

GOOD NEWS The Glorious hope!

Many fond memories come to mind at this time of the year when many people all over the world are celebrating the so-called Easter with so much of tradition and ceremony. But for the true believer in the Bible, the most important experience is the glory of the resurrection.



What is there for the common man in this event? There's a lot! Yes, the glorious hope! Many have no hope beyond this short-lived life. And many have become so hopeless that they are not really living but existing! So the resurrection brings us a new hope-the glorious hope! Let's see what it means to us in our practical day-to-day living.

1. The fact of resurrection is the basis for the good news of salvation for mankind: As per Paul in 1Corinthians 15:3, the fact of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection are the foundation of our faith to save us from our sins! That's good news! There is no gospel at all if the Lord was not risen! The resurrection forms an integral part of the good news. Only His death is not sufficient. He needs to rise to make the gospel powerful to save those who believe.

2. The reality of resurrection makes our faith real and living: It is in vain to believe in a Savior if He is still in the grave (1 Cor. 15:16). But, praise God, we have a risen and living Lord upon whom our faith rests. So our faith is made real and meaningful because the Lord Jesus is risen from the dead. All those who are born into this world die. And it finished with them. But not so with the Lord Jesus! He began a new way again- the way to Eternal Life.

3. The reality of Jesus' resurrection makes the future resurrection of all a possible reality : according to what the great apostle Paul clarifies and defends in 1Corinthians 15: 12-23, all those who believe in Christ, they will rise from the dead one day. Even those who do not believe, to face judgment. The basis for this hope is the resurrection of Christ Himself. He is the first fruits of all those who died. So the death is no longer the end of everything. But it is the gateway to a better and glorious world beyond the grave. It is this assurance that enables believers find comfort and peace in the departure of the dear ones. 1Thess.4: 13-18. Oh! What a glorious hope that we all can live again in glorious bodies and never see pain, suffering, or death again! We can know this for certain because the Lord rose in glorious body and ascended to heaven.

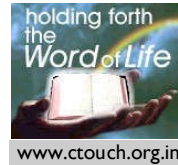
4. The reality of resurrection is the power behind transformed lives: There is no power on earth to change a person like Paul who was such a cruel, vicious, violent and fanatical man before he met Christ. His life was totally transformed by his encounter with the living Savior (1cor. 15: 8). What was the power that brought about this miraculous change and molded such a man into the greatest of apostles of all times? The power of resurrection! That's what Paul earnestly desired to know and experience in Philip. 3:10, 11.

Now, what is your hope? Do you have this glorious hope? Why not possess it now? It is available to all freely today. You can know and experience the power of resurrection in your own life if you commit your life to follow the Lord who died and rose again to give this glorious hope. It is possible for you to experience a miraculous transformation into a new person, as you trust in the living Savior to change you and give you a life worth living! HE IS ABLE BECAUSE HE IS ALIVE! AMEN!

> Free copies can be ordered from : Green Pastures, P. O. Box 71, Thane- 400 601. Mumbai. Tel/Fax: 022 2597 0650. Cell: 098920 93534

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Green Pastures

~for healthy growth

to encourage, edify & equip you



Psalm 23

Volume 1. Issue 4.

Jesus Christ is Lord

April 2010



MINISTRY VISION

- To make quality, reproducing disciples. Mat 28:18-20
- To present each one perfect in Christ. Col.1:28-29.
- To reach the unreached. Rom.15:20.
- To defend the faith. Jude 3.

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I John 5:13. "I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life." (NLT)

Welcome! This is the season of festivities to many Christians celebrating the so-called Easter feast. Though the Bible does not command nor show any example of any such festival for Christians, many knowingly or unknowingly are fervently enjoying the holidays. But the true believers have a daily feast because the Savior is alive and is on the throne. Hallelujah!

Knowing for sure we have eternal life! Apostle John reminds the believers in the Lord Jesus that they should know they have eternal life. This is essential to give us confidence in our prayer life. Without experiencing eternal life, we are under the curse of judgment and death. Our faith in the risen Savior who died for our sins and rose again, seals our salvation and assures our prayers reach His throne. As we pray according to His Will, we become more confident that He hears us. This is the toughest part of our prayer life – to pray in His Will. Human nature, though redeemed still seeks self-gratification and self-will. It needs certain maturity level to pray prayers pleasing to the Lord. Once our prayers reach His listening ear, we can be sure He answers us. Only, we need to wait for His time to get them into our hands! Praise God, we have a prayer answering God because He is alive and promises to give what we ask for, even more, according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:20-21, Philippians 4:19. Amen.

Praise God for enabling me to bring out another issue of Green Pastures. It is encouraging to know many are being blessed and ministered to through this small magazine. By God's grace, the very purpose to encourage, edify and equip is being fulfilled. To God be all glory in everything.

Some copies have come back as addresses were not traceable or the labels came off. Please let me know through SMS if you have not received any of the earlier issues. They will be sent to you promptly.

As promised many have been sent the complimentary gift CD/DVDs for recommending more than 5 addresses. We welcome more addresses to be sent, so that many more may be fed with Green Pastures. As I go round teaching the Word, I can see the need for sound teaching and feeding of the sheep with Green Pastures. Let me assure you I am available to help you minister to your church or train leaders for effective life and ministry. Feel free to write your thoughts and experiences. God bless you. – **A.Othniel**

DOCTRINE

Is the Bible All-Sufficient?

<< Contd from last issue



[Whatever I need for 'spiritual life' and 'godly conduct' has been revealed in God's Word! Regarding that revelation, let's now consider the words of Jude...]

