

*Father, this evening, once again, we thank You, Father, for the gift of life; for the strength for this time that You have made possible for us to be in Your house. Speak to us, Lord. We just surrender our bodies, our minds – everything into Thy hand now, O Lord. Help us to understand, Lord, what we hear; not with human understanding; but with spiritual understanding, O Lord. Touch, Lord. We put aside everything else that concerns life and we just wait that You may teach us. Speak, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

So, we continue our study on the fundamentals and the basics. We have to keep on going back to the fundamentals and also, move on to maturity. We need to balance both. Sometimes, remember – you are an audience and you are also a captive audience, okay? Do you know what a 'captive audience' is? In the old days, when they had this TV serials, when they had this acting going on; somebody from the back will show you a placard saying 'clap' and everybody would clap; if a placard saying 'smile' was shown, everybody needed to smile; because they are just the captive audience. The whole program is recorded for thousands who will watch on TV but they get to enjoy it first. In the same way, don't just end up being a captive audience because others may end up hearing, believing and moving on. Because, in this captive audience, there are new people coming in, we have to swing back and forth forever with the fundamentals and unto maturity.

So, this evening, remember – we are individuals; we are also the Church. Let's call it using the secular term – 'institution'. So, you have individuals and the institution; individuals and the family; individuals and the Church; individuals and the Kingdom. But we are living in the age of the individuals. That's why the cry is all about the individual liberty. Everything is connected with individual liberty in the world but Scripture talks about a different kind of liberty in *2 Corinthians 3:17-18*. Scripture talks about a liberty that is different.

### **2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

***<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.***

Wherever the Holy Spirit has absolute lordship of our lives, we will see – there is liberty. In the world, liberty is never connected with that. It's a different kind of liberty. In the world, liberty is always connected where you have complete control over your circumstances; you can do what you want without any difference. Then, they call it 'liberty'. But here, when the Spirit can do with you and through you whatever He wants, that is called 'liberty'. Many of the things that He wants to do, maybe, are exactly the things we don't want to do.

***<sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

So, as liberty increases, so does glory. So, keep that in mind. God always leads us to liberty or freedom and He gives the opportunity to choose every day. It's not that we chose one day in our lives; we have to choose every day, even today. We are here because we chose; and some are not here because they did not choose. But everybody chooses. Remember and learn. Why we use the Old Testament so much is that without the Old Testament, honestly, we will never really understand the New Testament. One of the reasons people do not understand the New Testament is because they never read the Old Testament neither have they studied the Old Testament. Actually, the Old Testament is a revelation of the New Testament. So, we learn from the history of Israel. You can go either ways – God brings Israel out; one generation will perish in the desert; while another generation possesses the inheritance. Both came out the same place; both were freed by the same God through the same way. Why did one generation possess the Promised Land? The only reason – because they followed Joshua whole-heartedly. Why didn't one generation possess the Promised Land? Because they did not follow Moses. It's as simple as that. Among the one who possesses the Promised Land, true liberty is characterized in *Joshua 23:1*, in Israel's physical terms.

### **Joshua 23:1**

***<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, a long time after the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about...***

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So, liberty, for Israel, was characterized as rest from enemies. Liberty, in the Spirit, is characterized by rest inside, in spite of all enmity, trials and tribulations you face. That's why the writer of Hebrews will say, "*Labor to enter into that rest.*" Rest, here, is physical; rest in the New Covenant is spiritual. It has got nothing to do with what we face. God promises rest but you have to labor. Remember – these are all symbols in the Old Testament or types in the Old Testament that we, in the New Testament, can really understand and experience it in the Spirit which they never could. All of this is recorded in Scripture for our sakes. We know Scripture so well but we need to recap. *1 Corinthians 10:11* – after giving an entire detail about the children of Israel, Paul will say.

### **1 Corinthians 10:11**

***<sup>11</sup> Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.***

The end of ages has come upon us and all these things came and they were recorded as examples so that we could learn from them. So, we will go through the simple basics first. Israel came out of Egypt through the blood. As soon as they came through the blood, the penalty of sin over their lives is broken because Scripture is clear that *the wages of sin is death* (*Romans 6:23*). The penalty of sin is basically death. When the angel of death passes over Egypt, only the Israelites are spared. Why? They didn't one thing good. The only thing it mentions in *Exodus 12:13* is,

### **Exodus 12:13**

***<sup>13</sup> Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.***

Keeping in mind that *the wages of sin is death* and the angel of death is coming (the destroyer is coming), all they had to do was to believe in the blood and apply it. So, they, too, were not saved by good works; they were saved by grace, through faith, in the blood of the Passover lamb. The types are the same. There is no difference. The only thing is that we experience this differently in the spirit.

In the same manner, we know *Ephesians 2:8* says that *we are saved by grace through faith and not by works; it's a gift of God*. For Israel, too, it was a gift of God. For us, too, it was a gift of God. The only difference – for them, it was a Passover lamb; for us, it was the Lamb of God.

Though Israel left Egypt, Egypt won't leave Israel. So, though the penalty of sin has been broken, the power of sin will follow you. Egypt is following Israel though Israel has left Egypt. The world will pursue us with its fears, desires, anxieties, and pleasures – everything, to overwhelm us, like how Egypt pursued Israel. So, God will lead them to the next stage – how to destroy the power of Egypt or the power of sin in our lives? In *Exodus 14:13-14*,

### **Exodus 14:13-14**

***<sup>13</sup> And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid (of this world that is pursuing us). Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.<sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."***

He says, "You just have to do what I tell you. Just do that." And verse 30 will say,

### **Exodus 14:30**

***<sup>30</sup> So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.***

What did they do? They went through the Red Sea. How did they destroy the power of Egypt over their lives? They had their baptism. *Acts 2:40-41* – this is the parallel in the New Covenant.

