

From My Heart...



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BERACHAH PROPHETIC VOICE

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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Inside India - Rs.1500

Other Countries - \$300

Yearly subscription

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Dearly Beloved,

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

We thank you for partnering with us and being a great support through your faithful prayers and support. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, you shall be the head and not the tail, you shall be above and not beneath (Dt.28:12, 13).

We had a very powerful seminar in Vyara, Gujarat. More than 3000 people gathered to hear the prophetic word from the prophet and prophetess. God confirmed His Word with mighty manifestations of the Holy Ghost. People were so much bound in the tradition, finally broke through into the liberty of the Holy Spirit. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and continue to pray for the Body of Christ to rise up with power and authority to win the nations for Christ.

At present School of the Holy Spirit is going on in Theni, Tamil Nadu and Bethul, Madhya Pradesh. Every day the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully in their midst and taking them from glory to glory! Continue to pray for their total life transformation. Our only heart's desire is to see the long lasting fruits for the Kingdom of God from these schools.

We are going to minister in Germany in this month end. The only answer for Europe is manifested Christ. Pray that God should rise up mighty Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers in Europe to bring the revival in those nations.

Our next three months School of the Holy Spirit starts from 10th of July in our Berachah Campsite, Poondi. Let the words of Jesus linger in our

*The level of your separation unto Lord
determines the level of God's glory in your life*

- Prophet Ezekiah Francis

heart, 'work while it is day' (Jn.9:4). The night is coming to the nations where no one can work. So rise up and do the work NOW! Send the right people for this school. Please contact our office for further details and keep visiting our website www.ezekiahfrancis.org.

We are praying and planning our next building project for the extension for the Kingdom of God. We trust God who supplies all our need according to His riches in glory. We need your valuable prayers and support.

Beloved, don't waste your time pondering over satan and his destructive works. God wants you to magnify Him, not your problems. You have power to make the devil great or small (Nu.13:30,33). Your God is a Mighty Warrior (Ex.15:3). Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will make your path straight (Pr.3:6). Satan may be powerful, but you are all-powerful in Christ. Satan is no match for you. Take your eyes off the enemy's threats. Believe God's report. Ascribe all glory and strength and power and victory to God (Ps.29:1).

Continue to follow us on Facebook and visit our website www.ezekiahfrancis.org to know the details of our seminars. Do keep praying for all our programs.

Pray 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



PRIESTLY APPAREL IN CHRIST

And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty... And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy... I have you in my heart... (Ex.28:2,4; Phil.1:3-4,7)

A special garment was made for God's priests. As a priest of God, you are already clothed in Christ, the most special Garment.

Aaron was the highest representative of the Israelites before God. God commanded a special garment for him to show his authority in leadership. The garment was made of precious stones and costly yarn, skillfully woven. God had specially anointed His craftsmen with skill and wisdom to make it (Ex.28:3). The garments consisted of a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, an embroidered tunic, a turban and a sash. These garments gave Aaron and his sons beauty, honor and dignity. God always endows His leadership like this. Every piece of his garments speaks about you, the new creation. The study of these garments will open your eyes to you are in Christ

and what you are made for.

Ephod: The ephod is the priestly vest, made of fine linen skillfully woven with blue, purple, and red wool, and decorated with gold. It had two shoulder straps to support it and a sash that fastens around the waist. Two onyx stones in gold settings were attached to the shoulder straps. On these stones were engraved the names of the children of Israel in the order of their birth, six on each stone. In this way Aaron carried the names of the tribes of Israel whenever he entered the holy place as a memorial before God (Ex.28:9-12).

By bearing their names on their shoulders, the priests understood their responsibility toward God's people. In Christ, the safety of God's people is on your shoulders. You bring them before God in prayer and unleash His blessings (Eph.6:18).

