

# What Is Salvation?

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*Father, this morning, we just come to You. We surrender our body, our soul, our spirit into Thy hands. We acknowledge, Lord, Your Word is true, and Your Word alone is the truth. And I pray that, Father, as we hear Your Word, You will give a Spirit of wisdom and revelation and also, the Spirit of discernment, that we will not hear with ears of flesh but we'll hear with ears that have been opened by the Spirit of God. We will not understand with the mind of flesh but we will understand with mind of Christ. We will not have a heart of stone but we'll believe with the heart that You have given us. And above all, Lord, we will surrender our will to the will of our Father, the Shepherd of our souls, to obey to follow and to forsake everything that is not of You, Lord. So, this morning, Father, speak to us, Father. Teach us, and empower us through Your Word and Your Spirit. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

So, before we move to the portion of the Word, I will two portions but one of the first things I want to look this morning is part of it which I taught in the Pastor's Conference last month, but I didn't particularly teach that part in the Church. So, I would like to teach that in the Church too.

We get the actual picture, the actual meaning of 'What is Salvation?' We'll tell people, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved." And we go out and speak to people about Jesus, hoping people will believe and be saved but what is the actual, from heavens point of view, what is actual salvation? Because sometimes we confuse the effects of salvation than the very fact and act of salvation. We think about salvation as about escaping hell and going to heaven. That's the effect of salvation or passing death to life which is the effect of salvation – from darkness to light which is the effect of salvation. Almost everything we associate with the term being saved from salvation is actually an effect of salvation. So, we need to really look into the Word to understand what salvation is because effects can be manipulated but actual salvation cannot be. Because if you look at it from God's, heaven's point of view, from God's standpoint, salvation is actually a judicial term. It's a term pronounced in God's courtroom. It's the point when God declares a man or a woman as righteous. That's the point when God declares man or a woman righteous. And that's why in *Ephesians Chapter 2*,

## **Ephesians 2:8-9**

***<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

It is by grace that we have been saved through faith and not by yourself. Meaning, when God declares saved, nobody will be able to boast, "I was saved because I did this." It is the end of religious man and the righteous man. Salvation is entirely the work of God. it is the point when God declares somebody as righteous and please understand this too – we are not saved by mercy; we are saved by grace. By mercy, we only receive the forgiveness of our sins. We are not saved. A sinner who is forgiven is still a forgiven sinner. A criminal who receives a pardon is still a forgiven criminal. No criminals will enter the Kingdom of God, because the Kingdom of God is the kingdom of righteousness. Mercy does not get you entry into Kingdom of God; it does not. Because if I had received only mercy in my life, I am still a criminal in the court God's Kingdom. I can live on earth till I die and when I die, I cannot enter into heaven because *Hebrew 1:8* is absolutely clear that the Kingdom of God

## **Hebrews 1:8**

***<sup>8</sup>But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.***

He entire Kingdom is a Kingdom of righteousness and the problem is – only the righteous can enter into His Kingdom. That's why in *Matthew 6:33*, the most familiar verse for many of us know, God says,

## **Matthew 6:33**

***<sup>33</sup>But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...***

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The Kingdom of God and God's righteousness. Because it is the Kingdom that is established on the righteousness of God. Nobody who received mercy alone will be able to enter that Kingdom because there is a problem. The problem is here in,

### **Romans 3:9-10**

**<sup>9</sup> What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. (all are under sin. And then, verse 10) <sup>10</sup> As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;**

No one is righteous. Absolutely no one is righteous, and if we are not righteous, we cannot enter the Kingdom of God. No one is righteous, and His Kingdom is a Kingdom of righteousness. And you need to realize – in this world, in this human earth, world, there are only two kinds of righteousness available. One, is the righteousness that comes from observing the law. There is an issue over there.

### **Romans 3:19-20**

**<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

Little difficult for the young ones but understand it. I will try to explain it in a way that you can understand. Everybody who's born is born under a law. Every religion is established of the law. The law does not help anybody. The law only condemns you. Whether you are born into a Christian family, or a Jewish family, or a Muslim family or a Hindu family, every religion in its core has a law. And you are considered 'dharmic', righteous only if you keep the tenets of the law and the problem nobody can keep the law. It's impossible. Even a Hindu cannot keep Hindu law, the actual core of their Scripture. Muslim cannot keep the actual core of Islam. It's impossible to keep the actual core of Buddhism. It's impossible to keep the ten commandments. It's impossible to keep any law.

### **James 2:10**

**<sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.**

You see, this is the issue with the law, okay? Let us say, IPC Code has hundreds of sections, I kept 99. When I am produced to court, they don't mention about that 99 I kept, they only mention the one which I broke. And because I broke one under the law, I am called a criminal. That is why no one is righteous, absolutely righteous. Why I am saying this is because this is one of the dangers of getting caught in the religion called Christianity. Because if you ask everywhere I go, many times, I open this question with Christians; I am not talking about non-Christians. Ask this question to the Christians, ask them, "Why do you think, if you die today, you will go to heaven?" 9 out of 10 times, the answer is because of their good works; yet, that same law under which they're answering those questions is, there is none righteous no one. Because what does the law do? The Scripture says, "It awakens sin. It makes you conscious of sin." Why is it that the righteous Hindu keeps on back to rivers? Why is that the; I am not talking about the sinners; why does a righteous Muslim keep on going for Haj? If you could be cleansed by one going, you could be clean, right? You go there, you feel good. You come out a little later, you realize the very law under which you operated is condemning you again because you know you have come short of the law. That's the issue. So, there one way of righteousness which is possible, but nobody can keep it; it is a possibility and only one man fulfilled that possibility, that was Jesus. Other than that, nobody. You can't say, "It is not possible for us; it was possible for Him."

Then, there is this second one, which is,

### **Romans 3:21, 23**

**<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God (the key word is this 'apart') apart from the law is revealed,**

See, there are two kinds of people born on earth. One is law abiding and the other are lawless. Honestly, in every religion, you have the law abiding and the lawless. The law abiding one is the one who cries in his soul, "Who will rescue me?" The lawless one is not bothered about religion or his temple or his mosque. He is not bothered. There are law abiding ones who actually cry out and they try to fulfil and try to fulfil and in the Judaism system the law and the prophets, Scriptures says is actually pointing to the desire in you for righteousness. It is the righteousness from God, it's righteousness of God. It is

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apart from the Law. And then, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and all who believe for there is no difference. This is the righteousness that comes by faith for those who believe in Jesus Christ. It is apart from the law. And then,

**<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

Righteousness that is from God apart from the law is found in Jesus Christ alone. You have to understand. That is how actual salvation takes place is brought about. If you read verses 25 and 26.

### **Romans 3:25-26**

**<sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness,**

If you don't understand salvation in terms of righteousness, we will never understand salvation and we may not be saved. Why I tell you this is, salvation, when it happens to a person's life, it is a divine act of God where He declares a man or a woman righteous because he believed in Jesus Christ apart from the law. When that thing happens, there is an immediate natural hunger and thirst for righteousness and if that doesn't happen, you are not saved. You've just shifted religion, because salvation is a divine act where the righteousness of God is created in us because he has to declare you and me.

**<sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier...**

...of the one who has faith in Jesus. It's an incredible term Paul uses over there. He is just, and He is the Justifier. Like I was telling the young men who were there yesterday – the temptation in the Garden, was the man was the one who was tempted but the plot was not against man; the plot was against God. The plot was against God, because you have to realize, this is what is happening – there is God who loves man and there is God who hates sin. So, devil is doing something over here saying that, "If I take what You hate and put it in what You love, what will You do? Will You destroy what You love? Will you wink at what You hate?" That's what was happening over there. That's why Scriptures, the mystery of the Cross was hidden from the powers of this age. If they had known, they would not have crucified Jesus. Because what He did was He took what He hated, He put it on His Son and judged Him and then, He put the righteousness that was in His Son, put it in the one He loved; therefore, He is both the Just and the justifier. That is salvation. Everything else is the effect of it. If we don't understand salvation, we may be caught in the incredible trap, the subtle trap of religion. So, we have to understand how crafty the devil is.

