

# *Dearly beloved in Christ*



You are special to God and to us. We thank you from the bottom of our heart for all your prayers and support that really helped us to move forward for the expansion of His Kingdom. God is doing great things in our midst, which is marvelous to our eyes. We give all the glory to Him alone.

We are created and called to praise and glorify Him (Eph.1:6,12,14). Continue to do this as you have tasted so many good things from His hands (Ps.68:1-3; 34:1-2). Praise is the door for the miracles that are yet to come.

When this magazine reaches you, we will be travelling to Germany. There is a great need for the fresh prophetic Word of God in Europe. This is a time where the Church must rise up and pray for Europe like never before. Pray for effective doors to be opened for us. Especially pray for our media ministry as we have new openings from renowned TV channels.

By the grace of God we conducted 34 batches of our Short Term Intensive Course, by which we trained more than 40,000 men and women of God who are powerfully serving Jesus all over the world. From

August 20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> we are going to have our 35<sup>th</sup> batch Short Term Intensive Course.

**IMPORTANT:** To improve the service and comfort we can offer you, this time only people who applied before August 15<sup>th</sup> and **BRING THEIR CALL LETTER** will be allowed. There will be **NO ON-THE-SPOT REGISTRATION THIS TIME**. Kindly cooperate with us. If you have not yet applied, please do so immediately. If for some reason you cannot yet fully decide to attend, please contact our office at [info@ezekiahfrancis.org](mailto:info@ezekiahfrancis.org) or +91-44-2650-1290/1390 and explain your situation so we can keep you in a waiting list.

We have already started to receive applications for School of the Holy Spirit for gents and couples from August to October 2012. Apply for your seat immediately. Recommend this school and send as many as possible for these life-changing schools.

Since our first ever School of the Holy Spirit for Ladies was such a blessing and so fruitful for God's Kingdom, we have planned the next School for Ladies in the month of November 2012. Sister, if you desire to serve Jesus better in the power and liberty of the Holy Ghost, make plans to attend this heavenly time in His Presence!

Visit our website [www.ezekiahfrancis.org](http://www.ezekiahfrancis.org) and Facebook for updates. You can also follow us on Twitter EzekiahBPM.

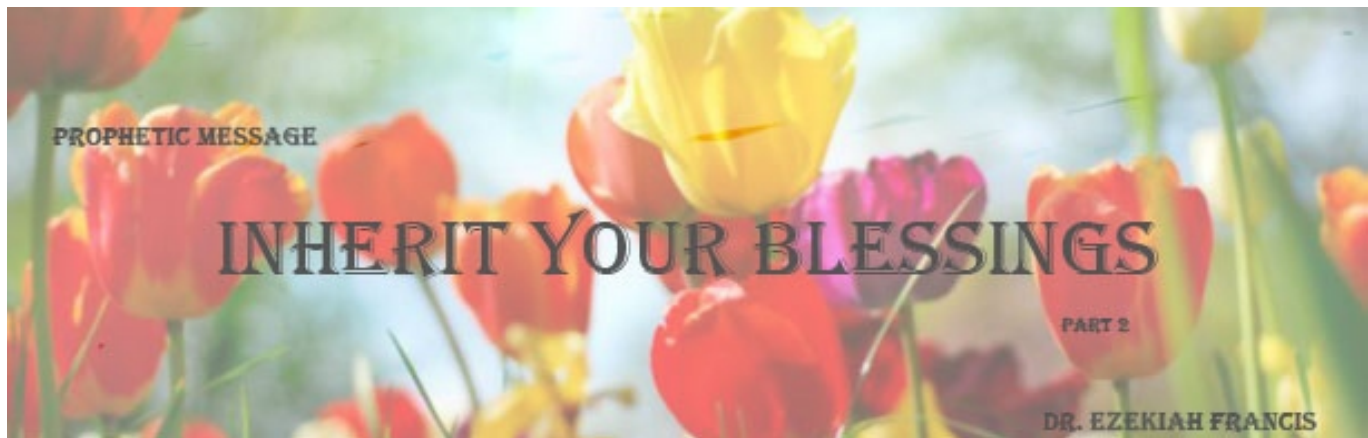
Continue to support us in your prayers for the right people to help in all our projects and also for the needed funds. Pray for my dear wife, our aged parents, counselors, key men, coordinators, staff and partners.

