

From my heart

Dearly beloved in Christ,
Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy in my heart that I am writing to you. Our God who called you is faithful to complete all that He has purposed in His heart concerning you. He will never give up on you. You may have failed Him. But He is faithful. He is ready to forgive, bless you and use you.

Just two months have gone by in the new year 2012 and as promised at the start of this year, God has taken this ministry to another level. We had our first ladies School of the Holy Spirit and God moved powerfully in their midst. Like the people in the Upper room, there were 120 ladies in the SOHS and they had wonderful upper room experiences with the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah. They came in timid and shy and left the place full of the Holy Spirit with power, love and a sound mind.

Also we had the Apostles and Prophets seminar in February. Wonderful servants of the Lord moved by the Holy Spirit ministered to the people. We had over 700 participants from over 8 nations and all parts of India. God is raising an Apostolic movement after this seminar. We will come with detailed report in our next issue. Praise God.

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As days go by, we stand in awe as we watch God unfold His purposes for the Berachah Prophetic Ministry. All glory to Him alone.

The Lord is opening many avenues for the TV ministry. Please keep the media team and us in prayer. Over the next couple of months, I need your earnest prayers as I sit down to write books. Pray for His anointing as never before and Spirit inspiration as I write.

Thank you for being a part of our Berachah family. We thank our God upon every remembrance of you. Pray for the faithful staff who stand by me to fulfill this God given ministry. We have taken on new staff in the recent past. We praise God for them.

Pray for my dear wife, our aged parents, counselors, key men, coordinators and partners.

May God bless you.

In Him,



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Nations in your hands



PROPHETIC MESSAGE

Dr. Ezekiah Francis

Today, our mandate from the Lord is to earnestly pray for our country. The Holy Spirit does impress this point upon me now as never before. This is an urgent message that must be conveyed to every child of God. The welfare of our nation is indeed in our hands. We are responsible for the welfare of our country. You are born in this country for the Lord's specific purpose. The Lord wants us to be patriotic towards the nation that supports us. Christ cried out for Jerusalem. Paul chose to be cursed to save his countrymen. Daniel opened the window three times every day, and prayed. The patriots, prophets, and stalwarts including Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther prayed for their native countries. 'How can I face the destruction of my own people?' was their lament.

Today, the Lord wants us to travail for our country. I remember during the earlier days, soon after my salvation in the Lord, there were fasting and all night prayers every where. People were pouring out their hearts and crying out to the Lord. 'Send us the revival oh Lord. I too, was filled with this burden, and was zealous about it. During the 70's and 80's the Lord touched many young people in India. The churches began growing in numbers from hundreds, to thousands. But lately, the number of people who pray with such passion and fervor has greatly reduced. All night prayers are seen very rarely these days. Today if there are any, they are held for the private group. The result is seen clearly in the present condition of our country.

Terrorism abounds. Divorce rates are mounting high. Racism is on the increase.

Pornography has become quite common. Men are crazy after money and materials. Premarital sex and abortions are common even among the teenagers. Atheism is widely spread. Homosexual marriages are legally accepted. People have indirectly asked God to step out of their families, educational institutions and the like.

Fighting between political parties has reached an all-time low standard. Everyone is at odds with one another. The enemies of the Lord seem to be, becoming stronger as the days go by. Telecommunication channels are the tools of the devil. Evil forces are becoming more and more courageous in coming against Christ and His

church. Gangsters, who were very rare in earlier days, has been institutionalized now. The country is filled with every kind of abomination and injustice. The people are at a total loss.

We cannot blame the people, or our leaders, for our state of affairs. The liability rests squarely on our shoulders. Our failure to pray for the welfare of our country has brought this nation to its lowest level. There is no escape from total destruction unless we, the children of God raise our voices to the Lord. Unless and until we intercede for our nation, the country will certainly be turned into the 'Dead Sea'. When I see our future as a nation, with the prophetic gaze, I shiver.

But at the same time, many men of God are assuring us that great revival is imminent here. This is the silver lining that provides hope. This country, as a whole, is coming to the Lord. If not, we will see massive destruction. There will either be devastation or total revival. It's black or white – no in between. Either the country will know its God, or it will die. We must realize that the country has not received its true freedom. We are yet to receive our freedom from the spirits of darkness, from the abominable idolatry, from the spirits of murder, fornication, and adultery. As days go by, the country is sinking deeper into the mire. Any child of God who is not seriously concerned about this will certainly be accountable to God.

