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THE LORD'S FINAL CALL TO HIS CHURCH

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:20,21).

The WHOLE message to the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:14-22) is well - known as the Lord's particular appeal to His end - time people. It begins with a stern rebuke for their lukewarmness and their proud self - sufficiency. Then come words of loving counsel, that they seek from Christ Himself that which they are really needing. Finally, there is this TENDER APPEAL that they LET HIM IN, so that He may occupy the place that is rightly His, and thereby bring them into the measureless blessings He is waiting to bestow.

This 'tender appeal' in the closing verses can be viewed as a FIVEFOLD CALL.

1.A Call To Spiritual Awareness:

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock". The Lord would have them to be aware of TWO things.

1. He is (virtually) OUTSIDE. "Behold, I stand at the door". What a tragedy this always is! They had their "goods" (v.17) inside, BUT THEIR GOD WAS OUTSIDE! How true this can be of the church today! This was contrary to the whole tenor of the Old Testament. In Exodus. 25:8 God said, "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them". Also it was contrary to the Lord's own basic word regarding His "Church" (Matt. 18:17,20). "No room for Him in the inn" (Luke 2:7) is sad;- "no room in the church" is TRAGIC! The Lord is often OUTSIDE our "churches" and "groups" as far as control and management are concerned. Are we "AWARE" of it?

2. He is nevertheless DESIRING to come in again. "I knock". What glorious HOPE this brings! He is the Christ of Hosea 11:8, "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim?" This, His desire to return, could be harder still for us to realize! But the wonder, and the FACT, is that He KNOCKS!

2. A Call To "Hear His Voice":

"If any man hear my voice...". This was to be the KEY to the new

position, as it ever IS even today. Our initial salvation came by HEARING, and responding (John 5:24; Eph. 1:13). Our revival and renewal, individual and corporate, evidently come the same way! The important thing, for the churches, is really to HEAR what our Lord is saying. ALL the messages to the SEVEN churches end the same way. "He that hath an ear, let him HEAR what the Spirit saith" (Rev. 2:7,11,17 etc.). How vital is the word of Matt. 17:5, "HEAR ye HIM"!

3. A Call To "Receive":

The Lord Himself "...And OPEN the door". This is a deliberate and studied ACT, - perhaps long overdue in our churches. It is receiving back CHRIST HIMSELF to His rightful place and function among us. That entails His present operating HEADSHIP over us, and over all our affairs. How often, as would - be churches, we need to use the confession of Isa. 26:13, and then "let Him in" as Lord indeed! And He enters in as the very LIFE of His churches, - the only life they have - through the cross (Col. 3:4; Gal. 2:20). All this constitutes a tremendous crisis for any company of the Lord's people;- it is a complete HANDOVER of everything to the Lord Himself. From that point we can only go on by much PRAYER and daily obedience.

4. A Call To Communion And Fellowship

"I will sup with him and he with me". The initial act of "receiving" is evidently designed with this FELLOWSHIP in view. The idea is of a relaxed SHARING TOGETHER with HIM in everything. We enjoy the same things... TOGETHER (how searching!) - we tell all, He tells all! This fulfils 1 Cor. 1:9- "called into fellowship with His Son"(NIV). The GREATER MARVEL is that He WANTS this! He knocks with this expressly in view!

5. A Call To Reign With Him

"sit with me in my throne" (v. 21). The call to commune is wonderful;- how much more the call to reign! But this has ever been the Lord's basic design for His people. It was lost to man in Adam, but now restored in our salvation and sanctification (Psa. 8:6; Exodus. 19:6; Isa. 32:1; Dan. 7:18,27; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev.1:5,6). But REMEMBER!- it is a NEW KIND of "reigning", - through humility and brokenness (Matt. 20:25-28). It is a Lamb who reigns!

This is the FINAL call of Christ to His churches. Are we HEARING and RESPONDING? Individually and corporately?

May the Lord help us!
C.R.G.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron Golconda Crossroads Hyderabad - 500020, A.P., India Telephone No: 27613066,
28-1-2008.

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath chosen us in Him, and blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, making us His workmanship in Christ Jesus, as He hath before ordained. These blessings are based upon the New Covenant, which was promised and fulfilled by the

blood of the New Covenant shed on Calvary once for all by our Lord Jesus Christ. Thence He entered into the most Holy place with the same blood and has become the High Priest of good things to come - good things meaning the incoming of His Holy Spirit sent from His Throne, causing us to obey and serve Him in the power of His endless life and not by just external and legal observances, which we fail to keep. The Lord help us all to live and labor in the power and enablement of His Spirit from within, experientially (Eph. 1:4; 2:10; Heb. 9:10,12, 14; 8:10-12).