May God bless you and your generations!

In Him  
Your loving brother

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## **The blessing Son and the Holy Spirit**

God delights to see us enjoy His vast blessings. Seeing that we have neither recognized them nor taken possession of them, He sent His Son into the world. Peter rightly describes God's intention: *"To you first, God, having raised up His servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities"* (Ac.3:26).

Not only was Jesus sent to bless the Israelites, but with the intention to bless you, God sent Jesus down with every possible blessing you could ever dream of. Have you accepted Him as the Lord and Savior in your heart? Have you asked Him to wash your sins clean by His blood? If so, all the blessings prepared from the time of creation are yours now. All your blessings lie in Christ Jesus. He has bestowed all those blessings within you who have come to know Him as Lord. The task of finding these blessings lies within you.

Picture the Lord Jesus as one who constantly blesses you. All the needs of man like healing from sickness, health, peace, daily bread, deliverance from sin-All blessings originating from the Father was brought down to us by Jesus.

## **He who concludes with an amen**

Our Lord Jesus reflects all the attributes of God the Father. Jesus also delights to watch His children inheriting all the blessings He showers. Paul states, *"For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, by me, Silvanus and Timothy - was not Yes and No, but in Him was YES. For all the promises of God in Him are yes and in Him Amen, to*

*the glory of God through us"* (2.Co.1:19-20).

The Father who longs to bless us has granted them to us through a multitude of promises. Christ Jesus has come to fulfill them all with an Amen. Do you know that another name for Jesus is Amen? Whenever you approach the Lord's presence with a Bible promise, Jesus will be there acknowledging it with an eager and a delighted Amen. And His divine nature is such that He not only blesses you but also rejoices at your prosperity.

## **He who showers blessings**

Once, some women brought little children to be blessed by Jesus. The disciples reproached them. Jesus was dismayed at their response. He rebuked the disciples and turning to the children *"He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them and blessed them"* (Mk.10:16). See how the Father who blessed Adam and Eve in the beginning is blessing even small children through Jesus today. He is the savior who embraces you with pleasure and grants every sort of blessing you could ever imagine. He will never allow anyone to prevent blessings. Indeed, parents seeking their children's prosperity should marvel at this sweet nature of Jesus.

Jesus healed the sick and blessed them; He consoled the despairing and blessed them. He blessed the five loaves and two fish and fed thousands who hungrily followed Him to hear His sermons. The few loaves He blessed fed thousands (Mt. 14:19).

Even at the last supper with His disciples Jesus took the food and wine and blessed them. His act

reminded the disciples to follow that practice at every meal. He bountifully blessed all those who came seeking either earthly blessings or spiritual blessings. Yes, He roamed around doing only good during His life on earth. Ah! The same Jesus Christ sits on the Father's right side and intercedes with Him to fill all our deficiencies.

Jesus earned loads of blessings for us even by His death on the cross. Through His sufferings on the cross Jesus retrieved all the blessings, prosperity and health which man enjoyed before committing his first sin and gave them back to us. Through the cross man regained all the lost blessings. Yes, through His resurrection and ascension to heaven we inherited all those blessings once again.

The early apostles would never have forgotten their last glimpse of the ascending Lord Jesus. As He was disappearing among the clouds He continued to bless them with raised arms. *"And He led them out as far as Bethany. And He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven"* (Lk.24:50-51). The impact of that last scene was very great on the apostles. *"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them"* (Heb.7:25). Till today Jesus is interceding for your blessings. Whatever your need, approach the one who is generous in blessing. Jesus who ascended while still blessing his disciples with raised arms will return the same way. The words of the angels were, *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw*

*Him go into heaven"* (Ac.1:11) will surely occur.

## The Holy Spirit who blesses

We saw that the Father and Son liberally shower blessings on us. Like them the Holy Spirit has also come to bless us. He guides us to discover all the blessings meant for us. In the flesh it is impossible for us to recognize all the blessings. Elisha's servant could neither see the chariots of fire nor the host of angels protectively surrounding Elisha. Only the Holy Spirit can identify the blessings. Believing or understanding that the Lord protects His children is different from seeing it in the spirit. This was why Paul prayed for his church's spiritual eyes to be opened: *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power"* (Eph. 1:17-19).

## Our Guide:

The Holy Spirit has taken up the job of revealing all the blessings of the Bible and making us inherit all of them. Yes, *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God"* (1. Co. 2:9-10) Hallelujah!