### **Romans 5:12**

**<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned—**

I want you to understand all this. Let your spiritual eyes be opened. Like we say, for us who are in the physical realm, the anointing is put in terms of oil. Because we are physical, God says, "Pour the oil upon them," but does the oil get poured; oil on your head, do you get anointed? No. The anointing actually symbolized by the oil is something spiritual; it is not a matter. The anointing is spiritual. It is not made of matter. So, what happens? Even Peter's shadow can heal because the anointing can rest upon the shadow because the shadow and the anointing are non-real. Are you understanding it? Look at this. You have to, let us say, you have to see sin as a real entity. Sin is outside. Adam is here; sin is there. Sin entered into man. When it entered into man, his entire spiritual genetic make-up changed. From there, when Adam died, every man died in Adam. That's what happened. You will not go to hell because you sinned; you'll go to hell because in you is sin. That's what David is saying,

### **Psalms 51:5**

**<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.**

You don't have to do anything with the little babies at the back to make them sin; just leave them alone. Automatically, they will grow up and start growing in sin. Why? The nature inside is sin. If you don't understand that, we will try all the

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works of religion and think at the end, God will say, "It's not about your works; your righteousness itself is like filthy rages because you are, what? Conceived in sin." Righteousness won't count at all. So, what is God's solution? God's solution is given,

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> ***For He made Him (Jesus Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

It is God's solution hidden from everybody. Hidden from everybody. Nobody had any clue. And even till today, the best most well-read wise Jewish Rabbi is not able to see this close to his sight. Because this will be opened only when he opens his eyes to Christ. He can go through entire *Isaiah 53* and all through *Isaiah*, read it and come up with weird explanation but is unable to see the salvation of God because it was hidden from the demonic powers and hidden from every religious person until you humble yourself and realize your depravity and come. So, salvation, the first act of salvation is to repent! Therefore, you receive mercy, repent; therefore, you receive mercy, believe you are declared righteous. Repent, believe in the work of Jesus Christ, "Lord, this is what I am." You are not repenting of all your sins. You are repenting of sin. "This is who I am. This is not what I do. I do all these things because who I am. If I am, this is what I do; but if I am not that person, then I won't do these things. So, I am not even looking at what I did. I am not giving a list of my sins. I am acknowledging this is who I am, and this is who You are. Lord, I repent." Lord says, "Mercy." Because the problem is the religious person will be like the Pharisee and will come and say, "I do this and I am not like that type, I am not like that dude." Everything he says is true about himself and about this man, but the problem is inside, both him and this fellow is the same sin nature. So, God says, "Let Me take this man, this tax collector, put him in your family and take you and put him in his family. He would have grown like him and you would have grown up like him. There is no difference." Each one of us, everyone is a sinner. Because of sin, we react different only because of our upbringing and circumstances but inside, everybody is same. And you are not judged by what you did outside; you are judged by what you are inside. Inside and inside, everybody was conceived in sin. There is no other way under heaven other than the way through Christ. That's why Jesus says, "I am the way." There is no other name given under the heavenlies other than the Name, Jesus. So, if we repent, we believe. That's in *Romans 10*.

### **Romans 10:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> ***But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (And what?) <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto (that's not what religion says. You work unto) righteousness,***

God says, "You believe unto righteousness," you believe, "Lord, this is what I am, this is who He is, and I believe He died for my sins, I believe He was buried, I believe He rose again." And God says, "Your sin on Him is righteousness on you." That's the beginning of salvation.

<sup>11</sup> ***For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."***

Meaning, on that day, he will be declared not guilty; he will not be put to shame. So, remember these three things. First, it begins with repentance, that is mercy. Second, goes to believing and repentance is a change of mind. It's a change of desire and it a change of will and it only deepens as we grow. It doesn't become less; it only becomes deepens as we grow. And then, the third comes – get baptized. And all those who got baptized last month, baptism is when you identify (we'll come to that later) with the death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Let's look at the Old Testament pattern. I taught that also last month to the Pastors. Let's look at it. *Romans 4:3*. We're looking at an Old Testament pattern to understand the New Testament truth.

### **Romans 4:3**

<sup>3</sup> ***For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."***

What did he do? He believed in God accounted him for righteousness. And it says about us, what does it say?

### **Romans 4:23-24**

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**<sup>23</sup> Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, <sup>24</sup> but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,**

Now, the issue here is this – when does God say, ‘Abraham is righteous’? Okay, let me give you. You know your history by now. *Genesis* chapter 11 according to Stephen in *Acts chapter 7:2*, “The God of our Fathers appeared to our Father Abraham, when he was in the Ur of the Chaldeans and told him to leave. He packed up and he left.” God did not call him righteous. He got stuck at Haran; his father died; God came to him again, “Pack up, move.” He entered into the Promised Land; he made an altar; God met him there; God blessed him; God did not call him righteous. He went into Egypt; he goofed up; God rescued him; he came back, went back to the altar, made peace with God; God did not call him righteous. There was conflict in his household; he and Lot separated; he was very merciful, kind to his nephew; gave him first choice; nephew took all the best land, walked away; God did not call him righteous. His nephew got into trouble; there is war in the land; his nephew is the prisoner; he risked his own life with 318 soldiers; he wins the war; he comes back Melchizedek, gives him bread and wine; God did not declare him righteous. He overcomes the lust of money; Bera comes, the king of Sodom comes and says, “Take all these things, just give me the people.” He says, “I don’t want anything from you, not even a thong from your sandal will I take. I have lifted my hand to the living God.” God did not declare him righteous. Incredible, right? By this time at least 15-20 years are over. This man is supposedly walking by faith without being declared righteous. That’s what *Hebrews 11:8* says, “Abraham went without knowing where he was going because he obeyed by faith,” but He does not declare him righteous. In *Genesis 15*, God appears to him and says, “Abraham, I am your mighty shield and exceedingly great reward,” and he says “What’s the point? I have no children. All this will go to Eliezer.” And God takes him outside and tells him, “Come here and look up.” And when he sees, he believes. This is the issue. He brought him outside,

### **Genesis 15:5**

**<sup>5</sup> Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”**

Now, this is the problem. You need to understand; the problem with most translations in most languages are actually wrong. God did not tell, “Call it your descendants.” Go to KJV and I’ll prove it from Scripture; not that my translation is right, Scripture will prove the translators in every language went wrong. What does Scripture say?

### **Genesis 15:5**

**...and he said unto him, so shall thy seed be. (KJV)**

Did not say ‘seeds’; ‘seed be’ did not say ‘descendants’; your son, one child. That’s what God said. You know, if the fundamental core of our salvation goes wrong, if translation goes wrong. Translation goes wrong. Look at *Galatians 3:16* and listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through Paul.

### **Galatians 3:16**

**<sup>16</sup> Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.**

It’s NKJV. Now, you look at this, the NKJV translators, who translated this portion, is translating the other as ‘descendants’ without realizing Scripture itself is telling you your translation is wrong. So, can you understand how academically scholarly you can be in Scripture and your eyes be blinded? Because this is revelation; This is not scholarship. Here, it is very clearly saying, “He does not say to his seeds.” Then, how did they translate ‘descendants’? ‘To his seed and your seed’; not Isaac ‘your seed, Christ’. You know what happened that day? Took him up showed him heavens and Abraham had a vision. He saw Christ coming, Christ dying, and Christ rising from the dead and he believed in Christ; God said, “You are righteous. He is the only way anyone will be declared righteous, when we have believed in the work of Jesus Christ for our salvation.” Abel walked by faith, Enoch walked by faith, Noah walked by faith. Are any of these people called the father of believers? No. Only Abraham.