The Lord has been speaking to me more often these days about the following Biblical truths, upon which will now meditate.

Primary advice

'Therefore I exhort **first of all** that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all Godliness and reverence. (1 Tim.2:1)

This is the major piece of advice the Lord is giving us today. He starts this with the phrase, "**FIRST** of all". Though there are hundreds of examples of advice in the Bible, this one is called THE FIRST. This is the most important of all. Paul counseled, offering many warnings and bits of advice. He instructed Timothy about how the church should assemble, the

qualifications of the bishop, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, leading a holy life, and many other topics. But among them all, the primary advice was this:

Pray for all men and our rulers. This is the first and foremost law of the Lord.

The early church prayed regularly for their country and their leaders every time they assembled. Here in fact, Paul is speaking about the church order. Invariably, when we come together as a church, we follow different rites of worship. We sing, preach, pray and finally end with a benediction. But according to the advice of Paul, the church should never disperse before praying for the welfare of the nation. My honest appeal to all the leaders of the Church is this: as a church, please pray for at least 10 minutes for the welfare of your country, fellowmen, and leaders, every time you gather. You will be pleasantly surprised at the way the Lord will move over the country. This is the secret of the Korean church. Every time they came together as a church they never failed to pray for their country. The Lord has established the Church here for the very purpose of covering our nation in prayer. Therefore, any church that does not pray for the country and the welfare of its people, is one that has failed in its responsibility. My dear believers, the very first item on your prayer list should be our national leaders and your country men. All others, such as the requirements of your church, your family and personal prayer requests, should be subsequent to these. This is the counsel that Paul gives.

I constantly preach that the church should live victoriously with all the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit. But why do we need the gifts or the fruit? Why must the church be holy? Why should the believers be blessed with many blessings? Why is the church even on this earth? It is only to be a blessing to the nation; to bring the kingdom of God on the earth that all people be blessed through the church. If this is true, what purpose is served by a church that doesn't pray for their country men and their leaders? Will you not give priority to the needs of the nation rather than to your own petty needs?

First Fruits

The Lord is aware of your predicaments. Even though, He requires us to pray for the nation first. God sent the prophet Elijah to a widow. Her story was really pathetic. The country was in the grip of a severe famine. Her husband had expired and she had only a young son. Poverty ruled her circumstance. She had almost come to the tether end of her life. As a matter of fact, she was in the process of gathering some dry wood to bake her last bread, to eat it and die.

God certainly knew her condition. Yet He sent His prophet to her. He initially asked for water and when she was about to bring it, he asked her to bring a loaf of bread. This request totally dismayed the woman. She lamented, 'I have only a fistful of flour and some oil. My son and I decided to eat it and die.' (I Kings 17:9-16) Do you know how the prophet replied? "Fear not. Go and prepare according ..."(I Kings 17:13, 14)

Yes dearly beloved, God is speaking to you. You are totally immersed in your problems. And yet the Lord says, "Pray according to my list, rather than your own." Before you pray for you or your family, pray that my kingdom may come upon this nation. Will you speak like the widow? Do you lead a selfish life worrying all the time about yourself, your family, your church, your ministry etc.? Or will you pray first and foremost for your country and your leaders? Will you not obey wholeheartedly the Word of God? Will you decide today that above all you will pray for the President, members of the Senate, Government officials, and even the leaders of the opposition?

All this will be added unto you

Do you lament that with hundreds of requirements of your own, how on earth will you pray for the nations too? The widow of Zarephath lamented in this manner. But, do you know what? The prophet asked for her first bread only to bless her. When she obeyed the direction of the Lord, her entire family was nourished during famine. Perhaps her family was the only one without lack during the famine. Later on, she had the added blessing of her son coming back from death. This is the kind of blessings we receive when we obey God wholeheartedly. When you are concerned about only your needs and that of your family, and forget the larger interests of your country, the Lord cannot bless you. This is the unchanging law of the Lord. That is why He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." (Matt.6:33) Unbelievers are worried about their own needs. But the children of God seek the Kingdom of their Father first. As a loving Father, He takes care of His children and provides all their requirements, including food and shelter. This is how the children of God should desire to live.