As it is evident that the Holy Spirit does not want us to miss even a single blessing, pray and ask Him, *"Dear Holy Spirit who dwells within me. Please reveal every single thing that God has prepared for me"*. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit also rejoices whenever we discover and inherit God's blessing. The Holy Spirit is sad only when we fail to enjoy a blessing. Are there any parents who won't be thrilled to see their children prosperous and peaceful? When evil humans themselves long for their children's prosperity how much more will the desire of our heavenly Father be! So never erase from your heart the picture of our

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May 2012

Father who blesses, from your heart. This is the first step towards inheriting the blessings God has given us.

### **The Holy Spirit kindles the fire of desire for blessings within us**

The Holy Spirit not only reveals the blessings but also creates the urge within us to possess them. If we do not seek them we cannot inherit our blessings. Only the hungry and the thirsty will find them. Jacob longed for God's blessings. He wanted to attain them at any cost. He was restless. He struggled hard and long and rested only after attaining his goal.

Elijah and Elisha yearned for God's power. They enjoyed being the tools of the manifestation of the Lord's wonder working power. Moses longed to be in God's presence. He saw it and lingered in it and was transformed to spiritual maturity. The early church and the apostles desired the anointing of the Holy Spirit and they were engulfed in it.

Our generous Lord is ever ready to satisfy our

heart's desires to receive His blessings. First investigate if it is God's will that you inherit a certain blessing. Then request the Holy Spirit to kindle the fire of longing within you. He will surely do so. It is the Holy Spirit who finally leads you into the bountiful supplies of blessings kept in store for you by our Lord.

The Father created the blessings. Jesus Christ sends them to you today. The Holy Spirit teaches you to discover and relish every bit of those blessings when the Triune God agrees in blessing you. It is against His will for you to lack anything. So arise, eagerly expect and inherit all His blessings.

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In the previous issue, we learnt about worshippers from the life of Noah. In this issue, I would like to teach about worshippers from the life of Abraham with the help of the Holy Ghost.

When you study the whole life of Abraham, one truth stands out - **God separates His worshippers to Himself. He is very possessive about them. He will go to any extent to win them.** Abram was from a family whose profession was to carve idols. While Abram was busy carving idols, maybe he was searching for the real God. In this dark time God called Abram to leave his country, his family and his relatives to go to the Promised Land (Gen.12:1). God plucked him out from his family. God was very possessive about Abram.

We all know that God will never share His honor and glory with any one (here it is idols). He will not tolerate someone who says His Name or equals His Name with other gods. Worship belongs only to our God. I believe God found Abram to be a very pious and sincere person and that could be one of the reasons why God chose Abram to be the one through whom He might bless the whole world. Psalm 4:3 echoes this truth. *“The Lord has set apart the godly man for Himself”*.

Beloved, get out of the things that are holding you and your time today. **In the Name of Jesus Christ, be thou delivered.** Obey the call of worship. God will not tolerate the things that hold you back from His calling to worship. You cannot give lame excuses for not worshipping God. Don't say you don't have time, or you are busy with something. Your Beloved is standing at your door step longing for your love. Today

Your Beloved sings to you - *“You are not your own, you are mine ...”*

In Gen.12:2-3 God said: *“I will make you a great nation, I will bless you, And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing;...And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed”*. Wow! Look at the blessings God pronounced on Abram. Oh! He lavished the greater blessings that no one could ever imagine or understand. I believe from the depth of my heart that when God blessed Abram with greater blessings, He also remembered you and me and brought our names to mind *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us for it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”* (Gal.3:13-14).

**Worshippers can bless the whole world because they have such a great calling and presence of God on and in them.** They become a blessing not only to one person but to many from generation to generation. **Real worship results in greater blessings and break-throughs from God.** Abram became a channel of break-through not only for his family and relatives but also for the entire world. Even today, **it is God's plan to bless nations through real worshippers.** Only worshippers can manifest the presence of God. His presence has all the blessings.

