

## FROM THE DEPTH OF MY HEART...

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings in the Name of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ!

We are so happy to be in touch with you through this magazine. Thank you for your prayers and support and we need more prayer support in coming days. This is the time to give ourselves totally to labor and toil for Jesus like never before. "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph.5:15, 16). God is asking you now, If not you, then who? If not now, then when? If not here, then where? Respond to His call and run for Jesus. It is worth living for Jesus than for anything else on this earth.

Beloved, thank God for all the privileges in Christ. You are picked out from this world. Don't ever love the world and its pleasures. You are totally set apart from this sinful world. Never stoop down. You are His royal priest. Use your authority and privileged priesthood-position, continually offering praises and prayers. You are God's ambassador. Represent His holy nation and diffuse the heavenly fragrance. You are God's most precious, prized possession. Spend your time in His special service!

Our 9<sup>th</sup> batch School of the Holy Spirit for Ladies finished gloriously. The Holy Spirit used my wife Benita powerfully and prophetically to expose the hidden traps of the devil in the Ladies lives and she showed the root of the problem and plucked it out completely. Many got delivered from their guilt and condemnation, healed from their inner wounds that were suppressing them not to come up in their spiritual lives. She also challenged them to come out of their soul dominated life and to live for Christ and to carry the heart of Jesus. Like a mother she carried each and every one of the students in her heart and ministered to them for many hours sacrificially in this hot climate. Pray for her specially.



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She is a great blessing for India from Heaven and a great inspiration for Indian women. Our wise ladies are not only going to build the house but they are going to build the nations. Already we are hearing many testimonies from our students, we want to hear more and more till the end of their lives.

Our second batch of School of the Holy Spirit in North India also finished gloriously. Even though we couldn't minister to them personally but our videos blessed them abundantly. They have started their journey with full of the Spirit and power to destroy the kingdom of darkness. Continue to pray for them as it is not easy to do ministry in North India. We are going to have such schools in all the states of India in the future.

Pray for our next school which is only for Tamil speaking people from May 2<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> in Theni, South India. For details contact office and visit [www.ezekiahfrancis.org](http://www.ezekiahfrancis.org).

Pray for the forthcoming five state elections. Don't forget we have the authority to change the history of our nations. Pray for our German programs.

Pray for me and my wife, for our ageing parents, as well as for our leaders and staff. May the Lord Almighty help you possess whatever God has already established for you in the spiritual realm, and may He 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!

Your loving brother,

*Alfred Francis*

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# Edifying tongues

**Dr. Ezekiah Francis**

I'm sure by this time you are thoroughly convinced of the blessings and benefits of tongues. But still, what we know is only in part. There are many things we are yet to see even in this realm. The time of Christ's coming back to the earth to take His Bride is imminent. This End Time Church will explore the realm of tongues as never before. Thousands upon thousands would experience the greatness of tongues. God will raise up many ministers who would teach and train people in this art. No power under heaven can stop it.

We will see some more blessings of tongues in this chapter. The burden in my heart to see you enjoy everything compels me to write more and more. The Bible says very clearly: ***“He who speaks in a tongue edifies and improves himself”*** (1.Co.14:4, AMP). The very word edification has many meanings. This is literally an architectural term.

When a mason builds something, he piles one stone upon another. Similarly, a tongue-talker builds up his spirit man from one level to another. Another meaning of the word edification is **to erect**. When your spirit man becomes weak and collapses, praying in tongues lifts him up and makes him stand. The terribly shriveled inward man rises up and stands tall like a mighty champion.

**To grow:** Another meaning of the word edification is to grow. The born again new creation in you needs to grow constantly. Tongues help a great deal.

**To strengthen:** It also means to strengthen. Every time you speak in tongues, your spirit man grows from strength to strength.

**To charge:** This is another meaning. As a battery needs to be charged, your spirit man needs recharging as you lose energy in the affairs of civil life and in spiritual warfare. Tongues truly charge your inner

man.