These names were engraved in costly, precious onyx stones. This shows the preciousness of God's saints. God's people must be very precious to you. Paul considered his church his crown of glory (1.Thes.2:19). Especially the five-fold ministers must value every soul very highly. Carrying your people into God's Presence in your prayer is your blessed duty. The intensity of your prayer for the people shows how much you value them.

All the names of the tribes were carried on the shoulder without partiality. You are dead to all man-made divisions like racism, nationalism, cast-system, status, etc. (Ac.15:8-9; 1.Co.3:3-4).

Every saint must be treated equally, irrespective of his doctrine and nationality.

As the names were engraved, you became inseparable from God's people as one Body. Your deep concern allows you to suffer with those who suffer and weep with those who weep (2.Co.11:28-29). Every servant of God must constantly remember to thank God for the people under his care (Phil.1:3).

Breastplate: On the priest's breastplate were twelve precious stones with the names of the twelve tribes engraved (Ex.28:21). You not only carry the people on your shoulders but also on your heart before God. The heart speaks of deep affection and motherly care (Phil.1:7). The apostles carried their churches in their hearts. They were affectionate like fathers and mothers (1.Co.4:14-15; 1.Thes.2:7,11). These stones were fixed in an orderly way, in four rows, three each, which speaks of systematic, disciplined, concentrated prayer for others (Ex.28:17-20).

Beloved, your High Priest Jesus carries God's people on His shoulder and on His heart. He lives in you to make intercession (Ro.8:26-27). His love and care for the people is bubbling in your spirit, waiting for a release (Ro.5:5; 2.Co.5:14; 11:28). Just let Christ carry others through your life and prayers. Give your life totally to the Spirit of Christ to intercede through you. Free yourself from self-pity and worries so that you can carry others' burdens in your heart (Lk.21:34). When you allow Him to live and pray through you, all your needs and problems will be taken care of. If you find any lack in your life, family or ministry, check whether you have failed in your priestly duty. The moment you regularize your prayer life, you will see God's glory and blessings all around you.

Thank You, Lord, Your love has been poured out in my heart by the Holy Spirit who was given to me. I am called to make supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks for all men, for kings and all who are in authority. I pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints because I am in Christ.

PRIESTLY GARMENTS IN CHRIST

And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart... a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe all around... make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD... that it may be on the turban... make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness... that they do not incur iniquity and die.

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness (Ex.28:30,34,36-37,42-43; Eph.4:23-24).

We continue our study of the priestly garments which speak of the new creation.

Urim and Thummim: In the pocket of his breastplate, Aaron carried the Urim and Thummim, the objects used to determine God's will for His people (Ex.28:30). Enquiring of God for others was one of the important ministries of the priests. In Christ, you have Urim and Thummim in your spirit. The peace and the voice of God in your spirit show God's will for you and others. You need not seek any special servant of God to know God's will. Christ in you, the hope of glory, guides you continually. The Holy Spirit constantly whispers in you. You have God's ability to hear and know God's will for others. Even gentile kings sought God's will from laymen like Joseph and Daniel. Even ordinary disciples could hear God for the great apostle Paul (Ac.9:10-16; 21:4). In Christ, this privilege is yours. Enjoy it!

Pomegranates and golden bells: Another piece of his garments was the robe. Around its hem, pomegranates and golden bells were woven. The pomegranates symbolize fruitfulness and fruit of the Spirit, the golden bells speak of public testimony.

You are called to be fruitful in His vineyard. There is no fruitless person in Christ. Because of the constant inflow of Jesus' life, you can bear much fruit (Jn.15:1-5). God's ministers are specially chosen and appointed by the Lord to bear

lasting fruit (Jn.15:16). The full fruit of the Spirit must be found in a priest of God.

Your testimony before God and men is vital. People will see your testimony and lifestyle and glorify your Father in heaven (Mt.5:16). People could know the priest was alive only when they heard the golden bell ringing. This shows the great importance of your public testimony. When you lose your testimony, you are as good as dead! You are like salt that lost its saltiness and became good for nothing (Mt.5:13).

