. Bosworth was a man of great integrity and honor. He was not overcome with emotionalism in the healing ministry, but steadily looked to God to fulfill His Word. Because of this, he never wanted people to claim healings due to emotional responses. Bosworth faithfully recorded the names and addresses of those who were healed through his ministry. To him, they were the "witnesses," living proof that God's Spirit was at work among His people to heal. Bosworth welcomed doctors' confirmations of the healings, as well. As a result, during his years in ministry, Bosworth accumulated over 250,000 letters and testimonies from people who had been touched by his messages.

Burton and Amelia Bosworth gave birth to her second son, Fred Francis, on January 17, 1877. The Bosworths were grateful to have another son to help build their farm. It would have brought them greater joy if they had known that this son would also touch more than one million people with the love and power of Jesus Christ. Fred was skilled musician and salesman. On one of his trips to Omaha with Miss Maude Greene, a friend of the family, attended an old-time revival at the First Methodist Church that week where the Holy Spirit began to tug on his heart, as he really heard the message of salvation and understood the sacrifice Jesus had made for him on the cross nineteen hundred years earlier, for the first time. His heart was stirred within him. Sensing that something was happening, Maude encouraged Fred to take up the altar call and Fred decided to say yes to God. Immediately, his heart was filled with joy to overflowing, and he erupted in holy laughter. "Such a happiness filled his heart he laughed for joy, till he actually felt embarrassed because he could scarcely stop."

His health was deteriorating at the age of nineteen, Fred was finally diagnosed with tuberculosis—the "killer disease" of that century. And the doctor's verdict was hopeless and predicted that Fred had little time left to live. Fred with continuous cough, listened, Miss Mattie Perry, a healing evangelist, teaching a series on developing a deeper walk with God. At the end of the sermon, Fred went forward to pray for more of God in his life. Miss Mattie walked directly over to Fred, looked him in the eyes, and told him that God still had work for him to do, and that he was too young to die. With that, Miss Mattie laid hands on Fred and prayed for him to be delivered completely from tuberculosis. From that very moment, Fred began to heal, and within days, his cough was gone completely. A doctor's visit confirmed that his lungs were totally restored. When twenty-three, Fred met and married Estelle Hayde, continued to serve God together.

F. F. Bosworth was a frontier evangelist, a pioneer Christian radio broadcaster, one of the most successful healing evangelists of the 1920s, and a man who created a bridge to the healing revivalists of the 1940s and 1950s. From his visit to Azusa Street and on, Fred Bosworth was a cornerstone of the modern Pentecostal movement. In his early revivals, Bosworth came in contact with other Pentecostal leaders, such as John Alexander Dowie, Maria Woodworth-Etter, Charles F. Parham, John G. Lake, Paul Rader, and E. W. Kenyon. Years later, in the 1950s, with his vast knowledge of the Scriptures and his broad experience as a healing evangelist, he became a mentor for men like William Branham, T. L. Osborne, Jack Coe, a young Oral Roberts, and Ern Baxter. He was one of the founders of the Assemblies of God in 1914 and was with them until 1918. In 1958, began "to greet and hug people - he was enraptured... He did this for several hours", then with a smile on his face he laid back and went to sleep describes his son about his Home-going.



GOD'S DESIGN

Rev. Benita Francis

Well, and as you go out into your harvest field, eager and willing to help others, you might very well run across some possible candidates for marriage, as it happened to me and also to a very special Bible character named Ruth. How can you know if “he” qualifies for a good husband? How can you know if “she” qualifies for a good wife? Let us learn from Ruth's story.

Ruth was a truly remarkable woman. When her husband, her brother-in-law and her father-in-law died, her mother-in-law Naomi decided to go back to her native Bethlehem. Naomi implored Ruth and her other daughter-in-law Orpah to return to their homes and find new husbands. Selflessly, she explained to them that she would not be able to provide husbands or any security for them. Naomi, this great example of a woman, practically put her own life at stake for her daughter-in-laws' future.

In Western cultures, we don't understand the depth of these verses. In Eastern cultures, however, even today the daughters in-law have to serve their in-laws until their death. Having young, strong daughters-in-law with her was Naomi's life insurance. She could send them out to work anytime when she was no longer able to provide for herself. Sending them away was a heroic proof of Naomi's faith in her God. Orpah complied and left. What was the result? We never

hear about her again.

