

# Hebron Messenger

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NO. 5

## The Vision of Christ

To behold Christ is the deepest longing of every redeemed soul. Prior to salvation every soul is under bondage, blindness and spiritual death. The god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them (2 Cor.4: 4). How different is the state of one saved by grace! David expresses the longing of the converted soul. "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in "his temple"(Psa.27: 4).

Beholding Christ brings in atleast three wonderful blessings. Firstly, it brings us into a realisation of who we are. When the self-righteous Job saw God face to face, all his self-defense crumbled." I have heard of thee by the hearing of! The ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5,6). Simon of Galilee, after a night of fruitless toil threw his nets again at the command of Christ! and had a miraculous catch. This incident opened his eyes to the Peron of Christ and also to himself. Struck by the wretchedness of his own heart he cried, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8). Isaiah, the anointed prophet of God, saw the Lord in all His glory. Instantly his heart was filled with grief for he said, "Woe is me! for I am undone: because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (Isa. 6:5). Moses the man of God prayed thus: II Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance" (Psa.90:8). Knowing God is knowing ourselves. Outside His revealing presence we will never know who we are.

Secondly, beholding Christ brings in transformation. John the apostle wrote: "...we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1John 3:2). To see Him is to become like Him. This is futuristic. Yet, in the present, the Lord is working in us towards that blessed goal. Paul describes this ongoing transforming work in the life of a believer. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3: 18) .T o behold Him is to be changed into His likeness.

Thirdly, beholding Christ brings hope, comfort and strength in our present trials and temptations. This is exactly what happened to John the beloved apostle in the isle of Patmos. Exiled by the cruel emperor Domitian, John must have been discouraged and depressed. The Roman emperor could banish him from the presence of churches and believers. Yet he could not banish him from the most prized possession of John-the presence of Christ. Christ was revealed in all His glory and John penned down that indescribable Image as far as the limited human expression could capture.

Christ spoke that He was the Alpha and Omega. These two Greek words stand for the first and the last alphabets. It was like saying, "I am the beginning and the ending". This in no way suggests that God has a beginning and an ending. Using the limitations of language of the mortal man, Christ states His eternity. Roman emperors come and go. Tormentors live today and disappear tomorrow. God however, is the eternal "I am." He is the One who knows no succession of time. Such a God is our God. He has the final say of every matter. John's very life was in the hands of the eternal "I am", and not in the hands of

Gentile rulers. As God's children we are already on the winning side. Aren't we? How about you? Are you in Christ on the winning side? Our sins were laid on Him, the sinless One. He died as our Substitute, our Sin-bearer. Have you accepted Him as your personal Saviour?

Today with the completion of the New Testament, we have the whole Bible in our hands. We are indeed blessed to have the Scriptures in our language. Many language groups are still waiting! The written Word of God leads us to the living Word of God, Christ. The Lord Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

The image and beauty of Christ is now seen through the pages of the Bible, specially the New Testament. The Bible tells us of God's great love for every lost sinner. It was love that led Christ to the cross where all our guilt and sins were laid on Him. He was wounded for our transgressions. Sins unforgiven, uncleansed and uncovered would take us to the judgment. Eternal hell is the destination of those who have spurned the good news. Christ died to bring us forgiveness, fellowship and freedom. Have you, dear reader, received these blessings? Why not turn to Christ today?

(To be contd.)

P .S.

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### LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron  
Golconda Crossroads,  
Hyderabad -500 020,  
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Telephone No: 7613066

February 27, 2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the matchless and mighty Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, Who careth for us, working in us that which is well- pleasing in His sight, to the praise of His glory. As His own sheep purchased with His precious blood, may we be found in restfulness and submissiveness to God's will, relaxed under His nail-pierced hands (Acts 20:28).

While we are engaged in the bitterest warfare against sin and Satan, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, which is indeed part of the truth related to our calling, the term that we are His sheep is meant to convey that we are enjoying a restful and trustful disposition. The sheep as we read in Psalm 23, is described as completely satisfied. The three expressions of glad testimony are found in these verses. "I shall not want" (v .1); "I will fear no evil" (v.4), and lastly "I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever" (v.6). This indeed is the voice of contentment, comfort, and unworried inward confidence. We have to admit that we are not like that at all times. We may consider five realities, which can support and hold our faltering steps steady, come what may.