Turban with gold plate: There was another plate of pure gold on Aaron's forehead. Engraved in it were the words, "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" (Ex.28:36). "Holy to the Lord" also means "wholly to the Lord". There could be three reasons why it was fastened on the forehead. a) All could read it there. In Christ, God sees you as holy, the devil sees you as holy, people must see you as holy. You must be known for your holiness (Ro.1:7; Mk.1:24; 2.Ki.4:9). b) Holiness is your crown, your very head. You can lose your head, but not your holiness. John the Baptist lost his head just because he took a stand for holiness (Mt.14:10-12). c) The forehead also speaks of the mind. Holiness begins in your mind, your thought-life. You must be holy in order to plead forgiveness for others' iniquity (Ex.28:38). Asking God's forgiveness for others' sins is one of your main ministries. Priests are totally holy to the Lord. Their dress is holy, their food is holy, they eat from holy offerings in a holy place. Whatever touches them will become holy (Lev.6:17-18).

Undergarments: The undergarments of a priest were to cover his nakedness. Our holy God commanded His priests to wear them lest they bring iniquity upon themselves and die

(Ex.28:42-43). In Christ, you totally abhor all secret, shameful things (Eph.5:11-13). You are holy in Christ. Immorality or impurity should not even be mentioned among you (Eph.5:3).

Beloved, in Christ, you are already clothed in these priestly garments. You are God's Urim and Thummim for others to find God's will for their lives. You are a fruitful vine, appointed to be fruitful. You have a beautiful testimony to attract people. Holiness is your crown. His Blood has covered all your shame. More than this, His anointing oil is upon you. Remember, all these are for your glory, honor and beauty (Ex.28:40). In short, you are clothed with Christ from head to foot. Rejoice TODAY!

Thank You, Lord, You have made holy garments for me, for my glory and beauty. I am being renewed in the spirit of my mind, and I put on the new man which was created in true righteousness and holiness. I am complete because I am in Christ.

SACRED IN CHRIST

Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with

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fastings and prayers night and day (Ex.28:1; Lk.2:36-37).

Here, we see the separation of Aaron and his sons for God's service. In Christ, every believer is separated unto God (Ex.28:1).

Separated from among the separated: All the Israelites were separated unto God. They could be called the church in the Old Testament. They were the royal priests for God. All of them were expected to stand between the world and God. When they failed, a separate priestly ministry was instituted. These priests were separated from among the separated people. The main ministry of the priests is to enter God's Presence, offering Him praises, standing between people and God, interceding on their behalf.

Life of praise and prayer: Under the New Covenant, all believers are washed and anointed for this kind of priestly ministry (Rev.1:5). Priestly ministry is totally dedicated to serve God on behalf of others. Every believer in Christ should exult in this dignified ministry of representing this perishing world before God, standing in God's Presence with continuous praise (1.Ti.2:1-4). Failure to do this ministry will affect all the other areas of your blessed life in Christ (1.Sa.12:23).

Anna the prophetess also typifies the priestly ministry. Around 77 years, she stayed in God's Presence. Her ministry was a ministry of fastings, prayers and praises. That is why she had the privilege of seeing the Messiah and declaring His praises to the world. In Christ, you can do more than this prophetess. The One who lives in you continues His ministry for over 2000 years in heaven and through you! You are called and anointed to stand in God's Presence constantly.

Fulltime service: Though every believer is called to live and breathe in God's Presence, some are called as fulltime priests. They don't spend their energy for the secular world. They spend all their time and energy to stay in His Presence, praying, praising, preaching, preparing (Ac.6:4).

Every servant of God in the Bible was primarily an intercessor, worshipper, and God-lover. It is the greatest privilege to stand before God Almighty, pleading and thanking Him constantly for others (Ge.18:22-33). It is a selfless, God-centered life.

