

Nothing Without The Spirit!

Pastor S. James

www.gracetabernaclehyd.org

Father, we just thank You, Lord. We just thank You because You are there with us – Emmanuel, God with us; God in us. A God who surrounds us with His mercy, with His goodness, with His love. Thank You, Father. Even this night, we surrender our hearts, our minds, our hearing – everything before Thee, Lord. Speak to us. Enlighten us. Show us. Feed us. Strengthen us. You alone, we confess, have the words of life. You alone. Speak to us, Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

We go to the first two verses for tonight and then, go and see how far we can cover.

Luke 24:49

⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 1:5

⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Keep that at the back of your mind. This is the last injunction or the last command Jesus gave His Church; He gave His disciples before leaving. This was the last command. He says, "Wait. Tarry until the Holy Spirit comes upon you. When He comes, you will have power." So, if you look at *Romans 8:11*, we understand what normal Christianity is.

Romans 8:11

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

According to the Word of God, Scriptures, you and I have the same Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead. And therefore, He says, "We can do the same works He did." It's the same Spirit. Today, we are dealing with the Holy Spirit. We will be dealing with the Holy Spirit, probably, for the whole of next year too. The issue is the same as the Word; not how much Word we know but how much of the Word we know, we believe and we obey. Because there are scholars who know the entire Word but basically, it doesn't make much of a difference. What makes the difference is that – how of it that we know do we believe? And two – we obey. Sometimes, more than believing, it is the obedience that matters. Sometimes, even if you obey without fully believing, you still see things happening.

So, we saw on Sunday – the faith that leads to obedience. Genuine faith always has to lead to obedience. In the same token, we would like to say, "How much do we have of the Holy Spirit?" but how much of us does the Holy Spirit have? Because sometimes, we see manifestations of power and we think, "He must be filled with the Holy Spirit." Not necessarily. It's not how much of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we have or apparent outwardly, how much of the Holy Spirit we seem to have. That is not the point. Just like the Word, it is how much of us does the Holy Spirit have? When it comes to the Word or the Holy Spirit, the key operative word is – surrender. We have looked at the Word, that is, Jesus Christ in detail. We will never exhaust it. In this life or in eternity, we will continually be doing our study and will be learning more about Jesus. We see from Scripture that everything God has ever done or will do, He has done and will do by His Word. We saw the end of creation, this creation. When Jesus comes in *Revelation 19:13*, we see,

Revelation 19:13

¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

When He puts down the Antichrist in *2 Thessalonians 2:8*, we see,

2 Thessalonians 2:8

⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

It is still by the Word and the Spirit that comes out of His mouth. We know from *Psalms 119:89*, Scripture says,

Psalms 119:89

⁸⁹ Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

Yes, God used forty plus men to write His Word but He did not make His Word suit the personality of a man. No, He made a certain type of personality to suit His Word. Please never ever think that the Word is different because different people wrote it. No, the Word is the same. Forever, it is settled in Heaven. But how was it given? In *2 Peter 1:20-21*,

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, (why?) ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Prophecy means – the entire Word of God is prophetic. Scripture here says,

...holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Now, we are coming to the Spirit. The entire Word of God is breathed literally by the Holy Spirit. ‘Moved’, here, actually means – breathed upon by the Holy Spirit. The eternal Word of God, which is forever settled in Heaven, was given to holy men of old, as the Holy Spirit breathed the Word of God into them and upon them. Therefore, the Holy Spirit always accompanies the Word of God. The Word of God alone is never the answer. Learning under the unction of the Holy Spirit is the answer. The Word of God has to be learnt under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Teaching and preaching and learning under the anointing is the answer. That’s why *1 John 2:26* says,

1 John 2:26-27

²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. ²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

What does it mean? The Holy Spirit speaks to the outside through His Word. He speaks to the inside to the hearer. That’s why we need both. When He speaks through the preacher, the preacher has to depend upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit to teach. He can teach on his own or he can depend upon the anointing to teach. The hearer has to depend upon the anointing to understand. Otherwise, it just becomes an academic exercise. Much of our study of the Word of God actually becomes of no effect when we do not actually surrender to the Holy Spirit in either teaching or learning. That’s why *Ephesians 1:17*, Paul prays,

Ephesians 1:17

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

The prayer is that we receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation continuously. Who?

¹⁷ ...the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory...