1 .The Lord Himself in person attends to every need. We may say, our whole life is in this Psalm. There are the contrasting experiences of life, in rest and in activity; there are life's troubles and life's happinesses. Verses 5 and 6 refer to the past, present and future tenses. It is not strange to say that, every moment of the day and night we are some where in Psalm 23. Resting or moving, in contemplation or

continuing in activity, in trouble or in joy, all the time we are being accompanied by our wonderful Shepherd. All the time, in every circumstance of life, He is there. Even "through the valley of the shadow of death", which may be translated "through the deepest darkness of all", He guides and moves right alongside. King Nebuchadnezzar said, "...I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire... and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Dan. 3:25), Thus the Lord Himself attends to every trying need of His sheep.

2. The Lord Himself leads us in the paths of righteousness according to His goodwill, which gives purpose in life. In the sudden onset of trouble we exclaim. "Why has this happened?" God does not seem to answer. We face the agonies of life, and we cannot trace the pattern or purpose behind what has happened. Though we cannot understand this pathway, we must rest content that "The will of God best known to Him gives purpose to life". Both happiness and pain confront us in life and even the valley of "deepest darkness" so to say, mars our home. The common link that holds them together is what is found in verse 3. "he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake". Righteousness is the word, which has one single meaning all the way through the Bible, namely that which is right with God. These are paths, which are right with God. in which there is no mistake or error. Satan comes to us in our moments of anguish and prompts us to ask. "Where did I go wrong?" The effective answer to support us is here. and we must affirm, " My everlasting Father has not gone wrong. He leads me in paths that are right with Him, and He does it for His own Name's sake. He is the God that He is and He will never change".

3. The Lord's provision is independent of circumstances. Recalling the experience of David when he was fleeing speedily from Absalom, we read in 2 Sam. 17:27-29. How the Lord wonderfully provided for the hungry, weary and thirsty in the wilderness. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." There can be no circumstance where it is impossible for Him to help us. So let us believe that all things are possible with Him.

4. The Lord leadeth me, that means. He is the Protector and Provider; He is out in the front, the pacemaker and pathfinder. "Thou art with me". He is in the front, alongside and behind my rearguard. All that He demands is that we trust Him. "Those who trust Him wholly, find Him wholly true". His "rod and staff" are words that can be used interchangeably in Hebrew. When the Bible says a thing twice, it means completeness. Our Shepherd is One completely and fully equipped to deal with every situation. So as His sheep let us relax and let Him be our protection.

5. The Lord finally brings us into His House where we dwell with Him evermore. There was no House of the Lord in David's day, because Solomon was the one to build it. So what David was talking about is the Eternal House in the heavens. There is a time coming when traveling days will be done, and then, "...we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1). He is going to bring us there through all the ups and downs of our experiences, through all the fluctuations of our love for Him. Through anything and everything, He has gone to prepare a place for us, that where He is we may be also. Blessed be His Name, the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd and finally to appear as the Chief Shepherd to take us to Glory.

Pray for Bro. Mohan Menon, one of the responsible brothers (previously at Kuwait and now at Ephesus church, Botswana in a critical state, hospitalised at C.M.C. Hospital Vellore, for cancer of the Pancreas. Please pray for the marriages of Bro. Elia Sundar Singh and Bro. Jeremiah Prabbakar, sons of Bro. Nandan Rao of Kavali on the 5th March at Kavali, prior to the Special Meetings, God willing to be held from the 5th upto 9th March.

Please also pray for the marriages of the following God's servants with the handmaidens of the Lord, God willing to be solemnised in the church at Hebron on the 3rd March Bro. Anand Prabhudas with Sis. A. Esther; Bro. Prasad with Sis. V. Mary; Bro. Ravi with Sis. K. Persis; and Bro. Yashwant with Sis. B. Victoria.