All are called as priests, but not all can serve Him fulltime. Those who are called fulltime must blissfully perform this awesome duty. The greater the privilege, the higher the responsibility. This applies to everyone God called into fulltime ministry. Though all believers are equal in Christ, His fulltime workers carry higher responsibilities and therefore greater privileges.

These people stay in God's very Presence. They see His glory, hear His voice and make God's heart glad through their continuous incense, offerings and sacrifices (Rev.8:4). Such a life is totally consecrated, dedicated, anointed, different than any ordinary life.

Beloved, if you feel God has called you for His glorious service, never hesitate a single moment. All your dignity and honor hinges on your faithfulness to your calling. Living for others is your great privilege. Staying in God's Presence is the choicest blessing and honor. You can live without any care because God Almighty becomes your portion and inheritance. You will enjoy the best, both from heaven and from this earthly life (Ge.47:6). Be a separated person from among His separated people!

Thank You, Lord, I will give myself continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word. I serve You and I follow You. Where You are, there I will be also. As I serve You, You will honor me because I am in Christ.

**Excerpts from the book
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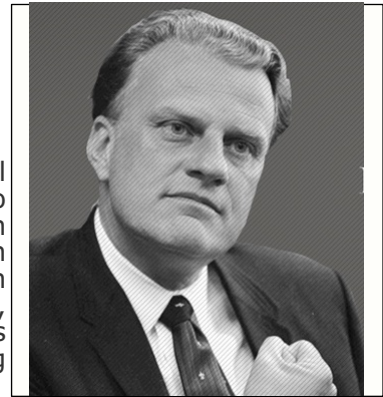
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- ✿ I am so blessed by the SOHS. I have understood the importance of tongue talking. Though I used to hear the voice of God, I was not so sure whether what I heard was from God. After attending the school, I am able to hear God clearly. Also my Bible reading and quiet time became so meaningful. I was so disappointed why I couldn't do ministry effectively. But the revelation 'Christ in me, the hope of Glory' changed my perspective. Now I am not disappointed because I know Christ the Anointed One is inside me. I am so thankful to Berachah Prophetic Ministries - **Sophia, Bihar**
- ✿ Before coming here my life was in a pathetic condition. I felt like I have lost peace, joy, health and anointing. I was totally broken-hearted and wounded by hurts. I knew I had a calling but there were many hindrances. After coming here, through each and every session of Prophet Ezekiah Francis and Rev. Benita Francis and every staff, God spoke to me and I received anointing and help to know the calling. God put a heavy burden in my heart to serve Him. Now I am ready to stand in the battle field every day without fear until the end of my life. I really recognized and realized that Christ is in me the hope of glory - **Sharon**
- ✿ I received so much in this School of the Holy Spirit. I had gold dust all over my body almost every day. I saw Jesus, angels and heavenly visitations. I came as a caterpillar here but in these 35 days God made me a butterfly. Now my life is colorful, beautiful and joyful in Christ. Thank You, Jesus - **Hepsiba Glory**
- ✿ I did not know how to do ministry even though we have church ministry. My husband forced me to come for this School of the Holy Spirit. I was so confused and not willing to come here. But after coming here my life changed. God has now given me a desire to do His ministry. And also we were trying to build our church but we couldn't do it. While I was here in the School, God met all the needs to build the church. It is a great miracle that happened for me. I give all the glory to God - **Sivasangari**
- ✿ I came to the School of the Holy Spirit for spiritual revival, to spend time with the Lord, to have a deeper revelation of His word. After these 35 days, I have found a deep sense of peace that I never felt before. I came to have a deeper fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit boldness filled me now. I got deliverance in many areas of my life. I found that my identity is in Christ and the rejection feeling that I had left me. Now I sleep better at night and I know how to deal with my fear and to fight any spiritual battles because I know I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me. Tongue talking, quiet time and Bible reading and of course confessing and meditating the words of God are my victory keys to a new life. I am going to my church to teach these new truths to my family and my church and to win souls for the kingdom of God. And most importantly, I will intercede for the nations - **Nanditha Koshy**
- ✿ Before coming to the School of the Holy Spirit I was suffering from ulcer, gastric problem, GERD, and bad itching in my skin. God healed me of everything. I was filled with unspeakable joy which is tremendous and during that time I had gold dust all over my body. I was having very bad concept about marriage life, but now I am free from that concept. I started to call out names during prophecy times. I came out of all my rejections and I know God loves me so much and I am so special for Him. Thank you, Berachah! **Boomika**

Jewels in His Crown

"My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God, which, I believe, comes through knowing Christ."