### **John 8:58**

**<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”**

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And He actually says, “Abraham rejoiced to see My day.” When did Abraham see His day? On that day, in *Genesis 15*, when around 10 years into the Promised Land, he is probably about 85 years old. That’s the day when he saw the day of Jesus and he rejoiced, and God declared, “You are righteous.” Everybody salvation is one way. You have to believe in the work of Jesus Christ because we were born in sin; we were born enemies of God. The first breathe your baby took, he started dying; We are born dying because we are born at death-row. And we were at war with God. We were the enemies of God. We were born not as friends of God but as enemies of God. Yet, when Christ receives God’s righteous demands, we receive justice from God. He declares us righteous. One of the first effects of righteousness is you have peace with God. You have peace with God. *Romans 5:1* says,

### **Romans 5:1**

***<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ***

What do we have? That is why when people sin, when saints sin, the first thing they lose is their peace. Sinners, when they sin, they don’t lose their peace. They’re only seeing to see that, “I should not get caught.” That was Saul. All he wants is that – “I don’t want to be exposed. I don’t want to be caught.” The other fellow, David when he sins, he’s not able to sleep. These are all symbols in the Old Testament given to us in the New Testament given to us that we may learn. You have peace. Understand salvation. Salvation begins as an act of righteousness—God declaring a person righteous. And when God declares a person righteous, deep inside, you have something supernatural, a peace with God and a joy that is from God. That is supernatural. That has got nothing to do with this world.

Second thing, you need to understand is – when Christ died on the Cross, everyone who believed in Jesus, has believed in Jesus and will believe in Jesus, everybody died with Christ when He died. Let me ask you, you’ll wonder how is that possible? Let me ask you this question. When I die, you don’t die; when I die, doesn’t every cell in my body die? What is the Church called? When Christ died, did His body die? When Christ died, did His body die? That is why the Church is called the Body of Christ. That’s the only way salvation is possible. There is a God who is the judge. There is a victim, who is the Son. And there are executioners whom we do not know. God, the Father, as the Justice, declares His Son guilty and orders Him to be hung to death.

### **Acts 2:23**

***<sup>23</sup>Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;***

Let me ask you this question; we know God; we know Jesus; do we know the executioners? No, we don’t know. It is God who decided that His Son should be hung and people carried out the sentence. The last man to be hung in India was Yakub Memon. He was hung in 2015, if my memory is right. We know his name, the victim – Yakub. We know the justice, Justice Cordey of the Tata court, who ordered him to be hung. His final mercy petition was only dismissed by the Justice Sadashivan of the Supreme Court and he was hung. Do we know who hung him? We know the justice. We know the victim. We don’t know who hung him. A Pune constable in Nagpur Jail. We don’t even know who hung him. So, it doesn’t even matter who hung him. What matters is ordered him to be hung and why did he hang? Justice of God is both the just and the justified. Why did He hang His Son? So that His righteousness could be held. If we don’t understand that, we will not value our salvation and we will not hunger and thirst after righteousness because, it is God who ordered His Son to be executed. So, when Jesus died, His body died. When He died, everybody in Christ also died. When He was buried, everyone was buried with Him. And when He rose again, everybody rose again with Him. In the spiritual realm, that is true. That is why after your salvation, the most important ordinance of God is your baptism. After your salvation, not before your salvation. Repent and believe. You cannot be baptized before you have even been declared righteous. You cannot be baptized even before you got saved. That is why all these baby baptisms mean nothing at all, because it has practically no sense or meaning. First you have to hear. You have repent. You have to receive mercy. You have to believe. You have to be declared righteous. Now that you’re declared righteous, you need to go down with Jesus and come up so that the old man dies and the new man starts living for Christ. *Romans 6* will say it this way.

### **Romans 6:3-4**

***<sup>3</sup>Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?***

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Baptism is what? It is a burial service of the old man, because that man was put in Christ. And when Christ was buried, you were buried with Him and as a symbol of that on earth, you go down under water.

***<sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.***

That is the resurrection life. The entire gamut of life has changed. Our desires have changed. Our aspirations have changed. Earlier, we were tuned to the world; now, we are tuned to the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, because if your death is real, then your life is also real. If your life is not real, it's because your death is not real. If you're saying that you're baptized but you're living the old life, then you did not die with Christ. Because salvation is a very radical experience in the lives of people. In heaven, I am hidden with Christ. On earth, Christ is hidden in me. That's the difference. In heaven, you are seated with Christ and seated with Him at the right hand side of the Father. On earth, He is hidden in me. Both places, it is about Him. It's not about us. You need to realize, on earth Christ is the head. Church is the body. On earth, the devil is the head and the world is his body. Did you ever see the world that way? The Church and the world is like oil and water. They cannot mix. They are absolute separate entities. Because spiritually they're entirely different. One—Christ is the head and the Church is His body. The other devil is the head and the world is his body. And God says, how can you love the world? How can you be friendly with the world? Don't you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Satan hates Christ and the Body of Christ. The world hates Christ and the world hates the Body of Christ. If the world does not hate you, let's go to,

### **John 15:18**

***<sup>18</sup>“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.***

You know, I will tell you. Often, you will say, the world does not have me. There are two reasons. One is because the world doesn't know Christ. So if you go to a Christless place where people don't know Christ and you're a Christian among them, they don't hate you because they don't know Christ. So, Christ was also not hated until He started preaching, “I am the way.” Till then, they loved Him and they were trying everything to pull Him into the Pharisaical religious circle and He refused to join and He said, “I'm the only way. No one can come to the Father except through Me.” He started talking about salvation exclusive to Him. That's when they started hating Him. So, if you do not talk about Christ, they won't hate you. But if you talk about the actual Christ that your good works count to nothing and unless you believe in the Lord Christ, the fangs will come out. And I've seen it even in my closest circles, everything changes. Till then, they say, “You're a cool dude. Your jokes are great.” The minute you actually start telling them this is it, a wall comes up.

### **John 15:18-19**

***<sup>18</sup>“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”***

Understand. Salvation is very clear. The effects of salvation are also very clear. You looked in the mirror today? How many looked in the mirror today? Be honest in the house of God. How many looked in the mirror today? Did you see your face? Did you see your mind? So, are you mindless? No, you have never seen your mind but you know that you have a mind. Have you seen your body? Have you seen your flesh? Both are spiritual entities. Just because I see my body that doesn't mean that I don't have flesh. In that body, there resides a spiritual factor that is called the flesh. I cannot see the wind but you can identify the wind by the effects the wind has. In the same way, you cannot see your flesh but know your flesh by the effects the flesh has on your life. That's how you know that your flesh is alive. In the same way, you cannot see your spirit but know the effects of the spirit in your life. That's how you count or grade salvation, if you want to use the term grading. See, till here, salvation is by faith, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and receiving Him, almost everybody is right till there. Even the hyper grace fellow is also right till there because you have saved by grace and grace alone. After that is where the massive split comes, that is the huge split and it happens in *Romans 1:16-17*, there is a combination of both.

### **Romans 1:16-17**

***<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”***

First, you have to be justified and that is our problem. Our problem is once you are declared righteous because of your faith, after that, there is only one way you can live; that is by faith alone to grow in your righteousness; otherwise, you stop. You step into sight, you get retarded in your righteousness, and you don't grow anymore. It is from faith to faith because there is a righteousness of God apart from the law that is revealed that is from faith to faith and much of the teaching is true till your saved which is the act of salvation and after that the devil pulls the wool over people's eyes. There are two ways he fools. One, either he will give you a false narrative of grace and pull you into the world by saying, "God understands," because you are living under grace and you go over there and you move from faith to sight and righteousness has ceased in your life. The danger of it is – the righteousness has to be progressive and everything in God's Kingdom is moving either forward or backward. And if you regress, the other word regress; you can regress all the way to perdition. If you are not becoming better, you don't remain good; actually, inside, you are becoming worse and worse and one day, you will fall away from your salvation. Either he will take you onto that other path that is grace and fool or he will pull you into legalism and take you back to the law. Two traps he will set you – either he will tell you that, "Grace understands and that's okay, I'm born like that." You have moved from faith to sight and you are not growing in your righteousness or he will take you back to the law and say, "You got saved now but now, start keeping the law." God says, "There is a righteousness of God that is revealed only by faith." How will you know? Whether Moses comes and preaches here or Paul comes and preaches here, they will only preach from the same book. If you are under law, you receive this as condemnation; if you are under grace, you receive this as conviction. The preacher and the Word is the same; it is your heart that determines where you are. That's how you know, the book is the same.