Praying that we may be led on in the prepared paths and provisions of His grace and goodness, by our good Shepherd, freed from fear and evil, to serve Him acceptably,

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

Heb. 13: 20, 21

I Peter 5: 1,4,5,7

Jer. 33:3,11,12

### **YE ARE MY WITNESSES—3** BAKHT SINGH

The believers at Corinth had many gifts. They had much knowledge and they saw many miracles. Paul said, "... ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Cor. 1: 7). But they knew very little about the Spirit of power. God's word was brought to them with great power, and yet they remained babes spiritually. They were full of strife and sin because they failed to understand the secret of the power of resurrection (1 Cor. 2:2). They were talking about miracles, numbers, knowledge and other things. But Paul was saying, "Tell me, what is your experience of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then I will know whether you are spiritually grown or not. " Thus we find that our spiritual growth depends upon the understanding and the experience of the power of resurrection. That power is the highest power. May the Lord teach you to enjoy that power.

#### **Acts 5**

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree" (v.30). We see how the same message of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was brought by the apostles in all their preaching and teaching. All messages were based on the fact that Christ rose again and is highly exalted. By the power of resurrection and by exalting the Lord Jesus Christ in our testimony, we will see God's power. The Holy Spirit is the witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and His exaltation. So were the apostles and believers in those days.

By appropriating in us constantly by faith, the power of resurrection and exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ in our testimony and preaching, we too will receive into us the power of resurrection. We should ask for it. This is possible only when we die to our thoughts, desires and feelings. We claim by faith the power of resurrection of the Lord Who died for our sins. Then we receive that power and we can glorify and magnify the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ again and again by our testimony, and ministry,

"Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this Life"(v .20). These words were spoken by the angel who brought the apostles out from the prison. They had to preach fully what they themselves were taught.

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men! (v.29). There is a great secret in these words. By obeying God with all our hearts in spite of much opposition we will enjoy divine favour.

#### **Acts 6**

Our Christian life is a warfare, individually and collectively. The more we try to live victoriously the more we are attacked by the enemy. The more we want to grow spiritually, the more we are opposed. As

the work was increasing in the early church, the enemy brought this great weapon into the church. We saw in chapters 4 and 5 of the Acts of the Apostles that the apostles were opposed by those who did not believe in the Gospel. But now the trouble started among themselves...."there arose a murmuring of the Grecians" (v.1). They began to complain that their widows were not given the same attention as the Hebrew widows. Partiality is one of the weapons of the enemy. The spirit of partiality is in every man, in every state, and in every country. Man makes distinctions because of wealth, nationality, education etc. To be an overcomer, all these distinctions have to be put away by God's grace. This is a constant battle, not only for a few days but there will be the same trouble always. We have to search our hearts constantly so that we may be free from the spirit of partiality.

At the same time we see how God's servants were being hindered from giving the word of God with power and boldness. In verse two, there is a solemn warning given to God's servants. "... It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables" We, servants of God are called to be His mouthpieces. We have to devote sufficient time in prayer and then give God's word with authority, power and boldness. The enemy was trying to draw the apostles into a service, which was not meant for them. At that time they had the heavy responsibility of expounding the Word of God with power, instructing the believers, warning them, encouraging them, strengthening them and teaching them. Such ministry is necessary all the time. Then only we can see real growth in the believers in every place. But we find these days, that many God's servants are slowly drawn away from real ministry and are occupied with other things. Gradually they cut short their time of prayer and God's Word. The enemy can enter in through many ways. One can be drawn away into many worldly affairs by fellow-believers. Others are drawn away through their children. All the time they are looking after their children. First of all, the wives demand it. Secondly, the husbands become slaves. We find many God's servants attending on their children all the time. Wherever they go, even in a prayer meeting they are occupied with them. Some say, they need more money for their large families. They say, if they have two or three children it does not matter, but now their number is increasing. So they want more money. They start keeping fowls to get more money. Then they spend all the time looking after their fowls. The time they should spend on God's people and the assembly is being spent in feeding the fowls. They say, "How can I manage with so many children?" If you believe in God and His Word, and if you fully trust and obey Him, He will never fail you. You will never find a single case in the history of mankind where God has failed His people and His servants.

(To be contd.)

