

# Preserving Our Love For God!

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*Thank You, Father. Yes, Lord. O for a thousand tongues to sing the great Redeemer's praise, the glories of our God and King the power of His grace; He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free, His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me. We Just want to thank You, Lord; that there is still a fountain filled with Blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins, when sinners plunge beneath that flood they lose all their guilty stains. O, we want to thank You, Father, for what You have done for us on that Cross. We just want to thank You this evening. We just want to praise You. We just want to glorify Your Name and even as now we meditate upon Your Word, we spend the rest of the hour, O Lord, in Your presence, I pray, Lord, that You would minister to us, that You would speak to us, that You would wash us by the water of Your Word, that You would give us discernment, that You would give us anointing to hear and to obey and to speak. We thank You. We praise You. We give You glory, Father, for this time that You have given to us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Well, today being a very famous day, for young lovers, especially youngsters and I wanted to actually title my sermon as 'first love' but there is a movie which is going on called 'Tholi Prema.' I didn't want to plagiarize the title. So, I thought preserving our love for God is the better title. By the way, tholi prema in English means first love. Preserving our love for God, is what I wanted to look at today. Let's read some Scripture found in *Revelation 2* from verses 1 onwards. Very famous passage, we all know this. So, let's read together.

## **Revelation 2:1-5**

**<sup>1</sup> 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:**

And these seven golden lampstand symbolizes the seven Churches and the seven stars, the seven Pastors of the seven Churches

**<sup>2</sup> "I know your works, your labor, your patience...**

Interesting! Right. A trilogy of things that God speaks to us.

***...and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.***

By the way, few weeks back, I was listening to one servant of God who was sharing in His Church. He said, "The last words that Jesus spoke to the Church or to the disciples was not go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, the last words that Jesus spoke were – repent." That's interesting that if you look at every Church except two Churches. One thing the Lord tells the Church is to repent. This trilogy again appears in another place.

In *1 Thessalonians 1*, this is what Paul has to say, in verse 2 and 3,

## **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**

**<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,**

You have work, labor and patience being mentioned here but something is added. So, we will just try to juxtapose these two verses and try to see what is common and what is uncommon. *Revelation 2*. "I know your works, I know your labor, I know your patience." *1 Thessalonians 3* – "Work of faith, labor of love, patience of hope." What is missing? You have works but no what? Faith. You have labor but no love, you have patience but no hope. That's what He's telling the Church at

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Ephesus. He says, "You have labor, you have works, you have patience but you have no faith." Can you imagine a Church which is doing so many good things but without faith? So, you can do a lot of activity in the name of Christianity or even in the Name of Christ but have absolutely no faith. You can do a lot of labor, have absolutely no love; you can have a lot of patience, but there is no hope but everything is connected with love by the way. That is the central part which holds faith and hope together is love. I just want to look at a few verses showing a faith, love and hope, love connection. This is found in *Galatians 5:6*.

### **Galatians 5:6**

***<sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.***

So, you have a faith, love connection here. We know this verse pretty well and again; *Romans 5:5*,

### **Romans 5:5**

***<sup>5</sup> 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.***

So, what hold faith and hope together is the love of God and that's what He says to the Ephesian Church. He says, "You lost your first love." So, I want us to think this time of the month when the whole world celebrates love, what is that which makes us fall out of love? That's what happened to the Ephesian Church. You have fallen from where? From love, from your first love. What causes a Church like this to fall out of love and I believe this is there in every heart. We are all people who are vulnerable to falling out of love, unless we guard our heart with all diligence. It's very important for us to always stay fired up and that is the reason why we constantly keep listening to the Word which challenges us. What happens? How do we forget this thing? How do we fall from love? One of the things that I believe is because we forget the work of God in Christ. This is a very interesting passage in *Luke 7*. We know this very well. Jesus was invited to the house of a man called Simon, a Pharisee and in his house, something interesting happens; a woman who is a sinner comes and she has an alabaster box of oil and she washes the feet of Jesus and Simon has a question in his heart and Jesus perceives the question and this is how Jesus answers Simon. This is what He says.