III. THE FAITH HAS BEEN REVEALED ONCE FOR ALL

A. JUDE WROTE OF 'THE FAITH'...

1. I.e., those things in which we are to believe
2. That is was "once for all delivered..." - Ju 3

B. DELIVERED 'ONE TIME FOR ALL TIME'...

1. In the Greek, 'once for all' is literally 'one time for all time'
2. I.e., the faith (that body of knowledge we are to believe) was delivered one time for all time
3. The faith wasn't partly revealed, with more to come through later revelations years later!
4. The faith wasn't revealed just for that generation, with a different faith to be revealed for a generation yet future!

[Therefore the task we have is "to contend earnestly for the faith", not be looking for a new faith to fit our desires or expectations! Finally, we turn now to the writing of Paul...]

IV. THE SCRIPTURES MAKE US COMPLETE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

A. PAUL WROTE OF THE VALUE OF THE SCRIPTURES...

1. That they are inspired of God, and profitable for:
 - a. Doctrine and reproof
 - b. Correction and instruction in righteousness-2Ti 3:16
2. They are capable of making one "complete, thoroughly quipped for every good work"
 - a. Not partial, but complete!
 - b. Not some good works, but every good work! - 2 Ti 3:17-- What tradition, decree of man, or modern day revelation, can do any more than the inspired Word of God?

B. IN THE SCRIPTURES, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED...

1. To believe in Jesus - Jn 20:30-31
 2. To have life in His name - Jn 20:30-31
 3. To have fellowship with the Father, the Son, and the apostles - 1 Jn 1:3
 4. To have joy that is full - 1 Jn 1:4
 5. To have help when we sin - 1 Jn 2:1
 6. To know that we have eternal life - 1 Jn 5:13
 7. To understand the revelation of the mystery of God - Ro 16:25-26; Ep 3:3-4
 8. To be fruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and have an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom-2 Pe 1:8-11.
- What else must one know or have?

CONCLUSION

contd in the next page >>

><> Let us know your comments on this article. Thank you.

MISSIONS

Developing World Vision and Sharing in God's Work



Isaiah's Vision: Isaiah 6:1-8.

This is one of the most powerful and challenging visions we have in the Holy Scriptures. We have so much to learn from this beautiful scene of God's glory Isaiah was privileged to see. Here are the spiritual points listed for your personal study and meditation.

Unless we see God's holiness, glory and power first, we can not properly see our own real sinful condition. And unless and until we recognize the need for cleansing our own defiled lives, we can never get the vision for the perishing souls nor can we ever develop the world vision.

1. he saw God. His Glory, Power, Authority and Holiness.
2. he saw himself: His sin, unworthiness, uncleanness, uselessness
3. he saw others.: their need, his availability, his willingness.

Now once you have seen, felt, experienced the above, you are ready to hear God and He is eager to send you. Seeing the real need of people is one of the compelling motivations for missions. God came down to meet man's need of salvation. He wants to send you and me, to meet the same need of others.

How the Lord met the needs of people: Mat. 9:35-38; John 4:35.

1. He went to them.
2. He taught them
3. He met their practical needs
4. He saw their conditions.
5. He felt compassion for them
6. He shared His concern with His disciples
7. He sent them too.

What the Lord Jesus said:

1. Lift up your eyes- **Distract** yourself
2. Look at the fields- **Discern** the conditions
3. Pray to the Lord for the workers- **Desire** help
4. Obey the Lord's command- begin to **Do**.

The Lord shared His passion for the perishing crowds, with His disciples. He wanted them to take their eyes away from their routine daily lives and give attention to the people around them. That helps them to see the real needs and conditions of people. As they feel the burden for the souls to be reached, they can pray seeking God's help to touch their lives. More work needs more workers. As we begin to pray, we can sense the Lord asking us to go and reach out to them who need to hear His saving message of the cross. Then, we get the power to do His command to go and make disciples of all nations. Matthew 28:18-20. Amen.

Will you hear His call and respond to His command? God bless you as you do.

**Question: Should Christians celebrate Christmas, Good Friday and Easter, etc festivals?**

Answer: As with almost all "Christian" holidays, Easter has been secularized and commercialized. The dichotomous nature of Easter and its symbols, however, is not necessarily a modern fabrication. Since its conception as a holy celebration in the second century, Easter has had its non-religious side. In fact, Easter was originally a pagan festival. The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime. When the second-century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations, they attempted to convert them to Christianity. They did so, however, in a clandestine manner. It would have been suicide for the very early Christian converts to celebrate their holy days with observances that did not coincide with celebrations that already existed. To save lives, the missionaries cleverly decided to spread their religious message slowly throughout the populations by allowing them to continue to celebrate pagan feasts, but to do so in a Christian manner. As it happened, the pagan festival of Easter occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. It made sense, therefore, to alter the festival itself, to make it a Christian celebration as converts were slowly won over. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed to its modern spelling, Easter.

The Date of Easter

Prior to A.D. 325, Easter was variously celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by emperor Constantine. It issued the Easter Rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. However, a caveat must be introduced here. The "full moon" in the rule is the ecclesiastical full moon, which is defined as the fourteenth day of a tabular lunation, where day 1 corresponds to the ecclesiastical New Moon. It does not always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon. The ecclesiastical "vernal equinox" is always on March 21. Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.

The Lenten Season: Lent is the forty-six day period just prior to Easter Sunday. It begins on Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras (French for "Fat Tuesday") is a celebration, sometimes called "Carnival," practiced around the world, on the Tuesday prior to Ash Wednesday. It was designed as a way to "get it all out" before the sacrifices of Lent began. New Orleans is the focal point of Mardi Gras celebrations in the U.S.

The Cross: The Cross is the symbol of the Crucifixion, as opposed to the Resurrection. However, at the Council of Nicaea, in A.D. 325, Constantine decreed that the Cross was the official symbol of Christianity. The Cross is not only a symbol of Easter, but it is more widely used, especially by the Catholic Church, as a year-round symbol of their faith.