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Crossroads, Hyderabad -500020

# Hebron Messenger

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NO. 6

## The Vision of Christ—2

"Behold Christ for salvation; behold Him for sanctification; behold Him for satisfaction". Simple, but true! The exiled apostle John in the island of Patmos was given a special vision of the Person of Christ. Nowhere in the Bible are we given such a description. To begin with, we are told about His attire. He wore the garment down to the foot (Rev .1: 13). This certainly suggests the clothes of a majestic ruler. We are also told about the "golden girdle" worn across the chest. This speaks of His absolute righteousness. "...Righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins" (Isa.11: 5), was the prophecy made regarding the rulership of Christ. The first advent of Christ was in absolute humility. He came to minister to the needs of the sinful lost world. On the cross He paid the penalty of all our sins. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him..."(Isa.53: 5). He "...was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom.4: 25). Today, Christ is our living Saviour, seated with all authority and power at the right hand of the Father in heaven. The Scriptures speak of His second advent to this world. He will come back to rule the world in righteousness. Then the desperate cry of Eccl. 1: 15 will be answered. "That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered". With the second advent of Christ in righteousness; "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and rough ways shall be made smooth" (Luke 3:5).

"His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow" (Rev.1: 14), symbolises His eternal antiquity. Daniel saw a similar vision. "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool" (Dan.7: 9). God is eternal and He is before everything. The prayer of Moses emphasises the everlastingness of God. "...From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psa.90:2). As mortals we are like the "...grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth" (Psa.90: 5,6). We are now introduced to His eyes. "...his eyes were as a flame of fire" (Rev.1 :14). Eight significant things could be said of God's eyes. Firstly, they are SEEING EYES. It was Hagar, the Egyptian maid, running away from her mistress Sarai, who gave God the name "El Roi", after she confronted God. El Roi means, "Thou God seest me" (Gen.16: 13). The Psalmist highlights this truth by contrast with the idols. "They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not" (Psa.115: 5).

Secondly, His eyes are OMNISCIENT. "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Prov .15:3). How dreadful is this truth to those who sin! "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves" (Job34: 21,22).

Thirdly, His EYES are SEARCHING eyes. "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God" (Psa.14:2). God is a seeker. His eyes probe into the secrets of men and women.

Fourthly, His eyes are HOLY EYES. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on

iniquity" (Hab.1: 13). Sin is such an abomination in His sight that He cannot tolerate it. He notices all hypocrisy, all pretence in our lives.

Fifthly, His eyes are TESTING EYES. "...His eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men" (Psa.11: 4). "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Heb.4: 13).

Sixthly, His eyes are SUPERINTENDING EYES. This fact brings great comfort to a believer. In Mark's Gospel chapter six, we read about the feeding of five thousand men besides women and children with just five loaves and two fishes. After the miracle the Lord constrained His disciples to get into the ship and go to the other side. The Lord remained on the mountain while He sent the multitudes away. The disciples had a tough time since the wind was contrary to them. It was a dark night and the disciples, most of them fishermen, rowed hard for several hours. Mark 6:48 tells us that the Lord Jesus "saw them toiling in rowing". Neither distance nor darkness could hide His children from Him. How comforting is this thought!

Seventhly, His eyes are WEEPING EYES. At least in three places it is written that Jesus shed tears (Heb.5: 7; Luke 19:41; John 11: 35). The God of grace and mercy weeps over the hard, unrepentant hearts of men and women for He is not willing that any should perish.

Eighthly, His eyes are JUDGING EYES. John the apostle saw the eyes of the Lord Jesus as a "flame of fire" (Rev.1: 14). Fire is a symbol of judgement. While this fact of judgement brings great fear to the one who is in sin, it brings hope to every persecuted saint. Today His eyes are full of compassion. Turn to Him for He is willing to save you.

(To be contd.)

P .S.

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## LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron  
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Telephone No: 7613066

February 27, 2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who "loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it ...That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle". The Lord enable us all to be such a church sanctified by the washing of water, by the Word, looking forward to be with Him, for ever and ever (Eph.5:25-27; 1Thess.4:3, 16, 17).