**To improve:** You can very well improve your spirit man from glory to glory. Praying in tongues greatly facilitates your improvement in the spiritual walk.

## Spirit man

When Paul says, ***“he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself”*** (1.Co.14:4), who do you think Paul refers to? This is nothing but your inner man, your real man. Many of us are not fully aware of the distinction between spirit, soul and body. I want to explain it here in a few lines.

God created Adam as a triune being, spirit, soul and body. The body functions through the five senses, touch, taste, smell, hearing, and sight. Your soul has emotions, mind and will power. These two are common for both man and animals. But do you know what makes man the crown of creation? That is nothing but his inner man, his spirit man.

God breathed Himself into Adam's nostrils. ***“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”*** (Ge.2:7). The very breath of God became man's life. That is his real man. As long as this spirit man reigns over soul and body, man has no defeat. Alas, man transgressed and his spirit man became inactive. The Bible calls this 'being dead' (Eph.2:1). From then on, man's soul and body began to reign and dominate.

Jesus gave His very life on Calvary. The moment you believe in Him as Messiah, His life rushes into you and makes your spirit man alive. Paul calls this spirit man the inner man. This is what he refers to as new creation. This inner man is created in the image and likeness of his Creator.

The more the inner man grows, the more the nature of Christ is formed in him. That's why Paul travailed for the Galatians until Christ was formed in them (Gal.4:19). All communication from God first reaches your spirit. The strength of your spirit man is your real strength. All the gifts and fruit of the Spirit reside and grow in this inner man.

### Intellectual growth

Now the main question is how to develop this spirit man. The tragedy today is that humanity has vastly improved its intellectual power. We have seen the revolution of intellectualism. People spend thousands of dollars to improve their brainpower. Universities and educational institutions compete with one another to give us improved knowledge. The brainpower of man has never developed as today. All departments of science, medicine, industry, computer, media, politics have grown up like the tower of Babel. Our knowledge has grown to the extent of planning a permanent guest house in the sun and other planets. Yet God has already predicted that in the last days, knowledge shall increase (Dan.12:4).

### Physical growth

In the same way, physical growth was never given importance as it is today. Health care awareness is dawning everywhere. Young people work out many hours for body building, senior citizens walk miles to maintain their health, and everywhere gyms and beauty parlors multiply.

Every time I go to Western countries I am surprised to see the health care. Even when you buy a coke you find the nutrition value and caloric value written all over it. You find vitamin tablets for each age group, capsules to gain or reduce weight, super herbal medicines, and so on.

All things are good and necessary but the same people that emphasize the outer man so much have failed to concentrate on the inner man. The result? Unprecedented immorality, licentious living, broken families, increased divorce rates, abominations, violence, bloodshed, robberies, terrorism, divisions, betrayal, unfaithful relationships, a sudden surge of pornography, homosexuality, so many such things. Iniquity has increased thousand times more than Sodom and Gomorra. Instead of reforming society, the efforts of man break society into pieces.

What is the remedy? The spirit man in you must grow from strength to strength. This is my pressing burden today. When I see the paralyzed, anemic, pathetic, shriveled condition of born again believers, I feel the burden rise up in me. Those who are supposed to challenge the powers of darkness, sin and the world like Christ and the Early Church have fallen captive to them. This book is born out of my pressing burden.

The one who has Christ in him is supposed to live like Him. All the fullness of God dwells in him (Col.2:9-10). In every place and at all times, he has to walk in triumphant victory (2.Co.2:14). Christ lives in him and strengthens him constantly. He can do all things through His strength (Phil.4:13). Christ's wisdom is his wisdom, Christ's holiness is his holiness (1.Co.1:30-31). He can command the demons like his Master, rebuke the tempest and cancel every disease. He can be the very reflection of Christ's glory (Rom.8:29; 2.Co.3:18). This is the Bible truth.