So that we may know Him God better through the Word, through the Holy Spirit. Never forget the purpose. Jesus is the way. Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth and the life,*” and we stop there. But that’s not what He said. “*I am the way, the truth and the life and no man can come the Father except through Me.*” The end, the destination is God. So,

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

Jesus is the way; the Holy Spirit is the guide or the teacher so that we understand God the Father. Without the Holy Spirit, our study will become like another academic pursuit. In universities, we have professors who taught from the *Book of Job* and the *Psalms*. It is a very good study; academic brilliance but we do not hear it the way we hear at Church. Brilliant, because it's another academic. In most literature classes in the higher level in the old days (I don't know whether it's still there), there were certain Books from the Bible that were prescribed as text. One was the *Book of Job*; some of the *Psalms* were prescribed as they were considered as excel literary texts. But it was an academic exercise. When you are studying a *Book of Psalms* in a university, you do not see Jesus as your way or the Holy Spirit as your guide, leading you to the Father. Please understand that. So, when we study the Word of God, when we hear the Word of God, if it has to make sense to us and become life, it is only possible through the Holy Spirit. The flesh will profit nothing otherwise. We can come regularly to Church for 10 years and the flesh profits nothing because the Word is put to us as life through the Holy Spirit. That's why Jesus says in *John 6*,

John 6:63

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Who gives life? It is the Spirit. He says, "My words are Spirit and life. If you want to receive life from it, it is the Spirit who gives the life." That's why God keeps on saying, "Don't grieve the Holy Spirit; don't quench the Holy Spirit. If you grieve and quench the Holy Spirit and He chooses to stay away, then you can read, meditate, memorize and do anything with the Word, the flesh will profit nothing." It will not work. So, please remember – the Holy Spirit, though He is called a Teacher, He is not just a Teacher because teachers work for a salary, right? At the end of the day, if you don't learn, he still gets his salary. I still got my salary when I was a teacher in the system. I always got my salary. It didn't matter whether they studied or not; my job was to do my best and I always got my salary. So, the Holy Spirit is called a Teacher but He is not just a Teacher. The Holy Spirit is different. In *2 Corinthians 3*, Scripture says,

2 Corinthians 3:15-17

¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

When the Pharisees, the scribes, they all read the law, a veil covered their faces. The Word they read never became life from them. It never became life for them. A veil covered. The reason –

¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord...

First is the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The minute they surrendered to the Word of God and accepted the authority of the Word of God in their lives; and then, what does it say in *verse 17*?

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

They had to turn to Jesus. When they accepted the Lordship of Jesus Christ, suddenly, the very Word they read; it was the Old Testament itself; it was not the New Testament because the New Testament hadn't even come in there. The Old Testament brought liberty because the Word becomes life. Because now, you can move from an academic relationship of the Word of God to a living relationship to the Word through the Spirit. When the Lordship of the Holy Spirit is established, remember – there is liberty.

Then, it doesn't even stop there. Then, the Holy Spirit will lead us to deeper truths hidden in the Word of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (Where is it? It's in the Word of God. It's hidden in the Word of God. Who brings it?)

¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

They are all here. This is milk and meat. It's all here. The only way you and I will ever know the deep things of God is through the Spirit. Only through the Spirit. He will go beyond the surface and keep on going to the deeper things of God, hidden in the Word of God. That is why this pursuit should not be an academic pursuit. It should be for a deeper life. Deep calls unto deep. The Holy Spirit will, very clearly, know when I'm studying the Word of God if I'm studying for knowledge or for life. He knows it. Whether it is mechanical. Everybody. All of us, when we were good Christians, we were very disciplined – we got up in the morning; we prayed; we read our Word. But the Holy Spirit also knew – we were not looking for life; it was just a discipline and He is looking for surrender to the Word; He is looking for surrender to the Spirit before He can lead us to deeper things. And He will not otherwise.

The key with the Word (that is Jesus) or the Holy Spirit is surrender and obedience. Every step a believer takes on that narrow way is the way of surrender to the Word and to the leading of the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit lead us? Simple. First, He gives us the Book of instructions. That's the Bible. I mean, I've been also telling my wife, when people call to pray, I've also been quietly asking because when people call, they keep on calling for prayer. So, I ask them, "Do you read your Word regularly?" And often, the answer is, "No." So, what's the point of prayer? How long will you pray? First, the Holy Spirit has given a Book of instructions. He will never go contrary to His own Book. This is His Book. The Spirit breathed upon holy men of old and they wrote as the Holy Spirit moved them. This is His Book about His Son, Jesus Christ. We never have to seek His will concerning something that is clear in the Bible. First, it is a Book of instructions, general instructions for everyone. The Bible is a set of general instructions for every believer. Right? What is the Bible? Somebody said, "It is Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth." Basic instructions for everybody. So, you don't have to pray and ask the Holy Spirit for something that is already very clear and apparent in the Bible. "Should I marry this one?" If he or she is an unbeliever, don't even ask that question and expect an answer. God says, "It's there." It's like going to the class and after having studied for 2 years, "Is 2 + 2 still 4?" It is always 4. It doesn't become 4.1 after 2 years. Truth never changes. There are certain things, general instructions that you never have to ask. You don't have to pray and ask. They are already there – the general instructions. But once we are obedient to the general instruction, He leads us to the specific. If we are not obedient to the general instructions of God, we will always struggle to find the specific. The problem is – people struggle with the specific. "Lord, what do You want me to do?" God asks, "Did you go to Church?" "Erm, I was busy." "Good. I was also busy at Church." Who was busy at Church? God was busy at Church while we were busy somewhere else. "Did you pray?" "No, I didn't pray." "Did you read your Bible?" "No." "Did you obey the general instructions, at least try to keep the general instructions?" Before God can lead us to the specific... simple example – the Word of God will tell everyone the Great Commission, "Go and preach the Gospel." Right? But the Word of God doesn't tell you which country and which place you are supposed to preach. That, only the Holy Spirit will tell you. That is specific. The other is general. "Go," the Great Commission, "to the ends of the nations and make disciples of all men." That's general but do you know where to go? If you are not obedient to the general, you will miss out on the specifics. So, what do people do? They miss out on the specifics and they go where they like. If I go where I like, I will never be in Hyderabad; I would be in Bhutan. I would never come back. Never. It doesn't matter how much I love you; I don't love this city. I love the people. I don't love the city at all. I hate cities. I will never know the specific. I know the general and because I don't know the specific, I will take the general and then, I will go according to my flesh. But what happens? I could serve for 10-15 years and have missed out on the will of God because I missed out on the leading of the Holy Spirit. General and the specific. That is why – surrender to the Word and the Spirit, both are necessary.