Sing to God -

*“You are the air I breathe, Your Holy Presence living in me, And I'm desperate for you”*

**A worshipper's anointing is a multiplying anointing.** God said, *“I will make you a nation... in*

you all the families will be blessed”. Every time I read this passage, I am compelled to reflect on another scene in the Bible. Come with me to the book of Revelation as Saint John narrates what he saw in chapter 5 verses 9 to 11. He saw a great multitude of men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation standing before the Lamb of God. What a marvelous vision! **God is still interested in such worshippers who can multiply their anointing and increase the worshipping community.** God’s eternal plan is to produce worshippers and that’s why Jesus, the Chief High Priest said that Father God is seeking such worshippers (note the plural form here).

The Old Testament’s vision was to find one man (referring to one person) to stand in the breach of the wall but the New Testament’s vision is to find worshippers (referring to many) to stand in the Presence of God. The Bible exhorts us in Hebrews 3:1 that we are *partakers of the heavenly calling*. Jesus is presently both Chief Apostle and High Priest and we are partakers of this heavenly calling. Every believer and minister of God is a worshipper and sooner or later becomes an apostle. What a great heavenly calling we have! Now the urgent need is that all prayer warriors must be transformed into real worshippers who can worship God in Spirit and truth. Hallelujah! Do it Lord! Invite the Holy Spirit singing - “*Wind, Wind...*”

**Worshippers are people who naturally become popular.** Look how real it is in the case of Abraham. He is popular even after centuries. We are still talking about him! God’s plan is to make His children’s name popular. The dear founder of our ministry, Bro. Ezekiah Francis often said that if a person made God’s Name popular, God would make his name popular. Once Bro. Ezekiah Francis was a lonely and unpopular worshipper, worshipping God sometimes on the banks of lakes or in half-built houses but today he has become very popular. Often people say that the only person who would conduct worship for hours on end in India was Bro. Ezekiah Francis. Even today it is natural for him.

How true it is in the life of Abraham! Abraham was popular and people feared Abraham’s name because they found God had blessed him with everything. This was nothing but the fragrance of the presence of God which was on Abraham. Bro. Ezekiah often says that only God’s presence has made him popular and nothing else. Imagine a child of God failing to be a worshipper. **God honors His worshippers with His presence. That’s the key to popularity.**

I have already said this in the previous articles that **worshippers by nature are altar builders.** Abraham was also an altar builder like Noah. Abraham’s style was to build altars now and then. He built altars when God talked to him or when God appeared to him. Altars and sacrifices often become the only way to sustain our relationship with God. One can forfeit anything in life but not His relationship. If we do so, we become the real target to the devil. Please Him with the fruit of your lips (praise and thanksgiving). Abraham practiced this principle of building altars all through his lifetime. In the Bible we see that Abraham often called on the name of the Lord. One of the natural principles that God set for His children is to call His name in Praise & Worship. Let us rise up. Oh Church! Awaken to this alarm. Yes, God is **expecting** a continual worship from His church as never before.

**Worshippers are people who have plenty of visitations of God and His angels.** Bible scholars say that Abraham had at least ten visitations of God. How much more should we who live in the Holy Ghost era? Paul said that Jesus also appeared to him. Do you know why it happened to him? We read that Paul and Silas praised God at midnight in the Acts of the Apostles. And so we understand that Paul too was a powerful worshipper. Read Colossians Chapters 1 and 2, you will find Paul a powerful worshipper. The Holy Ghost is really interested to show Himself and Jesus to many of us. Get ready to worship Him as never before. It is not enough to desire to see Him but combine it with worship also.

**Worshippers are people who become rich and wealthy.** The Bible authenticates that we already have this blessing in Christ. But if that blessing is to be visible, worship is one of the channels to bring it into reality. The Bible says that their possessions were so great that the land could not bear them (Gen.13:6). God has so much in store for us that we haven't even begun to see and enjoy. If the presence of His Kingdom spreads through our worship He can heal our lands and make us rich and wealthy. Abraham had

all kinds of blessings from livestock to trained warriors. The Bible says that Abraham was a Mighty Prince among them (Kings and other Gentiles). Look at the great blessings God has planned for us through worshippers and worship. Long for them, expect them in these latter days and start worshipping Him from today. SING

*“We worship and adore You bowing down before you ...”*



Dear Ezekiah & Benita,

We met in Wüstenrot in 2007, where Evi and I attended your 8-Days-Seminar. This seminar has changed our lives and ministry. It was like a door that opens up into a new dimension of supernatural living. A shift took place from living and managing things out of our own strength to living and managing things out of and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Praying in tongues for many hours broke through tough barriers!. I am part of a Swiss organization that helps political and economic leaders in the area of personal integrity. The goal is to transform the personal life of leaders and in consequence to transform the whole nation. Because of the change in my personal spiritual life we have changed the way of doing our ministry, too. The result is a completely new dimension of efficiency and effectiveness.

