

Shall we look to the Lord? Shall we ask Him?

*Father, speak to me once more this year. Father, speak to us. Two thousand years ago, Lord, Your servant said, Peter said, "To whom shall we go? You alone have the Words of life." The Words of man have the power to entertain, to excite, to make one think, to discourage but God alone has life, Your Word alone is life. Tonight, once again, we have come for life, life from above. I pray, during the ministry of the Word, life will be imparted into the inner man of everyone. Everyone will go, the touch of the living God, the God who speaks, the God who walks in the midst of His people, that we would have that strength that courage to face this coming year knowing God is with us, knowing God is going before us. Faithful God. Awesome God. Speak to us this evening. Speak to us, Lord. We need to hear from You and I pray, faith, will arise in every heart, that we will believe You. Because Your Word says, "The Word of God has power to work in those who believe." All You expect from us is faith. Give us the power to believe. Thank You, Father. Speak to us, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

Everything in the Kingdom of God works in, by and through faith, that's what God expects from us. If we don't believe, nothing of God will work in us but if we believe, God says, "There is nothing that is impossible," both with God and with the person that believes. So, here are we, at the end of 2017 and one thing is certain; one thing is absolutely certain for everybody. We are all one year older; that's certain – older. Most of you probably wouldn't know but about king Lear Shakespeare; one of his critiques would say, "That some people grow old but very few people grow up." Sometimes, when people say, "I have fifty years of experience," it is actually – one year's experience fifty times over. When God is talking about growing, He's not talking about age; He's talking about growing in Him. It is talking about maturity. So, 2018, we will believe and 2017, I believe everyone has grown a little more in the spirit, in the inner man. We had our hopes and our promises for 2017. I don't know how many of you believe and how many can testify it came to pass. For me, personally, I knew the year 2017, the promise we got, He has used me, rivers of living water flowing out more in the last year, especially, to pastors than any other year before. So, I know practically it came to be true but the promises of God are yes and Amen in Christ Jesus. They are always true in Christ, always true.

In *Joshua*, at the end of the conquest of the Promised Land, this is what Joshua will tell the children of Israel in *Joshua* 23:14,

### **Joshua 23:14**

**<sup>14</sup> "Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. (He says, "I'm old. I am going to die but I want to tell you something,) And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.**

"His every promise," he is telling this generation, "God made to you, it has come to pass." Every promise. He has never failed you. It has come to pass but the promise or the promises He's talking about to this generation is exactly the same promise God made to the previous generation through Moses. The promises were not different. Both generations received the same promises. One through Moses; the other through Joshua. The only difference was that one generation did not experience any of those promises while the next generation experienced every one of the promises. So, the difference was not with God; the difference was with the people. One generation did not believe and they rebelled and complained and grumbled. Another generation believed and fought and possessed the Promised Land. God is the same. His Word is the same. His promises are the same. We believe, we obey, and we fight that good fight. They had to fight the physical battle; we need to fight a spiritual battle. They faced physical enemies in the land of Canaan; we face spiritual enemies in our life and God says, "If you fight, every promise of Mine will come to pass." That's what Paul will say at the end of his life. He says, "I have fought the good fight, and the promise that God made to me, I see right before me the crown of righteousness." He says, "Not only to me, the same God promises everyone." You too can have the same crown, if you and I believe and fight the good fight. So, remember 2017; we had the promise for the Church, individual promises. 2018 too it's the same God who promises. The promises of God are there.

Like I said, the battles are also there ahead. Remember what God told them about choices. “Choose life.” God is your life. Years later, listen to Joshua. I mean, it’s every powerful how this man Joshua will put it across to the people.

**Joshua 22:5**

***<sup>5</sup> But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”***

He said this verse to Israel. He says, “Let your whole heart be involved in your relationship, in your servings with the living God, your whole heart.” And that is what God is asking from us too. You see, when we make these choices which God gives, God says, “I set before you life and death, blessing and curses. Choose.” The thing is that 31<sup>st</sup>, like I said, all around the world, people will make choices, new year resolutions. One of the most famous being losing weight, exercising; many people will exercise, pray more, study and read the Bible more, lot and lots of resolutions but you know the choices were all good. Nobody makes; I don’t know unless you are off your mind, nobody makes a decision – “I am going to drink more next year”, “I am going to smoke more.” No, usually all these resolutions are thrown out, even the drunkard will say, “Next year, I want to quit.” So, the problem is – everybody makes good choices but what he is saying here is, “How committed are we to our choices? How committed are we going to be to the choices we are going to make next year?” To choose is one thing, to be committed to that choice is another thing. How steadfast. That’s what he is saying – you have to carefully heed to do; not hear, not listen, all good, not to write notes, excellent but to do. To love the Lord Your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him. How committed are we going to be? That’s the first thing; not the choices that we make but we make another choice, I’m going to be committed to these choices that I make. Paul will tell Timothy in *2 Timothy*. He will say, “You therefore...” He says, “When you make a choice, there is always hardship involved in it because that choice demands change and change is always painful, it demands hard work. So, he will always say, “*You must endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ,*” and another thing he says is, “If you want remain committed to the choices you are making, don’t get distracted.” This generation struggles because there are too many distractions.

**2 Timothy 2:4**

***<sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.***

Don’t lose focus! Be single minded! Can I have that PowerPoint? Simple PowerPoint, not anything flashy but simple. This year, ask God for focus.

You see, I grew up in a country where the national sport is not football or cricket. It’s archery. So, all the days of your youth, you saw people from the king downwards, everybody is involved in the sport of archery and then as a child, that was one of my passion. You made your own bow and arrow and you played. If you know a target, if you know your target; have you seen a target? So, before Sammy gets the target, do you know what a target looks like? The target has a center. In English, it’s called the bull’s eye. Then, it has concentric circles. There are other circles. Then, there is outside. The key to success, either in the secular world or in the Kingdom is one thing – it’s focus. That’s why God is saying, “When you make your choices, first make correct choices.” Be very focused on what your choices are going to be. Focus! You need to know what this is. If you go wrong here, you may be satisfied you hit here, but in the Kingdom of God, it doesn’t work like that. If you miss this, it will affect the rest of your life. In the normal world, it doesn’t matter. The fellow who hits here (outside) is also happy, if he gets here (any of the concentric circles) he’s thrilled. This (bull’s eye), he knows is a rarity but in the Kingdom of God, it begins from here. This will define the rest of your priorities, it will define it. An archer, his eye is on this by the end of tonight, early tomorrow morning, when we finish, you should make up your mind, what is this in your life.

Sixteen times in the Scriptures, Old and New God uses the term, one thing. Contextually, it differs in certain places but one thing, that one thing will determine the rest. Parents are very good at that. They put that one thing into their children’s mind. That is why Pastor Vijay was an engineer. One thing and then, he struggles after becoming an engineer because that one thing changed; the center changed and another thing came. One thing became God and ministry. One thing! You heard in the morning there was a man born blind; Jesus met him and there was a very doctrinal question: is he blind because of his father’s sins or his grandparent’s sins or his sins? Jesus said, “Neither, this is for the glory of God.” Jesus does a creative

miracle over there. He spits into the mud, He mixes it, puts it on his eyes and then, tells him, "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself." He goes, washes. He hadn't seen Jesus though he's seeing now. The Pharisees are upset because He worked on Sabbath. And there is this question; they asked his parent, they said, "We do not know. You ask him. He's big enough." But when he's asked the question, he doesn't know much doctrine but he says, "One thing I know – I was blind but now, I see." You and I should know one thing. Do we see? I'm just recapping what we did in the morning. In Acts 26, when Paul is commissioned by God and he, years later, standing and giving his defense before the king Agrippa, he says, "This is what the Lord told me,"

**Acts 26:17-18**

***<sup>17</sup> I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light,***

If this doesn't happen, we will walk in darkness, yet we will think we walk in the light. One thing is that our eyes need to be open, right now, you see. We all have phones, some have very high-tech phones, some have very simple normal basic phone but you see in all these phone; it might be iPhone X or the simple basic model, they give you a light, they give you a torch. Isn't it strange? Because everybody knows if you are going to carry this with you, when you hit the darkness, you need light. That's what he's talking about. We are very aware of physical darkness and light, God says, "Are we aware of spiritual darkness and light? Are we?" Until our eyes are open to that, we are not going to really experience the Kingdom of God and God Himself. So, the one thing you and I need is, "Lord, continuously open my eyes to the darkness within me and to the light in You." That's what Jesus said. That's the first work of the Spirit of God. He says, "When the Holy Spirit comes, He will convict you of darkness and He will show the righteousness or the light that is available in Jesus. That's the first work of the Spirit of God is an opening of eyes and a continuous opening of eyes because He is light and He lives in unapproachable light and to be able to approach Him, we need increasing order of light. Otherwise, we will never be able to comprehend or approach God. Therefore, the first one thing you and I need is an opening of our eyes. 2018, ask God, "Lord, one thing I ask You Lord, open my eyes. One, to the darkness in me; two, to the light available in You."