There are many good Christians who have surrendered to the Word of God and obeyed the general instructions but they are not used of God, simply because they will not hear or heed the voice of the Holy Spirit. They will not. Some may be or many of them are just like good Hindus and good Muslims; there are good Christians also. The second category – good Christians; good Muslims; good Hindus. But they are not born of the Holy Spirit. They are good Christians but they are not born of the Holy Spirit. What we don't realize, when we study Scripture is, everything that God does, He does through the Word and He only does through the Spirit. There is nothing from the beginning till the end; God will do outside of His Word and Spirit. His Word and His Spirit are involved in everything equally. Everything. From the beginning till all of eternity, there is nothing God will do apart of His Spirit. In *John 3:1-7*, what we see is a good religious man.

John 3:1-7

¹ There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is

with him.”³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

Three times, Jesus uses the term ‘born again’, which, now, we use it so lightly and carelessly. Please understand – the new birth is not a change of nature. It’s not just a change of nature. It is not the old nature changed into new; it’s much more than that. The phrase ‘born again’ comes from the Greek work which means, “From the first,” or “from the beginning”. It could also mean – the One who was from the beginning is born in you. *Revelation 22:13* tells us who the beginning is.

Revelation 22:13

¹³ *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*

What it means to be born again is not that we are born again; it is Christ is born in us. That is why Scripture says, “We are born by water (the Word of God) and the Spirit.” Who is born in us is the Christ who is in there from the beginning. This also means eternity has entered into us. That is why *John 3:16* says,

John 3:16

¹⁶ *...that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

What is eternal life? *John 17:3* says,

John 17:3

³ *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

Jesus said, “You can never know God apart from Me.” Meaning – the One who was from the beginning has been born into us. Now, we start understanding God because He is the One who was from the beginning, with the Father. That is what it actually means – to be born again. When this really happens, which happens; but when we really understand what happens, there are two things that are going to happen – either we are going to be very happy or we are going to be very miserable. The reason – our primary struggle is this – either our ignorance of the truth or our refusal to accept this truth. Because when we read, “you must be born again,” we think we are born again. It is He who is born in us. The new creation in us is new to us but was there from the beginning – the Alpha and the Omega. That’s why God tells the prophet, “*Even before you were formed in your mother’s womb, I knew you.*” How does God know me even before I was formed in my mother’s womb? What does it mean? Meaning – I was there in the beginning. Who is there at the beginning? It was Jesus who was there at the beginning. So, if Jesus is born in me, God says, “I knew you from the beginning.” Our old nature, what we call the flesh, is actually not fighting the new man; it is fighting the Christ in us. It is a daily deadly struggle unto death. Understand this. Only one can live and survive at the end. Only one can. Either Christ lives or I live. When I talk about the ‘I’, it’s the old man. Both can’t, ultimately. Jesus made it clear over and over again but the disciples could not understand it. Over and over again, *John 12:24*,

John 12:24

²⁴ *Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.*

Unless it falls to the ground and dies... in *Luke 9:23-24*,

Luke 9:23-24

²³ *Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.*

He says, “It’s one of these two – either I live, you die; or you live and I die.” There are no two options in this. It is progressive but there are no options in this. This is what Paul actually means in *Galatians 2:20*,

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...

(Now, he has reached that pinnacle. He is reaching that pinnacle. Christ started as a baby in him but Christ is growing in him,) **and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

He says, "It's Christ who is living in me." This is what the truth about the new creation is but how does Paul achieve his goal? The key he gives us in *Philippians 3:10*.

Philippians 3:10

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

His order is completely turned around. Not the way we think. First, he says, "It is impossible for us to do this. It's not possible to live this life. I want to know Christ first. I want to know Christ. I want to know Him. The first thing I want to know about Him is the power of His resurrection." This is the life that can be lived only by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no other way. You cannot live this life. It will make you miserable. If you try to live this life with knowledge and understanding alone and try to obey in your life, he says, "It is not possible. First, what do I want to know Him? I want to know the power of His resurrection." We'll have to come back to this. So, what does Paul say in *Ephesians*?