But why are we not able to reach this pinnacle? Why have we become victims to the demonic powers? Why do believers fall into abominable sins like unbelievers? Why has the love of many grown cold to the level that there is almost no believer without bitterness in his heart? Why so much conflict and misunderstandings in believers' families? Why have His people become weary under ever growing guilt-consciousness? Why are fear and terror paralyzing His Church? Why do people struggle to defend themselves while they are supposed to stand on the offensive and set the captives free? Why so much backbiting in the Church today? Think about it.

### Not satan

The reason for this sad plight of the Church is not satan but our failure to increase our strength to overcome satan. ***“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”*** (Eph.6:10-11). Heed this word from the Spirit. Becoming strong in the Lord is in your hands. Only you can grow in the power of His might. The power and ability to withstand the wiles of the devil is right within you. You have this divine potency to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Alas, we have not discovered this truth yet. We have neither learnt the art of strengthening our inner man, nor do we pay any attention to it.



### Not the flesh

I would not call flesh the reason for our sinfulness. You need not bow down to your flesh when God's Spirit lives in your spirit. You are not debtors to the flesh to live after it. You can mortify the deeds of the flesh through the Spirit. You can very well grow the fruit of the Spirit in your life. But instead of strengthening your inner man, you blame your flesh. Instead of strengthening your immunity and resistance power you accuse your circumstances.

But here is good news for you. You live in the time of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is interested in strengthening your inner man. God is raising up strong servants in these last days, and they are rising up as a mighty army.

The immediate need of the Church today is to teach the Body of Christ the art of strengthening the inner man. How nice it would be if our Bible colleges and our teachers taught us how to develop the spirit man. Every time Paul prayed for a church, he prayed *“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man”* (Eph.3:16).

Yes, dear friend, what is the condition of your inner man? Is he really growing with all the ability and power of the Holy Spirit? Can you truly say that Christ

is being formed in you daily? Or are you a weak person, who is easily frustrated? Do you lose your strength and get irritated even for little things? Are you still carnal and a baby in Christ with envy, strife and divisions? God is looking at you with compassion. He longs to make you a strong person. He is very keen to transform you into His image and to bless the whole world through you.




We are at the verge of the greatest revival in history. Satan and all his host are getting ready for the final conflict. Only strong men will be shining vessels in this end time revival. Only God's mighty champions can paralyze the heavy onslaughts of the devil.

There is already an intense warfare in the spirit realm. Please understand that this is the final war. I predict that a greater multitude will come to Christ in the remaining short time than all those who were saved since the day of Pentecost. This is the time of the greatest harvest of souls. Decide to become a strong champion at any cost!

Keep the Bible and Early Church heroes as your role model. Just imagine, could there have been such a great revival if the apostles had been constantly fighting a losing battle with flesh and sin? No, never! They were altogether living in another dimension of supernatural strength. How many oppositions!



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***"We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed"*** (2.Co.4:8-9). Wow! Can you see how strong they were? The need of this hour is an unbreakable, unbeatable, 'uncrushable', strong spirit. Decide now to make this your prime goal!

Maybe you are convinced now that strengthening the inner man is the first priority of your life. Now do you want to know how to strengthen your inner man? I want to help you here. Strengthening the inner man is not a big mountain. His burdens are not grievous. His yoke is always easy and light.

One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is to strengthen your inner man.

#### **Word of God**

The Holy Spirit is using two major means of grace

to strengthen your inner man. One is the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is forming Christ in you through His Word. He is using His Word to develop God's nature, power, ability and life in you. ***"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"*** (1.Pe.2:2). As the newborn baby grows by milk, Christ grows in you by the pure milk of the Word. This Word makes you grow and become strong.

John the Beloved utters this fact. ***"I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one"*** (1.Jn.2:14). Notice the sequence here. His Word abides and settles in your spirit. That Word becomes Spirit and life and makes you strong and vigorous. With that strength, you easily overcome the wicked one. What a simple secret!