### **Acts 2:40-41**

***<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." (This generation will follow you. You have to live in their midst. It's a perverse generation like Egypt. They are not going to leave you. If you want to be saved from them then, be baptized.)<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized***

(went through the waters); ***and that day about three thousand souls were added to them*** (and they were saved).

So, there is a choice we make after we leave Egypt. Life may look like a wilderness but joy comes because of the Person who is with us and the place He is leading us to.

If you look at *Exodus 33:15-16*, there is only one man saying this.

**Exodus 33:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> ***Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.*** (Israel won't say that. Only man will say that. He says, "You know what? We are in the wilderness but if You are not going with me, don't take me out.) <sup>16</sup> ***For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."***

Moses is very clear. He says, "The only thing that distinguishes us from the rest of the world is that You are with us." That is what Christmas is all about – "*You shall name Him 'Emmanuel' which means 'God is with us'.* (Matthew 1:23)"

When we read *1 Corinthians 10:1-2*, you will see,

**1 Corinthians 10:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> ***Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,*** <sup>2</sup> ***all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,***

They all went through water but they were all baptized into Moses. You see the parallel in the New Covenant in *Romans 6:1-4*,

**Romans 6:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> ***What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?*** <sup>2</sup> ***Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*** <sup>3</sup> ***Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus...***

We went through the waters but we were baptized into Jesus; they went through the Red Sea and they were baptized into Moses. These are absolute parallels. Moses had left the throne, the treasure of Egypt and identified with the slaves to save his people. So, *Hebrews 11:24-25* will say;

**Hebrews 11:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> ***By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,*** <sup>25</sup> ***choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,***

Parallel? Jesus left the Throne of Heaven and the joys and pleasures of Heaven to be known, no longer just as the Son of God, but to be known, now, as the Son of Man; to be identified with sinners. So, *Isaiah 53:3* will say about Jesus.

**Isaiah 53:3**

<sup>3</sup> ***He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.***

We are learning the parallels. Often, people do not experience freedom from their baptism because they think it is the water that sets them free. No, it is Christ who sets you free. You went through the waters but you were baptized into Christ. They went through the Red Sea but God said, "I have baptized you into Moses." For Israel, it was Moses, who is a type of Christ. But remember their response to Moses from the beginning till the end. *Exodus 2:14* – the first time when Moses appears in the public at the age of 40 to rescue Hebrews, their response was –

**Exodus 2:14**

<sup>14</sup> ***Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us?..."***

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What is the first thing they say to Moses? “Who made you a ruler over us? Who told you that you can judge us?”

And their last response in *Numbers 14:4*,

### **Numbers 14:4**

**<sup>4</sup>So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”**

We don’t want this guy. All the ordinances of the Old or the New Covenant has no effect if we do not submit to the leadership of Jesus Christ. Likewise, all the ordinances that Israel went through had no effect on them because they refused to submit to the leadership of Moses. That’s why Jesus said, “*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God...*” that is connected with authority and with submission, “*and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).*” Israel perished in the wilderness; the only reason being that they rebelled against the leadership of Moses. That’s why they perished in the wilderness. The Church perishes in the wilderness because it rebels against the leadership of Christ. Israel is also saved from Egypt; the Church is also saved from the world but both will perish if they rebel against the leadership of Christ.

Remember what Samuel spoke to king Saul. What did he say to king Saul?

### **1 Samuel 15:22-23**

**<sup>22</sup>So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup>For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...**

It’s with great sacrifice that we meet on Wednesdays; not like Sunday. On Sunday, it is a holiday. On Wednesdays, we make great sacrifices to come but God says, “Your sacrifices have no meaning if you don’t obey the voice of the Lord.” There’s no meaning at all. We can be sacrificially rebellious and we can offer our lives as a burnt offering and be under the power of witchcraft because He says, “It doesn’t make a difference to Me.”

Moses was the meekest man as God certifies and Jesus was the meekest Man, again, as God certifies. The problem is – we reject the leadership of the meek. If there is a strong man, like Modi, he pulls up the 500 and the 1000 notes, nobody says anything. Fidel Castro dies and the whole world is mourning when under his leadership, thousands and thousands were executed. But Jesus and Moses were meek; and people rebelled against the leadership of those two meek people.

Israel, like many Christians, is a miserable lot only because they left Egypt because of their sufferings; not because they loved God so much. After some time in the wilderness (that’s the problem with memory), they are healthy; nobody is sick; nobody is feeble; but they forgot the taskmasters of Egypt, the whips of Egypt, the hard labor of making bricks without straw in Egypt. All they could remember was the food and the entertainment. They forgot the rest. They can even put a spin to it, a real spin to it in *Numbers 11:5-6*; they forgot all the other stuff.