The Easter Bunny & Eggs: The Easter Bunny is not a modern invention. The symbol originated with the pagan festival of Easter. The goddess, Eastaar, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. The Germans brought the symbol of the Easter rabbit to America. It was widely ignored by other Christians until shortly after the Civil War. In fact, Easter itself was not widely celebrated in America until after that time.

All these are not biblical traditions and so Bible believers in Christ have nothing to do with them. We have the Risen and Living Savior who never dies again. Hallelujah! Daily, we live and walk in the light of this revelation and experience of the power of resurrection and have no part in pagan traditions. Amen. > Ask for free tracts on "Truth & Traditions". ><

"... contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." Jude 3. 18

**CONCLUSION**

1. I hope I have given you reasons to place your faith in the Word of God, and it alone...!

- The whole counsel of God has been proclaimed!
- We have all things pertaining to life and godliness!
- The faith has been revealed once and for all!
- The Scriptures can make us complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work!

2. Can we trust the Bible...?

- Yes, for it has been faithfully preserved and translated!
- Yes, for it contains the books that rightly serve as our canon (authority)!
- Yes, for it is inspired of God!
- Yes, for it can be understood!
- Yes, for it is an all-sufficient guide for salvation!

3. Those who would deny such things are either...

- Atheists and skeptics who wish to reject the Bible which condemns their lifestyle
- Leaders of cults or man-made religions who desire your full allegiance to themselves

But in the words of the apostle Paul...

"I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

Place your faith and trust in God and His Word alone, and you cannot go wrong.

The Bible teaches that there is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood. Jesus shed that blood. The cross signifies His finished work that He alone completed by taking on the sin that you committed. The empty tomb signifies His power over death and His power to resurrect those that were once dead.

By Grace you are saved, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember that as you study His Word. Be a diligent student, but never forget that intellect alone will never give you one day of eternal life before an almighty and holy God.

The Scriptures are truly sufficient for those that have a saving faith in the Messiah.

Yet the message of the Cross is foolishness to those that are perishing. Are you wise or a fool? (1 Cor. 1:18).

May God grant you honesty in that answer. Believe the Bible and Be saved today! Amen!

>> Let us know your thoughts on these articles. Join us as Volunteers/Partners in the ministry to multiply disciples and to defend the faith. God bless you.

><>

FOUNDATIONS

3. REPENTANCE



Matthew 3:2, 4:17; Acts 2:38, 3:19, 5:31, 8:22, 11:18, 17:30, 20:21, 26:20.

* **What is Repentance?** The Meaning of Repentance: ' to change one's mind.

* In the O.T. Heb. 'Nacham' = to lament or grieve. e.g. Joel 2:12; 1 Kings 21:27; Ezra 10:1.

Heb. 'shub' = to return, to turn back. e.g. 2Chron.7:14; Isa.55:7; Ez.18:21.

* In the N.T.: Greek. 'metamelomai' = to regret, to feel concern. e.g. Mat.3:2; Ac.3:19; Lk.15:21.

Greek: 'metanoiein' = to have another mind.

* Thus the N.T. emphasizes the inward nature of true repentance; the O.T. emphasizes the outward expression of the inner change.

"Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back to face to move in a completely new direction."

Examples: An example of true repentance: Luke 15:11-32.

Examples of false repentance: Matt.27:3-4, Ac.1:25.-intense anguish & remorse but no true repentance. Judas went too far- to 'no turning back' point.

-Esau: Heb.12:16,17. It was too late for Esau to regret. He could not get back.

* **Why to Repent? The Message of Repentance:**

* Started by John the Baptist: Mk.1:3,4,14,15.

* Lord Jesus started His ministry preaching about repentance: Matt.4:17.

* The Great Commission included : Lk. 24: 46,47.

* The Apostles preached: Ac.2:38, 3:19, 8:22, 26:20.

* God wants everyone every where to repent: Acts 17: 30.

* Without repentance, no conversion and hence no salvation. Ac.26:18,20.

* **Who or What causes repentance? The Means of Repentance:**

* Begins with God and not man:

* The Call: Father draws men to Himself: Jn.6:44.

* The Conviction: The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin: Jn.16:8.

* The Conviction by the Word of God: Acts 2:36-38.

* The Command of God demands obedience: Ac.17:30.

* The Compulsion of the Goodness of God: Rom. 2:4.

* The Contrition of the godly sorrow: 2Cor.7:10.

* The Correction of God grants repentance: 2Tim. 2:25.

* **What is Associated with repentance? The Manner of repentance:**

1. Paying back: Restitution: Lk. 19:8,9.

2. Being reunited: Reconciliation: Mt.5:23,24.

3. Leaving behind: Forsaking: Ac.19:18,19.

4. Doing good deeds: fruit bearing: Ac.26:20; Mt.3:8.

5. Separation from the world unto God: 2Cor.6:14-17.

6. Turning from the idols to the living God: 1Thess.1:9; 1Cor.10:20;

7. Confessing sins to the Lord Jesus: 1Jn.1:9,8.

8. Forsaking sinful lifestyle: Proverbs 28:13; Eph.4:22.

* **Who needs to repentance?** * All men everywhere: Acts 17:30.

* God's people: 2Chronicles 7:14; 2Cor.7:9, 12:21. * Religious people: Lk. 13:3.

* The Importance of repentance: Repentance + Faith = Conversion.

* The Lord Jesus exhorted and warned Peter: Lk.22:32. After his repentance and faith he would be converted to strengthen others.

* Paul's preaching was focussed on repentance: Acts 26:18,20.

* The Prodigal son was restored to the father's house and his sonship because of the change in his mind and decision of his will resulting in performance of the will in rising from there and returning: Luke 15:11-24.