Based on the power of the New Covenant, established through the shed blood of Christ through the Eternal Spirit, we are progressively brought into the actuality and reality of the New Creation in Christ of which we read, "...If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature... Behold, I make all things new..." (2 Cor. 5:17; Rev.21:5). If you go back to what has been called "the glories of the law" - and there was a glory because Moses' face shone (Exodus. 34:29- 35; 2 Cor. 3:7)- you find that the Law could make nothing perfect (Heb.7:19-10:1) and could never take away sin (Heb. 10:4 -11). It only revealed man's utter defeat, by a standard which could never be kept. But then comes the promise - "I will make a new covenant... This is the covenant that I will make... After those days saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;... they shall teach no more every man his neighbor... saying, Know the LORD, for they shall all know me" (Jer.31:31; Heb. 10:16; Jer. 31:33,34).

What a change this is from external imposition, impossible of attainment, to a glorious indwelling reality! We are brought into the enjoyment of what happened on Pentecost, and we need not turn back. Yet we have to admit that many of us, even though born again and having the witness of the Spirit that we are the children of God, are living pre-Pentecost lives. We are living in a realm where the Spirit is not a continuous growing reality. The power of the living Spirit of God is hardly known. On the other hand, we are in a struggle to live the Christian life, and with much weariness we try to keep it up, whereas we should allow the Holy Spirit to take charge. He does not need our efforts for He is God. We read of the "power of an endless life" (Heb.7:16). Here is the end of a legal bondage and the beginning of a glorious liberty. Paul was able to say, "... the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death"(Rom.8:2).

Have we entered into this although we have known of it? Where do we stand as Scripture - taught believers? Because the Spirit is here as sent from the Lord of glory, we ought to be living in the good of this great fact we believe. We ought to be living in the good of the New Creation, with a mind set free from earthly things, and set on "things that are above, where Christ sitteth... For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col.3:1 -3). We have passed out of the old creation into a new one, and hence ought to be living there. We should leave the poor old sinking wreck and pull to the shore. We ought to abandon the sinking wreck of the old creation and live in the new creation in Christ. For Pentecost has made it all available to us. Even all the glorious work of the Lord Jesus Christ was not available until the Holy Ghost came, as He said, "...wait for the promise of the Father... until ye be endued with power from on high... ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:4; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).

Pentecost marked a climax, when the partial and the preparatory gave

place to the reality. How important it is then, for each one of us to abide in the realm of Divine life, and not slip back into the realm of natural life and legalism. The Lord has lifted us in His death and resurrection into another realm, where our life is hid with Him in God.

We have seen that Pentecost is the key to the fulfillment of the Law in its legal and moral aspects. But what about the sacrificial side of the worship - all the blood shed and all the smoking altars of Judaism? This, we know, is fulfilled in that one offering by which "he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14). And this perfect redemption was made available and effective by the coming of the Spirit.

The Christ in Whom God hath secured everything, in Whom redemption was perfected, in Whose person all the glory of God was deposited for "in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9), He, by the Holy Spirit became the life of His people at Pentecost. And so Paul says, "Christ, who is our life" (Col.3:4). How important for us to see that all we read about in the Old or New Testament is for us. But it is unreal until the Holy Spirit makes it real. Let us realize that even the promises of God are just "words" until the Holy Spirit makes them live. Something has to happen. For the climax that was reached when the Spirit came was the end of unreality - the end of mere doctrines and theories and religion, and the beginning of another altogether new vitality and reality. It meant that everything that is in Christ for us was made real. Let us seek to enter into and enjoy the new creation which is our true realm, and thus answer Satan back, who is always pointing at what we are. We must say, "Yes, but the cross has dealt with that - and Christ is my real life". Then only Satan will go. God helping, we will continue in our next issue.

It has pleased the Lord to promote to Glory two of His aged saints, one a brother and the other a sister, who were confined to bed because of infirmities and sicknesses of old age, having spent five to six decades in the service of their Lord and Master with their life partners in the Lord's vineyard. The first was Bro. Devadanam of Giddalur, who was born again at the age of sixteen and came into the service of the Lord in association with His honored servant, late Bro. Bakht Singh, and had been in fellowship with us from 'Elim' days. He was widely used in the ministry of the Gospel because of his simplicity and sincerity, and fidelity to His Word, and love for the people of God. He fought a good fight of faith and finished his course on January 18th. The funeral took place on the 21 st. Hundreds of saints and servants were present for the funeral held at Giddalur after many testimonies about his exemplary life and service. He rests from his labors as we read in Rev. 14:13. Pray for his daughters and son Timothy, who has been called for His service.