### **Numbers 11:5-6**

**<sup>5</sup>We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt (What is the spin that they put into it? *We ate it freely.* Really?), *the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic*; <sup>6</sup>but now our whole being is dried up...**

What did they say? KJV will say ‘our whole soul is dried up’. You have to look at the parallel from their perspective and God’s perspective. God’s perspective is *Psalms 106:15*,

### **Psalms 106:15**

**<sup>15</sup>And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.**

He gave them whatever they asked – meat and fish and their soul is dried up. On the other hand, they are saying, “We are eating this manna and our soul is dried up!” Different perspectives. They are saying, “We ate manna and we don’t have anything of that old life we were used to, all the stuff we were used to in Egypt. We got them freely and our soul is dried up.” God gives them what they ask and God says, “Your soul is dried up.” Isn’t it interesting? These are lessons to us. Why is it a lesson for us here? If we do not destroy the world in our hearts, all the partaking of the manna will not deliver us. We

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will still look and say, “We are dried up. We have no joy.” Even today, when I look at faces, I don’t see joy in some faces. Is it because Christ is absent? Is it because Christ didn’t finish the work on the Cross? Is it because the promises of Christ are empty? No, they are not. It’s because of the world. Remember – Israel also had the cloud and the fire. We are also promised the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. It’s one-on-one; it’s the same. Only experientially, it is different. Learn.

That’s why Paul writes in *1 Corinthians 10*,

### **1 Corinthians 10:11**

***<sup>11</sup> Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.***

The primary lesson we learn from the first generation is – who are the only two from the entire older generation that made it to the Promised Land? Who is that? Joshua and Caleb. Why? Because they kept their eyes on Moses and they were the only two in the older generation who never rebelled against Moses and obeyed him implicitly. They were the only two. That’s the reason they entered the Promised Land and got their inheritance. Aaron rebelled; Miriam did; all the leaders did; Finally, the whole congregation among the older generation – everybody rebelled, except these two. Israel, unlike us, was physically dependent upon God in the wilderness everyday for their provision and their way back was blocked by the Red Sea. So, literally, they couldn’t actually go back. For us, since there is neither physical barrier nor really daily dependence, how easy is it to go back! You need to understand – God was leading Israel to something entirely new. Before this, just a few individuals in their history knew what God was like, what His Kingdom was like. They had a rough figure. But now, a whole nation was going to be introduced as, what I call, a ‘slice of Heaven’ to the rule of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, the law is given. Leave aside the sacrifices which are connected with sin. Leave that part of the law. The rest of it was laws for a civil society under God. The laws of God for a civil society under God.

It’s very interesting that when we look at the law from God’s perspective and man’s perspective, they are so different. When Noah came out of the Ark into the new world (he was coming into a new world,), what was the first law given to Noah? Capital punishment – if any man sheds blood, kill him. The first law given in the new world of Noah. Capital punishment. What is the first law that we are trying to take away from every constitution? Capital punishment so that sin will thrive. The first law God gave was, “If any man sheds the blood of his brother, then he should be executed. His blood should be shed.” But we don’t see it from that perspective. We see everything from a different perspective. For Israel, it was going to be a complete shift from the life they had known earlier. Life was going to be new. Now, again, like I said, when we use terms, we have to be very careful that we understand the term. When I say the term ‘life was going to be new’, it’s not the same meaning with which we receive. When I say ‘a new car’ or ‘a new shirt’, I am talking about a car model or a shirt that pre-exists. So, the only thing that I’m saying is that – this is what a car looks like and I bought a new one; this is what a shirt looks like and I bought a new one. We are already familiar with something. But to Israel, God was going to give something absolutely new. This means that the world has never seen it before. Nobody has seen a society like God was trying to make Israel into. Like I said, a small prototype of how the Kingdom of God on earth will look like. Therefore, they had to be taught everything concerning this new society. That is why the law of God to Israel touched every aspect of the Israelite society – everything – what he ate, how he dressed, how he talked, how he walked, marriage, business, work, rest, civil, criminal law – there was nothing in his life which was not touched because God is giving them something completely new. Absolutely new. In the same way, in the New Covenant, when a person is saved by grace, believing in the redemptive work of Christ and is baptized, he, too, enters into something absolutely new. In *2 Corinthians 5:17*, Scripture says,

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

***<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; (when are you in Christ? When you are baptized into Christ, he is a new creation,) old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

We are entering into a new life, a life we are not used to. Therefore, they had to be taught. They were given the law. We have to be taught. So, we see that all those who were baptized in *Acts 2:41*; when *verse 42* begins,

### **Acts 2:42**

***<sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...***

The first thing that is happening in the Kingdom of God with the first Church is teaching. They are being taught, what? The apostles' doctrine. It's interesting.

Israel was given one important instruction when they entered into the Promised Land. This is the instruction they were given in *Joshua 3:2-4*,

**Joshua 3:2-4**

***<sup>2</sup>So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; <sup>3</sup>and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. <sup>4</sup>Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."***

The first thing they were told is one thing – "Keep your eyes on the Ark of the Covenant. Keep a space. Keep your eyes because the road you are taking is absolutely new. You have no clue where you are going. The only way you will go forward without failing, without losing is if you keep your eyes fixed on the Ark of the Covenant which represented the presence of God. And with this, if you want to follow that Ark and you want God to do great things in your midst, then one more attachment is there; that is *verse 5*. What is that?

**Joshua 3:5**

***<sup>5</sup>And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves..."***

On Sunday, we've been looking at sanctification. We will continue over the days and weeks. One condition – sanctify, set apart, cleanse yourself for a holy use and God will do it. But remember – keep your eyes.