We shall now consider some of the characteristics of a model church, as seen from the letter of Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians. The first one we would mention is that of a CONVERTED membership. Paul states that very clearly when he remarks, "...ye turned to God from idols to serve

the living and true God...delivered...from the wrath to come"(1 Thess.1 :9, 10). The church was made up of regenerated people. So-called unconverted membership is the curse of this hour. Our blessed Lord insisted upon the absolute necessity of New Birth (John 3:3). In the Book of Acts we read, "...the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). An un regenerated person in a church is not only useless, but a positive hindrance, likened perhaps to a dead body lying around, something always in the way.

Apostle Paul refers to the church at Thessalonica as an exemplary, or a sort of a model church. In Acts chapter 17, the Apostle reflects upon his visit to that city that his entrance was not in vain. It was through Paul that Christianity reached this great metropolis, a city of great importance, but which was in a terrible state of gross idolatry and heathen darkness. He faced terrible antagonism, as the Jews refused to accept the Gospel, and began to initiate persecution.

This need not be considered an experience outdated. The Christian path is not by any means an easy one. However this obstruction which was meant to nullify the effect of the preaching of God's word through Paul's ministry in the city of Thessalonica, resulted in the establishment of what we may designate as a MODEL New Testament CHURCH. We are all interested in models -model cars, model homes, model schools, 8: and also model husbands and wives. But the thing that attracts us most of all as believers is a MODEL CHURCH, with believers of the highest Christian calibre. Paul speaks of them as ensamples church after which all other churches at that time scattered throughout Macedonia and Achaia patterned themselves.

As fellow-believers let us not be content that we are born again or converted, but aim to be the ensample kind by the grace of God. In business one would go in for the best quality samples. The Lord Himself would have us to show to the world what a real believer is. Would He select me, we may wonder. Paul had a very high opinion of those believers in Thessalonica church and commended them for their faithfulness. To commendation the Apostle adds thankfulness. In Paul's letter to Galatia, thanksgiving is omitted. The people that" formed that church had taken such a step backwards, that the Apostle was overcome with grief. But the Thessalonians, instead of going backwards were pressing forward and he rendered sincere thanks for them.

Let us examine some of the essential graces that gave outward proof of their genuine conversion, namely faith, hope and charity, three works of the Spirit that assure us that electing love is there (1 Thess.1: 3,4).

The first one is active FAITH. James speaks about a faith that is dead. These people had a faith that was ALIVE. By faith they saw that in Christ all the fullness dwelt, and it led them to receive Him as their personal Saviour. It was of the same character as we read in Hebrews 11, where it is mentioned and the heroes of faith are listed. It was faith that enabled them to go forth in triumph in the midst of all difficulties and oppositions they constantly faced. It was by this faith that they were made overcomers. "...this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"(1 John 5:4).

Secondly, they displayed laborious LOVE. True love is a labouring grace. It is not content to sit idle, nor is it selfish. It goes on looking for something to do, which will bring glory to God, and blessing to man. It is a love that cannot be content unless it is doing something to help someone. This love was most conspicuous in the Thessalonians. Their evident testimony was, "the love of Christ constraineth us".

The third grace that he makes reference to is that of patient HOPE. They believed God's promises and patiently waited for their fulfillment. In some instances they had to wait for a long time. In the last verse he says that they waited for God's Son from heaven. This they did patiently. Jesus Christ promised that He would come again, and they believed that this event would take place Exactly as promised. So they lived daily in expectation of His glorious return. We are told that the hope of the hypocrite perisheth, but a Christian has a true hope, which is imperishable. Thank God, we are permitted to know whether or not we are of those who are among God's elect. We cannot take a ladder and climb up into the secret archives

of heaven, to see whether or not our names are inscribed in the Lamb's Book of life, but as Paul points out, by the fruits we produce and the Christian graces we exemplify, we can know that we are among the chosen of God. Let us live in the good of these graces.

Pray for Bro. T.E. Koshy who left for Syracuse today the 12th March after being in India and Thailand for nearly two months in all. He covets our prayers for his health.