Beloved, do not be concerned with your temporal requirements. Our God who takes good care of even the little birds will certainly not abandon you. The one who clothes even the lilies of the wild will clothe you in the choicest fineries. When we seek His kingdom, will He not seek our well being? Do you remember Ruth's

mother-in-law, Naomi? Did she not earnestly desire for Ruth to be married? Do you think your heavenly Father will be any less concerned that Naomi was? Didn't He tell you not to worry about tomorrow? Doesn't He know more about your requirements than you do? If so, is it right for you to continue to linger in unbelief?

From this day forward, cast all your burdens, worries

and needs upon Him and be concerned only about His heart's desire. Listen to His first and foremost advice and pray for your country and its welfare. Try this for some time and see what happens in your life. Countless blessings will come upon you even before you realize it. As a man of God, I challenge you.



WHO IS A WORSHIPPER?

Bro. Manuel Jeyaraj

How does the Bible describe a worshipper? Worship is a very important truth in the Bible. The Bible speaks various things about a worshiper. I often marvel at this primary and major calling of every believer and minister in the Bible. Today, the Holy Spirit is willing to show us many daring truths on the role of a worshiper. This truth becomes the channel through which we influence the supernatural realm.

Worship takes on a new dimension in the New Testament when compared with the Old Testament. Jesus taught us about **our relationship with the Father** which is very different and which never even existed in the Old Testament. We find this in His model prayer (Mat.6:9) that He taught His disciples.

Saint Paul talks about this in Eph.1:5,6 *'in love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will' and that 'we live to the praise of the glory of His grace.'*

Saint Peter also in his epistle I Pet.2:9 says that we are called to be **'a royal priesthood and to proclaim the Excellencies of Him.'** So it is very clear that we've been called to be a priest (worshiper) before God. No one can forfeit this wonderful calling designed and created by God Himself. This is His eternal plan, not just for the time being. Saint John sees a powerful vision of worship in the book of Revelation chapter 7 verses 9, 10, and 11.

I have given the above foundational truths from the Bible to help you understand who a worshiper really is. Since Holy Spirit is a teacher Himself, let's lean on Him to guide us in this truth and open our eyes.

Here are some answers to the question who is a worshiper.

1. Worshipper is a person who builds altars and calls on the name of the Lord. The man Noah built the first altar (Gen.8:20, 21).

Of all the people living on the face of the earth, God found Noah to be righteous before Him. We all know the story of how God was grieved at the unrighteous lives of the people. He decided to destroy the whole earth except

Noah and his family.

After the flood when Noah came out of the ark, he built an altar to comfort the heart of God. He offered a sacrifice that soothed the heart of God. He touched God's heart by giving a sacrifice which pleased Him immensely. Imagine a man touching God's heart. Noah was a man who changed God's heart by comforting Him. In fact that was the prophetic word (name) given by Lamech at the birth of Noah (This one will comfort us). God changed His mind and decided not to destroy every living thing again. He also decided not to curse the ground thereafter. Noah changed curse into blessing. I couldn't imagine and describe this in words. Wow! Even now there is an option to change the anger of God on us, our family and our country

Yes, worshipers can turn the anger of God away. When you build altars and sacrifice. Praise and worship touches the heart of God. e to the Lord, you nullify the anger of God. There is no doubt about it.

Another interesting truth from this passage is that all the seasons came into this world only after Noah built an altar and gave a sacrifice. Worshipers can so easily touch the supernatural realm because they are very near to God. We wouldn't have seasons today, if Noah hadn't given a sacrifice on that day. Since one man built an altar, we all are enjoying all the seasons and the fruits that are borne by plants and trees in different seasons.

We also have the rainbow appearing today because of Noah. The rainbow reminds us about the covenant God made with man. The initiative to make a covenant was not done by Noah but by God Himself. Noah didn't ask for a covenant but God was interested. Even today, God is interested in your sacrifice of praise. He is ready to make agreements with you. The most interesting fact that amazed me was that Noah was able to hear God speaking to Himself. The words that God spoke to Himself about changing His mind were not said to Noah but to Himself. How was Noah able to hear it? Because

he was near to God. He was able to hear the whispering voice of God. Remember God is ready to whisper His voice in your hearing. Are you ready to hear His heart's aches and pains, plans for your life and the works He wills to do on this Earth?

If you want to become like Noah, then be righteous like him. Do the righteous works of your Father in

heaven. Enjoy the relationship of your right standing with God. We are seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6) And Christ is at the right hand of God. So we are very near to God. We are made equal with Christ. God sees us the way He sees Christ. So continue on the earth the righteous works of your Father in heaven. Amen!