When we come together as the Board we do not have an agenda anymore. We just come together and receive from the Holy Spirit the projects and tasks that are prepared for us in heaven. Angels come into our meetings and roll out heavenly plans. When I had to lecture anywhere I used to prepare a very detailed manuscript. It took me many hours to prepare it. Today I do not spend much time in preparing manuscripts but rather praying in tongues for a certain time. Then the Holy Spirit tells me what to say. The results are amazing. And it is fun, too. I love to live and work under the Holy Spirit. All of this is a small part of what you caused in our lives. We say Thank you and Keep on keeping on! Johannes & Evi Grassl, Blaibach, Bavarian Forest, Germany



### **Family Corner** *(Tip for the family)*

The second Sunday in May is celebrated as Mother's Day! If you are a child, tell her specifically in what ways she is a blessing in your life! If you are the Head of the family, gift your wife something that she has always wanted! If not, give her a bunch of flowers and a card appreciating her for being a good mom to your children. If you are mom... love your family and be grateful for all that they do for you today and always!

# Lazy Man

Rev. Benita Francis

***The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway (Pr.15:19)***

This word from God's Mouth, delivered through Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, touched me very deeply. Think about it!

Have you ever seen a hedge of thorns? Have you maybe tried to push your way through it or at least tried to walk close to it? You would have noticed that it is a very difficult, tedious, frustrating and even hurting thing to do. You might have had such an experience once or twice, and you will definitely do your best to avoid ever coming into such a situation again; but imagine the tragedy of having to live in such circumstances all your life!

This word says that the entire way of a lazy man is comparable to a hedge of thorns! Wow, what a horrible life it must be! Thorns staring at you, threatening you at every step of the way!

If you are a lazy person, you will be hurt wherever you turn. Even if you just try to walk, thorns will pinch your feet and make them bleed. If you want to advance, thorns will make your way almost impossible to travel. Think about it! Would you really like to live such a life? And there are even more unmistakable Scriptures:

***A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep - so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man (Pr.6:10-11; 24:33-34)***

This word is so important to God that He puts it even twice into Proverbs, His wonderful collection of wisdom. What could be the reason? Of course, no other than pure love, since God is love (1.Jn.4:8). He wants you to know what could hinder and block the blessings He so desperately wants to shower upon you! For this reason, He uses even stronger words to make you understand the seriousness of laziness:

Can you imagine your loving God rejoicing when you live in an ugly building that is all falling apart, decaying, and leaking? Don't you think His tender heart will be hurting? For what, however, does He

suffer? Is it for your sad situation? I don't think so. He will be hurting because He knows that you brought yourself into this tragic place by your own laziness, neglect, carelessness and idleness!

Then think a little bit further. What kind of a testimony are you for the love and goodness of God if your life is all in shambles, a mess and a shame to look at?

I will never forget an experience I had in Africa. An incredibly fat lady sat on the floor in front of a dirty mud hut, enjoying the sunlight, doing absolutely nothing. There were no flowers nor fruit or vegetable plantations anywhere around, although the earth was very moist and fertile. When she saw me passing by, she yelled, "Hey, you! Why not you give me your gold chain?"

I just couldn't believe it! Here she was, sitting idly, clearly not undernourished but stinking lazy in an environment that would allow three harvests per year, and she had the insolence to ask me money! Wow... I am sure she would have had some good excuse for her laziness, because lazy people always find reasons for their negligence and laxity:

***The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!" (Pr.22:13; 26:13)***

Why can your loving Creator not allow you such an attitude and such excuses? Does He not want you to enjoy your life? Is He a hard task master? Does He want you to toil and strain and work day and night? No way! He Himself instituted the Sabbath for man as a day of rest, isn't it? Rest and relaxation is very needed for the human body, but it is definitely very different from laziness!

So why is God so adamantly against laziness? Well, let His Word speak for itself...

***Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger (Pr.19:15)***

This is just one of the reasons why God hates laziness. He created a beautiful planet full of opportunities to prosper. So how can He bear seeing you, His beloved child, suffer hunger or any other



kind of lack, or worrying how to pay your bills? Will it not hurt His soft heart to see you suffer so unnecessarily?!?