### **Luke 7:40-48**

***<sup>40</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." <sup>41</sup> "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup> Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." <sup>44</sup> Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. <sup>45</sup> You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, <sup>48</sup> Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."***

What a powerful statement! I want to ask this question. It's not an easy thing for Jesus to do. How many of you know Keith Green? Any of you here among the worship team? Only two of you here and of course, Hrishikesh knows. And of course, Doctor Richard. For all of you who know Keith Green, he wrote a fantastic song. The lyrics of the song go this way. Look at what it says.

"My eyes are dry. My faith is old. My heart is hard. My prayers are cold. And I know how I ought to be, alive to you and dead to me. But my eyes are dry. My faith is old. My heart is hard. My prayers are cold." Does this describe anyone of you? He doesn't stop there. He goes on to say, "but what can be done for an old heart like mine, O Lord? Suffer it up with oil and wine. The oil is You, the Spirit of love, peace wash me anew with the wine of Your Blood." You see, we forget what it cost Jesus to buy forgiveness of sins. You see, it's very interesting when the paralytic guy is dropped from the roof, do you know what He says? In *Luke's Gospel 5:20-23*, He says,

### **Luke 5:20-23**

***<sup>20</sup> When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." <sup>21</sup> And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>22</sup> But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'?***

What does He say? "To say 'sins are forgiven or rise up and walk, which is easy?'" I shared this sometime back. The most difficult thing for people to do is forgive others, because it is traumatic to forgive. See. It's not easy to overlook betrayal. It is not easy to be cheated and to let go of it. No. It is not easy to go through abuse and have no hard feelings. No. It's really really traumatic to forgive sins. And that's the reason why *Isaiah 50* will say, "He, who was bruised for our transgressions, the chastisement which brought us peace was upon Him, He was crushed for our iniquities and by His stripes, we are healed." It took the very Son of God to buy our sins; pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own sweet presence to cheer and to guide. This is not an easy thing to forgive sins. It costed the Blood of the dear Son of God – the Lamb without spot and blemish. The question, therefore, I ask myself is: have I forgotten from where I came? Did I forget what God did for me when I was absolutely lost in my sin. Look at what it says in *Jeremiah 2:1-3* onwards. This is New Living Translation.

### **Jeremiah 2:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> The Lord gave me another message. He said, <sup>2</sup> "Go and shout this message to Jerusalem. This is what the Lord says: "I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed me even through the barren wilderness.***

Remember? One man of God said to his wife; not a man of God. A man told his wife after fifty or forty years of marriage. He told his wife, "When we got married, you were twenty three and I was twenty five. We had a small one bedroom apartment. We had an old black and white television. We had a squeaking cot. I had all these things, but I had a beautiful wife. Now, we are fifty years into our marriage. I have a huge plasma television. I have a huge cot -- queen size, king size cot. I have a huge house to stay. But I have not so beautiful wife next to me." And the wife said, "If you try to look for somebody else, I'll ensure that you'll have an old black and white television, a squeaking cot, and a one bedroom apartment." What has happened? After fifty years, he says, "You know what? You've become so dull, so dry." *Proverbs*, it says, "*Drink water from your own cistern and running water from your own well. Drink wine from your own cup.*" Even as the days go by in your own marriage, its essentially a symbol, a prototype if you will, a paradigm, a prototype of your relationship with Christ. Does it really increase in love? Do you have the same kind of love that you had when you had nothing you were absolutely barren in the wilderness. There was nothing. You know, he is talking about a set of people who followed Joshua and Caleb, not of the six thousand men who disobeyed. He's talking about the young people below twenty years old, who followed Joshua and Caleb for forty years, who lost forty years of their lives because of the disobedience of their fathers. But they said, "Lord, we love You. We don't care about what we don't have, but we love You. Wilderness is okay. Anything is okay. We are eager to please You." That's what He says, "I remember how you were eager to please me as a young bride long ago; how you loved me and followed me even in the barren wilderness."