They were all very upset. Remember that on that day, when Jesus healed that man, but it was a sign. All the miracles in the gospel of John are called a sign and what did Jesus say in *John 9*? He said he didn't know it was Jesus. He says, "The Man who healed me." Jesus said, "I am the One who healed you."

**John 9:38-39**

***<sup>38</sup> Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him. <sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."***

It's very strange. This is what Jesus does. If you reject Jesus, you are blinded. You will never see. If you accept Jesus, your eye opens. That's what He does. Nobody else does that. He says, "For one reason I have come; one of the reasons I have come, for judgment." The minute you say you see, you become blind. The minute you say, "No, I don't see," He says, "I will open your eyes." There is no other way! This was the sign. So, the Pharisee's eyes were blinded, religious people eyes are blinded; legalism blinds our eyes.

In Corinthians, this is what God says, "*But their minds were blinded.*" We think we see with our eyes. We don't see with our eyes; we see with our minds. Much repeated story but it's good to hear old stories illustrations so that we understand. The guy from the mountains who came down to the city was walking with his friend, they are walking down the busy street. Let it be any street. I think it was New York. He was walking down the street and then, this guy who came from the mountain said, "I hear the cricket (insect)." His friend said, "There can be no cricket here. This is a city. Look at the traffic. Look at the people. Look at the crowd. There is no cricket here." He says, "No, I heard the cricket." He says, "Where?" There was a shop and there were few flower pots, he went turned one leaf and he picked it and said, "See, here it is." And His friend asked him, "How did you hear?" He said, "I'm in the mountains. In the silence, our ears are fine tuned to sounds." He said, "You know what? Everybody hears with their mind." He says, "You think these people don't hear? They too hear." He said, "I will show you." He puts his hands into his pocket and had a bunch of coins. He just dropped the coins on the pavement and everybody walking on the street stopped and turned around because everything in their mind is about making money. So, we don't see with our eyes or hear with our ears. We actually here and see with our mind. So, Jesus says,

**2 Corinthians 3:14-15**

***<sup>14</sup> But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.***

The Old Testament is the law. Every religion is the law. As long as you read the law and try to live by the law, your mind is blinded. It is removed only when Christ comes.

***<sup>15</sup> But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. <sup>16</sup> Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.***

No other way! That is why that one thing we need is, "Lord, open my eyes. Let the veil be taken away. I just don't want to read," because you can read this all your life and yet never know God, unless the veil is taken away because we serve a living God; the God who speaks, who walks with His people. That's what we are all singing but there has to be a reality. There has to be an experience and not just doctrine because doctrinally, the Pharisees were excellent but their eyes were closed. When the very Son of God, the Word Himself stood before them, they could not see Him, nor recognize Him because their eyes were blinded. And God says, "That one thing that man said, 'I was blind but now I see!'" We continue seeing. Usually what happens is, this is a reversal in the spiritual kingdom. In the physical kingdom, as I grow older, my sight gets weaker and weaker and every time you go, the ophthalmologist says, "A little more power, a little more." And when he says, "This year is the same," I'm very happy. Our eyesight gets weaker and weaker. In the spiritual kingdom, it is the other way. Your sight increases better and better and better if you are walking with God. You know it by now. Listen to Jacob in his last days. He says, "I see!" What his children couldn't see, he was able to see and he's able to see into the distant future where things he saw four thousand, five thousand years ago is still coming to pass. He says, "I see!" That is what it is talking about. The veil is taken away and continuously you see clearer and clearer. Apostle Paul at the end of his life, He said, "My departure is near!" He sees his death as a departure and says, "My Lord is waiting for me on the other side with my crown." Peter says, "I'm putting away this tabernacle, I'm putting away this tent." Clear! Elisha's servant is frightened by the massive armies that surrounds them. Elisha is not bothered. He says, "Lord, open his eyes. This guy is scared. Open his eyes!" We need to realize; one thing I need, O Lord, that, Father, as we age; everybody is aging, one year older in another hour, one year older. Lord, has my vision increased? Has my spiritual vision become better? Am I able to see better Your Kingdom?" Because Jesus said, "The first sign of born again is when you are born again, you will see, perceive, understand the Kingdom." Do I see the Kingdom better? That is the difference between truth and the law between grace and the law.

Second thing. Jesus visited Bethany because He loved going to that family. Two sisters and a brother. We know that. I believe we all know that Jesus in that house, the two sisters, the brother is sitting with Him and Mary is sitting at His feet and she's listening to Him and Martha is busy working in the kitchen and the more she works, the more irritable she's becoming. She's cooking for the Lord, and she's cooking for His disciples and she's getting irritable. Lot of people get irritable in ministry, very irritable. They are serving God and they are most irritable people and they get upset with those who are still. And she complains to Jesus, she comes and complains. "Jesus, why don't You tell my sister to help me?" This is what Jesus says in *Luke 10*,

**Luke 10:41-42**

***<sup>41</sup> And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. <sup>42</sup> But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."***

Martha, everything that you do is good but you have lost your focus. You are hitting the target but you are not hitting the bull's eye because you have missed the bull's eye in the spiritual kingdom, everything else is upsetting you. When you should be the happiest to say, "Wow! The Lord came to my house, His disciples are here, let me cook and let me..." but you're upset? All of eternity, she should be able to say, "I have cooked for Jesus many times." No! She's upset. Why? Because she lost her focus. One thing is needed; one thing and Mary has chosen that good path. Don't lose focus. Worrying and working, worried and troubled about many things. See, we always think, what we don't realize is, we always talk about, "O, Mary was just sitting at His feet. I also want to sit at His feet. I just want to be a Mary." And even my wife prayed before we came. She said, "Lord, help me to be like a Mary and sit at Your feet." Thank you! I love it! Because that's what I tell her – "Sit down!" But we forget something about Mary. You know what *Luke* says?

**Luke 8:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, <sup>2</sup> and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities— (And who is the first mentioned?) *Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, <sup>3</sup> and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him[a] from their substance.***

Now, do you see the difference? Wherever Jesus went, Mary followed and she served Him. Martha served Jesus only when Jesus visited her home. Mary served Jesus wherever He went because she also found the time to sit at His feet. That's what 2018 should be. Wherever He takes you, you continue to serve Him because you have learnt to sit at His feet. She served actually more than Martha did because she had learnt to sit at His feet and because she sat at His feet, He opened her eyes. He opened her eyes in ways which He didn't open for anybody else. Not even Peter, James and John, the special group of the twelve. These three were the special disciples that He took to the Mount of Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' daughter. They were allowed only into the inner chamber but even there, eyes were not open as Mary's was. If we want our eyes to be open, there is one thing He says, one thing. Learn in 2018 to sit and to serve.

Seven days or eight days before His death, it was Mary alone to whom the Spirit could speak and say, "Take that alabaster oil and anoint My Son. Prepare Him for burial." The ones who walked with Him for three and a half years and had heard His preaching and did Ministry and power Ministry in His name. Even they said, "What a waste of money!". Because they were not able to see what was the meaning of it. But she saw. When everybody ran away when His body was taken down by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus and when He was put into that tomb, Scripture says, "Mary was on the other side watching exactly which tomb He is in." Because she was planning to come after Sabbath to anoint His body. Resurrection Sunday morning, she was there. She was the first one there. She went and told. Peter and John ran. John ran before Peter. John looked from outside. Peter went inside. Then, they both went back. She refused to leave. Because that one thing, He said, will not be taken away from those who have learnt to sit at His feet and also serve Him. One thing will not be taken away. Their eyes will be opened unlike others. So, in 2018, say, "Lord, I want to serve You. But I will not serve You at the cost of sitting at your feet. I will not just sit at Your feet and not serve You. I will sit at Your feet and I will serve You. Open my eyes, O Lord, so that how much more I can serve You. I'm here." She was one person who served Him in life, in death and in resurrection. God says, "Who was she? Simple girl in whom there were seven demons; demon-possessed." But she knew what darkness was. Therefore, when her eyes were opened, she also knew the power of light and appreciated it." She was somebody who knew what it was to come from darkness into light. So, don't let your worry and your works make you lose focus. One thing. That one thing begins at His feet.