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

Well, there are some very clever people all over the world. I am sure you would have met some of them, too. They always have the biggest dreams and ambitions. They talk all the time about how they are just about to finalize this business and that transaction, but it somehow never works out. They are very eager to work, but somehow they can never find just the right job, the right position that would suit their abilities. Everything is just simple below their standard, almost an insult to their capacity.

Do you know what their problem is? It is exactly what Proverbs 14:23 teaches us so beautifully: They have not understood that in ALL labor there is profit! They have not understood that he who is faithful in the little shall be put over much! They have not understood that before honor is humility (Pr.18:12)! They have not understood God's admonition in Eccl.9:10, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might!"

So please, never forget this important truth: Just like faith without works is dead, so is also talk without action - it simply leads to poverty!

Of course, like always, your God has His way to show you the way out of your hunger, lack, misery and poverty...

***Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest (Pr.6:6-8)***

Very interesting, don't you think so? Maybe you don't like to be called a sluggard, but if you aspire to be wise, you should better take this rebuke serious. It warns you even of "eyeservice", of working only when your boss or whomever you desire to impress is watching you (Eph.6:5-8). And it gives you a very big challenge, maybe the most difficult of all things involved in diligence: It calls on you to motivate and discipline yourself to such an extent that you don't need any outside pressure through people or circumstances to make you do what you are supposed to do! Wow!

Does that sound very difficult to you? Don't despair... if even such a small ant can do it, how much more can you, the child of the eternal, almighty God?!?

***The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing (Pr.20:4)***

Can you see the principle here? Can you see the excuses? Can you see the tragic consequences? And yet, this is not all... Have you ever noticed the tremendous anger lazy people harbor against the rich and prosperous? They feel unjustly treated, neglected, cheated, robbed of their opportunities... they blame God, the government, their parents, their fate... but like always, God's Word explains to us the real reason for their misery:

***The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor (Pr.21:25)***

Of course, in His wonderful Word full of wisdom, God does not only show us the problem, He always shows us also the root of it and even the solution to it! See this Scripture:

***The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor (Pr.12:24)***

Is it God who puts you to forced labor? No way! Your God loves you! He HAS already made you the head, not the tail (Dt.28:13)! He HAS already blessed you with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Eph.1:3)! He HAS already done everything that can ever be done for you to live in victory and prosperity!

The only one who can rob you of all these blessings is you yourself. How do you do that? Well, it is very easy. You destroy your opportunity to prosper by nothing but by your very own lack of diligence!

Recently in Africa, I read the monthly magazine of a thriving ministry. I was thrilled to find an article about personal hygiene. The article described in vivid colors how and where to wash the male and female human body, stressing even the tiny area behind the ears that is prone to develop unpleasant smell, and gave a wonderful explanation for this strong admonition: Why would you make yourself an outcast by your body odor, thus destroying job and career opportunities God is trying to bring your way? Wow... What a beautiful example of an apostolic ministry, working like our Lord Jesus Christ to make man completely well, in spirit, soul, body and even in social and economic life (Jn.7:23).

Just like Joseph, Daniel and so many others in Bible times, nothing can hinder your way up the ladder of success if you are diligent in the little things, as our Lord Jesus taught us (Lk.19:17).

to be contd....

# Woman, you are a blessing!

(A Character sketch of Jochebed)

Sis. Dulcie David

When I said I was going to write about Jochebed, my little girl said, “Jo-che-who?” Precious little is said about Jochebed in the Bible. Do you know who Jochebed was?! Exodus 6:20 tells us that Jochebed was the mother of Moses! But the passage that actually narrates the birth of baby Moses does not even mention her name! *“And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months”* (Ex.2:1-2). She is simply stated as a daughter of Levi. Jochebed like many women in the Indian context lived her life in obscurity. But read on and discover how this precious woman fulfilled God's design for her in the role of being a mother! The passage above tells us that when she saw that the child was beautiful, she hid him in the house for three months. At the end of three months, she made a basket of papyrus with tar and floated baby Moses on the river Nile.

**Beautiful Child:** As soon as the child was born, Jochebed saw that he was a beautiful child. Psalm 139:13-16 is a beautiful expression of what happens during those nine months in the womb! *“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written. The days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them”*.