#### **Tongues**

The Holy Spirit also uses another important means of grace. It's the subject of this book. TONGUES! Yes, the strength of the inner man is the blessing of praying in tongues. Yield totally to the flow of tongues gushing forth from your spirit. Spend many hours practicing this art, and a mind-blowing miracle will happen in your spirit. All the ability of the

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Holy Spirit will flood your spirit. Then the nature of Christ will engulf your spirit man. Your spirit man will in turn rise up with mighty vigor and transform your mind into the mind of Christ. Then He makes your emotions His emotions. Your five senses become the servants of the spirit man.

As you continue to speak in tongues, your inner man is edified and strengthened. The special character traits of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control will begin to blossom in your spirit. At this point, neither appreciation nor accusation will affect you. Your heart shall not fear, even if an army encamps against you. This is the lifestyle of a strong man.

### Gradually

Now this does not happen in one day, by one single language or by stammering lips. It's a strength that grows gradually on a daily basis when you take sufficient time to practice speaking different languages like Paul. Then you would gladly testify that though your outer man is decaying, yet your inner man is being renewed day by day. It's a continuous and progressive journey.

It's a holy pilgrimage of being transformed into His very image from glory to glory by the Holy Spirit (2.Co.3:18). It's an experience that can take you from one degree of holiness to another degree of holiness and from one level of righteousness to another level of righteousness (Rev.12:11).

I urge you to enter this miracle world of tongues today! Strive to enter into new realms every day. You may face some failures on this journey, but don't give up. Can you expect a newborn baby to run around and dance in a few days? We all know a child needs to grow daily, nourished with good food and drink and pure ambience. In the same way there is a time of recuperation for a man who was on a sickbed for a long time. It will take some time for him to return to normalcy. That is how you need time to grow strong in your inner man.

Some people speak in tongues for a few days expecting great and sudden changes. When these don't appear, they stop talking in tongues. There is still a belief among the old traditional Pentecostals. They only tarry in tarrying meeting to speak in tongues. Other believers, however, still speak the same initial language all through. Many don't even give five minutes a day to practice this art. Others even dare to

say tongues are not for everybody and not an important gift at all. Thus they reject this precious gift.

Some have even gone to the extent of saying the times of tongues are over, and preach against it (1.Co.13:8). Some convince themselves that teaching and preaching against tongue-talking is one of their main commissions. What a pity and deception! This is one of the prime reasons for the weakness of today's church. I dare to say this is the main trick of satan.

Dearly beloved, the Holy Spirit is weeping over the Church, exclaiming, "if only you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for your peace, your edification and blessings!" Will you wipe away His tears?

### Faith

I have explained earlier how tongues build up your spirit man and produce Christ's nature and His power in your spirit man. Not only that! When you pray in tongues, He also increases your faith and joy and gives you His rest.

Jesus' own brother Jude counsels us here: ***"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God... hating even the garment defiled by the flesh"*** (Jude 20-23). We know Jude was impelled by the Spirit to appeal to the Church to contend for the faith entrusted to the saints (Jude 3).

He was warning those who secretly crept into the church and denied our Lord (Jude 4). It is at such a crucial time that Jude commands the Church to build up their faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. There is a close connection between tongues and the growth of our faith. We all agree that Christian life is a faith life, a faith race and a faith battle.

You are justified by faith and sanctified by faith; you walk by faith, live by faith, fight by faith, and receive His gifts by faith. Our Lord explains the power of faith by saying it can even move mountains. To grow such powerful faith, it is inevitable to pray in the Holy Ghost, and tongues play a vital role in it.

The more you pray in tongues, the more you grow your faith. Of course, God has already given a measure of faith as a gift to you when you got saved (Ro.12:3). All of us have the same measure of faith, but some of us have developed our faith, while others did not do much about it.

Some have developed their faith for a holy walk, others for a miracle ministry, yet others for financial prosperity, still others have developed their faith for soul winning.