***<sup>3</sup> In those days Israel was holy to the Lord...***

They were absolutely separated. Holy means absolutely separated. They forsook everybody. Their total concentration was on Jehovah, Jehovah, Jehovah, Jehovah, Jehovah. That's what happens right when people fall in love? Jehovah, not Jehovah. They replace the name with whatever. See. They spend time – hours and hours on the phone through the night, through the day. But then, after a while, common question, every spouse will ask the other person – have you forgotten that? It's true. It's absolutely a human nature. That's the reason why *Jeremiah 19* will say, "*The heart is deceitful above all things.*" The word 'deceitful' comes from the word, yakov. Yakov means supplanter or deceiver or deceitful, like Jacob. The Hebrew word yakov means supplanter. Supplanter means he changes one love for another. Supplants, you see. For what? You remember that. And then, he goes onto say,

***...the first of his children. All who harmed his people were declared guilty, and disaster fell on them. I, the Lord, have spoken!" Listen to the word of the Lord, people of Jacob—all you families of Israel! <sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord says: "What did your ancestors find wrong with me that led them to stray so far from me? They worshiped worthless idols, only to become worthless themselves. <sup>6</sup> They did not ask, 'Where is the Lord who brought us safely out of Egypt and led us***

*through the barren wilderness— a land of deserts and pits, a land of drought and death, where no one lives or even travels?’*

You forgot! It's so easy for us to forget. That is the reason why when we come to communion, what does it say? Do this in (what?) remembrance of me. How often? As often as possible. Of course, as a community of believers, we do it on the first Sunday, but you can do it every day if need be in your own house, in your own private time of devotion. Paul will say in,

**1 Corinthians 11:23**

<sup>23</sup> *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; (Remember that.)<sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken[c] for you; do this in (what?)remembrance of Me.”<sup>25</sup> In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*

You never want to forget what the Lord did for you. That is the reason why a lot of people fall out of love. Their love grows cold. Because they forget from where they came.

Second reason:

**Matthew 12:24-25**

<sup>12</sup> *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

You see that? Because lawlessness will abound. One of the things you should remember one of things you need to realize, it doesn't make you lawless. It makes you more law abiding. you not only obey the letter of the law, you obey even the spirit of the law. The standard is even more higher. Look at what it says in *Romans 8:1-*

**Romans 8:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.* (And then he goes on to say,) <sup>3</sup> *For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh <sup>4</sup> so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us,* (He came to fulfill. How is He going to fulfill the law inside of us?) *who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

*Romans 30:8-10* will say.

**Romans 30:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Why?) <sup>10</sup> *Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

So, how do you love? In *John 15:15 and 21*. This is what the Lord says,

**John 15:15, 21**

<sup>15</sup> *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

<sup>21</sup> *He who has My commandments...*

It's very interesting! Not everybody has God's commandment. Only few. You have to search and seek the scriptures to find His commandments. He who has My commandments

***<sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."***

How do you obey His commandments?

**1 John 5:3**

***<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.***

They're a delight. Remember Jacob? For seven years, he worked, because of the love that he had for Rachel. He served her father and it seemed like a few days to him. Few days, fourteen years, in fact, for Rachel. Just like few days. So, understand that. Lawlessness will increase and therefore, many people's love will wax cold. So, guard your hearts against that.

Going on; another reason.

**2 Timothy 3:1-4**

***<sup>1</sup> But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God***

You see that? You become self-oriented. It's all about them. Everything around them. That's exactly what a baby is – everything around her. Small children are like that. They're lovers of themselves. They're lovers of pleasure than lovers of God. There's an interesting devotion called 'the valley of vision'. One of the devotions is titled – Man, a nothing. Man, a nothing. And this guy is confessing. "When thou wouldst guide me, I control myself. When thou wouldst be sovereign, I rule myself. When thou wouldst take care of me, I suffice myself. When I should depend on thy providings, I supply myself. When I should submit to my providence, I follow my will. When I should study love, honor, trust thee, I serve myself. I fault and correct thy laws to suit myself. Instead of Thee, I look to a man's approbation, and I'm by nature an idolater." You see that? Self. Self. This is a confession he is doing. And then, He says, "Lord, it is my sheer desire to bring my heart back to You. Convince me, that I cannot be my own god or make myself happy, nor my own christ to restore my joy, nor my own spirit to teach and to rule me." "It is impossible," he says, "unless You do it and You convince me."