As much as you believe that God formed Adam from the dust of the ground, you need to believe that God formed your child in your womb! He knit them together in your womb! Your child is a handiwork of God. Mom your child is precious. Your child is special

and God created. Don't look at the child in any other way. The Bible says that *'Children are a gift from God'*. God entrusted this little treasure into your heart and hands. He trusted you to be a good steward of the baby's needs and upbringing physically, emotionally and spiritually. Look at your child as God-intended and God-desired! In these modern days especially with careers and the like taking priority, a pregnancy is sometimes looked on as unnecessary! Your child is not an intrusion into your life! Someone said, “You do not get to choose your parents!” True! But **God chose you** to bring your child into this world!

**She hid him:** Hiding a little baby is a herculean task. Most mothers would agree with me that baby boys are hungry little beings. And babies cry when they are hungry! Jochebed hardly slept a wink those three months. At the child's slightest whimper, she must have fed him, burped him and rocked him to sleep. All this while she must have been praying and wondering what to do next! She stiffened at every sound outside her door! How much longer could she hide her baby?!

In chapter 1 vs. 22 we read Pharaoh's instruction. He orders that every baby boy should be thrown into the river Nile while every girl should live! How obnoxious!!! Anxiety must have gripped Jochebed's heart. How do you throw your living child into the Nile and watch him drown! Jochebed did not just throw her hands up in the air and say, 'what to do?! That is fate! My child has to die!' No! Don't give up in complacency or indifference. Don't resign your child to the devil's design!

Jochebed, her husband Amram and their elder daughter Miriam must have huddled together in discussion and prayer! Slowly an idea formed in her mind! Yes! She would place the child in the river Nile... but with a difference! Exodus chapter 2 narrates the rest of the events as they unfolded!

**Water-proof basket:** After three months, when she could hide him no longer, she put the baby boy in a water proof basket made of papyrus, tar and pitch and went down to the river Nile. She walked up to the place where Pharaoh's daughter usually came to bathe and whispering a prayer, she placed the basket on the water. She watched the basket glide out of her hand and out of her reach till it nestled among the reeds.

Babies are born and they need to grow. When they grow, they slowly move out of our reach!! The best thing you could do is to place your child in a world-proof **basket of prayer**! You cannot cling to your child for life! You have to let go to let them grow! Praying for your child is the only thing you can do to protect your child in this world. Don't wait for your child to grow up and then start praying for your child. Start now! In our family, more than twenty years ago when we girls were pregnant, my dad prayed every day for the unborn child in the womb as much as he prayed for us and our husbands! It is never too early to pray for your child. Praying for your child is the greatest gift you could give your child!! Several things happen when you pray.

**i) Wisdom to bring up your child:** As you pray for your child, God will give you wisdom and discernment to bring up your child! God will start speaking to you. Don't shun things that seem too difficult for you. Making a basket must have been a tough job, but Jochebed did it. Don't try to manipulate situations to get your way! I always say this our earthly wisdom stops at the end of our nose!!! Consult the Holy Spirit at all times. There are so many things we don't know. When you look to God, He will give you wisdom and discernment to bring up your child. Christ the Fount of Wisdom is in you. When you let Him gush out of you, you will see Him lead and guide you in handling the difficult situations in your child's life. Sometimes it may be a word of encouragement for your child. Sometimes a word of caution. Sometimes you will have to be very firm. Sometimes you will have to reason with your child. Sometimes in silence you will have to listen to your child and later cry out to the Lord for your child on your knees! Each time it is different and each child is different!

**ii) God's dream for your child:** As you wait in

prayer, God will show you His plans for your child. He has plans to bless your children(Isa.44:3). He has plans to use your children(Joel.2:28). He has plans to deliver your children(Pr.11:21). Mothers, sit with the Word of God and seek out what God has to say about your children. Write it down. I have some spare pages at the end of my Bible. I have written down verses for my children there. These are words that God gave me over the years for them. I also have a book in which I have written down the words of prophesy over our lives and the lives of our children. In Habakkuk 2: 2, God tells the prophet, "*Write down the vision*". Pray it through. Believe it, declare it, claim it and receive it.