You can develop your faith in every area of your life, if you so desire. To develop faith for your specific need, you must find the appropriate Scripture and meditate upon it constantly. Along with this, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit speaking in tongues all the time. I prophecy: In the coming days God will raise up mighty men and women of faith who would move mountains. Get ready to join this army!

As long as the promises of God are in your mind only, your faith can't grow. The Word in your mind must shine in your spirit man. For this, tongues help a great deal.

A man becomes a champion of faith when he is totally controlled by God's Word and tongues. Yet again I want to remind you: that does not happen in a day. Every grace in the Christian life needs time to develop. That's why I plead with you time and again to continue speaking in tongues on a regular basis.

A man who knew the Scriptures on healing was healed while praying in tongues. His head knowledge became a revelation to him while praying in tongues, and released his healing. I heard many such testimonies. The reason is, when you pray in tongues, the Scriptures in your spirit man rise up, build up your faith and release the miracles.

Do you constantly lament your lack of faith? Is faith a problem to you? Is doubt the reason for all your failures? Don't worry. You need not cry for faith.

Read God's promises aloud. Let your ears hear what you read. Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God. Then speak clearly the tongues that gush out of you. Set apart a time for it.

When you thus speak in different languages, your faith will rise up like a giant. Without your knowledge, this will happen secretly in your spirit. A day will come where you and others will be surprised to see your own mighty faith in action.

### Joy

There is another reason why tongues strengthen your spirit man. When you pray in tongues, the joy of the Lord bubbles out of you. Peter infers it in his first message while explaining the Pentecostal experience

of tongues, ***"therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad"*** (Acts 2: 25-26).

Because God was at David's right hand, his heart rejoiced and his tongue was glad. How much more should joy explode in you when the very God Almighty comes to dwell in you! How much more should our tongue express gladness! Guess what it means, ***"the tongue was glad"***! Some laughed for hours uncontrollably when they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Yes, when you are filled with the Spirit and explode in tongues, all the sadness in your heart vanishes and His joy bubbles out. That's why the Holy Spirit is called the Oil of Gladness. As a drunkard sings out, forgetting all his pains and sorrows, a Spirit-filled man also experiences uncontrollable joy.

The more you speak in tongues, the more you will be filled with the joy of the Lord. What's the use of such a joy? Joy is the strength of a Christian. Nehemiah said, ***"Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength"*** (Neh.8:10)!

Yes! The strength, power, ability of God's people lies in the joy of the Lord. That hidden joy is released by speaking in tongues. The Holy Spirit wants to release His joy today.

When you suffer terrible loneliness, pray in this divine language. When the loved ones desert you, pray in new tongues. When sufferings and persecutions mount up against you, pray in tongues. When you suffer the pain of separation, plunge into this world of tongues.

Speak in tongues till your heart is filled with divine peace and comfort. If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small (Pr.24:10). When your strength is small, satan will plunder you. That is why at any adverse circumstance, I recommend you never stop speaking in tongues. There lies your joy, strength and edification.

### Refreshment

When you speak in tongues, a new vigor and vitality arises in you! You are greatly refreshed as if you slept for hours and rested. You renew your strength like that of an eagle. Isaiah predicted it very clearly, ***"For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said,***

***“This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” and, “This is the refreshing; Yet they would not hear” (Isa.28:11-12).***

This is the true medicine to refresh the weary. It's natural for all of us to grow weary in our life journey. Though our spirit is strong, our flesh gets exhausted easily. Sometimes, both our spirit and flesh become weary. It is not unnatural for us to grow weary as we are frail earthen vessels who contain this precious treasure (2.Co.4:7). It's obvious that until we enter into our eternal rest, we will become tired and weary at times.

Our true strength is evident in overcoming this. That's why the Holy Spirit gives us this refreshing language as a free gift.