Evangelist Billy Graham took Christ literally when He said in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Graham preached the Gospel to more people in live audiences than anyone else in history—nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories—through various meetings, including Mission World and Global Mission. Hundreds of millions more have been reached through television, video, film, and webcasts. Beginning with the 1949 Los Angeles Crusade, which vaulted Graham into the public eye, he led hundreds of thousands of individuals to make personal decisions to live for Christ, the main thrust of his decades-long ministry.



WILLIAM (BILLY) F. GRAHAM
'EVANGELIST • PASTOR TO PRESIDENTS'

Born November 7, 1918, four days before the Armistice ended World War I, Graham was reared on a dairy farm in Charlotte, N.C. Growing up during the Depression, he learned the value of hard work on the family farm, but he also found time to spend many hours in the hayloft reading books on a wide variety of subjects. In the fall of 1934, at age 15, Graham made a personal commitment to Christ through the ministry of Mordecai Ham, a traveling evangelist. Ordained in 1939 by Peniel Baptist Church in Palatka, Fla. (a church in the Southern Baptist Convention), Graham received a solid foundation in the Scriptures at Florida Bible Institute. In 1943 he graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois and married fellow student Ruth McCue Bell, daughter of a missionary surgeon, who spent the first 17 years of her life in China. After graduating from college, Graham pastored The Village Church of Western Springs (now Western Springs Baptist Church) in Western Springs, before joining Youth for Christ, an organization founded for ministry to youth and servicemen during World War II. He preached throughout the United States and in Europe in the immediate post war era, emerging as a rising young evangelist.

The Los Angeles Crusade in 1949 launched Graham into international prominence. Scheduled for three weeks, the meetings were extended to more than eight weeks, with overflow crowds filling a tent erected downtown each night, one in London that lasted 12 weeks, and a New York City Crusade in Madison Square Garden in 1957 that ran nightly for 16 weeks. Today, Graham's ministry is known around the globe. He preached in remote African villages and in the heart of New York City, and those to whom he ministered have ranged from heads of state to the simple living bushmen of Australia and the wandering tribes of Africa and the Middle East. Beginning in 1977, Graham was given the opportunity to conduct preaching missions in virtually every country of the former Eastern bloc, including the former Soviet Union.

He claimed "Racial or ethnic prejudice is a sin in the eyes of God, and no Christian should allow his or her heart to be filled with prejudice." The evangelist's actions as a racial moderate were consistent with his theology of personal salvation. There's a nice story about Billy Graham's reaction when he arrived to preach at a revival meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1953. Upon reaching the site, he found ropes marking off a separate section for black congregants. He removed them. "Either these ropes stay down," Graham told his hosts, "or you can go on and have the revival without me."

Graham founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) in 1950, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., until relocating to Charlotte, N.C., in 2003. In 2013, Graham had the vision for proclaiming the Gospel across the United States and Canada, prompting the implementation of My Hope with Billy Graham, a grassroots evangelism outreach combining personal relationships with the power of modern media. Based upon a pioneering outreach that had already resulted in millions of decisions for Christ around the world since 2002, churches and individual Christians across the two countries were encouraged and equipped to pray and reach out to friends, family and neighbors using a powerful new film from BGEA. Approaching 95 years of age, Graham recorded a new video message, called "The Cross," for the project, which was made available for use in homes and churches as a tool for sharing the Gospel.