**Jeremiah 10:23-24**

***<sup>23</sup> O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. <sup>24</sup> O Lord, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.***

"Correct me, Lord," he says, "but not with anger, lest You bring me to nothing." That's exactly what God does. That is the reason why most of us go through periods of chastisement. Why? God is correcting, rebuking, taking out the dross from you. Let me tell you honestly, one of the ways to get your attention is to take you through the wilderness so that you will lose all the confidence in yourself. Forty years for Moses. Three and a half years for Apostle Paul. And the more intelligent you are, the longer you will dwell in the wilderness, if God has a plan for your life. Okay. So, how many intelligent people in God's house? See, very smart, very intelligent; you have all your reasonings not to trust God. You know what God will do? He will strip you off from all the dependencies in your strength, in your intelligence, in your wisdom, in your education; everything, He will strip you off and bring you to nothing. But you know what God is doing? He is just correcting us in justice not in anger. Unless He brings us to nothing. He brings to a point where you say, "Lord, I cannot do anything." The Lord tells Moses, "Please go." He says, "I can't speak, Lord." A man who thought he was mighty in Word and in deed and in wisdom in all the ways of the Egyptians, he was absolutely brilliant. He was brilliant scholar but God had to bring Him to nothing, forty years in the wilderness. He had to strip him off. Otherwise, you will never ever experience the love of God in your life and he has to bring to nothing. What did you trust in? Your own strength, in your own relationships, in your career, in your education? You see, He is going to bring you to nothing. And he goes on to say,

"Take me to the cross and leave me there."

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Derek Prince makes a very fantastic statement – “It is at the Cross my will and God’s will cross. It is at the Cross, my will and the God’s will cross and then, what should you say? “Not my will, o Lord, but Yours be done,” and you pick up the cross and walk. That is how I believe Paul succeeded because he understood this. He said,

### Galatians 2:20

<sup>20</sup> ***I am crucified No longer live, but the life which now I live in the flesh; I live by faith and the son of God who died for me and he gave himself for me.***

And then, he says in *Galatians 6*,

### Galatians 6:14

<sup>14</sup> ***But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to me through the cross, and I to the world.***

In *Romans 6*, he says:

### Romans 6:6

<sup>6</sup> ***We know that our old self (old man) was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved (serve) to sin.***

Not my own will, but Yours be done. What happened in these last days? *Philippians chapter 3*; we know this very famous verse.

### Philippians 3:18-19

<sup>18</sup> ***For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,***  
<sup>19</sup> ***Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things***

Their mind is set on earthly things. That is reason it says ‘carnal mind is enmity against God’. Okay, that is the reason why we fail in our walk in the love of God. I should give you the analysis of the problem and I should also give you, what? Solution. I should not leave you now without a solution. If we give you diagnose the problem, then what’s the whole idea?

So, what is the purpose of teaching? This is the question. What is the purpose of you coming to the house of God on a Wednesday? Today is not a holiday; okay and then, why should you come waste your time, energy etc. why? What is the purpose of preaching? What is the purpose of instruction? Let us see.

### 1 Timothy 1:5

<sup>5</sup> ***But the goal of our instruction is love*** (that is the reason why you come to the church) (love? From where?) ***from a pure heart and*** (from a?) ***a good conscience and*** (from a?) ***a sincere faith.***

So, if you want to really love God, the instruction has to create pure heart; the instruction has to give a good conscience; the instruction has to give you sincere faith. Just not faith; just not conscience; just not a heart; it should give you a pure heart; just not a normal heart; or not just a good heart; it should give you a pure heart; that is how you preserve your love for God. But otherwise, you will just fall away in these last days. Pure heart. ***Blessed are the pure in heart, they shall see God.*** You see, but what is a pure heart? A heart that was tested by fire. That it what it means; A heart that was cleansed from all the guilt; that it what it means;

End of the instruction is to give you a pure heart. Love from a pure heart.

Okay let’s look at *pure heart* first:

### Proverbs 4:23

<sup>23</sup> ***Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.***

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Guard your heart from all things, because it determines the course of your life. Keep your heart from all vigilance out of it flows the springs of life.

One of the things we need to do is guard our heart. Put a fortress around it so that nothing of the enemy comes into; Purity. You see, this generation to stay pure you see when everything is there at the click of a button.

### 1 Peter 1:22

<sup>22</sup> ***Since you have*** (how do you do this?) ***you have purified your souls in obeying the truth and spirit in sincere love for the brethren; love one another fervently from a pure heart.*** (So, how do you get this pure heart?) ***Get the pure heart by obeying the truth***

And therefore, *John 17:17* will say,

### John 17:17

<sup>17</sup> ***Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.***

That is the reason your instruction of every week; week after week; why are you being instructed? So that you take the Word of God, you obey the truth and then, you have a pure heart. Why? Why the Word of God? *Hebrews chapter 4*; we know this verse.