**iii) Trust:** Leaving the child in the basket on the river Nile must have been even more difficult for Jochebed! Anxiety would have reared its ugly head and said, "What if the basket leaks? Your child will drown!" An element of trust in God was imperative! She fought back tears as she left her baby on the water. Seeing her mother's distress, Miriam must have whispered, "Mom, I will hide here and see what happens". Silently nodding Jochebed returned home. 'Will her Jehovah God prove faithful once more? Will He watch over the baby?!' she wondered. Dear mom, you need to trust God to take care of your child!

**Wages:** Some people think it is below their dignity to be a home maker! They feel it is a waste of wisdom, energy and talent! With no option some women have to work for their bread and butter! Home maker or career woman, a mom is a mom! Being faithful to God in being a mom is a great investment! Jochebed was faithful to God. Those three months God watched her faithfulness!

That evening Pharaoh's daughter came with her hand maidens to bathe in the river. She saw the basket in the reeds. She asked them to get it. When she opened the basket and saw the crying baby, she felt sad for him. Knowing this was her chance, Miriam ran up to her and said, "Shall I get you a Hebrew woman to nurse this child for you?" Families working in harmony are a necessity in fulfilling the plans and purposes of God in the Kingdom of God. Think about it. Miriam's presence on the banks of the river was a stepping stone in God's plans for Moses!

Miriam returned with Jochebed. Exodus 2: 9 says,

*“Pharaoh’s daughter said to her (Jochebed), Take this baby and nurse him for me and I will pay you”.* Jochebed was given a salary to take care of her own son! For all the time and energy you take to bring up your child in God’s ways, there is a reward for you. I have heard women say, 'Being a mom is a thankless job!' Woman of God, no! Do not listen to the lies of the enemy! You are on God’s payroll. He will reward you for your faithfulness on earth and in eternity! Be faithful in motherhood!

**Little Moses in Pharaoh’s palace:** What do you think Jochebed would have done in those few years or months of weaning the child? The Israelites had the habit of telling of the wonders of God from generation to generation. She must have talked about Jehovah God to her baby. She must have told him over and over again that he was a Hebrew not an Egyptian! She must have spoken to the little baby about Yahweh who sees all, knows all and is all.

Finally the day arrived and she went and gave the child back to Pharaoh's daughter. She must have been grateful for the extra lease of time she had with her child, yet as she traced her steps back home sadness seemed to engulf her. This time around the 'what ifs' surfaced! 'What if the riches of the world grip him? What if he runs after foreign gods? What if Moses falters? What if my child turned away from the one true God Jehovah!! ?' The 'what ifs' must have tormented her. As soon as she reached home, she must have thrown herself at the feet of God.

Are you weighed down by the 'what ifs' in life? Are you worried about what will happen to your child?! Learn the secret from Hannah and **pour out** your heart to Him. The Bible says *“Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to Him for the lives of your children”* (Lam.2:19). **Devote yourself** to seasons of prayer for your children. Many mothers pray for their children but when they get up from prayer, they walk around with the weight of their prayers on their heads! **Pray out of faith** in God’s power to do what He has purposed in His heart to do! Do not pray out of fear! You will get nowhere. This is

what James refers to *“ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways”* (Jas.1:6). Faith is a deep conviction that God is Lord over the situation and that He will overrule the powers of darkness and set your child back on the Kingdom road or the highway of holiness! When you pray in faith, you will receive your answer to prayer. Let me share one more secret about prevailing prayer. Seek God's face for a Word from Him for your child.

As a mother let me tell you, at different times in the lives of our children, when hard situations hit them, I sought God and each time He gave a specific word of assurance or a vision. I would hold on to that word and pray in faith. Every time God answered me! Sometimes His answer took even two years to come! Those were times my faith and confidence in God grew! He is a trustworthy God. He is a promise keeping God. He will do what He says. Sister, your prayers are not in vain. Our God is alive. He will answer you. He will make the crooked paths straight!

Maybe the future is uncertain for some of you! The present is quite unsettled. You are wondering what the future holds for your child. Even as you are reading this article, some of you are feeling inadequate! The same God who gave wisdom and strength to Jochebed is in you. Seek Him and let Him work in and through you. Abide in Him and let the river of living water flow through you into your family. He did it for Jochebed. He did it for Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary and the list goes on. Down the ages He did it for every woman who put her trust in Him.

Times have changed! The world is passing away! But in this ever changing world, you have this never changing God in you! Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Cheer up. Move on with determination to move mountains through faith filled prayer. Arise and shine O woman of God! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!! **Happy Mother’s Day!**

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