..Jesus , "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Mat 4:17. 4

GENERAL NEWS, VIEWS



><> 25 years in the Ministry of Multiplying Disciples - Now Time to Possess the Land!

Bro. A. Othniel has completed 25 years in the Lord's work from 1985, based in Mumbai. To God be all the glory for His Great Faithfulness. Hallelujah!

After moving around all these years from place to place for accommodation and ministry purposes, God has shown land near Panvel, about 75 KMs from Mumbai, in a newly upcoming city called Arrow City Manhattan.

Two plots of 300 sq yards have been booked, costing about Rs 20 lakhs. Full payment has to be made in 2 years time. Monthly installment to be paid comes to about Rs 54,000/-.

We look to the Lord to provide through His people like you. The land is for constructing a multipurpose building for Church worship meetings, conferences, Seminars, Training programs, Social welfare projects to help the poor, residential and ministry office purposes & for retreat center, etc.

You are welcome to invest in this project for God's glory and for the extension of His Kingdom. Any amount of gift/donation is appreciated and acknowledged. We have sec 80G Income Tax exemption for donors, as ours is a regd Charitable Trust.

Pl feel free to ask for any info to pray and participate in this building project. Thank you and God bless you for your partnership.

A. Othniel. Calvary Centre Trust. Thane

Email: ao58@live.com. Tel No. 022 2597 0650.

Cell nos: 98920 93534, 80971 38634.

P.O. Box 71, Thane—400 601. Mumbai.

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BIBLE STUDY (Contd from previous page)

"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks to God in everything." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.



2. The Power of Blessing: through the life of Jacob

The life of Jacob is filled with blessings. He robbed the right and the privileges of the firstborn from his brother. He deceived his father to bless him as his firstborn son. He experienced prosperity and blessings at his uncle's house, of course, by hard work as well as manipulative tactics. But then, even with all these blessings, he was not ready to meet his own brother; he feared for his life. He badly needed one more blessing that is going to transform his life once for all. He decided and prepared himself to face God and get His blessings too. Jacob was the one who sought God's blessing, fought for it and got it!

But Abraham never asked for the blessing of God; it was all from God's own interest and Sovereign plan to bless Abraham and through him all nations of the world.

When we read the story of how Jacob wrestled with God for blessing in Genesis 32:22- 32, we can glean several lessons for our own spiritual edification and encouragement.

God is more interested in our lives- how we live and what we do with our lives than how comfortable and problem- free our lives are. Often, it appears, we have something in our mind to ask God to bless us but God in His Sovereign plan has something else and far better things for us. Here, Jacob only wanted God to strengthen him or to set him free from fear or to save him from his brother's assault. But God had much more for Jacob, and through him God wanted to bring a new nation into being and through them a Savior for the world! Hallelujah! How wonderful and beyond understanding are God's plans for His chosen people!

Yes, the first thing that happens if anybody comes to the Lord Jesus Christ by faith is that he becomes a new creation, a son of God. 2Cor.5:17. It is not that he becomes a big man or a rich man or a healthy man or a prosperous man, or a man free from all problems, but a new man! And only a new man can live the new life and receive new blessings of heaven, like the new wine is put into the new wineskins. So, in Jacob's blessing, we see the mighty power of God transforming lives.

Jacob becomes Israel and his whole life's direction and purpose changes from then on, because he has experienced God's blessings. ><

We see how God wants to change our attitude and lifestyle rather than just bless us in our problems or to prosper our lives.

>> Next Month: How Jacob experienced God's blessing

>> To be contd >>

> Read fully in a book on "The Secrets of God's Blessings".

> Send us your comments/suggestions. Thank you. God bless You.

>> For Counseling/Prayers: Call Calvary 98920 93534 for Victory!

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

2. JOY



Contd from last issue >>

" Joy is the love's music- being cheerful in all circumstances."

* **Where and how to find this joy:**

1. In the Lord Jesus Christ: Ps.43:4; Jn.16:20-24; Phil.4:4.
2. In the word of God: Jer.15:16; 1Jn.1:4.
3. In our relationship with God: Lk.10:20.
4. In God's people: Phil.4:1; 1Thess.2:20;3Jn.4.
5. In the house of prayer: Is.56:7; Ps.16:11; Jn.16:24.
6. In the fellowship of God's people: Ac.2:46; Phil.1:25-26.
7. In giving to the Lord's work: 2 Cor.8:2.
8. In suffering for Christ in His service): Lk.10:17; 2 Cor.7:4-7; Phil.2:17.
9. In returning to the Lord in repentance): Is. 51:11.

* **The ways to express the joy:**

1. Through songs: Gen.31:27; Jam.5:13; Job 29:13; Eph.5:19; Col. 3:16.
2. By Musical instruments: Is.18:6.
3. By various sounds: 1Chron.15:16.
4. By praising: 2Chron.29:30.
5. By shouting: Ezra 3:12,13; Ps.32:11.
6. From the heart: 1Kin. 21:7.

* **Results of being joyful:**

1. Enables us to obey God's command to rejoice: Phil.4:4; 1Thess.5:16.
2. Gives Health and strength: Neh.8:10 (as sorrow brings disease- Ps.32:3-4)
3. Life is brightened as morning: Ps.30:5. (improvement in the beauty and facial features, etc).
4. Helps to choose the best: Matt.13:44.(not affected by the loss/sacrifice)
5. s contagious-makes others joyful too: 2 Cor.2:3.
6. It is a testimony to the hope you have in Christ: Rom.12:12; 1Thess.4:13.
7. It helps you become one with the feelings of others-by sharing, reaching out, showing concern, belongingness etc.: Rm.12:15.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."-(Lord Jesus) John 15:11.