### Hebrews 4:12

<sup>12</sup> ***For the word of God is*** (living) ***quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

You see, even in your obedience; even in your body language; you see/you have to. This is the reason why the Word of the God just comes and shows that exactly why you did this, why did you give to the Church? For an example, that's why Ananias and Sapphira came. "Why did you give to the Church? Because you wanted honour from men." Dead. You see, literally, this is one of the things; that is the reason why many; in the last days; in Timothy, Paul will say, "People will not endure sound doctrine/sound teaching because they don't get corrected." They don't want their thoughts and the intents of their hearts to be revealed, no.

Second thing – is the **good conscience**. How do we get a good conscience? This is *Romans 2:15*,

### Romans 2:15

<sup>15</sup> ***Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*** <sup>16</sup> ***In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.***

You see, in your heart/in your conscience is essentially like your compass which shows absolute North; but if the compass is faulty, it will show you a different direction altogether. If the absolute North is faulty; Martin Luther will say this fantastic statement, (you know this statement) "How can I recant? My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot recant." My conscience is not just normal conscience; it is not an okay-okay conscience, it's a good conscience absolutely made captive to the Word of God; meaning? My authority, my absolute standard is the Word of the God, you see.

And the third thing he says is – **Sincere faith**. Love from a pure heart, from good conscience; from sincere faith; Three things – pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith. What is sincere faith? This word is the opposite, sincere meaning opposite of hypocrisy. A genuine faith without pretends, without hypocrisy. This is what it says in *Psalms 32*,

### Psalms 32:1-2

<sup>1</sup> ***Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*** <sup>2</sup> ***Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile(hypocrisy).*** (But how do you know there is no hypocrisy? He will say) <sup>3</sup> ***When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long...***

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Meaning? As long as you deny that you have not sinned or if you say, “I have sinned, but it was just a mistake,” if you call your sin a mistake; sorry. God did not die for your mistakes, He died for our sins, you know that.

**<sup>4</sup> For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me**

David!! Thank God that on David, God’s hand was heavy.

### **Psalm 32:3-6**

**<sup>3</sup> When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah**

Selah means – ‘pause for a few minutes’. Think about it – “When I kept silent, my bones grew old.” Exactly, right? When something breaks; Children, when they break something, when the parents are not around, they just put it together and put it to the corner, and when the parents come back home, everything is quiet. Silent, why is there silence? And you know your children, what did you do? nothing nothing nothing. Whenever the children are silent there is always a problem. Why are the children silent? They are doing something there. You see..?

When I was silent, then what happened? I

**<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah**

You know one of things that people constantly have to do? is to speak to themselves. What did he speak? *I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.* I will not hide. That is the reason why it says, “Those who hide their sins will not prosper, but those who confess it and forsake it will obtain, what? Mercy.” You hide your sin. That is the reason when John the Baptist, while baptizing he said, “You brood of vipers, unless you bring fruits worthy of repentance, don’t even come.” But when people came, they all came into the waters of baptism confessing their sins publically. That is sincere faith, openly saying. Therefore, you know? One of the things that we need to have is a constant check in balance all the times in our lives. Accountability is the key.

### **James 5:14-15**

**<sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? (What should you do? You heard it several times, the elders will not call you, you should call the elders) Let him call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**

Confess your trespass one to another, just don’t confess to the Lord, confess your trespass one to another; be accountable to one another. Otherwise, there will be lot of pretending in the Church.

You see, one of the things that I have realized in my life, is that, if I don’t have constant accountability of a person who is senior to me in the faith, I will easily fall away. Very interesting check list of a set of people who came together and wanted to be accountability partners, they asked themselves these questions, no, accountability partners, so that their faith is sincere.

“Did you see any sexually explicit material on the internet, movies or television including item numbers?”

So, ask these questions, standard, open. It is so important for us. Is it possible? You just get out of your home and then, you see some furniture store having a woman, selling furniture and the woman;

“Did you spend time with a woman other than your wife privately, without your wife’s knowledge?”

Accountability partner.



They asked themselves – “Did you spend time in searching the Scriptures and in prayer?”

And the last thing is a killer.

“Did you just lie to me?”