Bro. Mohan Menon (of Botswana) was called Home, while in the C.M.C. Hospital at Vellore on the 5th March and the funeral took place at Vellore. Though in secular work and responsibilities for many years in Kuwait, he was devoted to the Lord and to His House and contributed to its building. In the last few days he assured the family that his work was finished and that he was ready to depart, He rests from his labours (Rev .14:13). Pray for his wife and daughter and family members.

Bro. A. Thyagaraj who was closely associated with the fellowship at Hyderabad while in Police service, and later migrated to U.S.A. was called to Glory on March 4th in New York.

Bro. Nesamony, one among the elders of 'the church at Horeb, Nagercoil, was called to Glory on the 5th March. Pray for the comfort of the above families.

Praying that our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel, may sustain and support us in our pilgrimage, amidst all our burdens and infirmities, looking for His coming, to be glorified with Him,

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

1 Thess. 1: 9,10  
1 Cor. 15: 51-55  
Rom. 8: 23-26

**YE ARE MY WITNESSES—4**  
**BAKHT SINGH**

God is faithful. See His promise in Phil.4: 19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus". Again our Lord said in John 16:24, "...ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full". If you believe God and His Word, and obey Him, you will find Him to be faithful. But in many cases, their eyes are upon man and not upon God. They depend upon wealthy believers to receive extra money every month. They visit frequently those who give them more money. If we do not trust God wholly and solely, He cannot supply our needs. If for a purpose God does not supply your needs for a few days or for a few months, then wait patiently and say to God. "O God, what is the lesson that you are teaching me, and my family by these trials?" In every trial, God has a purpose. We know fully well that when we are born again we are made free from every condemnation and judgement. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"(Rom.8: 1). Now all our trials are intended to give us stronger faith, to refine us. To strengthen us in our service and make us more useful and fruitful, but it is not a punishment. God never slumbers, never forgets, never fails. For those who call upon Him, God wants to give the very best and in fullness. We have to make sure that we serve Him faithfully even in small matters and not doubt Him or question Him. We should not be drawn away to any earthly affairs, no matter how much we are tempted. When we give our lives for God's service, we have to be sure that we spend all our time and energy for Him.

I know many God's servants who never give their tithes. They say, "I have given my life for the Lord's service, now everything is mine". They preach to other people about giving tithes but they themselves do not give. That is how they disobey God. In some cases, they want to obey God, but they have become slaves to their wives. Even though God speaks to them on many occasions, when they go home only a few words from their wives change everything. It does not require much speaking. That is how some God's servants fail the Lord. We say solemnly that many have lost their rights and privileges. If you honour God and His Word as in 1 Sam.2: 30(b), He will honour you. If He keeps you in want for some time, it is for your spiritual edification and growth.

God's servant Apostle Paul was saying with experience that he had learnt to be content in whatsoever state God kept him, without murmuring or complaining. "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, there with to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need" (Phil.4: 11,12). He had learnt this by experience. He testified that God had kept him in time of want. The purpose of trial is not to punish us, but to bring about edification and growth. Paul found that in every need of every kind, God gave him extra grace, extra power and extra strength. What we gain spiritually by sufferings cannot be gained in any other way. This is God's way. We can thank God under all circumstances. Make sure that the ministry given to you is never hindered by any other occupation of the world, by friends or relations. God is speaking to. You Please obey Him and do not resist Him. Then God also will give you the answer.

The apostles asked the believers to find seven men full of the Holy Spirit to look after the widows (Acts 6:3). When we face any difficult situation in the church, we should pray. Then God will give the answer. The apostles could have said, "They are widows, so we must help them". Thus they could have been drawn away from their real ministry, but as they began to pray together, God gave the answer. They were to look for seven men, ...full of the Holy Ghost for that job. In answer to prayer God raised up seven men. We cannot take: for granted that without our prayer God would raise up such men. We have to pray as a church, "Lord, give us men full of the Holy Ghost to feed us and look after us". That is how through prayer and oneness divine order can be brought about in our midst. "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). God did not allow the enemy to deceive the apostles, or hinder them from their ministry of giving the word of God and prayer. It was after much prayer and careful ministry of God's Word that God raised up those men.

(To be contd.)

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