Graham wrote 33 books, many which became top sellers. His autobiography "Just As I Am," published in 1997, achieved a "triple crown," appearing simultaneously on the three top best-seller lists in one week. In it, Graham reflected on his life, and decades of ministry around the world. From humble beginnings as the son of a dairy farmer in North Carolina, he shared how his unwavering faith in Christ formed and shaped his career. Every U.S. President since World War II has met with Billy Graham. Both Johnson and Nixon, the two who probably sought him the most, offered him high positions in government — which he quickly and politely refused. Graham's counsel was sought by presidents, and his appeal in both the secular and religious arenas is evidenced by the wide range of groups that have honored him, in the U.S. and abroad. Graham was listed by the Gallup organization as one of the "Ten Most Admired Men in the World". Graham lost his wife of nearly 64 years, Ruth Bell Graham, in June of 2007. Graham lived in their home in the mountains of North Carolina until his death on Feb. 21, 2018.

HERESY HERESY

Rev. Benita Francis

Continued from last month...

True life flows only from your connection with Jesus, the Author and Fountain of life. So how do you keep that relationship vibrant, fulfilling and so exciting that no deception can tempt you? Let me give you a few points.

1) Of course, first of all, you must decide that you WANT to do God's will. Jesus Himself promises that if you do, you will know if the doctrine really is from God or not (John 7:17).

2) How can you find out God's will so you can do it? You hide God's Word deep inside your heart. The very successful King David who loved God dearly said it so beautifully: "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word" (Psalm 119:9). What does it mean to "take heed"? It means you concentrate your attention on God's Word.

The precious Book of Proverbs will explain to you in depth all the many benefits of loving and keeping God's eternal Word. Some of my friends made it a habit to read every day one of the 31 chapters of the Book of Proverbs, and I also do so from time to time. What a clear path of wisdom it lays out for us! How many times I found the answer to a challenge before the problem even arose! Praise God for His living, active and powerful Word (Hebrews 12:4)!

3) In order to stand tall, you need to make a strong decision to obey God's Word, whether you like it or not. Remember, it is not the forgetful hearers, but the doers of the Word that will be blessed in whatever they do (James 1:22-25).

4) Select your company very carefully. The ungodly, sinners, scornful or mockers are not a good fellowship if you want to be blessed, prosperous and fruitful (Psalm 1:1-3). If you listen to the wrong voices, their words will spread like cancer and overthrow the faith of some, maybe even yours (2 Timothy 2:16-18)!

5) Hate and shun lies of any kind, even the small and seemingly innocent ones. Receive the love of the truth, that you may be saved! Love Jesus who is The Truth in person (John 14:6). Love God's Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17). Be like your Lord Jesus. Love righteousness! Hate lawlessness and unrighteousness (Hebrews 1:9! You will experience a heavy anointing and joy unspeakable, and you will be kept from deception, delusion and destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 2 Timothy 2:19).

6) In order to be victorious in this confused and confusing age, you must be fully armed and dangerous to satan at any time, day or night. How do you do that? Follow the success secret of our great apostle Paul and wear the armor of God he describes so vividly in his letter to the Ephesians. He even explains WHY you need this armor:

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be **able to stand** against the **wiles of the devil**.

12 For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**;

16 above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**;

18 **praying always** with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit, being watchful** to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints -

19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the Gospel (Ephesians 6:11-18)

I think this is so clear it needs no explanation. Only one: If you carefully study each and every part of this victory armor, each one actually IS our Lord JESUS HIMSELF. So the bottom line is: Make JESUS your all and your everything, and you will be safe in all this present confusion.

7) Let us use one more victory secret directly from your High Priest, your Lord Jesus Himself. He can sympathize with your weaknesses, because He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). At the very beginning of His ministry, satan tempted Him severely. How did He overcome these temptations? He didn't do it by saying, "I am the Son of God. Obey Me." He did it in a way you and me can also do. He said, "It is written" (Matthew 4:4; 4:7; 4:10; Luke 4:4; 4:8; 4:10).