On the Day of Pentecost or post Pentecost, when the Apostle taught, they taught the doctrines from the apostles from the Old Testament but people did not receive it as condemnation as the law; they were convicted and they kept on changing. The question is: how you do hear the Word of God? You will know where you are, I don't know. Only each one who hears knows where you are, I don't know. Are you being condemned or are you being convicted? Because the law brings condemnation and the Holy Spirit brings conviction. Both use the same text. So, the first act of being declared righteous not only that but after that, the rest of the journey is also only by faith and when you flip over to sight, quickly repent. I'm not even talking about sinning as sin but we are not aware of it. The actual factual decisions in sight and sin, right? Now, you understand *Romans 14:23*? Understand? Tell me what is *Romans 14:23*? Not Pastor Vijay. Let's go there.

### **Romans 14:23**

**<sup>3</sup> But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.**

I am walking by faith and then, in a very family decision, I take a decision of sight; there is no ethical issue in that but that decision itself is sin because it was not taken by faith. *And faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God.* See, we are under the law. So, we think, "Oh, I sinned, I did this thing," and God says, "Yes you did this sin and I understand that too but more than that for the past seven days, you have been walking by sight; you are not even walking by faith." See, when I go for mission trips, like I went two weeks back, I tell them; first stop, one of the things that I teach them is that, "You are coming with me, listen to what I say and the anointing that is upon me will work. You will not fall ill, not because of what you did anything but because of what I did. I have been preparing for this trip all my life; not this trip but every trip. I take care of my body, I don't eat junk, I exercise, and I walk on my tread mill on an incline to climb mountains. I will not tire because I look into the Word and I say the body for the Lord and the Lord for the body. You walk with me, you can eat anything, you will not fall sick because when I am on mission, I eat everything and I never fall sick." "Where you do get that from?" I said, "Jesus said, 'when I sent you, did you lack anything?'" I said, "You are coming with me and I am sending you and you will not lack; it's by faith," and two of the people who came along with me, really very sick, one a pastor was throwing up on Sunday morning, his BP shot up to 180 or something and I was looking at him and I said, "If you cannot come, don't come but if you can come, come by faith come." By 11 in the night, he packed up and he came Sunday night. 2:30 in the morning, we woke up; 3:30 in the morning, we left on Monday morning; 18 hours, we travelled; 6 vehicles, we changed and the entire trip, he was fit as a fiddle. Nothing happened. Another person was sick because she can't eat anything because of gastric. I said, "First, you don't call it as gastric; it is a gas trick. It's not going to happen to you because we are going on a mission where we didn't know where we are going, who is going to feed us. You cannot be choosy about it. Start eating today and eat; you will not fall sick. And the only available in that dabha was chole batura which that dear sister had not eaten probably for years and she started eating. Entire eight days, nobody fell sick. On my App, it showed that I myself had climbed 111 stories. That's higher than the Empire State Building. This has got to do with faith and faith



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comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. It's hearing from the Word of God. You have to go to This and say, "Lord, the new man accepts Your Word, absolutely. Absolutely accepts the Word. I believe Your Word is true. The old man doubts. The old man's righteousness comes by works; the new man's righteousness comes by walking by faith," because the new man is not you; it's Christ. So, be very careful about the trap of the devil by how the devil, slowly, through the world, will pull us back to sight and it is a physical world; and it is a material world. And I hope, you're not a material girl. Those who know the song are smiling. Are you getting it? Two tricks of the devil – that's what you see through the Paul's letters. You see the Church of Corinth, absolutely carnal; yet, born again. And the Church in Galatia, has gone absolutely legal and he is saying, "What's wrong with you, Corinth? What's wrong with you Galatians? You are walking in absolute flesh and you fellows are walking in absolute legalism. You are not called to either; you are supposed to walk by faith. Because, there is a righteousness that is revealed, that is from God." And it is faith unto faith. So, we are here on the 9<sup>th</sup> month, the first Sunday and we have to have a radical soul searching – am I growing in righteousness from faith to faith? Because they're all connected – grace, faith, righteousness. The more grace comes into my life, there should be more righteousness established in my life. It is all connected.

Then, I'll show you something which most of the men of God; I have read, heard, studied, didn't see. Abraham was declared righteous in *Genesis 15*. What did God say?

### **Genesis 15:6**

<sup>6</sup>**And he (Abraham) believed in the LORD, and He accounted (God credited into his account. Like bank account credited) it to him for righteousness.**

Then, what does *James*, say in *James 2*?

### **James 2:21-22**

<sup>21</sup>**Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?** <sup>22</sup>**Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?**

So, he was justified, works but his faith was made perfect years later, maybe 30 or 35 years later. When he believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, he was around 85. When he offered Isaac, he must be at least 120 years old, minimum. So, that is 35 years later. And what does Scripture say in verse 23?

### **James 2:23-24**

<sup>23</sup>**And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.** <sup>24</sup>**You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**

There is a declaration, a proclamation over our lives. God says, "You are righteous and there is a fulfilling of that Scripture one day in our life when we are righteous." When he offered Isaac on the altar, Abraham was absolutely totally dead to the flesh and Christ had reached his maturity in him. And God said, "Now, you are righteous, 25 years minimum." So, don't stop at *Genesis 15*. Read Scripture carefully. There is a growing in righteousness where one day, God has to say, "You know what? I remember the day in 1984, on October the 23<sup>th</sup>, when you accepted Me, I declared you righteous." And then, one day, like Paul when he is about to die, he/she is able to say that Scripture is fulfilled, you are perfect. Your faith is perfect, your righteousness is complete. It's a journey and the devil will use this material world to pull us of that journey so that if he cannot take us to perdition, he can, at least, steal our crown from us. What does Paul say? "*I have finished the race, fought the good fight.*" And I will receive, what? The crown of righteousness. Righteousness, he has reached the crowning of righteousness, "I was declared righteous, on the day I was on the road to Damascus when I believed." Today, I know if I were to die, what do I get? The crown of righteousness. That's what we're running for, and every step of that way is by faith and by faith alone. Please remember what Paul and God through Paul teach us about this race and don't take it lightly. In *Colossians 1:3-6*,

### **Colossians 1:3-6**

<sup>3</sup>**We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,** <sup>4</sup>**since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;** <sup>5</sup>**because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard**

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***before in the word of the truth of the gospel, <sup>6</sup> which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;***

Let me ask you honestly, do you really love the saints? Most Christians I know, all their friends are outside the Church. I am not saying you cannot be friendly with people, but I am saying what about the love for the saints? That's why right below the doctrine is kept fellowship. Take a normal family, good absolute normal family. The father, the mother, let's say, the 6-seater table with 4 children, all small children. They have a wonderful home. Do you remember when children were small, they will come and talk and talk and talk...they love talking to their parents. Talk and talk, you have a gala time, instructions are obeyed but there is lot of fellowship, lot of joy, lot of fun. And after that, children start growing up and start going outside. When children start going outside, little later, as they grow, they have friends. If you notice children, they will not tell you the names of all their friends because they already know which friends their parents will approve. And because they have formed friends with outside, you will always see the effect of the fellowship inside. When a man doesn't talk to his wife at home, you can be very sure he's got a girlfriend at office. When a woman doesn't talk to her husband at home, you can be very sure, she's got a boyfriend at office. Because fellowship outside always damages fellowship inside. That's what it is – these are fundamental doctrines. And God will say, "I am not looking at your works; I am looking at your life." See, we are still under legalism because I tithe, I went to Church, I go to mid-week service. God says, "Where's your fellowship? Where is your love for the saints?"