> Let us know your comments on the Fruit. Thanks

<< Ask for the practical Book on the " Fruit of the Spirit "

ENCOURAGEMENT

How to Invest for Eternity !



Your life is God's good gift to you. No matter how difficult your circumstances, your life has far more potential than you have ever realized. Your life has only begun. It is your great opportunity. It is yours to invest or to waste. You can do more significant things with your life than you have ever realized, and this message is written to help you make a wise investment of it. No matter what your age, it is never too late to start planning and investing for eternity.

You were created for life. In fact, it is impossible for you to cease to exist. Once created, no human being can escape existence. The question is, will it be only existence? Or, will it be life in the fullest, most wonderful sense of that term? It is not merely a question of heaven or hell. It is a question of all that heaven can include for you. The Bible points to great differences in the rewards of heaven. More than you have realized your future reward is in your own hands. Your daily choices have eternal consequences, and God does not choose for you. You yourself must choose wisely.

God has a wonderful plan for you. Lord Jesus came that you might have life in its most wonderful sense, "and have it to the full" (John 10:10). No matter how good your life is, Jesus wants to make it better. No matter how satisfying it has been thus far, Jesus wants to make your future far more satisfying. God always has tremendous plans for you. Let me remind you again: "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer.29: 11). As surely as God is in heaven, He has better plans for you tomorrow than you have ever realized thus far. The question is this: will you use your today so that your tomorrow can be the greatest possible?

Our life is surviving on two main resources. One is TIME and the other is MONEY. Everything we do revolve around these two main resources. And we become whatever we are based on how we use time and money- for what purpose and what we get finally. These two are gifts. Though time is given to all equally, money is not so. We acquire money depending on various factors.

However, your happiness and satisfaction is based on how wisely you budget and spend these and what you achieve ultimately. If you understand, you are given one more year to do and live your life to the full, then you need to take every possible step to harness these to the maximum benefit, to you, to your fellow human beings as well as to the Creator and Giver of all these gifts.

Plan your daily life in such a way that you are in the centre of God's plans for you. As you put into use your time and money, this year, more wisely and with understanding of their value, you will not regret later for the wasted resources. He gives more to those who prove faithful in using the little or whatever He has already given. Will you make the right decision and use your life today so God can carry out His full plans for your tomorrow?

Be Encouraged.

>> **You are welcome to share your needs/problems for prayers and counseling by email to: ao58@live.com. Or send by post to:**

Calvary Centre, P. O. Box 71, Thane-400 601. Mumbai.

Call Calvary 98920 93534 for Victory! anytime, anyday!

BIBLE STUDY

The Secrets of God's Blessings



The Promise of Blessing: through the life of Abraham

Contd from previous issue >>

Rick continues, this past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life.

And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for. You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems. If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, "which is my problem, my issues, my pain." But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others.

We discovered quickly that in spite of the prayers of hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay or make it easy for her. It has been very difficult for her, and yet God has strengthened her character, given her a ministry of helping other people, given her a testimony, drawn her closer to Him and to people.

You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life. Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year, all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money for notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease.

So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72.

First, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases. Second, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from the church. Third, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation. Fourth, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free.

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God's purposes (for my life)?

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better ... God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings. Amen

There are many such examples in my own life and in the lives of so many God's children, that illustrate this truth that we are always going through some kind of difficulties all the time, through experiencing God's blessings too.

So what should be our response always then? > **Contd in the next page >**

LEADERSHIP The Burning Bush Experience



>> (contd from previous page)

3. The Perspective of the things around them-there was a clear sense of the reality of all things. In the gospels' account, they were asking questions- now answering them! In the gospels they were asking who's the greatest among them. They were seeking for "self" promotion and protection. They feared for their safety. They were concerned about themselves. They were not sure what the Lord was telling them-not able to see spiritually things clearly. But now after the Holy Spirit has come, there was authority clearly evident in their lifestyle-in what they did!

Similarly, Moses was self-centered, concerned about himself. Now looking at the bush can't ignore. Now he must go to deliver Israel and be prepared to face death!

The vision of the burning bush opens our inner eyes to see the reality clearly and to have a different, realistic perspective of all things around us.

4. The Purity in their life: The filling of the Holy Spirit brought a sharp separation between the believer and the world. As the burning set apart this bush from all other bushes, so that Moses could look at it and hear God's voice, so also the life filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, manifests a different lifestyle that is attractive and makes impact on others around.

We ought to see another world of Holiness. People cleansed and purified, manifesting a separated and sanctified lives through the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, Moses was standing upon the holy ground. Where God is, there is holiness. The bush was being purified by the fire and tells of Moses' life being purified-to be a vessel sanctified for the Master's use. 2 Timothy 2:21.

5. The Participation by their involvement: They had great delight and desire in prayer and communion with God and loved the scriptures. In the gospels' account they could not stay awake even for one hour! The only one who could stay awake- the Lord Jesus. Some tried and asked him how to pray. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray and keeps us alert and active in the house of God.

In the gospels, Lord Jesus quoted the Scriptures, but in the book of Acts the disciples quoted. the spirit of the world doesn't appreciate the Scriptures. By the Holy spirit alone you can love, desire and appreciate and understand the Scriptures.

Now they have to participate in reaching the world for saving it. They were chosen to become partners with God in the salvation work of whole mankind. This was made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit through them.

Similarly, through the burning bush, Moses was called upon to participate in God's deliverance plan for Israel. To go and bring them out of Egypt. God works through man if we hear Him and participate with Him in His eternal plans. Amen.