The other person was Sis. (Mrs.) Beatrice Joseph, hand maiden of the Lord, who was called Home to Glory on 22nd January after hospitalization. She served the Lord for nearly five decades or more with her husband late Bro. Abraham Joseph, particularly in Beersheba, Kadapa. Later she continued alone amongst the saints in Beersheba, who lovingly attended to her while confined to her room and bed. She was saved in the special meetings of Bro. Bakht Singh in Chennai and was married to Bro. Abraham Joseph in 1957 in Jehovah - Shammah, Madras, and both were commended to the grace of God for full time ministry. Vellore, Bangalore, Kurnool were the places of their labors in effective evangelism and for the gathering of His saints on the basis of Acts 2:42. Sis.

Beatrice was gifted for ministry among children and sisters. The funeral took place in Kadapa on 24th January when many hundreds of sisters and our co-workers were present sharing testimonies, highlighting her exemplary and edifying ministry amongst the saints with prayer and patience. She indeed bestowed much labor to those at Beersheba in particular, like Mary in Rom. 16:6. Her works do follow her.

Praying that we all be enabled by His Spirit to serve Him faithfully and profitably with godly reverence, awaiting His coming for His glorious Church,

Heb. 3 : 1,6 Phil. 4 : 3-5

I remain, Yours in His grace,
K. PHILLIP

STEPS TO PERFECTION – 3 BAKHT SINGH

The Lord revealed eight steps to perfection in John chapters 10 to 17. The first one is life, eternal life; the second one is the power of His resurrection; the third one is the work of the cross; and the fourth one is humility. When the Lord removes from us the chaff of pride and makes us truly humble, then He exalts us and manifests His power through us.

5. PEACE:

This is the fifth step towards perfection. The Lord Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). By inward peace we are brought closer to God's perfection. It is by this peace we obtain victory over the enemy: "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly" (Rom. 16:20). In every circumstance of life and service we will find that if we are able to maintain our inward peace we shall surely defeat the devil. For this reason the arch-enemy tries to disturb our peace by worries, anxieties, doubts and fears which disable us from rendering any spiritual help to others. Therefore we must learn to keep our inward peace at any cost.

There is a precious promise in God's Word, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). If you trust in the Lord and do not allow any circumstance to worry you, you will enjoy victory. By faith you have to claim God's promise in this verse, and refuse to admit any doubt into your mind.

It is only by inward peace that we can make sure of God's perfect will in our life. 'The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever' (Isaiah 32:17). When we are troubled and anxious we will be confused in mind and spiritually weak, and therefore we will be unable to see the way clearly. When we enjoy the peace of God we get a better understanding of God's will, and our vision will be kept clear.

6. JOY:

This is the sixth step. 'These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full' (John 15:11). The joy in this verse is the joy of the Lord. This joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10}. The Lord Himself is our joy. It is not obtained by any earthly thing we possess. The consciousness of God's very presence is our joy. 'Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore' (Psalm 16:11). Just as the devil can disturb our peace, so also he can disturb our joy. He makes us to lose the consciousness of the divine presence by some defilement, and our joy is lost. Many people pray and read the Bible frequently but without any consciousness of God's presence. Their only satisfaction is a sense of having done their duty.

Thus they suffer much spiritual loss. You have to endeavor to become conscious of the presence of the Lord. Perhaps because of some jealousy or enmity or some other sin, you have lost the consciousness of God's presence. If the Spirit of God shows these sins to you as you pray then set things right before God and man, and claim cleansing by the blood of Christ. Do not wait to do this till you go to the Lord's Table on the Lord's Day. The very day you lose the consciousness of God's presence, you must receive it back again. Then there will be great joy in your heart. You will know God's forgiveness and His continual presence. That blessed consciousness will help you day by day to attain perfection.

7. VICTORY:

This is the next step towards perfection which is revealed to us by our Lord. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). By becoming partakers of the Lord's perfect victory we also become perfect. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:35- 37). In these words we see how we are made partakers of the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ. God permits these tests and trials in our life. Before Abraham could be called a man of faith he had to go through many great tests. Similarly, before David came upon the throne he also had to go through many years of trial.