Don't only keep God's Word in your Bible, in your drawer, under your pillow or elsewhere. Put it into your heart and always have it ready in your mouth! The only weapon of offensive warfare in God's armor is the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). Enjoy the good fight of faith! Relish defeating satan each and every time by wielding the Sword of the Spirit! Be like Jesus who has the sharp two-edged sword going out of His mouth (Revelation 1:16; 2:16; 19:15; 19:21).

Speaking God's Word is the safe form of spiritual warfare and guarantees you lasting victory. Don't let the devil, delusion and deception steal your life! Get a life - preferably your own!

Keep your fire, keep your life!

Please, India, keep up your evangelistic fire! Keep up your love for Jesus and for souls! Don't let anything

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or anybody rob you of your zeal! Don't let anything or anybody steal the LIFE you have in the churches, the prayer, the worship, the fastings, the evangelism.

Again and again I am reminded of the warning of the apostle Paul who said, "Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies" (1 Corinthians 8:1). You don't need all these winds of doctrine. The letter kills, the Spirit gives life (John 6:63). Keep up your own prayer life. Keep up your own connection to heaven.

Don't let anybody steal your life. Don't try to live by anybody else's revelations. Go to your Bible and get your own! GET a life - preferably your own!

Time Wasters

So let's go on in our detective work. Hope you are enjoying the journey? I am sure you will be able to add many more items to our list of criminals and life thieves. I would be very happy to hear from you and include them in my list. Just send me a mail or a Facebook message anytime.

What are the things that steal your life little by little? How does satan try to divert your attention away from your goal and your God-given purpose in life?

Idle talk

As a teenager, I used to spend hours on the phone talking about anything and everything until my parents shouted at me for wasting all that money on the phone. Afterwards, I felt just as bored and empty as before. Why was that?

Well, the Bible says, we should avoid and even shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 2:16). God warns us that in the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise (Proverbs 10:19).

Do you want to fulfill your calling, that dream God has put into your heart? Well, then heed His warning Word:

For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool's voice is known by his many words... For in the

multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God (Ecclesiastes 5:3,7)

Our Lord Jesus told us that the heathen and the Pharisees are those who talk too much, and He warns us that we will be judged and give account for every idle, useless word in the day of judgment. By our words we will be justified, and by our words we will be condemned (Matthew 6:7; 12:36-37).

Do you still need a stronger word to convince you? Well, let me use the Word that always shakes me every time I think about it:

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit (Proverbs 18:21)

Death and life!!! Wow!!! In YOUR tongue!!! In MY tongue!!! That and that alone is the reason why your loving Heavenly Father takes your words so serious. He simply doesn't want you to give your most powerful creative tool and spiritual weapon into the hands of your arch enemy! He knows better than anyone that there IS somebody who wants to steal your life, and He wants you to GET a life - preferably your own!

Friendships

Friendships can be such a blessing, but they can also waste your life like anything. How can you make sure your friends don't become tools of the devil to steal your life? In Germany, we have a proverb that says, "Tell me who are your friends, and I will tell you who you are." This is very true, especially during teenage. Later on in life, you will just want to find people that are like you. You will no longer be interested in spending time with people with very different opinions. You have found your own opinion and your own lifestyle. Now you want people to adjust to that and go with your flow.

During teenage and your early twenties, however, things are different. You are still very soft and pliable. You are on your journey to find out who you really are. You have most probably decided you never want to be like your parents, and now you have to find out who and how you want to be instead.

In this tender age, each and every friendship and relationship is a great chance of improvement and also a great danger of destruction. In this age, you should choose your friends more carefully than ever. I know your parents will want to help you do that, but I am not so sure you will welcome their involvement? Let me give you a counsel here. If your friends ask you to hide anything from your parents, I can guarantee you, they are the wrong friends!!!