Every work of God, remember this, difference between the work of man and the work of God begins from rest. It doesn't begin from labour. The writer of the *Book of Hebrews* says this,

**Hebrews 4:10-11**

**<sup>10</sup> For he who has entered His(God's rest) rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. <sup>11</sup> Let us therefore be diligent to enter(what?) that rest(first rest, then work), lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.**

Be diligent to enter into His rest first; not work. Everybody wants to work. God says, "No, that's not My order." He says, "Do you know My order? I created on the first day. I created on the second day. The third day, the fourth day, and the fifth day. Did I create man on any of those days?" He says, "No. I didn't. I created him in the last part of creation on the sixth day and then, I rested." On the seventh day, God rested. On the seventh day was when man entered into God's rest and then, God said, "You work." Man didn't work. He entered into God's rest and then, He began his work. Because He entered into God's rest, God told him exactly what he needed to do. That is exactly what Scripture says, "Be diligent to enter into God's rest." Mary was diligent to enter into God's rest. So, she knew what was the work that she was supposed to do. And in that work, there is no struggle. There is hard labor, but there is no struggle. There is no struggle. Martha is also serving God but with the enormous worry and struggle. But when you're serving God, there is hard work, there is perspiration, there is tiredness. Jesus was so tired that in the storm also, He slept. But there is peace. There is stillness. Because you have understood what is that one thing that God needs from us.

Third example in the Bible. One day, Jesus was walking along the road, a rich young ruler comes, falls at His feet and says, “Lord, what should I do for eternal life?” He said, “Keep the law. Keep the commandments.” He said, “I’ve kept them from my youth.” Jesus looked at him with love. Honestly, if I find a straightforward young person, I too will look at him with love. And I’ll say, “I was waiting for somebody like you.” Because every young one who comes to me always tell me how many times they have fallen. This young man is saying I have stood, and God says, “Good.” He loved him. Then, He told him one thing. In *Mark 10:21*,

**Mark 10:21**

***<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven...”***

That’s not how we look, right? We think if we don’t have money, we lack. God says, “Because you have money, you lack.” I love it. This, I love it. He said, “Sell whatever you have and give it to the poor.” Today’s pastor would say, “Put it in the offering box.” He said, “I don’t want it.” One thing. One thing you lack. Love of money—He’s telling him—has blinded you. Love of money has blinded you. You’re not able to see. You’re not able to see. It has blinded you. It’s holding you bondage.

***...and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”***

“You want eternal life. You want to walk with Me. You want to experience God. But money has bound you. You cannot serve God and mammon.” He didn’t tell everyone to sell their possessions. But he told some people, because He looked at them and He knew who was bound by money and who was not bound by money. Those who were bound by money, He said, “There’s no other way. You cannot. You’re bound.” Don’t let money blind you in 2018. Either the love of money or the fear of possession blinds people to the presence of God. The psalmist David says, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil.” He’s really walking in a place. In another place, in his personal testimony, he will say, “Death was two steps behind me. I was just two steps ahead of death, because Saul is after me.” In the *Psalms*, he says, “*Even though I walked through the shadow of death, I feared no evil.*” Why? “Because I can experience Your presence there.” The fear of provision and the love of money – these are the two opposites. They blind us to the presence of God in our lives. Worry blinds us. Fear blinds us. Unbelief blinds us. Scripture says, “On the road to Emmaus, Jesus had risen and His two disciples are going from Jerusalem to Emmaus and He’s walking with them, explaining Scripture to them.” But Scripture says, “Their eyes were restrained from recognizing Him.” And they’re worried. They’re downcast. When we are worried and when we are downcast, when we are afraid and we’re hanging on to something else. Even when Jesus is right with us and walking with us, we are blinded to His presence. That one thing. One thing. Don’t let anything blind you. Don’t have idols in your heart, whether it’s your spouse or your child; your hobby or studies or career; it doesn’t matter what it is, it will blind you to the presence of God.

The richest man of his generation, who experienced God in so many ways in his life to the point where God had actually come to his tent and supped with him. But there is one experience left for him. One experience of God that only happened on Mount Moriah. Three days journey away from everything he had. When he took his son, bounded him on the altar and lifted his knife, God says, “Stay your hand. Don’t kill your son.” The altar is ready. The knife is ready. The firewood is ready. The fire is ready. There is no animal. He is in a position where he can offer God nothing. Then, he sees a ram caught in the bush. That’s when he says, “Jehovah Jireh.” That’s when he realizes, “God is my provision. He is my provider.” All idols have been broken. There’s nothing left in his life. Everything has been broken and his eyes are open. But you know what? “I thought I was giving my son to God, I didn’t realize that God is giving His Son to me.” Blocks that bind our eyes from experiencing God at different levels. God is telling us in 2018, don’t hold anything back from Him, because He held nothing back from us. Nothing back from us. Really want to experience God? Take your hands off. Take your hands off and say, “Lord, it’s there on the altar. I will not fear.”

Zaccheus was blinded by the love of money to the point a Jew was willing to betray his own community, align with the Romans, tax his own people and was willing to face their anger and hatred for money until Jesus came to Jericho. When Jesus came to Jericho, he was desperate. He was so desperate, but the crowds were blocking his view. There was only one option left for him. One thing left for him. You want to see Jesus? Humble yourself and climb that tree. And he humbled himself and climbed that tree. Often, I have quoted this – chief income tax collectors don’t climb trees; they make us climb trees. But here, you have written in Scripture the chief tax collector is sitting at the top of the tree and Jesus stops and He

sees him alone. I love that. I don't get tired telling people a thousand times in a thousand meetings the same thing—He stops in the crowd. He looks at one man. He knows him by name. He says, "Come down. I'm coming to your house." We have a crowd here. I don't know all your names. He knows everybody's name and He knows those who have come by faith to meet Him. He knows you by name. He knows your address. He knows your street. He knows your house number. "Ananias, arise! Go to Damascus. Go to the street called 'Straight'. Go to that house. In that house, there is a man called Saul from Tarsus." Absolutely! His GPS never goes wrong. He knows us by name. He knows where we live. He knows another one of the same name so that the messenger doesn't make the same mistake. "Cornelius! Send a man to Joppa. In Joppa, there is a house by the beach. The house is of Simon the tanner. In that house, there is another Simon who is Cephas, call him. You get the tanner. You may get a beating. You get Peter, you get the Gospel." Absolutely clear. There is now, as we sang, "There is no shadow of turning with Thee." It's we who are confused. There is no confusion with God. There is absolute clarity. In 2018 say, "Lord, I want that clarity in my life because, I see from Scripture, You speak so clearly. So clearly." Zacchaeus is there. Come down. Zacchaeus is thrilled. Scripture says, "Jesus went to his house. While the dinner is going on, Zacchaeus stands up!" What does he say? "Half my wealth, I give to the poor. And from whomever I have taken, I will give four times over." What did Jesus say? "Iske aankh khul gayi (His eyes have been opened)." Salvation has come into his life. What is salvation? An opening of eyes and a moving from darkness to light and from the kingdom of satan to the Kingdom of light. Salvation has come. Because money blinded him so far; now, his eyes are opened. God says, "One thing! One thing you lack. One thing. You think you have. You don't have. You lack." What you have is blocking you from true riches. I tell this to pastors in every city, town in every Pastors' Conference this year in India and abroad, even to the pastors in jail, I told them, I said, "Be warned especially if you've been in jail for Christ." Because what happened I said, "I have seen in my life." Pastors, when they went to jail and came out, the TV cameras and CBN and all these news channels come in and they glorify persecution and before you know it, people start giving you support. And two years later, when I meet you, you've gone down the road because you are taking support from ten different organizations without letting them know. Now, what have you become? "After being in the prison for the name of the Lord, you've become a crook." Watch out! Money will blind you. Love of money will blind you to true riches! God says, "If you are not faithful with unrighteous mammon, (He calls mammon unrighteous) how can I give you true riches?" I tell everywhere to pastors, "You know why you struggle with this? You struggle to get a word from the Lord for every meeting is because you are unfaithful with money. Be faithful with money and see how He will open this up for you." Because these are two currencies. In the world, money is the currency. In the Kingdom, faith is the currency. If you're unfaithful with this, this is blocked. People don't realize in the wallets they carry stuff that can either open the eye or blind the eyes. God says, "One thing. One thing." Zacchaeus' eyes are opened. If you live in the temporal, we all live in the temporal because God gave us this body. So, we feel a lot of stuff in the body, but if you live only in the temporal, let me warn you, our eyes will be shut to the eternal. Don't live in the temporal. Live in the eternal and then, understand the temporal.

Both with Noah's generation and Lot's generation, these are two generations who were judged by God in the Old Testament. Judgment as a symbol of the final judgment that is coming. Because their eyes were on the temporal. There is nothing wrong per se if you look at the list of things that they did, which were all good, which are needed. If you look at it in the *Gospel according to Luke*,

**Luke 17:26-29**

<sup>26</sup> ***And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:*** (When Jesus comes to judge.) <sup>27</sup> ***They ate,*** (Is there anything wrong with eating unless it is overeating?) ***they drank*** (Everybody eats. All of us eat. All of us drink.), ***they married wives*** (There is nothing wrong with that. Today, of course, they marry men and all kinds of crazy stuff is happening. They married wives), ***they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.***

Meaning – life was normal until the last moment, and if you look at the list, there is nothing wrong. Scripture! Some of them must have overeaten. Some of them must have been drunk. Some of them must have married. We don't know. That's not what the list says, list says, what they did were normal things. But there were caught in the temporal that their eyes were blinded to the eternal. And then the flood came and boom! All gone! Next one.