Ephesians 1:19

¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

What is this *exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe*? He says, "If you believe, the very power of the Holy Spirit, which raised Jesus up from the dead and resurrected Him is available for every one of us." He says, "That's what I want to know first." In *Philippians*, he says, "That is what I want to know first. I want to know Him and I want to know the power of His resurrection. Otherwise, it is impossible."

Philippians 3:10

¹⁰ that I may (after) know(ing) Him and the power of His resurrection, and (I want) the fellowship of His sufferings...

"I don't want the fellowship of His sufferings without knowing the power of His resurrection because I will be finished. I will be miserable. I will quit. I will run. I know I cannot do it. But first, I want to know the power of His resurrection; the very power of the Holy Spirit that raised Him from the dead. Once I know the power, then I want to know the fellowship of His sufferings; what are His sufferings?" What is he talking about?

...(Until I am) **being conformed to His death,**

We are not talking about the death on the Cross. We are not talking about His death on the Cross. That is atonement. We don't die for somebody else's sins. We cannot. It's only Jesus. He says, "I have to be conformed to His death, the way He lived on earth." Let's look at what he means. What is Paul talking about? He is talking about Jesus and says, "That's the model." The first thing he tells us in *John 1:14*; Jesus was the Word,

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

Who was Jesus? He was the Word; He was born. The Word was born among us in the flesh. How was He born?

Luke 1:35

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you..."

How was He born? By the Spirit. So, He is the Word born of the Spirit and God says, “That’s exactly what He does with us.” He was the Word born in the Spirit, walked among us in the flesh. Living in an incredibly sinful world, He has two choices – either give in to the temptations and live in the flesh; or die to self and obey to the will of the Father through the Holy Spirit daily. Two choices like every one of us have. He doesn’t have the third choice which we have – that we can fall, rise up, repent and turn. He doesn’t have a third choice. We have choice – one, two and three. He has only two choices – either be tempted and fall; or die daily and live to the will of the Father. So, He chose two. That’s what *Hebrews 4:15* says,

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are...

See, His temptation is different from Adam and Eve’s. Adam and Eve are created like Him, perfect; in a perfect environment where there is no temptation. There was only one law. Scripture says, “When the law comes, sin is abound.” God says, “Don’t eat,” and then, immediately, she is looking, “Why can’t I eat?” That’s only one thing. Now, He is coming in the human flesh, born of the Word, born of the Spirit, come in the human flesh but outside, now, sin is there in all its manifestations unlike the Garden of Eden. Therefore, He is tempted at all points. It was not just one fruit of the tree; everything of evil is available under the Roman age.

...but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

And how did He overcome? This is the suffering He is going through. How did He overcome? Through the Holy Spirit. In *Hebrews 5:7-9*,

Hebrews 5:7-8

⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, (He was tempted in the flesh at all point; but in the days of His flesh,) when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

Does *Roman* say that’s exactly the way the Holy Spirit prays through us? According to the will of God with groans that cannot be uttered? That’s how He is praying through the Spirit. He is praying through the Spirit though He was a son. He is praying and crying out in the Spirit saying, “Father, I have come for one purpose – to live Your life; not My life.”

⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

That’s the suffering He is talking about. He says, “I want to be in fellowship with His sufferings but I cannot do it in this flesh. I know I can do it only through the power of the resurrection, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, I want that first and then, I want to fellowship in His suffering; the suffering daily of fighting my will and God’s will, to do God’s will.” We are called to the same. Christ is birthed in us. When Christ is birthed in us, it is the end of us, the old self. The Holy Spirit is given to us as it was given to Christ but the key is this – Jesus was increasing in the Spirit till He was filled without measure. Don’t think when Jesus was born, what He had of the Holy Spirit is what He had at thirty. At thirty, He is filled, overflowing but there is a rider; in *Acts 5:32*,

Acts 5:32

³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

The Holy Spirit is given in proportion to our obedience. The more we obey, the more of the Spirit we receive because when we have obeyed till class 1, we get the Spirit for class 2. Why? Because God is going to push you further and further. When you have learnt to love your own, He gives you the Holy Spirit to love those who are not your own. When you have learnt to love those who are not your own, He gives you love to love your enemies. When you don’t love your own, why should He give you love to love your enemies? He says, “First, love your own.” “Lord, I want to overcome and love my enemies.” He says, “Yeah, I saw you at home.”

Nothing Without The Spirit!

At every level, we need the Spirit. That's the key. How did Jesus know what He was supposed to do? How did He know?

Hebrews 10:5-7

⁵Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. ⁶In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"

What is He saying? Think for a minute – why is God not interested in sacrifices and offerings? Why? Sacrifices and offerings only dealt with the life of the old man and God is not interested in the new man; He is interested in Christ. He says, "I'm not interested, though rivers of blood were flowing for hundreds and hundreds of years." Jesus understood – God is not interested in sacrifices and offerings. Because it is still the life of the old man. Even the law, even the keeping of the law did not interest God. Why? What was the purpose of the law?