Think about it. Have you ever met a woman called Orpah? I never have, in any of the fifty nations to which Jesus sent me up to now. Her name was just blotted out from under heaven. Nobody talks about her, and if they do, it is in a negative sense. What was the reason? Orpah didn't do anything bad, did she? She just obeyed her mother-in-law's request to return to her own people, find a husband and have a family. That sounds very legitimate, doesn't it? Even according to the New Testament, a widow is free to remarry (1.Cor.7:39).

So what was the problem? It was the fact that Orpah put her own needs first. She wanted to have a life like everybody else. She was even willing to go back and bow again to her old gods (Ru.1:15). Yet have you ever noticed in how many nations and languages the name “Ruth” is used? My own mother's mom was called Ruth! O yes, it is true... God honors those who honor Him (1.Sa.2:30).

Yet what a warning for us! Did you know that many Christians, even born-again, Spirit-filled believers, fall prey to the temptation of turning back? What are the gods they return to? Well, they are spiritual forces like religions, but also things like the acceptance of society, comfort, a secure job, a steady income, the approval of people, a

good education, and even things like a big house and a nice car.

Can you imagine that people can trade our wonderful salvation in Christ and such a loving, wonderful God like Jesus for such garbage? Let us better follow examples like these:

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward (Heb.11:24-26)

Let us follow our great apostle Paul who after giving us the list of all his achievements and his best education, could say,

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ (Phil.3:8)

Orpah succumbed to her own desires, went back and disappeared into oblivion. Ruth, however, vehemently refused to leave Naomi. She forgot about her own pain, her own widowhood, her own problems and her legitimate need to provide for her own future. Her heart was full of

love and compassion for this bereaved, aged widow. She just couldn't bear letting her go home all alone, traveling without any assistance, back to a people nobody could predict how they would receive her. So Ruth strongly insisted in coming with Naomi. See her beautiful words of dedication:

16 Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.

17 Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me (Ru.1:16-17)

GOD did not leave this wonderful dedication unrewarded. When Ruth met Boaz for the first time, he was very kind to her and allowed her to eat and glean with his maids. See their very first conversation:

10 So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

11 And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your

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birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

12 The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge” (Ru.2:10-12)

This very same thing happened in my life. Before ever meeting my husband, I had already ministered in India twelve times. My translator during my first ministry trip in India happened to be my husband’s trainee! So since 1998, I heard everywhere what a wonderful prophet of God this Ezekiah Francis was, and how he had dedicated his life to serve Jesus without even marrying. When I was called to translate for him in Austria in 2003, I already had great admiration for him, but no fear or apprehensions, since I thought he would never marry and was therefore no “threat” to a single woman.

I still marvel how well God orchestrated everything! He had actually never told my husband that he should not marry; He had only said NO to each one of the many ladies that wanted to marry him, until his God-ordained Ruth appeared, all the way from Germany.

My husband had also already heard about me and my preaching ministry in Asia and South America as well as my translation ministry in Europe. Truly, it had been fully reported to him what I had done for Jesus up to that time. I often wonder... if I had not been out there in the mission field, fully busy and active for Jesus, there would have been nothing that could have been reported about me to God’s prophet... or at least nothing that could have been of any interest to him. We immediately clicked in the Spirit but we were both convinced that this was only meant to be a ministry relationship. Just like Ruth asked Boaz, I asked my husband to take me under his wing, under the spiritual covering and protection of his ministry, during my ministry trips to India.

None of us thought at that time that God would unite us in a marriage that today blesses continents. We give all glory to Jesus for His

wonderful plans and guidance!

The good news is that God shows no partiality (Ac.10:34). The same can happen to you if only you dare to live fully and totally for Jesus!

Can you see it? Your God gives you the free choice. You can opt for living a life like everybody else, with human and worldly securities and recognition; or you can opt for following Jesus into a faith adventure which will at the beginning seem to make you lose everything, but which will tremendously reward you in the longer run.

I can testify of this with my own life. I chose to give up my university studies, best job opportunities and promising career. Like our father of faith Abraham, I just followed Jesus wherever I could see Him lead.

I volunteered for every opportunity to serve Him and His people, and from gleaning behind other reapers, He promoted me to be the wife of my precious, loving “Boaz”, a faithful, time proven servant of God and founder president of a huge ministry in the biggest nation on earth. Hallelujah!

Don’t be deceived. Whatever you invest in God and His Kingdom will be given back to you with great dividends (Mt.10:42; Gal.6:7-10).