<sup>28</sup> ***Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;*** <sup>29</sup> ***but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.***

Normal life. This is what we do. We eat. We drink. We think about our children's education, their career, marrying them off, giving them in marriage, proposals, all things are good. But if your eyes are only on the temporal, you will miss out on the eternal. Be careful! There is nothing wrong with any one of these. But if that is our focus, remember the target. If that is the centre of our life, we will miss the eternal. The eternal, when you come to the target, the eternal is the centre. What is the centre? It is God. I have to please God. *Hebrews 11:6*, what does Scripture say?

**Hebrews 11:6**

***<sup>6</sup> But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

*Without faith, it is impossible to please God.* So, that is the centre. I have to please God. Everything takes its meaning from that. I have to please God. Are you getting the picture? Let it put it so that you understand how you look it. One thing I'm taking from that list. Eating, drinking, then marriage. Because a lot of young people, immediately, marriage, okay? That is what. Marriage. We'll take one item out and let's see what the Scripture says. So, that the focus is God centre and next is marriage. When that happens, how do you look at marriage? Let's look at it.

**1 Corinthians 7:32-34**

***<sup>32</sup> I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided.***

He says, "There is something wrong in marriage. Absolutely something wrong in marriage." But what is your focus? Want to please God or please your wife? The focus is right, then I will give you a wife who will never stop you from pleasing Me. But if your focus is this – 'I want to please, I want to get married, I want to get married', He says, "You will get a wife. I'll give you a wife and she will be a knife." Did you get it? Same thing he tells the woman also, not just the man. And his interests are divided. You cannot have a marriage where your interests are divided. You cannot. You end up in eternity having not pleased God who saved you and called you into eternity. It's not that you're not saved. You'll realize, He has nothing to say about me when He should have said, "Well done! My good and faithful servant." Nothing to say. Why? Because your interests got divided because you lost focus. A man or woman is concerned about the affairs of this world how she can please her husband.

**1 Corinthians 7:35**

***<sup>35</sup> I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.***

So, He says, "Get your focus right." He's not saying, "Don't get married." That's not what He is saying. He says, "Get your focus right. Don't ignore the eternal; the spiritual for the temporal." This is how Peter will say – don't forget this one thing,

**2 Peter 3:8**

***<sup>8</sup> But, beloved, do not forget this one thing (One thing. What is that?), that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.***

Don't forget this one thing. One day, one wrong decision you will take for a thousand years when Jesus comes to reign and see you're not part of it. One day is like a thousand years. A thousand years can be like one day. If you're entire focus is pleasing God, a thousand years can be like one day. Where did you hear that last? Jacob. He is a slave for Rachel for fourteen years and Scripture says, "Because of his great love for her, it was like a few days for him." And God says, "If your focus is right, a thousand years will be like one day." "It's not enough, Lord. I need eternity. A thousand years with You is not enough." Don't forget what eternity is. Because time is meaningless in eternity. Even as you and I are called to live in the temporal, never take your eyes off the eternal. One thing in 2018, if you didn't do it in 2017, one thing in 2018, redeem the time. One thing about the temporal is this, we all have 24 hours. Mr. Modi doesn't get 25 hours. You and I don't get 23. All get 24. And what does God say? *Redeem the time because the days are evil.* Redeem the time. You have to redeem. What does redemption mean? Redemption means you give something and take something back. You have to prioritize your time. Focus in 2018 – "This is my day. I'm going to change my day around. I'm going to put God in the centre. This thing, not



needed. It's a waste of time. This, it's a waste of time." Most of it is talk, talk, talk. It's a waste of time. This TV is a waste of time. Our fellowship is not usually fellowship it is usually gossip. Bible has put very clearly guidelines for what fellowship is. He says, "Talk to each other with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, encouraging one another." That, men do. Our men do. When we gather, when we men gather, the only thing we talk is Scripture. We don't talk anything else. We don't talk about shopping and clothes and cooking, we don't. The only thing they want to know and hear is Scripture. That's profitable. Redeem the time, because the days are evil. In 2018, say, "Lord, I want to redeem my time. I want to maximize certain things and minimize certain things. Cut out sleep." In eternity, we're not going to sleep. Why waste sleeping on earth? It's not so much needed. Charles Wesley and John Wesley at eighty, eighty-five years old, if they slept half an hour extra, they rued that day, "Lord, I stole time from You. I wasted my time at 85."

**Colossians 4:5**

***<sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.***

We like walking with those who are outside, because we know how to talk their language very well when we leave the church. God says, "Be very careful, because that is a waste of time." In your offices, you young people, there are a lot of people who are outside, God says, "Be careful! You're losing your time. You're wasting your time. Don't waste your time." The days are evil. The people those who are outside, don't waste your time. Focus! Focus! Focus! Then, in *Philippians 3:13-14*,

**Philippians 3:13-14**

***<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do*** (One thing. That one thing we all need to do. What is that one thing?), ***forgetting those things which are behind...***

Forgetting those things which are behind, 2017, both the failures and the successes leave it behind. The only way you can leave your failures is by going before God and repenting. The only thing that can take that memory away is the Blood of Jesus. Nothing can erase it off. If you want to really forget, you need to apply blood forgetting your failures. Go before Him honestly. Put it right with Him. Let the blood be applied and it's gone. Don't remember it. Victories be very careful. People get depressed by their defeats and complacent by their victories. And all the mighty men were not defeated by their defeats, they were defeated by their victories. Noah was defeated in victory. A man who could build an ark, stand there alone in an entire generation, preach the righteousness of God, build it by faith never having seen rain or dew or flood. Never seeing rain. He saw dew. But no rain, no flood. Built by faith. Saved his whole family. Stood there through it all. Then, comes out, gets drunk, lies naked and curses a generation. That's his end. He was defeated by his victory because he became complacent. Isaac became complacent in his victory. Abraham became complacent in his victory. David became complacent after all his victories. Be very careful forgetting the things. That's what Paul will say, "If I boast, I boast about Christ. I'll not boast about myself. Those are not my victories. Those are His victories. My defeats, I've forgotten them. I put it under the blood. I leave it behind and I'm moving on. One thing I do. Put aside your defeats, put aside your victories and then we're all running for a prize."

You don't have the focus. What are we running for? In the world, we all have aims and objectives. What are we running for? Some people have this – eating to live and living to eat. That's not what is our objective. Salvation is free. What are we running for? Do we know what the prize is? The Indian culture, we all know the prize – it is very easy to understand through Indian culture. You read the Ramanaya and Mahabharatha culture; you know when the King wants to get married, that is when is called 'Swayamvara'. All the prospective ones are dressed up in their fineries and hoping the King will lay his eyes on me. Which one will he garland? That's the prize we are running for. The Prince is coming for a Bride. The prize is He Himself. Prize is not a mansion in heaven; not streets of gold. That, everybody will get. The prize is He Himself. And God says, "One thing – I count Myself to have apprehended." One thing I do forgetting, why?

***...and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.***

How do you know? It's a real spiritual experience.

You will learn from Old Testament. It's time for Elijah to go; time has come and he moving from town to town and in every town, He tells Elisha to leave him, "Elisha, go. You can stay here." But Elisha says, "No, as long as the Lord lives and my lord lives, I am not leaving you." He says, "Okay." Next town – He says, "Leave." He says, "No, I am following you." Every place, if you notice, there are prophets and sons of prophets and they all have a prophetic gift. They see, "Your lord will be taken today." He says, "I know." Finally, when they come to Jericho and Jordan, fifty of them come out and say, "Do you know that your lord is going today?" He said, "I know." They stand far; they don't get close to Elijah. They come to River Jordan. He takes his mantle, hits River Jordan. River Jordan splits He crosses over and Elisha crosses over then the River closes. Once the River closes and they both are alone, he asks Elisha, "Okay, you followed me thus far. What do you want?" He says, "I want a double portion of your anointing." Elijah says, "You have asked for a difficult thing, because he is not the baptiser but I will tell you the method by which you can get it. I will give you a clue whether you get it or not. I am going. I alone know how I am going. I don't know whether you see or not. No one else will see how I am going. If you see, you will receive." Fifty other prophets are watching from far. The chariots of fire came and separated Elijah and Elisha, they did not see. He saw. That's what I said; when you are pressing for the prize, each succeeding year, you will see better and clearer and clearer. You will understand your Lord and Master better and better. That's how you know. That's how you run for this prize. It's a prize of eternity. Nothing is compared to this prize. Because God is just not saving us; He is also encouraging all His children, "Run for this prize." That's how we encourage our kids, "Run, run, study well. You know what cut-off is? Don't you want to get into this college?" College matters! Not just your grades! The college you study itself matters because some companies go only to those colleges. But to get into this college – this is the cut-off. God says, "Entry into Heaven, free. For My Son, cut off." I am not kidding. Read Scripture. Everybody is thinking that Christ is coming for everybody. He is not. He is coming for a Nride. That's the race He says anybody can run. Only thing – don't lose focus.