Galatians 3:24

²⁴Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

If the law does not bring you to Christ, God is not interested on how much of the law you keep. The Pharisees kept the law but that law never brought them to Christ. They rejected Christ. So, does the keeping of the law please the Father? No, it doesn't. He is only interested in one Person; He is only interested in Christ. He is not interested in man because man, after he has fallen, cannot please God. His sacrifices don't please God; his offerings don't please God. His keeping of the law also doesn't please God. He is only interested in Christ. And Christ's first statement is that, "What have I come for? I have come for one purpose – I have come to do Your will, O God." So, to all who are born of the Word and the Spirit, one command alone is given at the end. What is it? "Wait," or in KJV, "Tarry until you receive power from above, the baptism of the Holy Spirit." Question is: how long are you supposed to tarry? Until you receive. He says, "You cannot do this without My Spirit and you have to continually be filled with My Spirit if you are ever going to please the Father because then, it is the life of Christ lived in the power of the Holy Spirit."

If you remember the context of the Lord's Prayer, *Luke 11:1-4*,

Luke 11:1-4

¹Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

They were listening to His prayers and one thing they knew, probably, definitely – His prayer was different from theirs. They were all praying people. They were all under the law; they all knew how to pray but they did not know how to pray like Him because they knew – His prayer was animated by the Holy Spirit. So, they are looking at Him and are saying, "Your prayer is different. Teach us to pray." Instead, He gives them the principle that makes His prayer. He doesn't actually teach them to pray; He is giving them the principle which makes His prayer different and powerful.

²So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

He says, "This is the key – you want your prayer life to change? Then, understand this – His will should be primary in your life." And then,

³Give us day by day our daily bread.

He says, "Don't worry about provision. If you put provision before your nose, you will never fulfil God's purpose. You will be running and chasing provision."

⁴And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

Nothing Without The Spirit!

Simple. It looks very simple but it is not simple. If you look at that prayer, honestly, you realize – I cannot live this life. This simple prayer encompasses the life of Christ and I cannot live this life without the power of the Holy Spirit. How do I hallow Your Name? How do I keep Your will in my life? How do I bring You glory? How do I really trust You day by day for provision? How do I forgive everyone the way You have forgiven me? How do I walk away from temptation? How am I delivered from the power of the evil one? And you realize – it is impossible without the Spirit, absolutely. You realize – this is dynamite. This is not just a prayer you mumble every day, every Sunday. This is real, powerful. So, read the next.

Luke 11:5-13

⁵And He said to them, (Suddenly, from prayer, He is telling them,) “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’;

He didn’t give complicated examples like I give you from Shakespeare and Vijay gives you from robotics because they wouldn’t have understood it. Because they were simple fishermen; so, He had to give them examples which they could understand. He said, “Think about it; some friend came.”

⁷and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you?’ ⁸I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

Why did he give? Because of his persistence?

⁹“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

What does it mean? You have to be persistent until you get it. Don’t give up. Keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking until that door is open to you. Does it stop there? No. Listen to where He goes from there.

¹¹If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Where does He begin? Where does He end? He says, “You have to keep asking, keep knocking, keep seeking persistently until you receive the Spirit and in full measure and then, this prayer will become life. There is no other way.” He says, “This is the way.” Knowledge of the Word is good. That alone is not enough. He says, “Without the Spirit, you can do nothing.”

This is where the division comes. Last Wednesday, we saw the division – little children, young men and fathers. Does this have to do with age, physical age? No, this has got nothing to do with physical children. Does that mean when John is writing, “Little children,” he is talking about Nathanael and Sarah and all of them running around like that? Zerah? No, He is not talking about little children. He is talking about adults who are little children, adults who are young men and adults who are fathers. There are fathers who are young; there are little children who are old. I will show you examples from Scripture.

Galatians 2:11-

¹¹Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;

Two people here – one is Peter; the other is Paul.

Matthew 8:14

¹⁴Now when Jesus had come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother lying sick with a fever.

So, we know when Jesus called Peter, Peter was married. He has got a mother-in-law. So, he has to be married. He is married. So, definitely, he is a middle-aged man. Probably, older than Jesus. He is in his late thirties or forties when Peter is called. Years later, three and a half years later, many years later, more than that; in Acts 7:58, when we see Paul first,

Acts 7:58

⁵⁸ and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

He is a young man. Peter is a middle-aged man. When the incident written the *Book of Galatians* happened, Peter was an old man; Paul was a younger man. But who was the father? Paul was the father. Why? Because he allowed Christ to grow in him. Let me give you an example. The only way Christ can grow in us is not just through the study of the Word of God; it is by the surrender to the Spirit of God. That's why Scripture says, "Where the Spirit is Lord, there is liberty." The study of the Word of God only gives us knowledge and that knowledge makes us miserable. We have to surrender to the Word and we find it so difficult to surrender to the Word because we do not have the power of the Spirit. But for the power of the Spirit, we have to surrender to the Spirit too. This example was given by an old time Pastor dead and gone. This is how he put it about the Holy Spirit. He says, "Think about a widow with three young children and finds this nice man and gets married again. Her new husband came to live in with her and the children. They all live in the same house. He is a nice man. He provided for them. He comforted them. He taught them. They received all this but one thing the children did not do; they did not accept him as a father, the head of the house. The day they realized this and accepted him, everything changed in the home. Did he change? No. The family changed."