(To be contd.)

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FOUR KINDS OF FAITH

There are many people in India who do not have a medical check - up for a long time. Doctors advise that all people should get themselves examined medically once a month or at least periodically. There are people who suffer from Tuberculosis or Cancer or some other serious disease for some time. But they are not aware of it because they did not get themselves examined medically for a long time. When the disease comes to the last stage then they realize it. By then, in many cases the disease becomes incurable and such patients die of that disease.

Satan is called the deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12:9). There are millions of people who are suffering from the chronic disease of sin. Satan is deceiving them by false faith in their religion. Millions of such nominal Christians have already died.

But if you examine your faith in the light of God's Word, God can deliver you from false faith in relation to Christ and enable you to have true, genuine and saving faith in Christ. The Apostle Paul says, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (2 Cor. 13:5).

I. The Intellectual Faith in Christ:

"But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one; Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done" (Acts 8:9, 13).

Simon's faith in Christ was only intellectual. He deceived Philip who baptized him. Simon Peter who had "the spirit of discernment", and much experience, when coming from Jerusalem, immediately knew his ulterior motive and deceit. Simon Peter said to him, "Thy money perish with thee" (Acts 8:20). He also said to him, "I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:23).

To millions of such Simons, Paul says, "Examine your faith". If you have never repented from your sins, your faith in Christ is only intellectual. You are in the gall of bitterness and "in the bond of iniquity". Your faith in Christ is false and only intellectual. As Peter said to Simon, your money, your membership, your traditions, ceremonies, rituals and religious activities in the Name of Christ will PERISH WITH YOU in hell.

II. The Historical Faith in Christ:

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:27,28).

When Paul spoke these words to King Agrippa, he was very sure that King Agrippa had read, known and believed in the historical facts written in the books of the prophets in the Bible. King Agrippa did not become a true Christian through the historical faith in the knowledge of the Bible, but became "almost a Christian".

There are millions of nominal Christians who believe in the historical facts of the birth of Christ, His miracles, His death upon the cross and His resurrection. Every Sunday they repeat and recite the "Apostles' creed" during the church-service. Yet their historical faith in the sacrifice of Christ and His resurrection has not delivered them from the bondage of Satan, sin and the world. Such nominal Christians are called "the false brethren". Paul wrote, "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage" (Galatians 2:4).

To such Paul says, "Examine the kind of faith you have in the Lord Jesus Christ". This kind of faith in Christ is counterfeit. Believing in the historical facts about the Lord Jesus Christ from His birth till His death on the cross and His resurrection will not bring deliverance and liberation in your life from sin, snare of the world and the bondage of Satan. Paul says, with such kind of faith, "you are a reprobate" and Peter says, "you will perish".

III. The Dead Faith in Christ:

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (James 2:19, 20,26).

The Lord Jesus is the "bread of life" and "the living water". A dead man cannot stretch out his hand to receive bread, nor can he open his mouth to drink water. So it is with those who have dead faith in Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ says, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). To come to Christ is the first step of repentance from sins. The second step is to stretch out your hand of faith to receive Him as the bread of life and the living water. The third step is to open the mouth of your spirit and heart to take Him in. It is living faith and faith in action. But a person who has "dead faith" in Christ cannot take the step of repentance, the step of stretching forth the hand of faith and the third step of receiving Christ by faith into the heart. A person who has a "dead faith in Christ" is "dead in, trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1), and a moving dead man (Matt. 8:22). To such nominal Christians with "the dead faith in Christ" Jude says, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 4).

Kindly examine your faith. If you have dead faith in Christ and are "dead in trespasses and sins", you are a reprobate and will perish in your sins.

IV. The Heart Faith in Christ:

You need to repent from your sins from the heart. "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent..." (Acts 2:37,38).

Secondly, you need the sprinkling of the blood of Christ into your heart to cleanse you from all your sins. "Sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:2). "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22).

Thirdly, you need to receive by faith Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior in your heart. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..." (Ephesians 3:17).

Then you will hear these words of the Lord Jesus, "This day is salvation come to this house (heart)" (Luke 19:9).

Fourthly, with the heart faith in Christ you will have full assurance that you are really saved. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom. 10:9).

May the Lord enable you to repent from your sins from the heart. May He enable you to receive by faith the blood of Christ into your heart for the cleansing of all your sins. May you receive the Lord Jesus Christ by genuine faith in your heart, as your personal Lord and Savior. With such a heart faith in the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved from the terrible judgment of hell fire, from the bondage of Satan, from snares of the world and from the bondage of sins. You will hear these words of the Lord in your heart, "Thy faith hath saved thee" (Luke 7:50).