One thing that makes you lose the focus is temporal. Don't get blinded don't hold onto little grievances and unforgiveness and resentments and bitterness. You hold on to it and it gets stronger and stronger and your eyes get more and more clouded. Be very careful. Bible is full of stories like that, incredible stories where you can have incredible wisdom, incredible wisdom of God; yet, be blinded to the darkness in you. Scripture says that Ahithophel, when he gave counsel, it was like God speaking. He stood there before David gave him counsel but in his heart, if you saw – that man was dark, angry and bitter at David because he was Bathsheba's grandfather. Bathsheba had forgiven, the whole world had forgiven, God had forgiven, but Ahithophel has not forgiven. He was waiting for his moment. And then, when Absalom took over his throne, his moment came, he switched over immediately to Absalom. And he said, "I am with you." As soon as David heard Ahithophel is gone over to that side, he panicked because he knew the counsel of that man. He knew that he was brilliant. And he had the wisdom of God. But you see, the heart is revealed. All these days, he walked like righteous, godly man. The minute David is off the throne, his heart is revealed. He is one who tells Absalom, "Absalom, if you want to secure the throne, I will tell you, go to the roof top, pitch a tent. Get your father's concubine. Sleep with them in open." You know why? That is his revenge. This is how he would have told, he would have him, "No, no, that is not the place to pitch it. Pitch it here. Why? From here, I can see my daughter's house. She must have been bathing there and this fellow would have stood here exactly humiliate him here." How many years he carried that in his heart! That's what bitterness does. That's why the Bible says, "Beware of the root of bitterness by which many have missed the grace of God." One simple prayer of David – "Lord, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness." Lord said, "Done. No problem." Absalom is given counsel by Ahithophel and the others. He doesn't listen to Ahithophel. It was God. If he has listen to Ahithophel, David would have died. God intervened. He didn't listen. You know what Ahithophel did? He went home. He is an incredibly disciplined man. The Scripture says that he put everything in order. Discipline doesn't change. It's a part of your life. Put everything in order and then, he hanged himself. See, all these are outward things, which may conceal the of darkness of our heart from man but not from God. Our wisdom, our counsel, the order and the discipline of God, all that is good with God; without God, it will still take you to hell.

That is what God is telling, one thing – be careful about the priorities in life. Our focus should be God. The centre of it all, should be God. He holds our life together. It is He who decides who is successful and who is a failure, not the world not you, yourself, me or myself. It is he who will grade us ultimately.

So, learn to find that one thing in each context you are struggling with. Let me give you an example. Can I have the target over there on screen? Now, we are looking in one context so that you learn how to focus. You see this, now, this (target) we are talking about marriage. Marriage has a centre and concentric circle. The Bible talks about marriage in different contexts. I am just giving you a few examples to tell you, how do you look at marriage?

**1 Corinthians 7:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. <sup>2</sup>Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.**

So, what does God say? God is saying that sex and sexual fulfillment is part and parcel of a marriage. What is that? It is the integral part of marriage. Now, you go back to the target. For many people, sex is the center of marriage. When that starts losing, its appeal they change partners. That is only one of the items. That's not the center. That's how you focus. I am looking issue after issue, only this issue today. Because so many young people wanting to get married.

Second,

**Malachi 2:15**

**<sup>15</sup>But did He not make them one, (that's talking of marriage) *Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.***

No, go back to the target. One of the reasons God instituted marriage is children but if children is the center of your marriage, they will destroy you. They will break your heart. It is not the center. So, what is the center of marriage? After God, what is the center of your marriage? Look at the Scripture, what God does say?

**Genesis 2:18**

**<sup>18</sup>And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."**

Fellowship is the center of marriage. Go back to the target. You know why the marriages fail? Because husbands and wife don't communicate. It's not because they don't have children; not because they don't have sex; it's because they don't communicate. That is primarily the reason why God says, "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers." Why? Because you cannot fellowship. Of course, you can have sex with them. Of course, you can have children with them. Why you can't have sex with an unbeliever? If your wife is unbelieving, of course, you can have sex with her. You can have a child with her but can you fellowship? There is a limit. The center of marriage is fellowship. And if you know your focus how God had ordained each thing, you will realize that this is the problem. Center of marriage is what? Fellowship! That's how God created us; He created us so that He could fellowship with us. It is based on this, the first command of marriage is given

**Genesis 2:24**

**<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

To become one with what? To fellowship. It is through fellowship two people become one. If you don't fellowship and if you don't reach in that unity in Christ then, even though you are one; yet, you are two. When you look into any marriage that fails, you will see the center of it is the breakdown of fellowship. You look into any relationship with God that has broken you will see the center of it is a breakdown of the fellowship.

Like I said, all great men in the Bible got complacent about the relationship with God after the victory. So, they took fellowship lightly. Understand, married people sitting here. you have this incredible godly fellowship with one another, you communicate and you are bringing more and more of one soul, one mind, even if you have no children, your marriage is stable. Even if your children are rebels, your marriage is stable. Even if you grow old and there is no sex in your marriage, your marriage will be incredibly stable because it is built on how God had said it should be built. But if this (fellowship) is not there, everything starts getting affected.

Don't lose focus because lot of young one... Raj is looking, where is Apu? Young married ones, Roshan – Tabitha all, lot of married ones are sitting here. Talk and listen. Don't talk at the same time. Talk to each other. Don't talk at each other. Talk and listen. I am not saying just because I am a male, a simple principle in the Kingdom – "Wives, learn to listen." Because that's how the Kingdom works. When the Father speaks, Jesus listens. That's how the headship works. I am not saying the other one should not talk. But listening is always given to the one in the God's hierarchy who is lower. Scripture says lower, in the sense, not in the quality or anything; it says it's a weaker vessel. Accept that! It doesn't matter how strong you may feel, Scripture says, "You are weak." Why the weaker vessel has to listen because weaker vessel should not end up making

decisions. If you have a steel glass and a glass ware in the house, the glass ware makes all the decisions, then you will have a lot of broken pieces around. Now, that doesn't automatically give you the right to make all the decisions. I am not talking about that. But understand these things. Listen! Quick to listen and slow to speak. Because after the fall, the marriage has been trapped. Jesus told Adam and Eve in the Garden, "Your marriage is under a trap. It won't be complimentary anymore. It is will be a struggle for control."

**Genesis 3:16**

***<sup>16</sup>To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."***

Isn't that the same language that He uses about Cain? He says, "Cain, why are you angry? For sin desires to control you." It's the same. He says, "She wants to control you but he will control her." The entire history of women abuse comes because of fall. And marriage is a trap. Only in Christ, you have been set free." So, Christ has put parameters, how a marriage can be successful it comes from communication. And in communication, there is a listening and a talking. Hearing and listening! Understand and Jesus showed us the way.

That's 11:55pm. Pastor Vijay, would you come and bid good-bye to 2017. This is a good point to stop the 1<sup>st</sup> session. We shall thank God for 2017. It's over! Shall we stand and thank God?