Let me get to what I'm trying to put across – Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. That's why Christmas time, He came, whenever the actual Christmas was. Those who believed and accepted Him as their Savior, when they did, the Holy Spirit came. So, the first command of the risen Savior (not the last command) is this – in *John 20:22*,

John 20:22

²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Receive Him. Accept Him. Receive the Holy Spirit. The last command of the risen Savior,

Acts 1:4-5

⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

He is telling them, "You have received the Holy Spirit. That's not enough. Tarry until you are immersed in the Holy Spirit." First, you accept Him. Second, you completely surrender to Him. This is the Christian life. The fact is that many of us, the Holy Spirit is still living like a stepfather. We have not accepted Him. We rarely talk to Him. We rarely listen to Him. We rarely make Him conformable. Though He comforts us, He teaches us, we don't give the lordship of our lives into His hands. He is the Third Person of the Trinity. That doesn't mean He is the Third. He is equal to the Father and the Son. God says, "Receive Him as a Person." First, accept Him as a Person. That's the first command. Receive the Holy Spirit. He can breathe but they have to receive. Christ's job is to breathe on us. Our job is to receive the Holy Spirit; accept Him.

Second – tarry, ask and keep asking until He fills us. And even when He fills us, don't stop until you know control has been transferred into His hands. We can have the Holy Spirit and the control be still in our hands. We can have the Holy Spirit and no control has been transferred into His hands. That is the pattern in the Old and the New Testament – the prophetic vision seen by Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 47:1-6

¹ Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. ³ And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. ⁴ Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. ⁵ Again he measured one

thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed.

The water was too deep, the one in which one must swim a river that could not be crossed. When you come to this, control has shifted. Control has gone over.

⁶ He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.

Then, you see in verse 12, Scripture says,

Ezekiel 47:12

¹² Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."

This is the final vision John also will see in *Revelation 22:1-5*,

Revelation 22:1-5

¹ And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

The same vision. What is he talking about? He is talking about the people who have allowed Christ to reach the fullness in them, where the Holy Spirit has complete control. Remember – that is our goal and that is not a pleasing goal to the self. The self wants to do a lot of things. That's what I said – the message, the actual Gospel can either make you excited or miserable. That's why God says, "Even if you love your own life, you cannot. You can be saved but you will never finish your course."

This was the cry of Jesus in *John 7:37-38*,

John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

God is saying, "In eternity, there will be one set of people through different generations who understood this and will allow the Holy Spirit complete control at some point, allowed Christ to live through them. They, collectively, are called the Bride of Christ." That is why, when the Bible ends, the Bride joins in this prophetic exhortation in *Revelation 22:17*,

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Only the Holy Spirit can do the work of Christ in us. As only the Holy Spirit through the Holy Spirit, Christ did the work of the Father. He lived that life fully, totally surrendered to the will of God, His Father. As the Bride of Christ, we live on earth gradually but ultimately, surrender to the will of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no other way. Otherwise, we will remain as little children or we will remain as young men. What is mentioned about the fathers in that letter? "They have known Him from the beginning." What does it mean to be born again? To be born from the One who

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was from the beginning. The fathers have known Him from the beginning. They understood, “This is not about me. This is not about my life. This is not about what I like. This is not about my comfort. This is about Him and it is going to cost me to allow Christ to live.” Therefore, the *Epistle to Ephesians* is specifically written for this purpose but remember all the instructions, which are actually from chapter 3 to 6, have no meaning unless we understand the fundamentals of salvation, the complete perfection, where He can save us to the uttermost. In *Ephesians 2:4-6*,

Ephesians 2:4-6

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (We were never made alive separately. We were made alive with Christ,) (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Understand the fundamental principle is verse 6. The Bride is one set of people who have come to the unity of faith in love. The key word is – ‘together’. First, He raised us up together, made us sit together. The self fights against this. The Spirit fights for this. So, what is the key word when the apostolic Church began in *Acts 1:14*,

Acts 1:14

¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

The Holy Spirit hasn’t come. The instruction is – stay together until the Holy Spirit comes.

Acts 2:1

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And the Holy Spirit comes. And then, they hear the message. The rest of the people hear the message. Three thousand get saved; they are baptized and what does Scripture talk about them?

Acts 2:44

⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

It’s not that they did not have private property but they did not think of it as private property. They had all things in common.