When I go to these places, other places where mothers ask me, "Pastor, I got small children, can you give me advice?" I said one thing; I said, "I learned it and I thank God for the way he planned my life out because in David's book, God says, *God has made all my days and he prepared my days for me in the book.*"

### **Psalms 139:16**

***<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.***

And I look back and I thank God, I was born in the mountains. You see, in the mountains, you see the grandeur of God's creation the mountains, the rivers and the stars clear. The first time I saw in so many years, all the stars in Heaven, because up in the mountain, the sky is clear. Instead, what do we do? We take our babies and we go to the mall. The world gets in and they are not able to hear the voice of God speaking through creation, as they grew up because the eyes have been blinded by the world, which is all of man. I tell people, when I went to Singapore, I hated it. I go to Dubai, I dislike it. Because, it's all talking about the glory of man; there's nothing there to glory about. What do we do? Our primary fundamental mistake, we do is we take our children into all these things of the world and then, we are fasting and interceding that they will accept Jesus one day. God says, "You goofed up big time. You are not even repenting about the steps you did to mess their minds up; you filled them with the world and now, you're crying, "Lord! Deliver them from the world." God says, "It doesn't work like that." That's why, He saved them by the blood of the Passover lamb in Egypt. And their slave masters were pursuing them, he finished them in the waters of baptism in the Red sea. And then, let them in the wilderness to shut the city out so that they could learn to hear His voice and appreciate His grandeur. And if that doesn't happen, we will be like this in our salvation. And in this last days, it is very dangerous place to be.

### **Colossians 1:4-6**

***<sup>4</sup> since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; <sup>5</sup> because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, <sup>6</sup> which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God (Jesus Christ) in truth;***

You need to realize, there is faith, there is love, there is hope. Is our hope real? Where does your hope come from? Because hope, too, in the spiritual Kingdom is tangible. How did Paul know, "My crown was real"? Because his hope was real. Why was his hope real? Because his love was real. Why was his love was real? Because his faith was real. They are all connected; it's got nothing to do with works. These are real, tangible entities in the spiritual man or a woman's life. The God of the Bible never lies; He doesn't lie. Salvation is a real thing; it is not in your mind alone, it's a real experience where you are actually born of God. The Kingdom of God is real; otherwise, He won't say, "You cannot see, you cannot enter." You can see and you can enter but not with these eyes but if these eyes are blinded by the material world, then we are asking for trouble. So, understand, there is fruit of the Kingdom. You know about fruit in this world, you read verse 9 & 10,

**Colossians 1:9**

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

When you read these Epistles, do you read how the same Apostle and the same Holy Spirit address different Churches in different ways? With Corinthians, he is breaking His head; with Galatians, he is saying, “How did you go to the law?” With Colossians, he is saying “Wow.” Thessalonica, He will say, “Wow,” because it is the same word which is being preached to the different sets of believers but how they are receiving it, practicing it, is different and God commends somebody and He puts down somebody and we get upset when we do that but justice demands that you are fair. God does it. He says that you may walk worthy of the Lord fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. This is like a child who has got 8 out of 10 and the teacher is saying “Very Good. Now, try to get 10 out of 10.” That’s God. It was the fruit that gave them hope.

Understand these things. Then only you will have your hope will be real and you are not afraid. Let me explain in terms which we understand, our terms – Young children, eyes started glittering. So, we have this habit. We, when I use ‘we,’ because I happen to be a Pastor, I include myself in you though I am not guilty of that. We have this wonderful pass time called window-shopping. When we do this window-shopping, the merchandise is kept nicely in those glass boxes. We will see everyday morning, that fellow will come and clean the glass and dust the things inside so that it can catch our eyes, our attention. It catches our eye. Finally, we stop and we know that there is no money in the pocket but we still stop. And once we get in over there, we realize to own it, there is a price to pay. To own what you see in that glass box, you realize there is a price to pay. When you are ill and you end up in a hospital, you wish you had a medical insurance, but to have the medical insurance, there is a premium to pay. Everybody wants benefits; nobody wants to buy the policy. Let me ask you this question: who does not want love? Who does not want mercy? Who does not want peace? Who doesn’t want provision coming into your life through the hands of God? But we sell love without commitment. We sell mercy without repentance. And we try to sell the provision of God’s Kingdom without seeking His Kingdom and His Righteousness first. I am telling you, it doesn’t happen. We sell the products of the Kingdom of God, which is a result of being rooted in faith, and growing in faith, which in other words, is called “Abiding in Christ”. We seek fruit with no root, without knowing, or knowingly, automatically, we slip into sight because we anyway know how to walk in sight. If you are planted right, it is inevitable that you bear fruit. Let me tell you about fruit, whether it is a fruit of a tree, or the fruit of a child, a fruit in God’s Kingdom, a fruit is always the result of a union. Where there is no union, you cannot work out fruit. There is nothing you can do about the fruit, other than to be united to the vine, nothing absolutely nothing. It is a result of a union. That’s what Jesus said, “If you abide in Me,”

**John 15:4-6**

***<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.***

Have you ever seen a branch struggling to bear fruit? All you have to do is to be attached to the vine.

***<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.***

Jesus always used agriculture metaphors to explain the reality of the spiritual life. My question is, “How do you know that you are cast out?” Let me ask you, “Is your spiritual life withering? Is your spiritual life withering or is it flourishing?” It’s not casting into the fire immediately. That’s another day. Picture is that, when you know, you take a branch, break it from the vine and leave it over there, the first two days, it looks green, and slowly, the leaf starts fading. You will look; it has dried up at this end where it was connected to the vine. That is the first place where it dries up. There is still some sap inside. There is some old life over there. So, it still remains. But as that life is drying up, you will see something else happening. Now, this is very fast – a day, two days and three days, spiritually, not the same way. Question is: how do you see yourself? How do we see ourselves? You and I have to be planted; you and I have to be rooted; you and I have to be watered and you and I have to watch out for the weeds. You see, I will tell you something. Fruit is not contagious. The fruit of the Spirit is not

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contagious. You can sit beside somebody full of faith all your life and not even have one bit of the faith to be transferred because fruit is not contagious. Let's put a more intimate this thing, you can lie beside your spouse, the most loving person on the planet earth and still be the most unloving person because fruit is not contagious. You can be living under the roof of the most peaceful man on earth; yet, you could be the most peace less person on earth, because fruit is no contagious. You can catch a cold; you cannot catch love. You cannot catch peace. It's not possible. In,