A total transformation

- Sis. Ruby Gonsalves, SOHS, Ladies

It was 20th January. There was a ladies training program for one month in the School of the Holy Spirit at Berachah Prophetic Ministries. I had never heard of this ministry before. I decided to attend it. I was thirsty, I was happy to come for it and it did not happen by chance. God brought me here with a purpose and a plan.

The interesting fact is there is no distinction made for your entry into this program, whatever your denomination, whatever your status, you are welcome to the SOHS.

Each day was a glorious day. We were taken from glory to glory, from natural to the supernatural. God made the way. He used mighty men and women of God as instruments to do the work in us. All glory to God!

Oh! And each one was unique. There is no comparison. We were thrilled - what with the impartation, the revelation, the teaching, the preaching, the stirring up of the gifts, the strengthening of our inner man, the anointing, I could go on and on...

It didn't end here. The teaching again is unique and can't be found in books other than those written by our beloved Prophet Ezekiah Francis and his wife Benita Francis, under the authority and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The teachings were followed by practice sessions - tongue talking, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, intercession, quiet time with the Lord etc..

For the first time I understood certain truths. 1. That Jesus the hope of glory is in me and that the Holy Spirit already in me is waiting to stir up His gifts, not just a few but all. 2. That I am saved in my spirit but I need to renew my mind daily through the word of God. 3. But word of God alone is not enough, the Spirit of God is also needed. Both together can change your life. 4. How to lead a spirit filled life and crucify your flesh and many more end time truths.

Time passed off so quickly. We were soaked in this

glory and like the apostles didn't want to come out of this glory. But no! God has a specific purpose which He made clear to us in this school. We understood our calling.

I personally received a major healing of my nervous system wherein weak nerves brought pain in my body. Gift of visions was stirred up. All glory, glory to God alone!

Besides, it was not only a training in spiritual matters but also physical exercises, work duties, cleaning the campus, helping in the kitchen, toilet cleaning. This built up a unity and an awareness that spirituality had to go hand in hand with practical application in the home and the world around.

As you agree mothers and ladies have a major role to play in our homes. But it did not deter many who heard God's voice calling them for this training. They left their families and children. Surely, it will not go unrewarded. We believe that!

I cannot end this without adding the curse breaking session by Sis. Benita and the deliverance session by Pr. Nehemiah. Yes, it was very much needed. We came with a lot of garbage but our loving and merciful God cleared it all. Even emotional bondages were removed. Not only that, today we are entrusted with this project of curse breaking and deliverance.

But I cannot conclude without saying a word of praise to the Almighty God for Bro. Ezekiah Francis and Sis. Benita Francis the pillars behind this all. They are simple people, Spirit filled man and woman of God, filled with a spirit to teach and equip others in ministry. Their warmth and family spirit, their love for nature, a disciplined life and a zeal for God's kingdom is what we carry with us today.

May God bless them abundantly and may His face shine upon them, and may the Holy Spirit guide their every endeavor.

Unto Him be glory, praise and honour!!!

Soul Ties and your Marriage

Rev. Benita Francis

The mystery of marriage is another good example of a soul tie. Paul compares marriage with Christ and the Church (Eph.5:32). The great secret of marriage is that it is a blood covenant, binding together the two and making them one! God in His tremendous wisdom determined that blood must flow when husband and wife come together for the first time for that union to be established in the natural and in the spiritual world. Satan knows that and does his best to destroy that power and unity, making young girls throw away their virginity outside the sacred protection and commitment of marriage.

The blood covenant of marriage could also be called a soul tie. God intended for husband and wife to become **one** in every intent and area of life, closer than any other relationship, even the relationship to the parents that brought them into this world (Ge.2:23-24). And yet, even in this closest of all relationships Jesus **MUST** be number **ONE** if you want a happy marriage (Rev.2:4)!

If you are not a believer in Christ, your spirit is unable to produce God's character in you. You don't have God's heavenly agape love, and only your soul will dominate your behavior. Yet alas, even a believer has to decide minute by minute to walk in the spirit, not in the flesh (Ga.5:16). Even a believer must make a clear decision to produce the fruit of the spirit, not the works of the flesh (Ga.5:19-23).