In the New Covenant, there is same instruction. In *Hebrews 12:2*,

**Hebrews 12:2**

***<sup>2</sup>looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...***

Keep your eyes fixed on Christ Jesus. To them, God said, "Sanctify and keep a distance." To us, God says, "Draw close and sanctify." That is the difference. To them, God said, "Keep a distance. Sanctify and keep a distance." To us, God doesn't put that restriction. He keeps on saying, "Draw closer and keep sanctifying." In *James 4:8*, Scripture says,

**James 4:8**

***<sup>8</sup>Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...***

Immediately, Scripture says, "The more you draw closer to God, more sanctification is required. It never stops." Anybody who thinks, "I can stop; I don't need to cleanse myself anymore," has stopped drawing closer to God. It's as simple as that.

***...Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.***

Every time we get closer to God, the holiness of God is revealed. Without sanctity, you will only see the Ark through judgment; not victory. So, it didn't matter whether it was Eli and his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who bore the Ark or whether it was David who was bringing the Ark, without sanctity, if you tried to use the Ark, you died. So, Hophni and Phinehas died; Uzzah died. What caused the death? Not the Philistines; it is the Ark. The Ark causes judgment. The presence of God brings judgment if you try to approach God without sanctity. This is true for the Church too. Drawing closer to God without sanctity has its perils. Therefore, the cry of God is to sanctify. But remember, when people are not interested in drawing close to the Person of Jesus Christ, the Person of God, the message of sanctification is lost. So, you have to preach to them a message of the world.

When Israel entered the new land, they faced a host of enemies opposed to them. When we enter the new life, we are also warned – we will face a host of enemies. They were told very clearly, "When you enter the new land," in *Deuteronomy 7:1-*

**Deuteronomy 7:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> “When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, <sup>2</sup> and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.**

One of the first things God says is, “When you enter into that new land, the Promised Land, no compromise; no retreat. Destroy them all.” Into this new life we enter, God says, “Don’t compromise with the flesh, with the world, with the devil. If you do, you will lose.” Somewhere, you will stop. No compromise; no retreat. The three-fold enemies – the flesh, the world, the devil. No compromise; no retreat. This is a battle all your life. God’s answer to them is different to God’s answer to us. To them, God says, “I will fight.” And Joshua was leading. Here also, Jesus leads but the way is different. God’s answer, here, is the Cross. God’s answer for our victory is the Cross. God’s answer to their victory there is the sword. Here, it is the Cross but with a difference. When we hear the Cross, we hear the Cross different from Jesus. Jesus experienced the Cross as an instrument, physical instrument. We are called to the experience of the Cross; not as an instrument. To the experience of the Cross daily. He didn’t say, “Get on the Cross and get somebody to crucify you.” He says, “*Pick up your cross daily and follow Me.*” In *Galatians 2:20*, Paul will say this;

**Galatians 2:20**

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

First, he says, “I have died to my self life.” That’s the only way the flesh can be destroyed daily – the Cross. In *Galatians 6:14-16*, again,

**Galatians 6:14-16**

**<sup>14</sup> *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* (It is through the Cross the world is destroyed daily.) <sup>15</sup> *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.* (a new creation is daily crucifying the flesh and daily overcoming the world. Even when it fails, it goes back, pleads, confesses, repents, receives forgiveness and continues the fight,) <sup>16</sup> *And as many as walk according to this rule* (That’s the rule of the Kingdom,), *peace and mercy be upon them,* (upon whom?) *and upon the Israel of God.***

They were God’s Israel; we are the Israel of God.

**<sup>16</sup> *And as many as walk according to this rule...***

God says, “What will you have? You will have peace.” That’s what Paul says in the *Book of Romans*. Ultimately, *the God of peace will crush satan under your feet.*

So, the new creation is the only thing that matters. Why? Why is that the new creation matters? Now, we are going to a little different tangent. Because the new creation, that is – the person in us, is being prepared to live in *Revelation 21:1-3*,

**Revelation 21:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.* <sup>2</sup> *Then I, John, saw the holy city...***

This new person is being prepared for another place. That is where you and I have to look at. If I am still, after so many years in the Lord, still very comfortable, content and happy with this world, I am not being prepared for the other place. There is something wrong in me. There is something wrong in the teaching that I have received. There is something wrong. “This new creation is the only thing that matters,” God said. “Nothing else matters. The new creation is in Me and all the old things have passed away.” But if I’m finding my joy or my sorrow, my contentment in this world and the things of this

world, there is something wrong with me. Something. Somehow, I have not received the message because I am being prepared for a world which is going to be absolutely new. Paul will say about this in *1 Corinthians 9* and put this in terms of a race.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