See that? You do this regularly, this is what we call it as ‘vulnerability’. You become vulnerable to one another. I am not saying vulnerable means, just openly; I mean some people are open emotionally vulnerable, they become, it’s like, I heard the story of this woman, who came to this public meeting and you know they were all confessing their faults, they were trying to be vulnerable, sometimes people make some stupid things, okay? This lady, mic came to her, “I’m so sorry that I was so angry with my mother-in-law, my mother-in-law was like this, my mother-in-law was like that; I’m asking God to please help my mother-in-law.” And she did not know that three rows behind, the mother-in-law was there. That is not vulnerability; that is stupidity. He is not talking vulnerability that way; and some people openly say, “Ah I did this, I did that; Oh, I did this,” that is not vulnerability, that is, you want people to empathize with you, you don’t want to change; you see, do you really want to change? No. I don’t think so. So, whom do you be accountable to? How do you make yourselves accountable? To whom should you be accountable? There is a principle by the way? There is absolutely a principle. Look what it says in *2 Timothy*; how do you get this sincere faith?

### **2 Timothy 1:5**

***<sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.***

You know what it is talking about? Timothy’s father was a gentile; he was not a believer. Two people in his household knew the Scriptures very well and they mentored Timothy. What was there inside of them, they passed it onto Timothy. What is it? Tell me? You know the way you really have sincere unfeigned faith (in other translation it says faith unfeigned) unfeigned means faith without pretence, faith without hypocrisy, how do you have that kind of faith unless you come under spiritual authority or headship? It is impossible otherwise. It is impossible. To have sincere faith without coming under Godly accountability and authority. That is the reason it says in *1 Corinthians 11*; it says, “Christ is the head of man, head of woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God.” You see there is always an order over there. It doesn’t mean that Christ and God aren’t equal? No, they are equal but there is headship. You see. What does headship mean? What does the head do? I remember one man of God talking about headship, he says, “Body and the head; head takes inputs from the body, from every part of the body, he takes inputs but it takes the decision.” Who makes the decision? Head makes the decision. Who initiates the action? Head initiates the action. Who ensures that the initiated action comes to its logical conclusion? Head. It directs every part of the body in order to ensure that the decision that the head has taken, after gathering all the inputs from the different part of the body come to their logical conclusion. And if you look at the *Book of Revelation*, you see all the beasts; they have how many heads? More than one head. And, that is the reason why in a home, headship is absolutely important. You have the husband who is the head over the house. Otherwise, if you have two heads, you have what we call it as, di-vision – two visions. In other words, division, two heads. Who is making the decision? Who is initiating the action? Who is directing so that the initiated action comes to this logical conclusion? So important. So, unless you come under authority, unless you come under spiritual mature godly authority, at regular intervals; that is the reason why we have every first Saturday men’s fasting and prayer, where we come and try to confess our faults with one another, we don’t do it very well, do we ask these questions? Let me show the questions – how many of you watch sex? You have to ask this question to yourselves. Don’t have to show your hands. That’s stupidity again; sexually explicit material on the internet, spent time with the woman who is other than your wife, without your wife’s knowledge; you spend time searching the Scriptures and praying? And you have not lied to yourselves, and to the other? That is the reason why the first thing it says in *Ephesians*, “***Give up lying to one another. Do not lie to one another, put away lying another***”, strongest spirits that has to be broken in our lives is a lying spirit and the way we break the lying spirit is by coming under godly authority – accountability, submission. That is how we get what faith? Otherwise there is no sincere faith baba. It is all pretence only.

Are we really strong enough to resist the temptations that we have been bombarded by? That is the reason why God has given us the Church. So that we pray for one another, we confess our faults with one another, we are absolutely on the course only when, I remember, Sam made me his accountability partner and every time he watches something trash, it

comes to my email, have that. It's quite sometime back; not anymore. A very long time back. Do you have accountability groups in your Church? Among sisters, do you have accountability? When you speak to one another, how do you speak? What do you speak? You have to talk this; otherwise, it is only, you know what we call as, "Hi Varsha. How are you? I am fine. You are doing okay; I'm doing okay; everything is okay." Not going to work out. That is sincere faith. Faith which is unfeigned and what did these people teach them, look at what it says, *2 Timothy 3:15*

**2 Timothy 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> ***And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures;***