Studies done in USA showed recently that marriage problems cost the state over eight billion dollar per year! How could that be? Well, it's just because of destructive soul ties! Workers get emotionally upset, can't sleep peacefully, can't eat well and consequently get sick. Soul ties are really an instrument the enemy of our souls uses for his destructive purposes. The saddest thing is that he does it under the disguise of love! If you ask couples, very often they will genuinely think they love their partner with all of their heart when the truth is that their relationship is totally governed by the soul. Like in any other area, a marriage lived in a soul tie relationship will bring more destruction than you could even imagine.

Let us study an example from the very beginning of humanity. Adam and Eve, the crown of God's creation, enjoyed a perfect life in the perfect surroundings of Eden, the garden of delight God had created just for them to relish. Everything was provided in an astounding abundance. They were the absolute rulers over every created thing. All of nature was at their orders, happily submitting to them. The garden produced everything

they could ever need. There were no dangers, no adversities, and no foes except the subtle serpent that found its way into Eve's awareness.

Eve made the fatal mistake of undertaking a conversation with satan, the master-deceiver disguised as a snake (Ge.3:1-5). As he always does, even to this very day, satan twisted and manipulated God's Word a tiny little bit just enough to make Eve question God's love and goodness. His eternal question, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not...?'" keeps destroying marriages, families and homes all over the world at an ever increasing speed.

Now why do I connect this incident with our subject of soul ties? Well, let us see what happened after Eve decided to take the forbidden fruit:

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate (Ge.3:6).

Take a close look! Her husband was with her but he didn't exercise his God-given authority to keep his wife in God's declared purpose and ways! Adam had heard God first-hand! He knew exactly what God had said, but he failed to bless his wife with clear guidance and leadership. Why? As we have seen in Eli's case, a soul tie will make you unable or unwilling to restrain the person you are bound to. Now, how could that soul tie come?

Before Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve were living in God's perfect creation order. When she obeyed satan and her soulish desire, however, the spirit domination was broken in her life and gave way to a domination of the soul. Adam must have felt a tremendous impact when suddenly all that soulish power was released toward him, offering him the fruit. He succumbed to it, and the rest is sad history. Eve was deceived. Adam was not deceived but enticed. Here we see his soul tie with the wife at its destructive work. Can we infer Adam became so infatuated with Eve that he failed in putting godly limits for her desires?!?! See the terrible consequences:

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings (Ge.3:7).

See the disaster! All they reaped was a horrible self-consciousness and sin-consciousness! They instantaneously lost the glory and presence of God that had

covered them from their very creation, and they felt naked and ashamed. Even more than that: Contrary to what the devil tried to make them believe, they did die! They instantly died spiritually, and physical death would soon follow. Actually, only by this high treason Adam committed, death entered the world for the very first time. Yet this is not all! There are more horrible consequences:

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden (Ge.3:8).

Their freedom in their relationship with God and their communication with Him was completely cut by this one act of disobedience! Although God Himself desired to keep the close fellowship, Adam and Eve now had to hide from Him. This hiding and covering up is one of the main evils in our world today, destroying innumerable lives all over the planet! Addictions, crimes, adulterous affairs, frauds, murders and all kinds of harmful actions are kept secret from God and also from the people that should be our most trusted partners—parents, spouses and children. One soul tie incapacitated Adam from taking his rightful position as a protector and still destroys millions of homes worldwide!

Still, the harm from that one soul tie goes on and can be clearly seen in relationships all over the world! When confronted about his mistake, Adam began the world-famous 'game' of blame-shifting! One of the most interesting things about blame-shifting is that it is extremely contagious and can be 'played' instantly, without any previous teaching or practice! See how nicely Eve followed her beloved husband's example:

12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate" (Ge.3:12-13).

In my opinion, even the curse of husband's domination over the wife came because of the soul tie. See Genesis 3:16:

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception. In pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

God's idea and creation order is for husband and wife to rule and reign together and exercise in perfect unity their authority over Satan and his demons as well as over all of God's creation. As long as God is first in your life, married life will bring you all its blessings. Adam and Eve were created to enjoy all the kinds of God-created love under the dominion of their spirit. When the soul

took over, however, soulish manipulation came into the world. I'm sure you can easily picture a woman wanting to get her way and nicely imposing her ideas on her husband. Since he was created to have dominion, the husband will instinctively resist such attempts and impose his rulership over the wife. The tragic thing is that both were created to rule and reign, and therefore both will try to impose their desires on the other person! Sadly, there is no way out of this as long as you allow the soul to dominate your marriage.