***<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.***

He talks about a term. He says, "I don't want to be disqualified." What was he saying? He was saying, "Okay, you are saved but you are in a race. Run to win." We have these things that we accept so common and so natural. Of course, now, things have changed but I'm talking about my days, my times. When you were in the sports field or whether you were in school, there were first rank, second rank and third rank only. There were three steps and you stand on it. One, two, three. There was no GPA. It was only first rank, second rank or third rank. Nobody ever asked, "Are you fourth?" The question when we got home was, "Are you first?" "No." "Are you second?" "No." "Are you third?" "No." Then, after that, they will say, "Go, sit and study." Nobody asked, "Fourth? Fifth?" So, in this race, there are only three prizes – first prize; second prize; third prize. There is no fourth prize. First prize – New Jerusalem; second prize – New Heaven; third prize – new earth. There is no fourth place. If you want to go to the fourth place, it's called 'hell'. We don't want to go there. In each of these places, you experience the same God differently. That is why the entire Gospel is about a Person; it is not about a place. Because all these things which God talks about overcoming, is possible only if you love God and love Jesus. Otherwise, it's not possible. All the doctrine won't change anybody. That's what He was telling even the Ephesians Church, "You are doctrinally perfect. But you still do not love Me with that first love. You will still be disqualified because I know you can't finish." That's why love is the most powerful thing. That's why Scripture says, "Faith, hope and charity but love." When we talk about love, love has the power of sacrifice, giving up anything for the one who he or she loves. That's the power of love. That's what God is talking about. These types are there in the Old Covenant. We learn them from the Old Covenant. Every Israelite could enter the outer courts. Anybody could. All twelve tribes could move into the outer courts. But to move into the Holy Place, it would first cost them their self life. Do you want to move into the next level? It will cost them their self life. Do you remember what God said about *Exodus 32:28-29*?

**Exodus 32:28-29**

***<sup>28</sup>So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. <sup>29</sup>Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother."***

Why were the Levites set apart that day from the rest of the twelve? One reason – they put God first. When they put God first, on the ground level, it meant – opposing their own son and brother. That was their self life. They had to die and for them, it was a literal death. 3000 died that day. It was flesh and blood, relatives. God said, "You can do that only if you put Me first. If you don't put Me first, this will not happen." And Jesus says the same thing, "If anyone loves father, mother, wife, children, anybody more than Me, you can't be a disciple." That's the problem with the Church. For the past so many years, the Church has been only creating followers and not disciples. Followers will leave; disciples don't. Even when they leave in fear, they will still be huddled over there, thinking about Him. But once they receive the power, they will never leave; they are willing to die for Him. So, the Commission given to the apostles is to make disciples of all nations; not followers. Followers will go this way and that way – the world is there; the Church is there. They love the world; they love the Church too. But their love for Christ is very emotional. There is nothing deep or concrete inside them which will cause a death to self life. So, the first division you will see here – if you have to move from the outer courts into the Holy Place, God says, "It's a death." Outwardly, it will also involve more cleansing and a change of garments, if you know the law. Do you want to move from the outer courts? The Levites had to cleanse themselves and change the garments and then only go into the Holy Place. There is a death to self and there is change outside and inward. But remember, from the Levites, only one person; and then, through him, only one family is chosen to enter the Most Holy of Holies. Only one man. One family. Now, there are twelve tribes. Eleven is on this side; one is on the other side. Of this one this side, one family is set apart. Basically, one man, and then, his sons got the inheritance which doesn't happen in the New Covenant.



Remember – Moses is a type of Christ. He is a type of Christ. Therefore, he walked in and out, talked to God and made intercession for Israel because he was a type of Christ. Jesus has perfect permanent access to the Father and He is, forever, making intercession for the Church. Therefore, Moses is a type of Christ.

So, who was the one who is chosen? It's Aaron who was chosen. Why was Aaron chosen? Because he was Moses' brother? No. Look at the reason why Aaron was chosen.

**Exodus 4:14-15**

***<sup>14</sup> So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup> Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.***

Aaron was the first one who came to meet Moses and he was glad to see Moses. Are you glad to see the Lord? He was the first one to come to meet Moses. Second thing; look at it.

**Exodus 4:30**

***<sup>30</sup> And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people.***

Aaron was the first one who continuously spoke to the people. So, he also incurred the wrath of the people. He had to die to his self life. Do you want to please the people or incur the wrath of the people?

And then,

**Exodus 5:1**

***<sup>1</sup> Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go...***

Aaron had to be willing to incur the wrath of the Pharaoh. Therefore, he was separated from even among the Levites. He had to die to his self life when it came to the king; he had to die to his self life when it came to the people. Therefore, he was set apart into the next level. At every level, there is a death. With both these groups – Israel and the Pharaoh, he was risking his own very life. Therefore, he was the one who was chosen to enter into the Holy of Holies. So, we see these patterns in the Bible. That's why I said, "If you do not understand the Old Testament, we really won't understand the New Testament." If you know the simple thing, in *Luke 24:44-45*,

**Luke 24:44-45**

***<sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you...***

That's the reason He spoke to them in parables. One of the reasons He spoke to them in parables was so that people would not understand. He was one Teacher who taught in such a way that if you are not searching for God, you should not understand the things of God. He was one Teacher who truly practiced, "I will not throw pearls at swine. If you are really not hungry for God, I am not going to talk to you about the mysteries of God. This is about a relationship; this is not about knowledge."

***<sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.***

Post-resurrection. What did He do? He opened their understanding. Then, they started reading Scripture differently. They understood from *Genesis* onwards, all the way till *Malachi*. Not a single Gospel had been written. *Genesis 1* to *Malachi* – it is about Him. It is the Person of Jesus Christ that is being revealed.

In *Acts 2:42*,

**Acts 2:42**

***<sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...***

Where did they get their doctrine from? *Genesis 1* to *Malachi*; not a single New Covenant letter was written. They were teaching them the doctrine of Christ from the Old Covenant because they understood the Spirit of the law. They understood, "This is Christ who was hidden." They were not teaching like how I am reading from *Corinthians*, *Ephesians*, *Galatians* and *Romans*. No, they taught from the Old Covenant and the people understood – this is about Christ.