**Prayer:**

*Father, we are overwhelmed by Your goodness, Lord. You are just an awesome God. Father, we probably don't see Your hand every day in our lives in the year that is going by but, Lord, we know that You were there. You never left us; You never forsook us. In the good times, in the testing times, in the tribulations and in triumphs, in our complacencies, in our depressions, You were there. We may not have acknowledged You but Lord, this evening, we just want to acknowledge You. We just want to say, 'Thank You'. Bless the Lord oh my soul and all that is within us, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord oh my soul and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all our iniquities, who heals all our diseases, who crowns us with loving kindness and with tender mercies, who as not dealt with us according to our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. As the Heaven is high above the earth, so great is Your love towards us. As far as east is from the west, so far have You removed our transgressions from us and as a father pities his children, You pity us and showed us mercy and it is because of Your mercies, we are here this evening, O Lord! O Father, had it not been for You, let Israel say, "Had it not been for God, we would have been consumed by our enemies." Many were the plans of the wicked one to destroy us but Lord, You brought us through, and You were telling each one of us as Jesus told those people in Luke 13 when He said, "Do you think those people who died are worst sinners than you? Let me tell you – unless you repent, you will likewise perish." And it is only because of Your restraining hand of mercy that we are alive today, Lord and we just want to thank You, Father, for Your mercy. Lord, we want to thank You. We want to thank You, Father, for keeping us in our marriages. We want to thank You, Father, for keeping our children. We want to thank You, Father, for every situation we have gone by, O Father! We want to thank You this evening. We just want to lift Your Name on high. We just want to thank You from the bottom of our hearts. O Lord, thank You. Our help in ages past and our help in ages to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home. We want to thank You this evening, O Lord! We want to thank You, Father, for the Word that has come through to us for every week. 52 weeks, O Lord! You've been faithful Oh Lord Jesus. Thank You for the Word that You have blessed us with. You fed us with manna that our forefathers have not eaten, O Lord. Many of our godly forefathers, who have to even tasted the Word of God, we, in this century in this time have eaten in this Church, O Lord. We want to thank You for the manna that You fed us with, O Father. We just want to thank You. We want to thank You, Father, for the servant You have blessed us with, who has fed us with Your Word faithfully. We want to thank You for His faithfulness. We want to thank You, Father, for all the people in the Church who have served faithfully. We want to thank You, Father, for all the people who have given faithfully. We want to thank You, Father, for all the people whom we do not know, who are in the front line, who laid down their lives so that we, as a Church, could stand and we want to thank You for all those people who are a part of our Church, O Lord Father, in the front-line battle field. O Lord, we just want to thank You God for their faithfulness, O Lord. Thank You, Lord. You are a good God. Your mercy endures forever. Yes, steadfast love. Your mercies are new every morning. Your steadfast love never failed, O God. We thank You. We thank You, Father, for every member of our congregation. We want to thank You, Father, for the young people. We want to thank You, Father, for our children the little ones. We want to thank You, Father, for single people in our Church. We want to thank You, Father, for the married couples in our Church. We want to thank You for the mothers who have become mothers this year, O Lord and mothers yet to be, we want to thank You,*

Lord. We want to thank You, Jesus. We want to worship You for them, Jesus, and Lord, even as now, we look back, Jesus, we want to acknowledge Your goodness, O Lord, in our lives. All things as You said, O Lord, have work together. Even if we do not see, we want to speak it together by faith, O Lord. All things – the good, the bad and the ugly that had happened, Lord Jesus, in 2017, will and will work together for those who love You and be called according to Your purpose and we want to acknowledge that this evening, O Lord and we lift Your Name on high. We want to worship You, give You glory, and honor and dominion. In Jesus' mighty name we pray, Amen!"

Now, we welcome the new year.

**Prayer by Sister Ailsa:**

"Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Thank You, Lord. It's just Your mercy that we stand here. It's only Your mercy we stand here in 2018, O Lord! O Jesus, thank You. O Lord, as we heard the Word, yes, Lord, I pray, first, Lord, for the women in our Church. I pray, Lord Father, teach us this year to take a step of faith to believe that we could be that Mary; that we could pick up our cross and follow You daily; that we could be slow to speak and quick to listen; that we could be godly women; that we could be able to lead by example the godly life You chose for us. I believe for us this year as wives, as single women, as women who are pregnant, who have babies this year, I believe this year, Father, from the oldest the youngest, I believe that faith will arise in us that we will walk by faith and not by sight; that we will lead by example; that we will be that godly mentors that You called us to be. We may have failed You many times in 2017, but teach us this year. As we heard today too, if we are in ministry, we should not be irritable. Teach us. It's only Your grace; it's only Your mercy that we stand here today, my Father. I pray, Lord, for our husbands, for our brothers, for our children, the male children in our family today. O, I just want to thank You for being our God. Hallelujah! Thank You. You are the great I Am, You are alpha, You are the omega, You are the beginning and You are the end. You knew we would be standing here today. There are no surprises in your Kingdom. You knew we are standing here today thanking You, praising You, asking You today, Lord, teach us; teach the men of the Church today, Father. We start with our shepherd that You gave us. We start with pastor Vijay too. We start with all the pastors in church. We pray today, Father, that You touch them and I pray this year will be revival in their lives, rejuvenation in their hearts today. I pray they will hear clearly. O Father I pray that they will see God, that they will have an encounter with You. The joy of Lord will be their strength; that You will speak in visions and dreams, that You, Lord, will use them mightily as You did in 2017. I pray in 2018, that You would bless their territory and enlarge their territory. Then, Your hand would be with them and keep them from all evil. Lord, You said, "Do not consider the former things. Behold, I have the new beginning. I will make rods in the wilderness, I will make rivers in the desert." We saw the hand of God in 2017. In 2018, we will see more of You, more and more of Jesus. Help us to fall in love with You more and more each day. More and more of Jesus, my God. Help us to fall in love with You more and more each day. Jesus! We need You, my God. In this last hour, we need You more. More now than ever, my God. More now. More today, my God. Let us start 2018, praying without ceasing, my God, seeking Your face day in and day out, my God. If there be a day when we start, my God, and we forget to praise You, let there be a pricking. Let there be a quickening in the Spirit. Let conviction take place that we will quickly raise our hands to praise You, my God. Help us, Lord, to be those servants that You called us to be. No servant is greater than his master. The Lord is our light and our salvation. Whom shall we fear? The Lord is the strength of our lives. Of whom shall we be afraid? When the wicked come against us, they stumble and fall. Though an army may encamp against us, our hearts shall not fear. But one thing, we desire is to dwell, to seek You, to dwell in Your house and to be in Your tabernacle. My God, to seek Your face, to dwell in Your tabernacle, to be here in Your presence, my God. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Today, I want to say, "Thank You for 2018." Thank You, God. Thank You that You saw fit that we could see this and thank You for every single cell in our body that functions today, my God. Thank You, my God, that we could stand here on holy ground, my God; that You made a way for us to come here, my God, safe and sound. O Father, we thank You. I can't thank You enough that I could see 2018 this morning, my God. Thank You, God. Thank You, Lord. You are so good to us. You are so good, my God. I pray and I speak it into our bodies today. I speak healing, my God, into every mind, every heart and every sick body today. And I pray, this year, we will pray for sick bodies and we, Lord, will be healthy children of God. We will speak it into our spirit-man. we will believe that God is our healer. He is our Great Physician. He is able to do all things and I pray, this year, my God, we will be healthier than last year. Healthy souls. Healthy spirit-man. O my God, touch us today, Father. Touch us, my God. Let Your anointing flow through us today, my God. Destroy yokes. Pull down strongholds and, Father, I pray, let us be free in the Spirit today that we will hear clearly in the spiritual realm. We will hear the still small voice. We will hear the rebuke. We will hear the comforting word. We will hear the conviction and we will grow stronger and stronger in You, my God. And we will walk by faith and not by sight. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. We believe You have bigger plans this year, my God. O, how beautiful are the feet of the man who spreads the Gospel of

## 2018, One Thing To Desire!

peace. Thank You, my God. Thank You for Pastor James. Thank You for Pastor Vijay. Thank You for them. Thank You for the Word. Thank You for the hours they spend studying the Word. Thank You. And as a Church today, we just choose to bless them in Your Name, God. May the blessings of the Living God pursue them, overtake them, be with them all the days of their lives, my God and I pray, as a Church, even as his wife today, my God, I pray that we will never be stumbling blocks in their lives, my God. We will release them to ministry. We will release them for God's purpose. Anoint them afresh. I pray for a double portion to rest upon them and I pray that You would bless the work of their hands today. Anoint them afresh, my God, right now; so, they could start 2018, my God, with a fresh anointing. Let Your anointing rest upon them. Let the spirit of humility rest upon them. Let the fear of God always be in every one of our hearts. Let us work out our salvation with fear and trembling, my God. Let us work out our salvation. Thank You for the gift of salvation. Thank You for the gift of repentance. Thank You for the gift of healing. Thank You for touching us today. Thank You, my God. We thank You for being God in our lives. We thank You, God. Thank You, Abba Father. Thank You that You brought us through. Thank You for this day. For this is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Please be seated. Are you tired? You shouldn't be because I'm the one who is preaching. I should be tired but I'm not tired at all.

Now, shall we go to the promise of 2018, for the Church? Not the individual promises. You will get it. But for the Church. Turn with me to *Psalm 27:4*,

### **Psalm 27:4**

***<sup>4</sup>One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.***

That's the promise for the Church. He says, "If this is your desire, you will know Me in this year like you have never known." I pray that this would be that one desire.

***<sup>4</sup>One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.***

Are we there? David here is bearing his heart. That should be our desire. If an Old Covenant person can have this desire, how much more a New Covenant saint? He says, "This is my foremost desire." Now, why is this so important? You see, I don't know how you are sitting here today. Maybe, you've got a messed up marriage. When you go back home, you have a stiff-necked husband or a wife. Or maybe, your spouse is okay but you have rebellious children. Or maybe, your home is okay but you have a terrible workplace. I don't know what your issue is but this takes care of it all. If your relationship with God is primary and if that is the one that sustains you, even if your marriage is on the rocks and if children are on drugs and you don't have a job, God says, "This is your focus." Everything will start falling into place in your life. Get your focus. This should be our focus because each one seeks according to their desire. This is a man's desire. He says,

***<sup>4</sup>One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek...***

So, this 2018, what is our desire? Because everyone moves according to their desire. What is our desire? And Jesus put it across this way.