Well, let us go back to Ruth. This wonderful woman vehemently refused to go back to her nation and her old gods, as Orpah had done (Ru.1:15-18). If you think about it for a moment, you will see that Ruth had every reason for doubting Naomi’s God. She was a Moabitess, a person who had worshipped different gods than Naomi all her life. Her mother-in-law Naomi took the death of all the male members of her family as an act of God and told the women of Bethlehem to call her Mara, which means, bitter. Why in the world should Ruth want to adhere to such a God?

And yet, her love to her mother-in-law and her sense of responsibility made her forego her nation, her compatriots and even her gods. She was willing to follow an old, impoverished, bereaved,

lonely and bitter woman into a very uncertain future. What a woman!

Can you see my point? Please, don't waste even one second of your unmarried life. Live it to the full for Jesus and for others, like Ruth or like the Hebrew midwives we already studied. Did Ruth go out in search of a husband? No. She went out to cater to a desperate need and ensure her mother-in-law's survival. There was no selfish thought, no whining, no complaining, no impatience. There was just trust in the God of her mother-in-law.

And sure enough, the God of her mother-in-law stepped into action. He led her beautifully to glean in the fields of Boaz, a near relative who had the power to rescue her from her widowhood and bring her into a commanding position as owner of a huge estate.

Should he decide to marry her, the resulting children would count as her first husband's children and perpetuate his name through his inheritance (Ru.4:3-5). Boaz would not have any benefit through these children whom he would raise in another man's name. His willingness to marry Ruth in spite of this fact clearly shows his beautiful, unselfish character. His character was proven also in another way. When he saw Ruth gleaning in his field, he commanded his workers

not to disturb her and to give her an extra allowance of grain (Ru.2:8-16). When she came to him on the threshing floor, as her mother in-law had commanded her, he again gave her food in abundance (Ru.3:15-17). How interesting!

In the Middle Ages and even beyond, young men could only marry if they had a good job and a steady income. No young woman would have thought of marrying a man who could not take care of her and her children, and no parents would have given their daughter into such uncertain hands.

Nowadays, however, we have oftentimes the tragic phenomenon of men seeking out women to take care of them. Such men are usually very handsome, very well groomed, often with very good manners and even a good general knowledge, and they are experts in seducing women. Jokes like this one often become a cruel reality to which the victims only wake up when it is already too late.

Darling, I want to share everything with you. Your joys, your sadness, your happy moments, every single second of your life. Let us start with your ATM password first.

**Excerpts from
Towards Marriage by Rev. Benita Francis**

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- * The People's Democratic Party-BJP government in Jammu & Kashmir falls flat, with the later walking out of the three-year-old alliance that was stitched together post 2014-December Assembly elections. The BJP General Secretary Ram Madhav told journalists in New Delhi on 19th June that the decision to quit the alliance had been taken 'in the larger interest of national integrity.' He said the alliance in the state is untenable and suggested that the reins of power in the state be handed over to the Governor. While the PDP has 28 MLAs and the BJP has 25 in the 87-seat J&K Assembly. The majority mark is 45 for any party or an alliance to form the government. The Congress has 14 members and the National Conference, 15 in the Assembly..
- * The Madras High Court on June 14 gave a split verdict on the cases challenging the disqualification of Tamil Nadu's 18 MLAs by the Assembly Speaker. A division bench of Chief Justice Indira Bannerjee and Justice M Sundar gave conflicting judgements. Following the split verdict, Justice S Vimala has been named the third judge to hear the case, whose decision would determine if the Speaker's September 18 order is legal or not. Until then, status quo needs to be maintained on the issue.
- * US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on 12th June pledged to work toward complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, while Washington committed to provide security guarantees for its old enemy. But a joint statement signed at the end of their historic summit in Singapore gave few details on how either goal would be achieved. "President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to the DPRK and Chairman Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula," said the statement. DPRK is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the formal name of North Korea.
- * During mid-June, Delhi and its adjoining areas witnessed unusually high levels of air pollution, as the region had been engulfed by thick dust cover for more than two days continuously. The spike in the alarming levels of particulate matter PM10, that were seven times more than usual.
- * The world is under the grip of football fever, as the 2018 FIFA World Cup matches have got kick-started in Russia on 14th June. The world's most famous football season goes on till 15th July, 2018. and in Cricket, Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings lifted their third IPL title, thrashing Sun Risers Hyderabad by eight wickets in the summit clash at the jam-packed Wankhede stadium in Mumbai. Making a comeback after serving two years of a ban, Chennai Super Kings stood up to their reputation of being one of the best team in the cash-rich league. After the victory, Dhoni's men celebrated their title win in style.

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