Acts 2:46

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

The first thing God says is that, in *Ephesians 2*,

Ephesians 2:6

⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

That is the key. The first key is – you understand, “I cannot live my life for myself anymore.” That’s the old man. The old man wants to live his life for himself, even in marriage. He wants to live his life for himself. The first thing you understand when the Holy Spirit comes when you surrender to the Word and to the Spirit is that – I cannot live my life for myself anymore because Christ never lives His life for Himself. This is what the enemy attacks and the Holy Spirit strives for.

Ephesians 2:6

⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

The second truth – in heavenly places but not along with Christ Jesus; we are not seated along with Christ Jesus; we are seated together in Christ Jesus. It’s not about me. It’s about Christ. We are seated together in Christ Jesus. That is why, on earth, we are called His Body. That is why *Philippians 2:5* says, “We have His mind.”

Philippians 2:5

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

That's why in *John 14:12*, Scripture says, "We are called to do His works." "I did these works. You will do greater works."

John 14:12

¹² "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

We are both doing the works of the Father. That's why in *John 15:12*, we are called to love as He loves.

John 15:12

¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

And in *John 13:15*, we are called to do as He has done.

John 13:15

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

But how does this all happen? It happens in *John 20:21*, when we are sent as He was sent. How was He sent?

John 20:21

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Born of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit and He was sent. So, He says,

...As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

When the Father sent Him filled with the Spirit, on earth, He lived the life of the Father. He didn't live His own life. He had a will of His own. He had the flesh, tempted at all points but He decided, "I am going to live another One's life. Father, You have given a Body. For this purpose I came, to do Your will." Now, the Church rises up and says the same thing. They say, "Lord, I have come to do Your will." Through all generations, God will always have a set of people who ultimately completely surrender to the will of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have to be filled. We have to remain being filled. That's what Ephesians is all about.

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

He says, "Don't waste time. Don't get distracted." You have to understand what the will of God is but you can understand what the will of God is if you choose to be continuously be filled with the Holy Spirit but the problem with the filling of the Holy Spirit is – it demands surrender because we all like to do a lot of other things and Christ likes to do something else. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...

God says, "When you are filled continuously with the Holy Spirit, it will affect your conversations." We put Psalms and songs for worship service. God says, "When you are continually filled with the Holy Spirit..." That's what I said – for me, the *Book of Acts* is the eye-opener, the scene in the prison at Philippi. When they were beaten, they were singing. Why? Because they were,

¹⁹ *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...*

Because they were filled with the Holy Spirit in the prison. Their conversation and their language,

...singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

He says, “The filling of the Holy Spirit will manifest. It will show. You can know.” In all of our situations, God says, “The Spirit will always sing.” It will always sing because it is Christ in us who is the hope of our glory. We are not able to sing because we don’t have much hope of glory but Christ is chinna-paapa (small Kid). What hope does chinna paapa have? Nothing. If you tell him, “Ice-cream is coming,” he will start singing. But if Christ grows in you, then you will start seeing the hope of your glory. What was the hope of Christ’s glory? Scripture says, “Christ endured the Cross, the shame and the horror of the Cross at the joy that was set before Him.” What did He see? The Bride. He saw the Bride. There is nothing in eternity that He did not have other than this. He had everything else. The only thing He did not have is His Bride. What does the Bride see? She sees Christ and she is willing to go through it all because on the other side, she realizes, “I got Him.” That is the hope of our glory. It is Christ who is the hope of our glory. If Christ is little in us, then our hope is all connected with other things. Every day, I hear, “I’m getting upset because my marriage is not taking place.” Or job or a sickness. It’s all natural but natural to the natural man. But we have to progress, go further and further and move on. In *Romans 5:5*, he says in all that suffering,

Romans 5:5

⁵ *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

What does the Holy Spirit do? It’s like Rebekah. Every time Eliezer speaks to her, her heart is overflowing with love for Isaac whom she had not seen. He hears and hears. We think that the love of God is for the people; no, it is for Christ. Christ is filling your heart with love for Him. These are the people who are able to sing, “He is the fairest of ten thousand, the lily of the valley.” For us, it is a song. For them, it’s not a song. It’s reality.

I went to Bangalore. Vishal said, “My baby is the sweetest.” I came to Hyderabad. Abel said, “My baby is the sweetest.” Why? Reason? Did you see? In his eyes, this is the fairest of ten thousand because his heart is filled with love for that little one, right? God says, “This is what happens.” That is the hope – Christ in us. If Christ is matured in us, reaches maturity in us, then the Old Testament prophecy will become a reality. It is there in the Old and in the New Testament if you see it in the KJV version; *Psalm 17:15*,

Psalm 17:15

¹⁵ *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

“When I awake, I awake with Your likeness.”