### **Matthew 6:21**

***<sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

And he says, "This is where my heart is." He says, "Not only seeking, I want to dwell in the house of the Lord." Most Christians are visitors. They don't dwell. Dwell means to stay, to reside. Remember the old message when Jesus was pointed out to the whole world, declared to the world by John the Baptist, the forerunner, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." Two of John's disciples started following Jesus. Jesus' first question recorded in the Bible in the Gospel according to John, "What do you seek?" He stops and He says, "What do You seek?" What did they say? "Where do You stay?" The first disciples that followed Jesus; their answer was, "I want to dwell with You." Jesus said, "Come and see." And Scripture says, "They dwelt with Him that night." The next day, they went out and told their friends,

"Come and see. We have met the Messiah." This year, seek God. Let it be our hearts' desire. Let us choose to stay with Him; not visit Him on Sundays. But some people, in the Kingdom of God, they are CEOs. Do you know what CEO is? Christmas and Easter Only. In *John 15:4*, Jesus said,

**John 15:4**

***<sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.***

He says, "It's impossible for you to do any work of God." You can do your own works, good works but the work of God is impossible unless you abide in Him. The first call of God is not to work; the first call of God is to abide. He says, "Abide in Me." In verse 7, He will say,

**John 15:7**

***<sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you...***

"Let it dwell." The Word of God and we shouldn't be visitors. When somebody visits our house, it doesn't matter how much we are close to him, how much we love him; we know, one day, he or she will go. They have not come to stay. But God says, "Let My Word stay in you, dwell in you, take permanent residence in you. Let it become a part of you."

***<sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you...***

In *Psalms 26:8*, Scripture says,

**Psalms 26:8**

***<sup>8</sup>Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.***

Let the house of God be your passion. The reason the house of God is not our passion is because the Lord of our house is not our passion. It's very strange that people will say, "No, I love Jesus but I don't like going to Church." Just practically think about this – if one of you said, "Pastor, please would you visit me? But don't bring your wife with you." Do you think I would visit your house? That's exactly what people will say – "Jesus, I love You but I don't like Your wife." Jesus says, "The Church is My wife, My Bride." God is zealous for His people and He wants to dwell with them.

When David talks about building a house for God, you know what God said? It's incredible what He said. He said,

**2 Samuel 7:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup>"Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?" <sup>6</sup>For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.***

"You want to build a house for Me? Do you remember when you were in the wilderness? What did I ask you to do? I asked you to build a tent for Me. Why? Because you were living in tents. When you moved, I moved with you. I didn't ask you to build a house; I asked you to build a tent for Me. From that day till today, I've moved with you." Don't underestimate abiding in Christ, abiding in His Word and abiding in His house. In *Ephesians 2:21-22*, Scripture says,

**Ephesians 2:21-22**

***<sup>21</sup>in whom (in Christ,) the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together for (what?) a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.***

That's what David is saying. "I want to dwell in Your house." God says, "That's an Old Testament concept." He says, "I want to dwell in you. I'm building a house for Myself." This is God's desire – to dwell with us. The question is: is that our desire? The fulfilment of that in eternity is ultimately seen in *Revelation 21:3*; we will see the physical tangible revelation of what we experience in the spirit today. What does Scripture say about God?

**Revelation 21:3**

***<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."***

This is our ultimate destiny and we will experience it tangibly in the Spirit and in the body but right now, God says, "Is that our desire?" If that's not our desire today, how are we going to be happy then? Get that focus in 2018. Everything else will fall into place. "Lord, I desire You more than anything else. I want to dwell with You." Don't be a visitor with God, with His Word or with His house. Choose to dwell. 2018.

I love my young people because every time somebody is posted out of Hyderabad, we don't like losing people but we also know that they need to go. When they go, the first thing they search, whether they are going to the next town, Bangalore or they are going to US; the first thing they always search for is a Church. Before they look for a house to stay, they look for a Church because they have been taught well. And all the ones who have gone from there, found a Church and have been part of a Church; the Pastors have said, "Which Church have you come from? You have been taught well. You are a blessing in this Church." You have to learn to dwell in a house and be part of a house and be a useful part in His house.

Scripture says, "In His house, there are many vessels; some for honor, some for dishonor." Scripture says, "If a man, a woman, a child cleanses himself or herself, they will be a vessel of honor." Be a vessel of honor in His house. Get rid of all these attitudes. God will not use you. God cannot use you because He Himself has said what kind of vessels He will use. He will use you. He didn't say He won't use you. He says He will use you as a vessel of dishonor. Abraham had a wife. Her name was Sarah. You know what God told about Sarah. "Remember Abraham and remember Sarah, the rock from which you were taken out." And then, when He comes to Peter, He mentions Sarah as the epitome of womanhood but when it came to Lot, He says, "Remember Lot's wife." He says, "One was the vessel of honor; the other was a vessel of dishonor." God says, "Be like one; be never like that one." Both are vessels in God's house. Be a vessel of honor. Let God have the pride in Heaven to point out and say, "That's My boy, Job." "That's My girl." Be a vessel of honor in His house. Say, "Lord, I seek You. I desire You. I want to dwell in Your house." I read about people like Corrie Ten Boom and all. Heard about Corrie Ten Boom, the Dutch lady? Till she died, she died in her late eighties, she lived off a suitcase. She had no time to stay. She was preaching till she died. Lived off a suitcase, hotel room to hotel room, taking the Word of God. She was somebody who had come out of the German concentration camp and walked with God through it all. Vessel of honor till the last hour of her life. Vessel of honor, like Jacob, till the last, like Scripture says, "Jacob leaned on his staff and blessed and died." Be a vessel of honor. Dwell in His house. Don't be a visitor.

You see, we are all afraid of darkness. That's why I said – every mobile comes with a torch. You know how that Psalm begin?

**Psalm 27:1**

***<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?...***

When we visit, we seek light from God. When we depart, we depart into darkness. When we dwell, He is my light. He is not saying that He will show me light; He is saying He is my light. When we dwell with Him, He becomes our light now which will be the ultimate reality in Scripture in eternity. In eternity, this is what *Revelation* says,

**Revelation 21:22**

***<sup>22</sup> But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.***

Today, we are dwelling in His house. That day, there is no temple. We are dwelling in Him. He is the temple. Are we seeing? He is the house. He is the light. When we are in trouble, we seek help. We seek a savior. But when we choose to dwell with Him, *Psalm 27:1* says,

**Psalm 27:1**

***<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation...***

We always think about salvation as something, as an experience. We don't realize that God is our salvation. That's the difference between visiting and dwelling. God is my salvation. God is my light. He is my life and salvation. He is my light. My



fear is gone. When we are weak, in the hours of weakness, we cry out to God like David cried out to God in Ziklag, “Lord, I’m weak. Strengthen me.” Scripture says, “He strengthened himself in the Lord.” But when we dwell with Him, Scripture says, “God is my strength.” When God is talking about seeking Him and dwelling with Him, He is saying, “Experientially, you will know Me at a different level. So far, in 2017, you are seeking My light. But 2018,” He says, “if you seek Me and desire Me foremost, I will be your light. I will be your salvation. I will be your strength.” Understand what is the promise God is giving. We are appropriate it by faith. That’s the difference between visiting and abiding and this is His desire. There is no temple there. He is our temple. Everything in life should flow out of this relationship with God. In *verses 2-3*, you will see,

**Psalm 27:2-3**

***<sup>2</sup> When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. <sup>3</sup> Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident.***

Where do all these come from? It’s because He is dwelling there because God has become his light; God has become his salvation; God has become his strength.