Have you experienced this vision of the burning bush in your own life? If not, don't go a step forward. wait and ask the Lord to show you this. Unless and until you become nobody and see the burning bush, God can not call you or use you effectively to fulfill His plans for His glory. Maybe you can do whatever you want and even may succeed by the worldly standards, however, it will not be glorifying or pleasing to the Lord. The vision of the burning bush is what is needed today for God to call and send many Moseses. Amen. ><>

YOUTH LIFESTYLE Contd from last issue



How to overcome Temptation?

We have seen that:

1. Temptation can be a physical object you encounter.
2. Temptation is a pressure situation.
3. Temptation is voice in your head.

What makes temptation not fun in the long run are the things that come with it. You may enjoy a piece of pie today, but that means tomorrow you won't enjoy standing on the scales. Premarital sex may be enjoyable today, but what kind of attitudes and relationships are you building for tomorrow?

To change your mind, so it will have strength to resist temptation, you need to appeal to higher loyalties, stronger desires. Resisting temptation is basically simple, if you think of it. It's a choice. You can look over the options and decide what you want to do. The problem is that temptation's pleasures are often more obvious and immediate than the pleasures of not giving in. Besides, your mind has been twisted again so you can not always see clearly what is really good for you. It does seem better to be loved by your crowd of friends than to be loved by God. So you need to renew your mind-get in touch with what's really best for you.

You need to restrain your mind so that those rewards become as obvious, as the rewards you get for giving in to temptation.

Perhaps these principles will help that process.

1. Know what you're getting into. Think about the long-term results of how you act. Today it may be easier to fight with your fiancé and get your own way. But what kind of relationship are you building for the future? On the other hand, what will obeying God lead to? If you can see the attraction of the kind of life God wants to plant in you, you will be less tempted to choose some other, short-term pleasure. The Bible is full of commentary on how good God's life is. Read the psalms and work on appreciating the advantages of not giving in to temptation.

2. Replace tempting thoughts with something better. You can't ignore temptation, but you can fill your thoughts with something else. Often prayer helps. Sometimes it is very helpful to remind yourself of the power and love of Jesus, who is on your side, who lives with you (if have already accepted Him into your life). Some people use this verse to help them remember: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil.4: 13).

Sometimes the best thing you can do is to pick up an interesting book, call up a friend, or start working on a project. If you are tempted to go to an X-rated movie, look for another movie instead. The problem with many temptations is that they are close and immediate. If you can put them off a while and give your mind a chance to recover from its panic, you will be in better shape to see the bigger picture.

3. Your mind tends to follow patterns. Change the patterns, and you change your mind. In a family, kids are always fighting over what TV programs to watch. They should change the patterns by figuring out ahead of time what shows they will watch and reach some compromise long before the tube is turned on.

>> Contd on the next page >>

"... That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished." 2 Timothy 3:17. 14

7 " Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him..." Ro 8: 37.

How to overcome Temptation?

4. Break the pattern of failure by confession. When you go on your mistakes with another person, it changes your attitude. For one thing you receive forgiveness, mind your mind is put at rest. For another thing, a friend can help you to hold to your decision not to give in to temptation any more. He or she can check up on you, encourage you, and pray for you. Read James 5:16.

5. Above all, remember who you are: a child of God, loved by Him. (I.e. if you have accepted the Lord Jesus into your life by faith) When tempting thoughts come, recall that fact to your mind: "I could act that way, but does that really bring honor to God? I want to be loyal and loving to Him the way He is to me." The more you understand God's love, the more you will want to be close to Him and obedient to Him. Some of your temptations will simply vanish-they will begin to seem stupid. Their pleasures will be insignificant compared with the good things you are experiencing.

Reinforce this understanding of your own identity by reading the Bible and applying what it says by talking to God, by talking with friends, by listening to what matured believers say, and especially by worshipping and thanking God for what He has done for you. Christ's message is this: you simply don't have to act in the old sinful way. You are a new person with a whole new way of acting. As much as God has loved you, how can you reject that love by ignoring what He says?

You get stronger every time you beat temptation. Each success is an exercise building you up. The more you experience what joy God has for you in life, the less appealing that old sinful life seems. There will always be more temptations as long as you live on this earth. But the closer you come to God, the less you will want to disappoint Him.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Romans 8: 37. Amen!

Are you a Winner or Loser?

A winner says, "Let's find out"; a loser says, "Nobody knows."

When a winner makes a mistake, he says, "I was wrong"; but when a loser makes a mistake, he says, "It wasn't my fault."

A winner goes through a problem; a loser goes around it, and even gets past it.

A winner makes commitments; a loser makes promises.

A winner says, "I'm good, but not as good as I ought to be"; and a loser says, "I'm not as bad as a lot of other people."

A winner tries to learn from those who are superior to him; a loser tries to tear down those who are superior to him.

>> Counseling available for young people's problems. Contact us.

>> Ask for a book on How to be A Winner in Life.

Ex 3:1-10; Acts 2:1-4,14, 1:5,8.

In the O.T times God used different methods and means to speak to His chosen people. He gave them some experience of His power and presence to change them and use them to accomplish His eternal purposes. For example, God gave a vision of His glory and Holiness to Prophet Isaiah to call him and send him to His people. Similarly, God used the burning bush in the wilderness to call Moses and send him to fulfill His plan of deliverance for Israel. In the N.T, the Lord Jesus called ordinary fisher folk, taught them and finally gave them His power of the Holy Spirit before sending them to make disciples of all nations.

The burning bush experience of Moses made a difference in his life and was a turning point in his life. God began to fulfill His purposes through Moses from then on. Earlier when Moses tried with his own fleshly efforts to do something, he failed and fled-to be emptied of all his "self". Now, in the wilderness, he has no purpose, direction, usefulness in life. When Moses was finished with himself, then God took hold of him to work His glorious plan.

As the bush was burning, all that was useless-the surrounding area and other dry leaves, thorns etc., were burnt off, it was being cleansed. It was shining brightly to attract the attention of Moses. This is a picture of a believer through whom God begins to work His eternal plan.