1 John 4:17

¹⁷ *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*

Perfected. Love is perfected. As He is, we are in this world. How was He in this world? “For this purpose, I came; a body You gave Me, O Lord, to do Thy will.” So, you and I are going to live our lives and we are going to use the Holy Spirit for that, we are going to be miserable. Or if we learn to surrender daily and allow the Holy Spirit to let Christ live His life through us, then that is the original Christmas – “A Body You have prepared for Me. Here I am. I have come to do Your will.” We can also decide what our Christmas can be – “A Body You gave me and I want to do Your will, O God.” Then, we realize – it’s only through the Spirit and no other way. And you read the *Book of Ephesians* differently now, “Husbands, as Christ.” No other model is given. Wives, as Christ submitted to God. Children, obey your parents as Christ submitted to His parents. Employees, obey your employer as Christ submitted to His first father, the carpenter. Employers, treat your employees with kindness and gentleness as Jesus treated His disciples. “When I sent you without cloak or bag or sandals, did you lack

anything?” No, nothing. There is no other model. The Bible offers no other model because it is the life of Christ. As a husband, as a wife, as a child, as an employee, as an employer, nothing else is given other than Christ because it is the life of Christ and the life of Christ cannot be lived apart from the Holy Spirit. If we try to do it, we will be miserable. So, this whole thing has been done by the Father in such a way so that we are made miserable until we surrender. There is a portion where Scripture says, “Ultimately, He will draw everything to Him through Christ.” That is what Christmas is all about and that is what surrender is all about. 2017, as we are coming towards 2017, that should be our prayer – “Lord, yes; but I want to consecrate everything more. As I see everything now, I want to surrender. I take my hands off my life. You lead me.” If we keep the general, the specifics will become clear. If we don’t keep the general, we will always worry about the specific. If we don’t know the specifics; yes, we will be good Christians but that doesn’t mean we are a Christian who fulfilled the purpose of God in our lives because Christ was never allowed to mature; Christ was just a Child and the only thing that can be told of us all our lives is, “Children, keep away from idols.” And second thing – “Antichrist is coming!” “Police aa raha hain (police is coming).” Nothing more. What can you tell? Can’t tell anything more. What can you tell children? Nothing. But, to young men, they will pray powerful prayers, mighty prayers and they will overcome the evil one. It’s perfect. That still doesn’t mean you have known the Father from the beginning. You have to go beyond that. Without giving up on anything. Don’t give up the child part; don’t give up the young man part but you have to go. You cannot give any of these things. That also has to be there. You have to always be like a child before God so that you can enjoy that. You always have to be like a young man but you also have to grow up to that maturity which Christ Jesus expects from us. That only happens through surrender because it is not our life; it is His life and all our struggles are basically, we realize – it is our life. We are not fighting the old man. We are fighting Christ. The old man is not fighting the new man; he is fighting Christ, the Christ in us; that is the hope of our glory. There is no other work. Our hope is not in our works; it is not hope in our ministry; it is not. Like the last testimony of Mother Teresa, after probably being one of the most blessed people, a blessing on earth for millions, what was her last testimony? Of the days and the years of darkness, when she never heard from God. A personal priest to whom she confessed, this was his record – days of darkness. Never heard from God. Why? What is your hope? Your ministry? Your work? No. The only hope is Christ. That’s our hope. If Christ hasn’t grown, we don’t have much hope. We have the hope of being saved. Why do we have the hope of being saved because we believed in Christ. Not because of anything we did. We believed in Christ and His works. So, we know – if I die, I will go. That’s the only hope. Even that is on Christ. Any further hope, everything is built on Christ. On Christ and Christ alone. Nothing else. Amen? So, next week, after Sunday, Monday to Saturday, we will be gathering. We will be at the Church office. Pastor Vijay and I will be there. All will gather. All who are free, make time, come over; we will spend time preparing for 2017. I will give you the promise on Sunday the 1st. If 2016 was the rise and fall of many, 2017 is going to be the overflow for those who believe. It doesn’t matter whether you are young or old, it will be the overflow. If you believe, Jesus said, “Rivers of living water shall flow.” We just have to believe and obey. Trust and obey. Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer:

Father, this evening, we just come to You. We come to You because, Father, because of Christ; not because of anything else. We have the boldness to come to You because of the Christ in us. You will never reject Christ. If we are seated in Christ, we can always come boldly, confidently to You, even tonight and we just surrender once again tonight. We surrender to You, Father. We surrender to You, Lord Jesus. Tonight, we surrender to You, Holy Spirit. We want to make You accepted in our lives. We want to surrender our lives into Thy hands, Spirit of God. You were there as our Comforter. You were there as our Counsellor. You were there through it all but we really never acknowledged You the Lordship of our lives. Spirit of God, take over, Lord. Guide us. Show us. Where You are, Lord, there is liberty. Take over in our lives. Take over our homes. Take over our ministries. Take over our Church. It’s all Yours. If You are there, then there is no shadow of turning; there is no fear. There is always a song. Even the worst of situations, there is a song because the life of Christ will overflow. We want that life, Lord. We hunger and thirst for more of that life. Even tonight, be with us. Continue to speak to us. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.