Remember the Parable of the Sower? Do you know what Jesus said in the Parable of the Sower in *Matthew 13*?

**Matthew 13:23**

***<sup>23</sup> But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces...***

If we don't understand, we will not bear fruit. That is the key. The disciples could not bear fruit until they understood. We all hear; all of us heard but our understand is limited. Until we progress in our understanding, we will not bear fruit and how do people bear fruit? According to their understanding.

***...some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."***

So, if you continue only producing only that level in each life – that I produce thirty, when I finished also, I only produced thirty, God says, "Love you, son. Go to new earth." Where? New earth. "I produce sixty. When I finished producing, I'm at the sixty level." God says, "I love you very much, My son. Go to new Heaven." "I started at thirty, progressed to sixty, finished with hundred." He says, "*Well done, My good and faithful servant*. Enter into New Jerusalem. You understood what My life was all about." It's simple. It's very simple. Don't make it complicated. That's what Paul's prayer in *Ephesians 1:18* was. Remember the ages when we heard, we always began our Church Service with that. Those who were in the old days will know. We always began with this – our prayer is that,

**Ephesians 1:18**

***<sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling...***

What is the hope of our calling? "O Lord, when I die, I want to go to Heaven." God says, "Is that the hope of your calling?" "Lord, I want to thrive in this world." Is that the hope of your calling? "Lord, I need..." God says, "Did you understand Is that the hope of your calling?" There is first prize, second prize and third prize. When you went to school, did the teacher say, "Just pass"? If he is a good teacher, he will be after you, motivating you, "Remember. Focus." And whom does he actually go after? He gives more attention to the weak ones and he is after the good ones. That's how we were as teachers. When they came with their mark sheets, the poor ones came and said, "Sir, see. I've written but you gave me only one mark for this." They have written only one-fourth of the answer. So, you say, "Okay, I will give you one more mark." The good student comes with the same paper and the teacher says, "You just go and sit down there. I will cut your marks if you come back." "But sir, I wrote more than him. You gave him two and you gave me one." "I gave you only one because you are good because I expected more from you. Therefore, I'm cutting your marks so that it will teach you to work harder the next time because I expect more from you." That's why God says, "*To whom much is given, much is required.*"

In *Colossians 1:9*, Scripture says,

**Colossians 1:9**

***<sup>9</sup> For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;***

That we may understand the knowledge of His will. What is it? The good, pleasing and the perfect. Don't stay at the good. Move further into the pleasing. And from pleasing, into His perfect that we will understand. For that, He says, "Understanding." That's why we need more and more understanding. This is spiritual, okay? Not that the way they say in

Indian Railways. At a place where there should be three people sitting, six will come in and say, “Be understanding.” The world also talks about understanding. That’s not what we are talking about. We are talking about spiritual understanding. We have to move. The problem, often, with all of us is that we didn’t hear or teach these things and the Church allowed the world in. Once the world has got in, there is great resistance to the Word of God from within. It was later that I learnt all these things that I wished, “O Lord, I was like Peter.” Only those who received the message one and two – part one – repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; two – be willing to be saved from this corrupt generation. “Only then will I baptize you. Otherwise, I’m not baptizing you.” Only those, he baptized. And they gathered. We didn’t realize. We baptized anybody who came. We didn’t speak to them the message and they did not gather steadfastly for the apostles’ doctrine. All these are conditional. Just as Israel resisted the Word of the Living God, though they came out of Egypt, the Church also resists the Word of the Living God. Therefore, we are not actually able to see the end of our salvation. And even our reading of Scripture will be without understanding. Are you getting the picture? Why is it that Jesus, who revealed everything to His disciples in *John 15:15*?

**John 15:15**

<sup>15</sup> ***No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.***

Did we make all things known to them? Let me ask you this question: though He made all things the Father had taught Him known to them, why did He never reveal to them the time of His Second Coming? One thing alone. In *Matthew 24:36*, He Himself says,

**Matthew 24:36**

<sup>36</sup> ***“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.***

Why? Right? Now, listen, after resurrection? Post; Paul, his journey further down the lane, listen to what Paul says in *2 Corinthians 12:2-4*,

**2 Corinthians 12:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> ***I know a man*** (that’s he himself,) ***in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.*** <sup>3</sup> ***And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—*** <sup>4</sup> ***how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.***

Did he hear things which were not allowed to speak out? But among the things which he heard which he was not allowed to speak out, was not the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. He also did not know because if you read his letters, he was thinking that he would also be taken and Jesus would come in his time. Why? Because this is connected with the race into which every generation enters. Every generation enters into this same race. So, you cannot tell them the finish line. Everything else, God will tell you. He will not tell you one thing – when He will come. Because you are running a race. No man knows. Nobody. Not even the angels know. So, every generation ran this race in the expectation that He would come in their time. That’s the only way you will run. If I were to tell you, “He is not going to come in my generation or your generation,” then, half of my zeal is gone, right? I have to run with this expectation that He can come in my generation and you have to come. Like one Christian Sadhu had prophesied, “He will come in 2067.” Now, it’s only 2016. There is another 51 years more. Will I live that long? I will be 103 years old. That’s why God said, “No day. Don’t set a time.” Are you getting a picture? That is why one set of theologians also believe in three resurrections – pre-tribulation resurrection, post-tribulation resurrection and post-millennial resurrection and there is Scripture to back all of these up. It may agree. We don’t fight over eschatology; leave it alone. Why is this important? Because it will entirely change our outlook towards life and the world when we understand these truths.