Through the fire of the Holy Spirit God makes us different and uses us as never before. For example, look at the disciples' life before the day of Pentecost and after their experience of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. we notice a remarkable difference in their lifestyle as well as in their ministry to people. Before they were just disciples following Christ, had fellowship with Him, had knowledge of the truth, had the gift of preaching, doing miracles (given by the Lord Himself). Note here, even before the Holy spirit arrived and filled them, they had the power to do miracles, authority to cast out demons, etc. So, you don't need the Holy Spirit to do these as some claim. But the difference in their lives after the Pentecost-that is important for us.

1. The Presence of God was very real and they knew it consciously: They became so intimate with God that they lived with a sense of divine presence. In the enlightenment they received clear revelation and so could see clearly what they were not able to see before. In the joyful lives they lived- so different from the gospels' account. Here no grumbling, fear, doubt, etc, but rejoicing even while persecuted in the story of Acts. Their happiness was no longer 'made or worked up' by man but of the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, in the story of Moses, God came down and manifested His presence. Moses became curious, was given the understanding of the people of Israel.

2. The Power of their witness to penetrate the peoples' hearts and win them for Christ: Gave them authority to stand up and speak. The power to prick the hearts of sin and bring change. They possessed this power beyond their reasoning in their being. Now no need for someone to push/ pull them or keep reminding them that they must speak. It became spontaneous and powerful.

The powerful sight of the burning bush made Moses fearful to look at it. But God gave him authority to go to Pharaoh and bring Israel out of the land of Egypt. Moses received this extraordinary power and authority from God at this vision.

>> Contd in the next page >>

WOMAN'S WORLD (Contd from last issue)

Women's Role & Responsibility in the Church

C. Scriptural Ministries for women: 1Pe. 3:1-6; Pro. 31:11,12,27.

1. A good home-maker & helper to her husband. Titus 2:5; 1Tim.5:10.
 2. Women ministered in the gifts of the Spirit. Ac. 21: 8-9;1:14; 2:4; Rom. 12:1-8; Rom.16:1-2; 1Cor. 11:5; Lk.2:37.
 3. Woman ministers the Word in the company of her husband (not independently): Ac. 18:2,26.
 - Prisca ministered to Apollos together with her husband Aquila,
 - Not a public ministry, but at home.
 - the husband and wife team ministered several times always together.
- Philemon 2; Rom. 16:3, 1Cor. 16:19; Rom.16:7.
4. Full time workers & as deacons: 1Cor. 9:5; Rom. 16:1,12; 1Tim.3:10,11,13.
 5. Women witnessed and shared about Christ: Lk. 24:1-10; Jn. 4:28-30; Jn.4:39-42. (to the disciples, to the public).
 6. Older/ Mature women exhorted to teach the younger women and children: Tit.2: 3-5.
 7. Hospitality to the Lord and His workers: Lk.8:2,3; 2Kings 4:8; Ac.16:15.
 8. Helped the Christian workers in the ministry: Romans 16:2.
 9. Involving in social activities: Acts 9:36-38. 2Tim.1:5; 3:14-15.
 10. Opened the house for the Church: Rom. 16:5; Philo.2.

Summary list of Ministries:-Women's meetings, children's meetings, prayer meetings, full-time ministry, visiting the needy, helping in the Church work, witnessing to people in the neighborhood, using the spiritual gifts and talents and resources for the Lord's work, being a good home-maker, a faithful wife and godly mother at home, supporting husband's work, extending hospitality to the Lord's servants, and giving generously for the Lord's work.

D. Ministries that Scriptures restrict women from:

1. Headship of home: It is not an option; It is a God-given responsibility of man. 1Tim. 3:4-5; Eph. 5:22; 1Cor. 11:3.
2. The Office of an Elder/ Bishop: The Leadership and govt., of the Church is also a male responsibility. 1Tim.3:1-4; 2:12.
3. The Teaching Ministry to the Body: 1Tim. 2: 12; 1 Cor. 14: 34.
Gr.didaskein = teacher. i.e. to be a teacher or master.

Note: It is not "didaxai" (aorist)= to teach, as a function.

In the context of teaching the doctrine to the whole body- involving authoritative guidance/directional teaching. Not the function of teaching. Women can teach women and children, as we have seen above. ><>

>> **Feel free to share your comments on this article. Thank you.**



PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT 10 Questions For Us Today



If you desire spiritual cleansing, meditate and correct yourself.

1. What am I grumbling about?

"Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction" (Is. 29:24). "Do everything without complaining or arguing" (Phil. 2:14)

2. Do I have habits that irritate others?

"Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom" (S. of S. 2:15). "We who are strong ought to bear with the failing of the weak and not to please ourselves" (Rom. 15:1).

3. Do I justify certain indulgences?

"The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature" (Lk. 8:14). "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love" (Re. 2:4).

4. Am I too busy to read God's Word daily?

"I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word. My eyes stay open through the watches of the night that I may meditate on your promises" (Ps. 119:147-48). "For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes" (Acts.28:27).

5. Have I wrongly offended someone ?

"But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.... First go and be reconciled to your brother" Mt. 5:22-24). "I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord" (Phil. 4:2).

6. What am I selfish about?

"Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others" (1 Cor. 10:24). "[Love] is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Cor. 13:5).

7. Does my conversation always honour God ?

"The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just" (Ps. 37:30). "Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth" (1Peter 2:21-22).

8. Do my media choices always honour God ?

"I will walk in my house with blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing" (Ps. 101:2-3). "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Phil. 4:8).

9. Do I procrastinate?

"Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, Lord God, my God, is with you" (1 Chron. 28:20). "the sluggard says, there is a lion in the streets!"(Prov.22: 13).