May the Lord enable you to examine your faith so that you may be saved through heart faith in CHRIST"

J.C.K.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron Golconda Crossroads Hyderabad – 500020, A.P., India Telephone No:
27613066,
Date :08-02-2008.

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and mighty Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, exalted at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Who hath sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts, as the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Our Lord made it clear to His disciples that it was expedient for them that He went away, that He might send the Comforter to them as the Spirit of truth, to

guide them into all the truth, and glorify Him, the very person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray that we be earnest and eager for such a ministry of the Spirit in our lives, walk, witness and service for Him, exalting the Lord and edifying His Church (Acts 2:32,33; John 16:7,13,14; 2 Cor. 3:5,6).

As we continue our meditation concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit, let us aim at taking everything that is available to us by the mighty redemptive work of God's Son on Calvary's cross and trust the Holy Spirit to make it real and possible. What a realm there remains yet for us in the Word of God for revelation, realization and actualization in our lives, as we desire to continue in His Word.

It is not enough just to know the Scriptures in an objective way. It is essential that they should progressively become our very life. There should always be things which we have to admit that we do not know yet. There are many who think that they know everything, because they know what is in the Bible. It is dead letter unless the Holy Spirit has done something. That is why so much talking and telling the people about the truth does not get anywhere, because only what has happened in our own life has any impact. We ought to be people who can say, 'What we have we give unto you' (Acts 3:6). Let us not be those who try to give what they do not have! The point is this, that everything is made available to us by the coming of the Spirit.

So the climax of Pentecost marks the end of an old creation, and plunging us all into a new one, the realm of the Holy Ghost. This is the meaning of the wonderful word in Romans 8 where Paul says, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit" (v. 9). Some of us can be startled at it. We may say, "I do not know where I am"- that is always our answer. But the Word of God says, "Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit". So we ought to say, "I am glad that I am in the Spirit. I am in the realm of life, where everything is of God, where everything is of the Spirit". But perhaps you are tempted to say, "What about so much in my life that is a contradiction to this statement? Let us remember that when we take a faith position with God, He can deal with all that. But if we are trying to climb . Out of our position He cannot do anything. You have to stand upon His Word, and let Him deal with anything in your life that may be lacking or contradictory.

Though Pentecost was a long awaited climax, which was fulfilled in the fullness of time, based upon the new covenant, it is "God indwelling". The second significance of Pentecost is found in this that God came to dwell in His people. God helping, we will continue in our next issue.

The holidays from 12th to 16th January were marked by Special Gatherings. We need to pray for those who having received the Word professed faith with true repentance towards God. In Jehovah- Shammah, Chennai, the Lord used Bro. Jayraju and God's servant Bro.B. Timothy. 50 brothers and 20 sisters responded to the invitation for salvation and about 10 brothers gave their names for being prepared for full time service. The Lord blessed the meetings at Rajahmundry, House of Peace, where Bros. Eddy Williams, John Victor and Ch. Samuel shared the ministry, with God's servant Bro. Ambrose, praying and leading the same .The Youth Camp at Carmel, Ambur, drew a number of nearly a thousand, and Bro. John Victor enjoyed liberty in the ministry to the blessing of many, based on the

theme, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision". Bro. John Victor was also used of the Lord to minister at Mt. Hermon, Siliguri, functioning under the leadership of Bro. Victor Pradhan together with others in responsibility. Family Prayers were conducted by the elders from Kalimpong, Darjeeling and other places from the Hill area.

In El Shaddai, Kalimpong, the yearly Youth Camp from 16th to 20th January was well attended, about a thousand being present. Bro. Neville from Colombo, Sri Lanka as well as Bros. Joseph Canara and Hanock Sen from Ahmedabad were used of the Lord, for the blessing of the youth.

Bro. D.S. Christopher of Hebron and Bro. Dale King from Houston, U.S.A., also ministered during the Youth Camp at Kalimpong. Bro. and Sis. Dale King were able to spend a few days in Hebron in fellowship and ministry of the Word, before they left for U.S.A.

The Youth Reunion held at Hebron, Hyderabad, was a profitable time of ministry to renew and revive about three thousand youth who gathered on 26th January being the Republic Day. The Lord used the ministry of Bro. Neville with others contributing.