Why is it that John, in his first Epistle, will address the people in the Church? John was writing his Epistle. He was writing to the people in the Church; he was not writing to Abigail and Emmanuella. Do you think he was writing to Abigail and Emmanuella? No. But he’s writing to everybody in the Church, basically, those who could read and understand but he called by three names. He called them ‘little children’, chinna pillalaara (little children – that’s one thing that I have understood in Telugu), ‘young men’ and ‘fathers’. They were all sitting over there. Nobody is a child there but spiritually, they were. Little

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children, young men and fathers. Three terms used to address the Church. The same Church. He was not talking about Abigail and Emmanuella as little children; Raj to Srikar as young men; and the older one as fathers. No, he was not. He was addressing the Church as little children, young men and fathers. What does it mean? Three levels of understanding. Read *1 John 2:12-14*,

### **1 John 2:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> *I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.*

What do little children know? "I am forgiven. When I sin, I go to my Father and I'm forgiven." That's all they know – confession, repentance and forgiveness.

*...Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. <sup>13</sup> I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. <sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*

There's a difference. "When it comes to the fathers," he says, "you have understood Him from the beginning. Young men," he says, "you are strong. The Word of God abides in you and you have fought the evil one. The little children, what do you know?" "Abba, thank You for forgiving me." Let me put it in an example we understand – Christmas is coming. What do little children come and ask me? "Pastor, can I put up a star?" I said, "Okay, put it." "Can I also have a tree?" I said, "Okay, have a tree." "Can I have a wreath?" "Okay, have a wreath." Young men will come and tell me, "Pastor, I understood. I listened to the 2014 and 2013 message. Christmas is a sham. He was not born in December. And all these articles we use are not part of Christianity at all. I researched and I found out. I realized that these are all duplicates from the evil one. This Christmas is going to be different. I will have no Christmas tree; I will have no green; no holly; nothing at all." What is he? He is full and he has overcome the evil one. What does the father say? To the child, he will say, "Have it." To the young one, he says, "Praise the Lord." He says, "I can live both. It doesn't matter to me." These things don't matter but this is just in one aspect of life. But we have to look at the other aspects of life. That's what Scripture is talking about.

<sup>13</sup> *...I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.*

How have you known the Father? "Give me, give me, give me; my name is Jimmy." That's the only way they know their Father. "I know my Father." They will say, "I asked and I got." That's all they know. Nothing else.

### **1 John 2:18**

<sup>18</sup> *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming...*

What do we tell little children? What did I tell Madhulika last night? "Go to sleep. Police is coming." She immediately jumped and clung to me. What was that? "Go to sleep because..." and then, one jeep passed through. She jumped. What is coming? Police is coming. What do we tell the children? "Little children, Antichrist is coming."

### **1 John 2:28**

<sup>28</sup> *And now, little children, abide in Him...*

"Stay, okay? Attend Church, please. Don't miss Church. Come for the meetings. Even if you don't understand, it doesn't matter. Please come. Stay."

### **1 John 3:7**

<sup>7</sup> *Little children, let no one deceive you...*

"Go out. If anybody tries to give you chocolate or something, say 'no'. Daddy said 'no'. Though you like chocolate, don't take it. Don't let anybody fool you." And then, the final advice,

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**1 John 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> *Little children, keep yourselves from idols...*

What more can you tell little children? How do we receive the message as?

Young men,

**1 John 2:13**

<sup>13</sup> *...I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one.*

They have gone one stage higher – they are into spiritual battle now.

**1 John 2:14**

<sup>14</sup> *...I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*

These are the sixty-fold realm. Learn to use the Word of God. They have learnt to use the Word of God and Peter talked about them in 2 Peter 1:3-4; Peter said,

**2 Peter 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

They have learnt to use the Word of God and the promises in the Word of God to fight the evil one and overcome the world. But Peter went beyond that. In verse 5 onwards, we go to the next stage.

**2 Peter 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *But also for this very reason,* (he says, “Okay, young men. You have overcome the evil one. That’s not enough. Go further,) *giving all diligence* (for the faith through which you overcome the world), *add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours* (not only) *and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*You have known Him from the beginning.*

**2 Peter 1:11**

<sup>11</sup> *for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

A rich welcome. This is the Gospel. *Eyes haven’t seen nor ears heard...* that’s not what Scripture actually says. Read Scripture carefully.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *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.” <sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit...*

It’s not that it is hidden; it is revealed only through the Spirit. Is it revealed? Only those who love Him. So, those who love Him, see the reward of their race differently. Look at how Paul looks at the reward of his race in 2 Corinthians 11:2,

**2 Corinthians 11:2**

<sup>2</sup> *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

What is your reward? It's not a place; it is a Person.

**Philippians 3:8**

***<sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ***

He was not running for anything else; he was running to gain Christ, to win Christ. That is what God says. You may finish your race and know Him as Father at the end. You may finish your race and know Christ as a Friend at the end. You read the Letter of John carefully – 'little children', 'dear friends', 'fathers'. You may finish your race and know Him as your Bridegroom or your Husband at the end. Paul suffered and lost all things with that one hope. From the beginning, "What do You want me to do?" till the end, that he could gain Christ at the end of his race. That's what he says in *Romans 8:16-17*,

**Romans 8:16-17**

***<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.***

Can you get children to suffer with Him? Can you get young men to suffer beyond a point? If I know Him only as a child, Scripture tells in *Galatians 4:1*; what does it mean? If we are children, we are heirs, joint-heirs with Christ. If we suffer with Him, we will reign with Him.