### Galatians 5:22

***22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,***

All these are fruits. It comes by being attached to the vine. See, we have sold a lie, that the world and the Kingdom of God can coexist peacefully side-by-side. No, it's not possible. It's a lie from the pit of hell. The world and the Kingdom of God cannot coexist side by side because they are diametrically opposite every area. Yet, what I used that word used yesterday we have not been isolated from the world; we have been insulated from the world. If you go outside on the mainline with power, there is no insulation, if you touch it, you will die. That's why it is kept at that height. But when the same power comes over here. There is power here (plug points inside the Church hall). I don't die because it is insulated. It didn't isolate us. He insulated us. When we go into this world, the world has no effect on us. The new man as he grows his insulation grows, by the time the devil comes to Jesus, "He says, *"The ruler of this world has come and he has found nothing in Me."* This is how you know. I talk to my wife (I don't mention the names), "Honey, I went to this Church and I saw this old lady, she has got kids of marriageable age, and she is regular in the Church." I said, "If you look at her, you feel so sad. You know how she is dressed? She is dressed in all these tights with this heart shapes holes and all that trying to look young and cool. She looks so sick because you have brought the world into the house of God." If you walk like the duck, quack like the duck, you must be a duck, right? You can't dress like the world, talk like the world, walk like the world, and say, "I am of the Kingdom." It's not possible. I am not talking to the young believers. I am talking to those who are much older in the Lord, those who are in the Lord for seven, eight, nine years. Paul gives you three years, God gives you three years. After that, if the world is not dead in you, then it is something seriously wrong. Absolutely wrong. I am just touching few things. It is much bigger than that because the Kingdom of God is unbelievably radical. It is righteousness, it is peace and it is joy. And it is the righteousness that it is of God and from God. It is the peace that is of God and from God and not the peace of this world. Meaning, nothing the world does can affect that peace. Because the world did not give it, the world cannot take it away. The joy is nothing of this world; it is absolutely let us say 'supernatural'. That's why Paul and Silas are able to worship and sing in the jail in the midnight hour because the Kingdom of God is not like the kingdom of this world. But on the other hand, if you are not growing in faith, we will not experience this growing in us. When faith begins, I and you cease and Christ begins; the world ceases and the Kingdom of God begins. The question is: how do you and I recognize the Christ in us? You know when I look into the mirror I see myself. But how do you see Christ? You have to look at Scriptures,

### Colossians 1:14-18

***14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.***

Don't just read Scripture; personalize it. The question I ask is: is He for me before all things? Is He the first call in the morning, or the last call before I go to sleep? Is He the one I seek before I take a job, or is He the one I take when I am kicked out of a job? Is He before all things?

***18 And he is the head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.***

He is the head of the body, and in Him all things consist; He holds together. Ask yourself: is He holding everything in my life together? Is He? Or is it me? In my wisdom, in my capacity, and my money, my intellect, or is He holding it all together? You have to ask real personal question to know, whether it is Christ, or whether it is me? Is He before all things? Do I ask who I should get married to or do I ask Him when my marriage is on rocks? Is He before all things? He's there for both. That's not the question for the believer. Is He the one I ask about my career? Or do I fast and pray when my career is going nowhere?

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That's why Jesus uses illustrations to teach - *I am the vine, you are the branches* and fruit is a result of abiding. Let me tell you, if you have heard about talent hunters. There are these talent hunters who go from village to village, watching these boys play cricket, because they always know somewhere in a hidden village, up there in those mud road, there will be another Sachin or Kholi, which is true. They are taking these not to play cricket, or to pick a bunch of people to play cricket, but they're looking for a future star. Jesus had crowds following him, thousands after him. But He was always looking to see if He could get a disciple. And He got only eleven because ultimately, when the history of this world is written, it will be written the history was framed by the disciples and not by the followers. That's the commission – make followers.

### **2 Chronicles 16:9**

***<sup>9</sup>For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.***

Even today, even in this place, that's all God is looking for somebody whose heart is stayed on Him. Can you believe of the thousands who followed Him, received miracles, food, provision everything, He picked only eleven; the twelfth person was picked, knowing that he would be the son of perdition; so, technically, only eleven? And the only qualification they had was they were radical in their commitment. You have to accept the fact that when he went to Jerusalem, they said, "Let us all go to Jerusalem and die with Him." And the fact of history is that they all died for Him. They were radical because the Kingdom of God is radical. One of the statements He makes about disciples is this in,

### **John 17:16**

***<sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.***

The world you need to understand in,

### **1 Corinthians 2:12**

***<sup>12</sup>Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.***

There is a spirit of this world and there is the Spirit that is from God. If I am not of the world, it's because I have received a Spirit that is from God and not the spirit of this world. Because the world is not a neutral entity; there is a spirit behind it. You have received a different spirit that is not of this world. Like as I said, that's why God uses agricultural terms to explain to us how radical it is. Let me explain to you in etymology, the history behind words so that you will understand like, I will just give you an example, which is not connected with today's message. You hear the term 'assassin'. Who is an assassin? A fellow who is hired to kill somebody. Where does the word 'assassin' actually come from? It comes from the term Hashish which is grass, marijuana, in olden days when they were hired to kill somebody they were given full of Hashish and they went and the influence of drugs they killed you, so that is from where the term Hashish and assassin come. It is actually Arabic Middle East term.

In this same way, you need to realize Agri-Culture. 'Agri' is land 'Culture' is from the word you get cult. Church in its most radical term is a cult. Meaning, it is against this world. To grow a jungle, you don't need to do anything. To grow a garden, you have to be a cult in the land. The normal order of the land after the curse is weeds, thorns, bushes, jungles; you have to cut it off; you have to break it off; you have to fallow the land; you have to order the land; you have to plant the land against its natural order; otherwise, you do not have Agri-Culture. The Church, in its most radical term, is a cult. It's against the normal order of this world. You break this world. That's what He is telling Jeremiah. "I am sending you first to pull down, to breakdown, destroy; then, build." That's what He's doing inside each one of us. Don't lessen what the Kingdom of God is doing. Don't make it into what it is not because the Day is coming very close where the kingdoms of this world will be the Kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ. To make a jungle into a farm or a garden, it will demand a radical shift and the beginning of the Church was unbelievably radical. Three thousand people hearing the Word of the Lord from the mouth of His Apostle Peter convicted by the Holy Spirit separated themselves from this world. Two things you separate from – one is the world; the other is the age. You go through this Bible, you will see the world and the age. The world has been there for six thousand years, the age differs. We are children of our age. I am a child of my age; age, not in terms of years but the pervading culture. So, we are all part of that pervading culture and God says, "He has delivered us from this evil age and not only delivered us from this world, He has also delivered us from this evil age, both, through the Cross." And that day, three

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thousand people were radically plucked out of that world, died in their baptism and planted in the house of God and you know what, their commitment to the teaching was radical, absolutely radical. They understood *John 17:17*,

### **John 17:17**

<sup>17</sup> ***Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.***

Scripture says, “They gather daily for the Apostle’s teaching and when they went into the world it was a different set of people what *John 17:18* says,

### **John 17:18**

<sup>18</sup> ***As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.***

How did Jesus walk in the world? The world had no effect on Him. They didn’t bring the world into the Church; they took Christ into the world. What do we do? We bring the world into the Church and when we go out we take the world back into the world and Christ is hidden. In the most definitive hour of world’s history, the Church has become the most powerless because it has been compromised by the world, absolutely compromised by the world, nobody will believe our message. They were radical in their fellowship. *Acts 2:44-46* describes their fellowship like this

### **Acts 2:44-46**

<sup>44</sup> ***Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,*** <sup>45</sup> ***and [o]sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*** <sup>46</sup> ***So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,***

Radical was their fellowship, how radical! How did a Church that began like this end up in the world like this? I don’t know but I think the answer is there in *1 Timothy 4:1*,

### **1 Timothy 4:1**

***Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;***

Seduction – that’s how he operates. There are two ways the enemy operates – either it is intimidation or seduction. I was talking to the young men yesterday. Because seduction is how merchandise are sold. That’s why they use all these ads with all these girls standing there to sell a product which it’s got nothing to do with. They are using seduction to get your eye, awaking desire for the product using lust. That’s how they do it. My question to men was this: if a pretty young girl in your office dressed in this tight and all, says, “Peter, will you help me?” Immediately, you go to help. On the other hand, another girl who is simple, dressed simple, has no looks at all and she comes and say, “Peter anna, will you help me?” He says, “I have no time.” I’m not talking to you about Peter; I’m talking to you about reality and I’m talking to you about men and I’m talking about women; how women use seduction to get what they want and how men fall into seduction to do what they want. That’s how they do it. Don’t fall prey to it. That’s how the world seduces believers into the world – seducing spirits. Understand the reason why Scripture puts these parameters because of who we are in Christ. Christ never seduces, Christ never intimidates. He just tells the truth as it is. Unless you put your trust in the Son of man, unless you raise Him up, you can draw no man.

*2 Corinthians 6:14*, I want to teach you something which you learnt in your English classroom.