The word 'to refresh' has many meanings: A place of rest and comfort; comfort and consolation; peace and serenity. The Hebrew word Noah comes from this root word. ***“And he called his name Noah, saying, 'This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed'” (Ge.5:29).***

Yes, it's true that we toil so much in this cursed earth! We are tired by our hard work. Many times, our mind and body become weighed down like the hands of Moses. We groan inwardly for the redemption of our bodies (Ro.8:22). At such times, the Holy Spirit's precious gift of tongues rejuvenates, energizes, comforts and revitalizes us and gives us rest. As a result, we continue our journey with new courage. As a shepherd leads his sheep beside the still and restful waters, the Holy Spirit leads us into this divine rest through the still waters of tongues (Ps.23:2).

Many times, after intense ministry, I lie down on my bed, completely exhausted. Often, I would wonder, “How am I going to rise up again for my next ministry?” By the grace of God, I have labored for the Lord beyond my physical strength.

At such times of weariness, I keep whispering in tongues on my bed. After a few hours of these quiet tongues, I receive the surge of new energy. The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead quickens my mortal body (Ro.8:11).

When I go back to the pulpit, I have strength to roar like a lion. I've experienced it thousands of times. By this, I don't mean the body of a tongue-talker will never grow weary no matter how much he works. Neither do I advocate to over rule natural health laws. I

simply present the help you can avail through tongue-talking in times of weariness. When your spirit man is rested and refreshed, he brings your body and soul under his control.

In Western countries, people go on vacation at least once or twice a year. Even people who can't really afford it save money for it throughout the year. Pastors and ministers go for vacation once a year, and the church pays for it. I feel we all need such resting times, but even people who can't go on vacation can get divine vacation through this divine language! Hallelujah!

Thousands were healed through Smith Wigglesworth's ministry, and even the dead were raised. Even in his 80s, his vigor never reduced. One time, somebody asked him whether he takes vacations. The reply was: “I take vacations every day.” Wigglesworth explained to the puzzled inquirer: “I rest and refresh myself every day by speaking in tongues. That's my true vacation.”

Yes, tongues remove physical tiredness and mental weariness. ***“You shall run and not be weary, you shall walk and not faint or become tired. When we pray in tongues, He increases our strength” (Isa.40:29-31).***

Why don't you enter this divine rest today? Jesus extends His invitation to you right now. ***“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...” (Mt.10:28-29).*** Why don't you take this yoke upon you now?

Yes, start a new life, renewing your strength. You can flourish like a watered garden. Rise up! Shout that you are strong! Determine to rejoice in the Lord! Take a vow never to allow worries to overcome you.

Take a decision to increase your faith daily. Decide to exercise your faith muscles. Turn your adversities into adventures! Let the rivers of tongues constantly flow from your heart. Never forbid it! May the Lord increase your strength like that of a wild ox and renew your energy.

May you bear fruit even in your old age and be fresh and flourishing. May you mount up like eagles with renewed wings.

# MASTURBATION

**Rev. Benita Francis**

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Dear family of God,

Your Lord Jesus allowed you to be part of this exciting End Time generation. All around you, you can clearly see the signs of His coming. Even in India, satan tries to destroy families and disturb the fragile minds of children, youth and even adults by legalizing homosexuality, a destructive practice that cuts life short by around 20 years, according to statistics! Just recently, the German minister of external affairs who lived an openly gay lifestyle died of leukemia at just 46 years of age! Please pray daily with as many believers as possible that this proposal may be rejected by the Supreme Court in just a few months from now.

This is your time as the righteousness of God to be bold like a lion and to stand for the truth (2.Cor.5:21; Pr.28:1)! This is your time to rise up as a mighty miracle worker and to set the captives free!

This is the time to stand for Jesus with all our might! This is not the time to suffer shipwreck in your faith, but to maintain your good conscience and fight the good fight of faith with the prophecies God gave to you (1.Ti.1:18-19; 6:12; 2.Ti.4:7).

With this article, I want to help you eradicate another weapon of satan that can disturb your conscience and spoil your faith.