In Chennai, Jehovah-Shammah, a special Gospel open air outreach was arranged at Tiruttani, 80 km from Chennai. More than 1200 participated in combing the township with the Gospel message, with songs and short stops for preaching, as well as personal contacts enroute. The sale of Gospel portions amounted to about Rs. 4200/-.

As the country has entered into another year of her status as a Republic, we need to pray for all at the helm of affairs, for wise governance and welfare of the nation. Let us pray that the freedom of worship and humble sharing of the faith as enshrined in the constitution may continue, amidst the socio, economic and political changes that we are facing or are likely to face.

Bro. Theodore Reginald with others was used to help and counsel our fellow-laborers and helpers in Karnataka numbering about 40, as they had a season of prayer and sharing on 30th and 31st January at Egipura, Bangalore. Bro. Theodore Reginald has since left for a week's ministry at the fellowship centers at Singapore.

Bro. Kenneth Timothy, elder and minister of the Word at Padstow Height Assembly, and associated ministries in Sydney, Australia, would have us to pray for the following. Firstly, for the increase and establishment of the church at Pison, House of Prayer, in Sydney. It was so named by Bro. Lazar Sen in his visit to Australia in August 2007. The Assembly was started with a view to cater to the Nepali speaking Christians who are finding their way to Australia. The name of the responsible brother is John Gurung (0409013464), who will be happy to hear from you.

Bro. Kenneth Timothy and family had the opportunity to visit Sikkim, Kalimpong and a few places around in Nepal, for the ministry of the Word. They covet our prayers for the ministry fulfilled.

Praying that our lives and labors be marked by the wisdom and counsel of the Holy Spirit, for the enrichment and establishing of His saints,

Eph. 2:20-22, James 3:17,18, 1 Cor. 1: 9,23,24

I remain, Yours in His grace,
K. PHILLIP

STEPS TO PERFECTION - 4 BAKHT SINGH

Before David came upon the throne he also had to go through many years of trial. In the same way we who are the children of God, have to prove in our own lives, in a practical way, that the victory of the Lord Jesus is our victory. For this reason the Lord permits sickness and sorrow and suffering to come upon us that in all these situations we may learn to know His victory. Therefore we cannot expect to escape these experiences of trial and suffering.

If you want to graduate from any University, you will have to pass several examinations at different stages, and finally you will get your degree. In the same manner, God has appointed that you should pass through many tests of suffering; and He watches you - watches your face as it were - to see how you come out of these tests.

The Lord Jesus Himself became a conqueror in order to make us conquerors. May the Lord teach us to become more than conquerors in every situation through Him that loved us. Thus the very trials of our life become a means of blessing to us and help us to become perfect.

8. ONENESS :

This is the last of the eight steps to perfection shown by our Lord in John's Gospel chapters 13 to 17. He prayed: 'That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me' (John 17:21). True inward oneness makes us progress towards perfection. Therefore we should first of all realize that all those who are washed by the blood of Christ belong to God's family, and are members in the Body of Christ. This knowledge produces in our hearts, by the Holy Spirit, true love for one another. As we maintain this spiritual oneness of love in our life and service we will advance towards perfection. The Lord Jesus prayed for this oneness: "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them: that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them; and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast... loved me... for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:22-24). True inward oneness leads to oneness in love and oneness in perfection.

Thus we have seen the eight steps towards perfection into which the Lord Jesus leads us. The first step is life (John 10:10). Christ is our life. The life He gives us, is first like a spring, then like a river. His life flowing in us freely leads us to perfection. The second step is resurrection power, overcoming the power

of death (John 11:25). By this power the Lord renews us more and more to bring us to perfection. Thirdly comes the work of the cross (John 12:32). The "cross" working inwardly in us more and more deeply, day by day, delivers us completely from our 'self and endues us with the power of Christ. The next step is receiving true humility (John 13:13,14). We must learn to be truly meek and humble, and only then the Lord will exalt us. The fifth step is peace (John 14:27). As we learn to maintain inward peace at all times we are brought nearer to perfection. The sixth step is joy (John 15:11). The Lord becomes our joy. The consciousness of His abiding presence brings us joy. Seventhly, the Lord teaches us through trials and hardships to become partakers in His victory (John 16:33). Finally, inward oneness brings us to perfection and glory (John 17:21 -24).

The Lord has shown to us these eight steps by which He is able to bring us to perfection. May He help us to yield ourselves to Him that He might lead us to perfection by His skilful hands.
(Concluded)!

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