### **2 Corinthians 6:14**

<sup>14</sup> ***Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.***

Just that phrase in your paper one in English the teacher will say, “Rewrite this sentence using ‘be’.” ‘Do not’ is negative, now rewrite the sentence by writing starting with ‘be’. Be equally yoked with believers. This is what you shouldn’t do, but when God says you shouldn’t do something, He also tells you, you should also read the same Scripture what you should do. That’s why we teach grammar in English, you thought it is for your career, it is for to read the Bible properly. Be equally yoked together with believers. One of the things which you need to understand is that, this is what happened to me. I when

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I got saved, I was fellowshiping with giants and I didn't understand half the thing they did, though I was better than them in English, I was worse in comprehension of spiritual things and I realized if I ever want to fellowship with these guys, I better grow. I am not going to walk with pygmies all my life because I realized this is my destiny. The Kingdom of God is bigger than anything. So, I am going to do one thing – if I am going to understand what these guys are speaking, the only way is that they don't have to come down to my level every time and give me baby talk, I am going to grow so that I understand what they are saying. You also need to realize, "O Lord, I want to be equally yoked with believers. I hear Pastor James, Pastor Vijay and all come preach from here, I don't understand ninety percent of it. Lord, I want to grow so that I understand what they are saying because I want to fellowship equally with the men and women of God." You have to have this desire. That's what I am saying. That's what I'm saying. When you go out and do things, it is not just accident, it is normal because within you is a desire and outside there is a source so according to the desire there is a source you go but if you have been born again and if God has declared you righteous, how come you do not hunger and thirst after righteousness because that is a normal thing for a believer – he hungers and thirst for righteousness and he is never satisfied. He knows he can be filled more and more because your spirit can be filled without measure and when that doesn't happen, like you do on the first of a month, do stock taking and ask, "Lord, it is not condemnation, Lord. You are not condemning me because I'm your child. You are telling me something which you desire for me and the Christ in me desires to grow," because on the day, when we stand before God, it is not me who is going to be judged, the Christ we allow to grow, is the one who is going to be judged.

I was telling yesterday, when the first fellow who comes on the white horse is given a crown, the first horseman is released, what is the power given to him? To conquer and conquest and the Church has already been conquered by the first horseman which was of the devil, conquer and taken into the world but when Christ comes, He is crowned with many crowns, let me ask you this question: how many crowns can you put on a head? Only one. So, how is He crowned with many crowns, every overcomer in Him receives the crown of Christ, that's how He is crowned with many crowns and that is the crown we take and put at His feet saying, "Lord, it was not me; it was You, You deserve the crown," yet, He is crowned with many crowns because in Him, we are hidden and the whole of creation is groaning for the sons of God to be revealed, who are the ones who are going to be crowned. Understand what salvation is, seduction. Market terms, we too are selling a product. We are using market terms now, selling a product. In real terms, we must believe in the product because we have tasted the product and the product has become part of our lives. Salesmen come and knock on my door, "Sir, sir," and he's got a tie and all, I feel sorry for these guys, okay? Sometimes I don't have time, but sometimes, I talk to them and I pray for them and I bless them. He says, "Sir, this plot," I said, "Okay, have you gone to the plot?" "No, sir." "How can you sell something which you have not seen?" "Sir, this washing machine is really good." Have you ever washed your clothes in this brand?" "No sir, the book says so." So many people are trying to sell a Christ they don't know. Let's use market terms; yet, a sales man who is an extremely successful LG salesman and you go to his house, everything in his house is LG, you tell him, "How is LG?" He'll say, "Sir, LG is really good, this is the function. I will tell you also sir, not LG washing machine only, you buy the LG microwave." Before this fellow is gone, he has sold all the product to this guy because he knows what he is selling. Jesus did not say, "You shall go and preach the gospel," He said, "You shall be My witnesses." You are a witness. A witness is somebody who is produced in the court of law, who can give actual, factual evidence; I know what I'm talking about. You and I are a witness of the righteousness of God declared into our lives which is of God apart from the law. It is from faith to faith. We are not called to be just like the worldly salesmen, because the product we are selling is righteous and holy and stamped by His own name.

You know companies who has got great reputation, let's say BMW, they send out fifty thousand cars in the market and they find one wiring in the ignition is wrong, nobody complained; they discovered it. They recalled all the cars because their name is more important to them than the product being sold. Do you know what has been entrusted into our hands, do you know whose name is at stake here? That's what I'm saying – at an age where you have every technology possible, why is there so little conviction? Why is there so little conviction because I will tell you, the Spirit of God has withdrawn Himself from the product we are trying to sell. He says, "It does not define the name and the reputation of My Son." So, you know what Sunday messages have become all over the world? Motivational talks. That's what it is all over the world, motivating you on how to do better in the world. You don't have to do one thing to do better in the world, all you have to do is abide in Him, you will do better because Christ Scripture says, "Always leads you in triumph!" So, we have become something that God never defined us to be. See, one of the things that offended most in Jesus' teaching was the teaching about communion. We confuse it in *John 6* that He was talking to the crowd. No, the crowd followed Him but He was not talking to the crowd, He was talking in the Synagogue. *John 6:59*,

**John 6:59**

***<sup>59</sup> These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.***

And in verse 41, Scripture says,

**John 6:41**

***<sup>41</sup> The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."***

Who complained? The Jews. In verse 52,

**John 6:52**

***<sup>52</sup> The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"***

That's not the problem, the problem is *John 6:54-57*,

**John 6:54-57**

***<sup>54</sup> Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. <sup>56</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.***

When we come to verse 60, you will see the effect of what He taught about communion.

***<sup>60</sup> Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"***

And His disciples started leaving. When did the disciples leave? When He taught about the table. He said, "At this table, there is something that will happen, your life will be replaced by My life and if it is not replaced, you will have no part in Me because when I came down to earth, My life was replaced by the Father's life. I did not live My life. I allowed Him to live My life and He says at the table what happens is a death, a death of your life and a beginning of My life and if that doesn't happen, you have no part in Me." When He taught that, not the Jews, they didn't understand the quarrel; they were confused but the disciples left and He had just twelve left. So, the question here is "we are coming to the table. Children, you don't have to be scared. All you have to say is, "Father, I love You, just replace My life with Your life, every day." That's all. One step at a time replacing our life with His life because when our life is replaced with His life, when the Father looks down, what does He say, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God is pleased only with Christ. He is not pleased with me, you or anybody, not pleased with anyone of us because we can never please Him. There is only One who can please Him, who is that? Jesus and that Jesus in us. That's why Scripture says, "*Without faith, it is impossible to please God.*" Because when you and I live by faith, we don't live, He lives. Be prepared in your hearts and minds, there is no condemnation from here but if there is conviction, that is not me, I don't convict anybody, I don't have the power to convict anybody.

This morning, as we come to this table, we need to realize there is no righteousness apart from God which is acceptable in the sight of God and also there is nothing available to you and me that can cleanse our sin other than the Blood of Jesus, all our good works will not blot out one sin from our lives, one drop of His blood will cleanse us from all iniquity, all unrighteousness and restore back with God. That's the table, and that is why He said, "Unless you eat of My body and drink of My blood, unless My life becomes your life, we. We can never please the Father, we can never live in His sight, we can never enter into His presence, we can never please Him." This morning we want to please Him, not just today not just in the house of God but even more when we leave the house of God, by faith, we want to continue pleasing Him.