## **MASTURBATION**

Many times, I am asked if masturbation is a sin. Well, there is no such verse in the Bible, but 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:5 tells us not to deprive one another except with consent for a time, that we may give ourselves to fasting and prayer. Masturbation takes your mind, your emotions, even your physical strength away from your spouse and directs it into a form of self-gratification. Is that not contrary to God's desire, even contrary to God's very character?

Listen to God's Word and compare it with the act of masturbation and pornography or lustful imaginations. God says through His apostle Paul to the young disciple Timothy,

8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up **holy hands**, without wrath and doubting;

9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works (1 Timothy 2:8-10)

Can you find yourself in these men or in these women? Can you really lift up holy hands, or do you get flash-backs that condemn you and make you ashamed even in God's Presence?

A very pure, highly anointed man of God whose shining eyes I used to admire because they are full of God's holy fire told me a very interesting testimony about masturbation. In his teenage, he had been told by leaders that masturbation was not a sin since it didn't involve other people. Apparently, however, God had quite a different opinion. He gave him the word from Genesis 38:9-10 where Judah's second son Onan was killed by the Lord because he emitted on the ground. Of course, that situation involved Onan's selfish heart attitude and refusal to give an heir to his brother, but the word came to him so strongly that this man of God never again had any doubt as to God's idea concerning masturbation. He repented and never again succumbed to the temptation of relieving himself in this way. Actually, once he had taken the clear decision to entrust even this area of his life to God, the temptation lost its grip and edge.

Dear brother, dear sister, please don't



misunderstand me. It is not my intention to put you under condemnation. There is actually no verse in the Bible that condemns masturbation as a sin. I do want to challenge you, however, by assuring you that there is a higher level of purity and walk with God which we can enjoy if we just take a few important decisions. Remember, it is the pure in heart who will see God and experience His goodness in a very special way (Matthew 5:8; Psalms 73:1). God won't force it unto you, but He will greatly rejoice if you decide to forego even such self-centered pleasures to draw closer to Him (James 4:7; Jeremiah 30:21).

As you know, satan is the great deceiver, God's and your adversary and the murderer of your soul (Revelation 20:3; 1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44). Crafty as he is, he devised strategies to draw us into his territory. Psychology and even science may tell you that masturbation relaxes you, clears your skin of pimples, helps you to sleep better, releases beneficial hormones into your bloodstream, or any other supposed benefit. The truth is, however, that masturbation robs you of your strength and ability to concentrate on other important matters of your life. Masturbation is nothing but one more tool in the toolbox of that somebody who wants to steal your life! So why would you even consider falling prey to it?

I have heard people say, "Well, God is not cruel. He understands that while I am unmarried - or because my spouse is less interested in sex than I am -, I still have sexual feelings, desires and even needs. He will not condemn me for satisfying my needs in my own way." Well, did you know that your wonderful God has actually already taken full care of this problem? Your God created your body in such a way that you can easily fulfill His will, if you will just entrust yourself fully into His hands.

You don't need to release sexual tension through masturbation or other means. One sign of sexual health is a spontaneous emission of semen or sexual arousal and release of bottled-up emotions during sleep. This works beautifully for both men and women. How else could a loving Creator ask us to remain pure until marriage? There is only one reason for such request: He knows it is not only better, but even healthier for us to save our sexual energy for our one and only God-given spouse.

Does He want to deprive you of any pleasure? No way! He actually wants you to be enraptured by your spouse's love when the right time has come (Proverbs

5:15-19; Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5; 8:4). Just read the Book of Song of Solomon in the Bible. You will be surprised at the expressions of love and ecstasy you will find in it. Your God is a God of love, in each and every aspect!

Yet there is actually even a grave danger in masturbation. This danger emanates from the very real, omnipresent spiritual world we live in. Somehow, any sexual activity outside of God's ordained boundaries of marriage seems to be something like an open invitation to satan and his cohorts. I have ministered to both men and women who thought they could innocently enjoy a little self-stimulation because their spouse didn't show as much interest in sexual activity as they did. In the beginning, this seemed to be a good thing for both spouses. After some time, however, the innocent little pleasure started occupying more and more of the person's mind, demanding to be satisfied in ever shortening intervals, till the point of turning into an obsession.