In my opinion, this one revelation can save any marriage. If you go all the way down to the root of any marriage problem, you will find the power issue. There is a deep-rooted fear of not being honored and respected in men, and a deep fear of not being cared for and loved in women. These fears make both spouses unconsciously to want to take control and dominion. That is a legitimate desire, but it is completely misled. People try to dominate each other, even in the name of 'biblical submission'. You must understand you were created to have dominion over the spiritual world and over God's creation, but not over human beings. Only then, you will not bind people to you by soul ties. Only then, you will be able to live true authority and true submission and have a happy, blessed marriage.

Actually, the great apostle Paul considered it better to remain single than to get entangled in soul ties. He warned that the married person would always be concerned about how to please their spouse and therefore sidetracked from pleasing and serving God (1.Co.7:32-35). How daringly he contradicted God's Word from Eden, "It is not good that man should be alone" (Ge.2:18). That shows the severity of soul ties. How many women waste their lives in depression because their husband doesn't love them enough! How many men are frustrated because they can't fully please their wife! How many wasted tears and sleepless nights!

If you experience all these things in your marriage, I suggest you urgently confess and cut any soul tie to your mate and break all the horrible consequences that developed from it! Even search your heart for soul ties to any former relationship including fantasy relationships where you were only dreaming about a certain person and cut them. Your marriage must be free from hiding and bad communication, free to experience God's Presence and glory together, free from all blame-shifting and soulish manipulation—it must radiate God's glory to the world around you!

Cut your soul ties even to your spouse, and experience and display a glorious marriage from today onward, in Jesus' Name!

See Yourself in Christ Daily

Rejecting the enemy's lies in Christ



"And he (Jacob) recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt, Joseph is torn to pieces." Then Jacob...mourned for his son many days...

"The devil...was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" (Ge. 37:33,34 ; Jn.8:44).

If you believe just one lie of the devil, it will greatly reduce the power of your life in Christ. Eve believed one single lie of the devil and ruined her glorious life in Eden. The whole of humanity suffers till today!

Jacob's family greatly illustrates this. After selling Joseph to the Medianites, his brothers dipped his tunic in the blood of a goat and showed it to his father. Jacob recognized it and believed the great lie of the devil. He tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, allowed the spirit of mourning to dominate him and refused to be comforted by anyone (Ge.37:31-35).

From that time on, Jacob became totally negative, depressed, fearful and melancholic until he finally believed the truth about Joseph as written in Genesis chapter 45, verse 27.

Just **one lie** of the devil made Jacob have a negative outlook on life! When he sent his sons to buy grain in Egypt, he did not send Benjamin as he was scared '*some harm might befall him*' (Ge.42:4). When his children returned without Simeon but with their money bags in their sacks, he was fearful and lamented saying, '*You have bereaved me of my children. Joseph and Simeon are no more and you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me*'. When sending Benjamin to Egypt with some of the best products of his land, he said, "*If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!*" (Ge.43:14)

All of Jacob's negative words and fears were baseless! Had he known the truth about Joseph, his life would have flourished! All his wasted years and tears would have been avoided! Instead of lamenting, '*All things work against me*', he would have jubilantly jumped and said, "*God works all things for my good*" Amen!

Just one lie of the devil can make a living hell out of your life! In Christ, your eyes are open to the truth of God's word. Your Joseph is not dead anymore. He is *highly exalted* for your sake (Ph.2:9). He came *to comfort all who mourn and bestow on them a crown of beauty for ashes, the oil of gladness for mourning and a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness* (Is.61:3).

He will never be the cause of your sorrows. No harm will befall you on your way. You will not be bereaved. Throw off your sackcloth. Stop your lamentation! Rebuke the spirit of mourning! Break the spirit of heaviness from your life! All the apparent fears, failures and possible harms are evil lies of the devil. Do not accept them. Expect good things to happen.

As a supernatural child of a supernatural God, don't see through your natural eyes and logical mind. Before you came to know Christ, your eyes were blinded. Jesus has opened your spiritual eyes and you are totally liberated. The more you know the truth from God's word, the more you will be enlightened (Eph. 3:18). You will know the truth and the truth will set you free from every deception (Jn.8:32). Rise up!

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