**Communion Prayer:**

*So, Father, this morning, as we come to Your table, I pray once again You cleanse us by Your Word and by Your Spirit and above all by Your blood, cleanse us, sanctify us, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*



## What Is Salvation?

As we come to the close of today's service, remember the first Sunday service is a little longer because of communion. As I close, I want to tell you about the two final moments. We've been hearing about faith and faith to faith. There are two facets about faith – one is receiving from God which is the easier part and we will see through the gospels, people just receiving their miracles just because they believe they touched, that asked they receive. That's the easy part because God always honors faith. It could be a prostitute called Rahab, or Tamar anybody, He always honors faith because faith is saying, "God, I take you at your Word." And He honors that, that doesn't make that person righteous, please remember that, it doesn't make you righteous. To be declared righteous, you need to believe in the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross and not in anything of yours. Repent and believe – that's when He declares. There is a second side of faith which is not got to do with receiving, which is got to do with giving and Scripture says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive!" and I'm not talking about money at all here. There are these demands of God when you hear you are not receiving anything from Him other than the power but He is demanding that you give and ultimately, that will define your life. Not how many miracles you received. When Paul finishes His journey, he says, "My life has been poured out. I have given it up." It was all given in faith, poured out. That's when you finish your race. There should have been nothing of yourself left; you should have poured it out all for Him. That is also by faith. And there is a hearing for both of these – a hearing by faith to receive and hearing by faith to give because our God is living, He's absolutely living God. I will tell you, it's funny; I told my young men in my family, before I started from here, it was hectic; remember, I was packing and I usually have a list of how I pack because I have been travelling for years but this time, while I was packing, I heard Him very distinctly saying, "Take a bedsheet," which He has never told me. I heard; I ignored, because I thought I was my flesh saying, "Take a sheet." You were going like Abraham not knowing where you are going. So, the first night, you reached after eighteen hours, it was fine; next day meeting till two; immediately, started – auto, bikes, mini bus, eleven people in an omni, and I have the royal seat between the driver and the other passenger in the front. You get special privileges because you are a pastor. We don't know how many rivers that were flooded we crossed and then, transferred to a sumo and in the sumo, we had to cross these rivers. Then, reached at nine in the night at one place where two pastors were waiting, we thought we have reached, they said, "No. You have to cross the suspension bridge in pitch dark with your little light and walk one hour with your luggage before we reach the place." So, we crossed, we reached and while we reached by ten o' clock, they said, "Can we just drop into this Church because the pastors who walked down, they came one day early and before they go to sleep, they would like to see you. So, they were sitting in the office till now." We went there; we saw them and after that, they rest of the team were put up somewhere, I didn't know where. They said, "We took a room for you in the hotel." Don't think our city hotels and all. They woke the people in the hotel, it was like a run-down hotel, really run-down. They opened the door, put on the light and the first I look and I heard Him saying, "Didn't I tell you to bring your bed sheet?" So, I had a privilege of sleeping on my towel. There is no light in the bathroom, there is no mirror, no wash basin. There was a little fellow called Sudarshan. I think he had never seen a guest like me, which is got a luggage tag, which says, "I flew in!" He is following me wherever I go. He is standing there and I said, "Sudarshan, do you have a mirror?" He quickly ran and brought me his little mirror and I said, "Thank you, Sudarshan.: He wanted to see me how I was going to shave. Okay. So, I said, "You can watch me shave. When I'm going to shower, you get out, okay?" So this fellow, cute little fellow, he ran around. Second day, I asked, "Is there another hotel over here?" They said, "Yes but you have to walk another forty-five minutes up the hill, there is a place maybe a little better than this. So, I said, "Okay." Then, I realized the team that I came in with were put up in a home where there is no water and they had to walk thirty up the hill, come with the water down and do their ablutions and I said, "No, we will take two rooms, we will go first check the hotel." We went check the hotel, it was a little better but still no wash basin, no mirror. So, I moved them also there and the next day, I asked one of the ladies who was accompanying us, "Did you bring your vanity mirror?" She said, "Yes, Pastor, I brought it!" "I need to shave." So, that morning, I shaved with her little mirror. Next day, when I looked, she hasn't woken up. So, the first time I used my selfie camera to shave and I realized technology works. I'm telling you, it was an incredible session. Incredible two days I had with the pastors, morning till evening, they cooked. You saw that little tin shack? They all lived there, they all stay there. They have walked down for hours. Their service is on Saturday, Nepal holiday is on Saturday. So, Church gathers on Saturday, middle east on Friday. So, Saturday they said, "Friday, we will go because we have to walk eight hours, nine hours to reach our villages to have the service. So, they said, "Two days, Wednesday, Thursday is over, but can you come at seven in the morning and talk to us for a few hours before we leave?" I said, "Game! No problem," but you need to realize that from seven till eleven in the morning, they were asking questions, clearing all their doubts and at eleven, we all prayed and they walked back to their Churches and they said, "For a year and a half, we've been fasting and praying saying, "Lord, will You send somebody who will come and teach us because everybody refuses to come here saying, "It is too difficult to reach this place."" Because sometimes, you ask yourself, "Lord, where are You sending me? Did I really hear from You?" Then, you realize – if He can talk to you about a sheet, He can talk to you about His shepherds too. We have a God who is living. To walk from faith to

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faith, you need to hear. Children, I'm telling you – you can hear. But to hear, you need to ask. Learn to talk with God and He will speak to you. When you hear something, it will change your life. The more you hear, your life will keep on changing because there is a righteousness that is of God, from God, which is revealed to us from faith to faith. It's impossible to please God without faith and faith comes from hearing from the Word of God? Amen? Shall we stand up? Shall we pray?

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this morning, we just come to You, thanking You, Father, that You will never let us lie down without a warning. You will never let Your children go down the road without cautioning us. You will never let us lose our crown without showing what You have planned for us because Your Word itself says, "Eyes haven't seen nor ears heard what God is preparing for those who love Him," and Your Word says, O Lord, the Spirit of God reveals to us these things, O Father. And I pray, O Father, all of us here, no one exempted, would learn to hear from You, Father. Not only hear but able to hear and see what You are preparing for us, Lord. The joy of seeing, Father. If it was true in the Old Testament that the spies came in and said, "The land is exactly as the Lord said; look at the grapes, look at the fruit of the land; it's a land flowing with milk and honey." If they could have an evidence of the things they were to possess, how much more Your Word says that we have an evidence of the things we will possess in the future? It's revealed in the Spirit, O God. For we have tasted the power of the ages to come and I pray, Father, this walk is real; this walk is true and we will harken our ears to Your voice, O God, daily; that it flows from us naturally, like breathing, Lord. We desire to spend time with You. We desire to meditate upon Your Word. We desire to worship You. We desire to walk with You. We desire to obey You. Let it be an outflow of Christ in us, O Lord and not the works of religion, Father. And I pray, today, there will be a death of the old man and the resurrection of Christ in us, Lord, because always pleases His Father and I pray that Christ in us, we will allow Him to live, to reign and to please the Father. Thank You, Lord. As we go into a new month, I speak healing into the bodies of Your children, peace into their minds and the strength into their bones, O Lord – the strength of the Living God. Nothing that we will face this entire month will catch us by surprise because God is walking with us, God is with us and His grace is more than sufficient for us, O Lord. Therefore, we declare our victory in You. We declare Your glory in our lives. We declare Your honor in our lives. We declare Your power in our lives, O Lord. We declare. Go before us, Lord. O Father, You are Jehovah Nissi, our Banner, under whom we will march. You are Jehovah Sabaoth, under whom we will fight. You are Jehovah Shalom, our peace, O Lord. We rest in You. And I speak that rest into every troubled heart today, Lord. That rest. You are our peace. There are troubled hearts in our midst today. Troubled and I speak Your peace. Their situation doesn't have to change. All they have to know is God is control of their situation. I speak Your peace, the peace of God. Thank You, Father. Thank You. And everyone who is dipping and dabbling with the world, I pray that they will be restless until they have been rescued from the seduction of this world, O Master. Bring them out, Lord. As a shepherd, as a father, I pray for my children standing before me, bring them out, Lord. I do not know but You know. Bring them out, Lord. Put their feet on the Rock. Let this be a glorious month in everybody's life, Lord. Thank You, Father. We lift up holy hands now, by faith and we bless Your Holy Name and we confess and we proclaim Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and evermore. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, 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.*