When the person noticed he had become addicted, it was already too late. A demon spirit had gained entrance through this willful act of self-gratification. The little pleasure had gained a life of its own. I have heard both men and women desperately begging for help and deliverance from spirits of incubus and succubus, demons that had entered their lives through the inroad of masturbation. Don't forget, satan roams around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. The good news is that you CAN resist him, steadfast in the faith! You CAN be sober and vigilant (1 Peter 5:5-8)! You CAN set your mind on the things above and fulfill God's calling upon your life (Colossians 3:1-3). You CAN live a fulfilled life in God's ways! You CAN keep the mighty force of your love for your God-given spouse alone (Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Proverbs 5:16-19).

What a tragedy it is when God's called and chosen people waste their time and energy in things like masturbation! I am reminded of an unmarried sister who tried to convince me that God wouldn't mind her drinking a glass of wine in the night and doing some masturbation to get a better sleep. Well, today, many years later, she is still "sleeping", spiritually speaking, frustrated with her life, never able to get into active ministry, and still unmarried. I often wonder how her life could have been if she had decided to let God take care even of her physical and

emotional needs instead of taking the matter into her own hands...

You don't need to allow your mind and emotions to be sidetracked into a perverted pleasure. Why do I call masturbation a perverted pleasure? Well, it has been perverted, which means, altered and misused, away from the purpose of sexuality which is procreation and bonding inside of the loving, committed relationship of marriage. Can you see how that somebody again tries to steal a vital part of your life? Don't settle for the substitute - GET a life, preferably your own!

**It is said that 98% of people masturbate, and the other 2% are lying**

Well, this high percentage of masturbators was proven to be a lie, but still, the percentage is shockingly high. An American study from 2007 among different ethnic groups found that 61% of men and 38% of women had been masturbating anytime during the previous year. So, why would you want to be one among the majority? Why would you want to risk missing your life purpose for just a little bit of pleasure (Genesis 25:29-34)? Since you know that satan roams around like a roaring lion, better do what God's Word commands:

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7)

You don't need to satisfy each and every desire of your physical body, mind or emotions. You CAN discipline your body and bring it into subjection, lest you should become disqualified of the great things God has in store for your life (1 Corinthians 9:27)! You can entrust your soul to your loving, faithful Creator in doing good (1 Peter 4:19). He will exalt you even into the heights of true pleasure when the right time has come. Rejoice in your God-given authority to resist temptation and enjoy happy, healthy purity (Mark 14:38; Luke 4:1-13).

You know that your God actually WANTS you to have great fun and enjoyment? See this:

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the

wife of your youth (Proverbs 5:18)

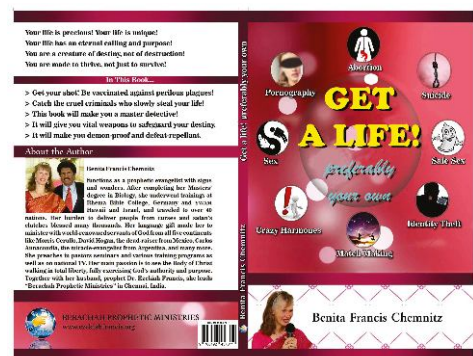
Wow. Quite sexy, isn't it? And so clear... not with your own hands, but with your partner... not just with any partner, but with your rightfully married WIFE!

Do you feel you lack a little favor with God? Do you desire some extra blessing? Well, there is a secret shortcut to it:

He who finds a wife you find a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD (Proverbs 18:22)

So, as I already suggested, better GET a wife, GET a life - preferably your own! And then LOVE life, and LIVE love God's way.

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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

**14 Berachah Prophetic Voice - May 2016**

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