**Galatians 4:1**

***<sup>1</sup> Now I say that the heir (every child is an heir), as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave***

Does he inherit? No. Why doesn't he inherit? Isn't it his? Yes, but why can't he inherit? Because he never grew up. If I'm only grown up as a friend, (the young men are called 'friends' by John) then what is my destiny? It's good to know Him as a Friend. It's excellent.

**John 3:29**

***<sup>29</sup> He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.***

What is it? At the end, what will you be? You will be the best man. You are the bridegroom's friend. Excellent. Better than a child. You may be a flower girl or you may be a best man. And then, *Revelation 21:2* says,

**Revelation 21:2**

***<sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

And then, there is the bride. So, don't get confused like people do when you hear the terms 'child', 'young men', 'fathers', 'bride' – how can they all be one? Yes, it can be. You can be born as a child and become a young man, finish as a father and be counted as a bride. At every step, there is a cost. There is a price. That's why Scripture says, "*Faith, hope and charity. Of this, the greatest is love.*" For the strength of love, it is stronger than death. When a man or a woman loves God with all his/her heart with all his/her might and all his/her strength, there is no limit He sets to sacrifice. Churches, let's say, many Christians around the city will gather on Sunday. It's a sacrifice because many Christians don't go to Church on Sundays. So, that's a sacrifice compared to the rest. You have come on a Wednesday night. So, compared to those who are sitting at home, you have made a greater sacrifice. But what about in those countries when you are not even allowed to meet? I won't mention the name because those countries should not know how it happens. There's one particular country which is worse in the Muslim nations on persecution, where the government watches everyone. You cannot even have a prayer service in your own home because if there is one child who is not a believer, that child will report to the government. So, you have to be very careful how you pray, how you worship and how you fellowship. Do you know how they worship on Sundays? They have government Churches where believers don't go. It's a government Church meant for the government Christians. If you go and sit in a park and you are sitting alone, another believer will watch you for some time. Then, he will come and sit next to you. They don't have Bibles. He will tell him a Scripture he has memorized. The other man tells him the

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Scripture he has memorized. Quietly, they have received the Word from each other; they get up and go their different ways. How much are we willing to fellowship? That's how they fellowship, knowing that if they are caught, it is either death or being sent to the camp for re-education. Now, our thought would be – we don't go through that. Really? Stand up for Christ and see what you will go through in any nation. We have set limits. Therefore, we don't suffer much. In any nation on the earth, if you truly stand up for Christ, it will come. And Jesus knows who His Bride is. He knows who the children are but He is telling the children, "Grow up. Be separate. Don't love the world; don't love the things of this world."

Yes, all are saved. Israel was saved out of Egypt. Then, one man alone, at the end of it, was allowed to enter into the Holiest of Holies. Types. That's why Scripture says in the *Book of Romans*, "All of creation is groaning to know who the sons of God are." Don't they know? All the believers? They know but they don't know who the sons of God are, in terms of the Bride. Nobody knows. Only Christ knows. Only the Father knows. So, we are in this race.

Never ever think that the world is your friend. I'm not talking about people; I'm talking about the world. The things of the world, they are not your friends; they are your enemies. They snare us from that race, from that prize. The ways of the world, the things of the world. We think and we react in the ways of the world. God says, "No." The flesh is not your friend; it's your enemy. The devil is definitely not your friend; he is your enemy. Run this race. Don't give up. Shall we pray?

### Closing Prayer:

*Father, this evening, we just come to You, Lord. As You continue to exhort us to get back onto the race, if somebody did not know there was a race in the first place, I pray, Lord, that there would be an opening of eyes. If there is somebody who has stepped away from the race course, I pray they will step back. But Father, I pray that this season, help us to love You with all our hearts, Lord. Help us, Lord, because nothing else, not even the baptism of fire, which will cleanse and purge us from the flesh and the world, will help us to finish this race. It is only the baptism of love, love for You. To truly love You more than anything or anybody. As You sanctified Yourself for Your disciples, help us to sanctify ourselves for Your sake. For You. Help us, Lord. We are tired of hearing You talk to us as children. You need to talk to us as a Friend. To those who have heard You as a Friend, we are longing to hear from You as a father, as an adult so that we can be a father. Moses was faithful as a servant but Jesus was faithful as a Son. What You demand from us is much more than what You demanded from Moses. Help us to learn of You, Lord, that this life is nothing. This suffering is nothing. As Paul called it 'the momentary affliction in the light of the weight of glory that is waiting, the glory of the Bride'. When the Father will command on that day and ask all the universe in that ceremony, "All rise," and the whole eyes of the New Heaven and the New Earth will be fixed on the Bride of Christ. And they will know from the ages, 2000 years, the people who had lived and died for Your glory. Then, the world will know who is the Bride. I pray, Father, it is by no accident that we are here tonight. It is no accident that You saved us. It was for a purpose that the Son would have a Bride. Thank You, Father. Help us to read and meditate upon Your Word with a different understanding. Help us to see. You reveal through Scripture and help us, like Saul of Tarsus, to bend our knees before the Christ revealed through the Scriptures by the Spirit and ask daily, "What will You have me do?" Thank You, Father. You brought us safely and I pray, Father, You reach us all back home safely. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*