The right friends will enjoy meeting and visiting your parents. They will be open and joyful without needing any substances to stimulate their joy. They will have a zeal for life and be interested in excelling in their studies. Most of all, they will love Jesus and do all they can to grow in their love relationship with Him. This is the kind of friends that can help you grow in the Spirit.

But let me give you my special counsel here. I want to introduce you to the very best friend, totally faithful, never backbiting, never blackmailing you, never losing His love for you, never selfish but always seeking your best: Oh yes, there IS a friend a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).

If in this age you make Jesus your closest friend, you will grow in every area of your life! The more time you spend with Him, the more you look into His Word and

into His eyes, the more you will be transformed into His image and likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18)! Imagine! What a deal! Enjoy today the most loving friendship on this planet, and shine tomorrow with His courage, boldness, authority and anointing! What a life! What an opportunity!

Can you now see why that somebody wants to steal your life by making you waste your time with human friendships? Can you see that he is trying to mar your God-given beauty by making you into the image of some human, some friend? Why not you take a strong decision now to start trusting what God says about you, and not what man says about you?

Why not you ask God what your life should look like now, in five years, in ten years, in twenty years? Let God tell you about your life! Let Him give you the vision, and then GET a life - preferably your own!

To be continued next month...

**Excerpts from
Get a Life - preferably your own
by Rev. Benita Francis**

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- * In Karnataka, the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) alliance formed the government, led by Mr. HD Kumarasamy, leader of the JD (S). In the General Elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on May 12, no party could muster the majority support on its own to form a government. The Congress - JD (S) post-poll alliance asked the Governor to invite the combine to form the government, armed with the total strength of 117 MLAs. The BJP as the single largest party also staked its claim and its leader Mr. BS Yeddyurappa took oath as the CM on the 18th May, only to resign a day later, just hours before the deadline fixed by the Supreme Court to prove his majority on the floor of the House. It paved the way for the Congress-JD (S) combine to form the government by sharing power. An interesting part of the election is that, the Congress garnered 38 percent votes, but won in only 78 seats, as against the BJP that secured 104 seats, which is 26 seats more, though its vote share is 36.2 per cent votes, less than that of the Congress.
- * On the Cauvery issue, the Supreme Court approved a draft plan submitted by the Centre on sharing of waters between the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The Centre's plan envisages the formation of the Cauvery Management Authority, headquartered in New Delhi with nine official and expert members drawn from the Centre and the states concerned. The apex court has directed the Centre to form the Authority before the coming monsoon. Implementation of the Cauvery tribunal order, as amended by the Supreme Court in its February 16 verdict, would be the mandate of the Cauvery Management Authority.
- * Health officials of Kerala have said, ten people have died of the flu caused by the Nipah virus, a deadly strain that spreads primarily from fruit bats and from other infected people and animals. According to the World Health Organization, the symptoms include fever, headache, drowsiness, respiratory illness, disorientation and mental confusion, which may ultimately lead to coma and loss of life. The strain was discovered in Malaysia in 1999, and every now and then it becomes a major health issue in several parts of the world. No vaccine has been developed against Nipah virus so far. Kerala government has reassured its citizens that the situation would soon be brought under control.
- * The Chief Election Commissioner of India Mr. OP Rawat has expressed concern over the mining of personal details of the voters from social media sites and sending targeted messages based on their perceived tastes, likes and dislikes or political orientations.
- * The United States on the 12th May 2018 moved its Israel embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, in keeping with its earlier promise. President Mr Donald Trump in his tweet has said the action has been a long time coming. Violent protests by a group of Palestinians led to the police firing, killing 52 people.

Owned and published by V. Johnson from Plot.no.81, 4th Cross Street, Senthil Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 99 and printed by Augustine David at Kalos Prints Offset Division, 9A, Jeevan Nagar, Adambakkam, Chennai - 88. Ph: +91 - 44 - 22670 808. Editor: V. Ezekiah Francis