So, I’m telling you – don’t ever look at the stock market and think that good times are ahead. Look at the Bible know – evil times are ahead. The enemy will not cease. He is working day and night because Scripture says, “He know his end is near.” And Scripture says, “The end times will be terrible.” If you just look, there is a mad man in Korea, North Korea. Mad men do mad things. Gadhafi couldn’t do anything because he didn’t have a nuclear bomb. Saddam Hussain did not have a nuclear bomb. Otherwise, they would not have been killed and this guy knows, “I need that. Otherwise, they will kill me and take me out.” In the last one year, he has progressed so much which he never did in all these years.” Let me tell you – two scenarios they are predicting – if he chooses as a last straw to fire a nuclear missile at US, it would take the US back to the Ice Age. They said, for eighteen months, they will go into an Ice Age – 9 out of 10 will die. That’s all he has to do. President Trump has been put there for a reason and a season by God. They are doing everything possible to bring him down. This year, if he is impeached... 2018 November is the US Congress election. If the Democrats win and they start impeaching him, there will be civil war in the US. They go down, we all go down because we are tied to their economy. So, pray. That’s why, as the days get closer, we need to know Him more and more. These are real life scenarios but we don’t fear because He is my strength; He is my salvation; He is my life. That’s where our strength comes from. That’s what God is talking about. “Seek Me.” Why is He, in the last stage, asking His people, “Seek Me”? Because He says, “No one else can protect you; no one can keep you; no one else can.” In *verse 5*, Scripture says,

**Psalm 27:4-5**

***<sup>5</sup> For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.***

He says, “I will do two things – one – in the time of trouble, I will hide you; yet, I will lift you up. You will be hidden but seen.” Only God can do that. You will be hidden but you will be seen. Only God can do that. And he says,

**Psalm 27:6**

***<sup>6</sup> And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; (With all this happening, I will be worshipping) Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.***

Ask ourselves this year – 2018, ask God. These things, we can’t do on our own. He has to cause us to do it. You have to ask Him, “Lord, change my heart. Change my desire.” Let not legalism blind me. We should all be able to say, “Yes, I was blind but now, I see. But I want to see more.” We should be able to say, “Yes, one thing is needful – I need to away all those things that blind me. One thing I lack – I am bound to things that stop me from going ahead with God. If I live in the temporal, I will miss out on the eternal. Remember the ‘one thing’s. One thing I do – pressing on.

And the final one that should define our life as a Church and as individuals – “Lord, I want to dwell with You. I’m tired of being a visitor. I’m tired. I’m tired of my morning devotions. I’m not satisfied with that. I’m tired. I want to dwell with You. I want You to be my light. I want You to be my salvation. I want You to be my strength. Then, it doesn’t matter what is against me; I know You will hide me and You will lift me up.” Let that be the cry of our heart this year. Like I said, everything is by faith. If we believe and we ask Him, He will change our hearts. Don’t let youth keep you away. That’s what Paul told

Timothy, "You are young. Don't get fooled." Don't let age keep you away. Age, of course, it is harder because the mind is set but God can change. God used two old men – 80 and 83 to change the world. But they had to be; their thinking had to change. So, don't let anything – your youth, your age, nothing should stop you because there is a God who is unstoppable. That should be your focus. Out of it should flow everything else. And you will see, 2018 will be different. Absolutely. That's what I believe, 2018 is the greatest year for the Church. See, people don't look at it according to Scripture; people look at it according to the physical eyes and you see that the Church is having a terrible time. The Church never had a terrible time. Everybody in the world is lost. So, the Church has only gained people; it has never lost people. The Church can never lose because it's the very Body of Christ indwelt by His Spirit. Every day, the Church is only increasing; it's not decreasing. Every day, the world is only decreasing. Every day. So, look at it through the eyes of God and turn it around. Don't say anymore, "Lord, thank You for saving me." Say, "Lord, You are my salvation." Don't talk foolishly like the father of believers when God comes and says to him, "I am your exceedingly great reward and your sheep." He said, "What's the point? I have no children." You don't remember what God told Abraham. God was not telling Abraham, "I'm going to reward you." He says, "I am your reward." He says, "That sounds okay but I would like a child." Another man has to turn around and say, "Lord, that's all I seek. You are my salvation. You are my light. You are my strength."

So, this night, as we close,

**Closing Prayer:**

*Father, we just thank You, Lord, for this gift of a new year. Twelve months lie ahead of us. We do not know what lies ahead but Your Word says You have seen the end from the beginning. Our lives are in Your hands. As we heard, Lord, for this year, we want to experience You as the Psalmist sang. We want You to be our salvation, our light and our strength. We want to dwell with You. we want to abide in You. We want Your Word to abide in us. We want to bear fruit for the Father's glory. We want to dwell in Your house. I pray for the Church. I pray, Lord, everyone in the Church, young and old – this will be a year of focus, bringing Christ back into the center of our lives and out of it should flow everything else, Lord. I pray, especially, for the broken ones – the single mothers, the widows, the orphans. I pray that You would open their eyes that they would know that You are a Husband to the widows and a Father to the fatherless. Let there be an opening of eyes, O God, that they will never be able to say again, "I am alone." For not only is God for them; God is with them. Help us, Lord, to experience You that way. No one ever again has to go through a day alone because Emmanuel has come – God with us. Your Word says, "Little children, flee from idols." I pray every idol in our minds, in our hearts will be broken. Idols we have created with our own imagination and feelings. They will crumble until only Christ is left – all in all. I pray this year, we will redeem the time knowing not only that the times are evil; they are wicked. That we will redeem our time; that we will walk circumspectly as Your Word enjoins. We will find our rest in You. As Your servant prayed, we believe for healing. There are many infirm in the Body. Some who couldn't come. Those who are here infirm in the body and those who couldn't come, like Auntie Catherine, we believe, as a body, for healing. Your healing is our portion. Your Word says, "I am the God who heals all your diseases." You said, "I'm the Lord that healeth Thee." You said in Your Word, "The Son of Righteousness shall rise with healing under His wings." I pray this would be a year of righteousness in us; that Your righteousness in us would grow and our bodies would experience Your healing. Speak for healing in the body, healing in the mind. Captives would be set free; that people would walk in the liberty bought by the Blood of His own Son. I take authority in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth; I bind every form of darkness and I command the power of darkness to loosen God's people; for Your Word says, "They overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb, by the Word of their testimony." Help us to walk in that liberty where You Word says, "Where the Spirit is Lord, there is liberty." I pray, today, starting today, the Lordship of Your Spirit would be established in our lives. We believe and confess Your promises. This year would be a year You would turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, the hearts of the children back to the fathers. I pray this would be a year of reconciliation in homes; that husbands and wives would dwell in peace and unity, prodigals would come back home, prodigals would come back to their senses. We believe, Lord. I believe, Lord, that this would be a year You would raise up more servants in this Church. More. As Moses said, "I wish the Spirit of the LORD was upon you all." I pray, Father, the harvest is wide; the laborers are few. I pray, Lord, dedicated men and women would arise, sold out for God. And I pray, Father, for new believers to come. Send us people who are hungry for the Word, people who dwell in the house of God. In Your Word, it is written You added to their numbers. This is our cry – You add to our numbers. People who are seeking, who are hungry for You. and I pray, Lord, us, who are called to the ministry of the teaching of the Word, would spend even more time in Your presence first and then, in Your Word; that You would open our eyes to things that are hidden in Your Word that we can bring out food for Your people in due season. I pray, Lord, everyone would be found faithful in their post. I pray for the young ones, Lord, students. I pray they would be students like Daniel. In their academics, they would purpose in their hearts not to defile themselves so that God would give them*

*understanding; God would give them wisdom; God would prove that His children are ten times better than those who are in the world; that these young ones would purpose in their hearts not to defile, Lord. I pray for those who are waiting for their breakthrough, You are Baal-Perizim – the God of breakthrough. And I believe, Lord, 2018 is the year of breakthrough. I believe Baal-Perizim is going to breakthrough in the Church and in many lives, O Lord. Help us to believe and to receive that overflow, O Lord. Touch husbands here that they would be kind and dwell with understanding with their wives. I pray You would be with the wives here today that You would touch them that they would dwell and honor their husbands because Your Word says, O Lord – they would honor and husbands would love. I pray for the children that they would honor their parents; that each home would be transformed in 2018. It would be a place where God calls it His dwelling place. We believe, Lord. I pray every sister, every mother would be found faithful in the prayer closet. They would find that space in that secret place. They would contend with the powers of darkness for the souls of their children. Make them praying mothers, Lord; not just for their children but for all children; for all children are precious in Your sight. Thank You, Father. I thank You for this campus. Thank You for this place where we have been for so many years. Thank You, Father. But I pray, I believe the time has come for a place of our own. I just surrender that desire into Thy hands and I pray, Father, let it be according to Your will, Your time and Your purpose for us. All we ask You is – teach us to delight in You for Your Word says, Delight in the Lord and He shall give You the desires of Your heart.” Help us, Lord, to delight in You. Thank You, Father. Thank You for everyone in Your house. Everyone. Even the unbelievers who do not know You, thank You for them too; who have served You without knowing You. I thank You for Sajit. I thank You for Deepak. I thank You for Krishna. I thank You for all the other staff who do not know You but are still serving You. I pray, Lord, You would bless them with Your salvation. There is no greater gift they can receive, Lord. I pray this year would be a year of salvation for those who do not know You, Lord, in our ministries. Thank You, Father. We just thank You. we just praise You. We just worship You. We thank You for the privilege and the honor of being Your sons and daughters and being Your servants. Thank You, Father. Now, by faith, as blood-washed children, sanctified by Your Word and Your Spirit, we lift up holy hands and we bless Your holy Name. Thank You, Father, for Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever and all God’s people said, “Amen.”*

**Benediction:**

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us, Amen.*