10. In what area am I most undisciplined?

"Every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful" (Jn.15: 2). "No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize (1 Cor. 9:27).

9 Lk 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

FAMILY LIFE

Becoming New Parents: A Matter Of Prayerful Planning



When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God. Genesis 5:21-22.

Becoming a Parent: Dilemma or Delight

The implication of the above Scripture is that once Enoch had a child he walked with God (since he lived to be 365 years old). Research, observation and personal experience confirm that having a child produces a more serious approach to life in the parents, especially in the spiritual arena. But what about prior to the coming of that first child? In spite of the biblical directive to "be fruitful and increase in number" given to us through Adam and Eve and Noah and his sons (Gen. 3:28; 9:1 NIV), many, if not most Christian couples today experience a sense of fear as they anticipate having a child. The reality of parenthood, while exciting and delightful in a general sense, also produces some anxiety in the minds of prospective parents. Part of that anxiety is normal, emanating from within each partner as they question their ability to be parents and consider the responsibility of raising a child. But in Christian marriages a major portion of that anxiety comes from contemplation of the world into which their child will be born. More and more couples bemoan the fact that society is becoming increasingly detrimental to the welfare and upbringing of a child. So in spite of the fact that most Christian parents, like Enoch, strive to walk with God after they have a child, many hesitate to take the first step. What assurances does Scripture provide to couples who are contemplating parenthood? The answers will be couched in terms of differentiating biblically between a planned and an unplanned pregnancy.

Prospective Parent Concerns: We live in a time when making relative to having children has shifted from the domain of chance to the domain of choice. (This is not to imply in any way that God's Sovereignty has been usurped by science. It merely affirms the fact that childbirth emanates from "natural descent... human decision or a husband's will" (Jn. 1:13). The availability and utility of birth control and the increased knowledge of reproduction combined with Christian couples' awareness of economic and career realities often produces a decision-making process prior to conception. The first question Christian couples consider is typically a tandem one: "Should we have a child (given our personal situation and the wickedness of the world), and if so, when?" The subsequent question of "How should we raise a child in the world such as it is?" quickly follows. However, beyond the biological aspect of becoming parents is the more crucial issue of seeking the Lord's guidance, which leads us to the difference between planned and unplanned parenthood.

Unplanned vs. Planned Pregnancies

From a biblical perspective an unplanned pregnancy is neither a pregnancy out of wedlock (even though statistics indicate that one in four births are to unwed mothers), nor a pregnancy resulting from an error when using birth control, nor a pregnancy that occurs during menopause, or change of life. All of the above pregnancies are unexpected pregnancies, and certainly may produce adjustment reactions in their own right, including marital crises. So what is an unplanned pregnancy? An unplanned pregnancy is any pregnancy that occurs without the parents first seeking God's direction relative to having and raising the child. In contrast, a planned pregnancy is one in which a couple prayerfully seeks the Lord's will and direction regarding having a child. For such parents a biblical basis for assurance and eager anticipation is given.

Contd in next page >>

"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15.

FAMILY LIFE

The Parents' Promise



Noah's Family (Gen. 6-9) "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark" (Mt. 24:37-38). Noah lived in a day and age so evil that the Lord determined that He would destroy mankind. Although He relented in the case of Noah and his family - "God ...protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness and seven others" (2 Pet. 2:4-5) - the case can be made that conditions today are not unlike those of Noah's time. However, Noah, in spite of the evil environment, was able to find a wife, have and raise three sons -Shem, Ham and Japheth - and find three wives for his sons (Gen. 5:32; 6:5-11,18., 7:1-13). All this was accomplished while Noah was building the ark and before the ark was sealed up by God thus preserving them from the devastation of the flood. Upon emerging from the ark the four families, including three that had no children, were given the commission to "be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth" (Gen. 9:1). Imagine the trepidation of those "eight souls" as they embarked on the path to procreate families. Inherent in the story of Noah is the parents' promise that God will protect and provide for families who turn to Him for direction. It comes in the form of two metaphors - the ark and the rainbow. First, the Christian family that builds itself on the Lord, the "Rock" of our salvation, will experience the protection of the ark when flooded by the evil the world unleashes against it. God will provide the resources necessary to preserve our children and to bring them to fruitful maturity. The ark is a safe place of shelter in the storms of life, and provides protection because God seals the door. Second, the rainbow is the symbol of God's promise of hope in the storms of life. A rainbow is created by the sun shining through the rain which is a fitting picture of God's promise of protection: "Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures (including parents and their children) of every kind on the earth" (Gen. 9:16).

The Parents' Prayer: Samson's Parents (Jud. 13) Samson's parents, Manoah and his wife, also lived in a time when Israel "did evil in the eyes of the Lord" (Jud. 13:1), and "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Jud. 21:25 KJV). Consequently, when they were informed that they would have a "special" child who would have to be treated in a special way, they also had a good deal of fear and trepidation. However, they did the right thing; they "prayed to the Lord" (Jud. 13:8). Manoah's prayer captures the essence of every prospective parent's prayer as he or she considers the awesome responsibility and privilege of bearing and raising their special child: "O Lord I beg you, let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born" (Jud. 13:8). This prayer symbolizes the importance of each child being set apart for God at birth (the meaning of the term Nazirite). This couple had their spiritual life in order, a critical factor for any couple thinking about having a child. They each had a personal relationship with God (Jud. 13:3, 8). Their marriage was solid in spite of the agony of being sterile and childless (v. 2). They had good communication: "The woman went to her husband and told him" what had transpired (v.6). And when they realized they were going to be pregnant, they immediately started down the right path to prepare for family life: they turned to the Lord for guidance (v. 8). ><<

>> Let us know any needs for prayers. Counseling is available free!