Who taught him the Holy Scriptures? His mother and his grandmother who was scripturally and matured to him in their spiritual life. They were the people who transmitted their faith to Timothy and therefore, he had sincere faith. What does it tell me? It tells me, if you really want to have sincere faith in these last days so that your love is guarded, for God is guarded, take care of pretence, my dear brothers and sisters. Otherwise, what will happen? You will just be pretending all your life. And slowly, without your own knowledge, the love for God will become colder and colder and colder because you cannot fake it for a long time. It will become harder and harder and harder and harder and harder. And there will be a time where you will just fall away. See, it's very important for us to look at this. That is the reason why the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, good conscious and sincere faith. Love from a pure heart, a heart, which is tested by the Word of God, conscious which is connected to the highest standard, which is the Word of God, and faith which is without hypocrisy; and then you can have a love which is increasingly becoming warmer and warmer, even as the days progress, why? because in the last days there will be tremendous amount of deception, incredible amount of doctrine, which is going to draw you away; Come under headship, come under authority; that God really really... These days, I have been with Pastor James for almost over a year, for a month and a half after 2018 started. One of the things I told myself is – every day, I will go and talk to him. Every day. It didn't happen in 2017. I make a conscious decision every day to go and spend time with him. I get exhortation, I get correction every day and I'm telling you honestly, it has kept me on a straight path. And I recommend that to you. And it is voluntary in the Kingdom of God. Nobody forces these things on you. It is all voluntary; submission is voluntary; otherwise, what will happen? You don't have a pure heart, you don't have a good conscious, you don't have a sincere faith and therefore, your love is not sincere; is not right, is all emotional and love is not emotion; it may have strong emotions accompanied with it but it is most primarily the act of a will. You love God because you are willing to love Him, not you feel to love Him.

Okay, this evening, I just want to end by asking us this question this day: how many of us really have this love out of a pure heart, out of a good conscious, out of a sincere faith? How is our faith this evening? Check our hearts, how is our conscious? Is it defiled? Is it sensitive? Is it sensitive conscious when somebody, even if you said a small lie, it is pricking in your conscious, and you can't rest until you reconcile your conscious with God? Ask this question. That is the provision of the New Covenant God says, "Your conscious can be purged from that works by the Blood of Jesus." is your heart pure? Is every intention, every thought being questioned? See, this is not to make you feel guilty, this is to bring conviction. Guilt is from the devil, conviction is of the Holy Spirit, you know what the Holy Spirit is called? *"If I, by the Spirit of God have driven out demons and what has come upon you? The Kingdom of God,"* and another translation it says, *"I, by the finger of God,"* you know what the finger does? Points exactly where you're compromising. It is not general; precisely comes and locates and says you know what? "Vijay, this particular thing you did; the other day, you were unkind to your wife", whatever, that is what the finger of God does. It convicts us of our sin. And that is how we keep on ensuring that the Word of God cleanses us from our intentions, from our thoughts, and become purer and purer every day, it is not one day, it is every day of our life and this year, let us say, "Lord, don't let my love grow cold, don't let my vision die. Fan back to flames, if the love has grown cold." Ask God today, this evening.

Let's pray this evening. Let's ask God, and say,

**Closing Prayer:**

*Lord, speak to me, Lord. This evening, Father, we have heard over and over and over again, but Lord, we just want to tell You, this evening, Father. We are sick and tired, O Lord, of compromise. We are sick and tired of pretending. We want to come to You and Lord, we want to be sincere, we want to confess our faults one to another. We want to come under authority, we want to come under headship, so that, Lord, we can live a holy life, that we can be accountable, that we can be trusted in these last days, find in us, Lord, a group of people who will love You. We respect You, O Lord, who say, 'Lord,*

## **Preserving Our Love For God!**

*here I am, Lord.' I surrender my heart to You; purge it, cleanse it from all its affections which are not of You; and give it desires, which will please You. I thank You, Father, for this time that You blessed us with, O Lord; even as we, Father, depart from this place, I pray, Lord, that You would continue to minister to us, through your Word. I pray, Lord Father, that we will not pretend, we will not act, we will not put on a mask, we will walk with You and that we will walk with one another, and that You will build a Church upon that foundation, and the gates of hell will not prevail because it was founded upon a Rock, of sincerity and of truth. Thank You, Father. Thank You for this time. I commit every one of us into Your hands, even as we go through the rest of the week, I pray, Father, that, Lord, You would minister to us and let Your Word continue to burn in our hearts, and let it bear fruit in our lives. We thank You. We praise You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*