

Seeing Him Who Is Invisible!

Pastor S James

www.gracetabernaclehyd.org

Father, this morning, we just come to You, the Author and Finisher of our faith, the Perfecter of our faith. I pray, Father, through the ministry of Your Word today, if somebody doesn't know You today in Your house, You would begin a work in that person because You are the Author. And all those who know You, Father, I pray their faith may be made a little more perfect, Lord. A little more. Because this is a life from faith unto faith for You have proclaimed, "The just shall live by faith," that if we draw back, Your soul won't be pleased with us. You have said, "It is impossible to please God without faith," and Your Word says, "Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God." Therefore, as we hear the Word of God today, Father, I pray, You will strengthen our faith; You would increase our faith. Speak to us. Let every blind fold fall; let every deaf ear opened, blind eye see, hardened hearts melt. Let there be healing and deliverance in Thy house even during the ministry of the Word. For it is written, "I send forth my Word and healed you of your infirmities." I release Your Word, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

I'll continue part of what we looked at yesterday. The whole of it, it's already online and it's on the WhatsApp also for those who are on the Church WhatsApp group. And what I didn't finish yesterday, part of it also, we will look today and today is 'Seeing Him Who is Invisible'.

One of the introductions or part of the introduction yesterday for the Pastors was, primarily, the Word of God; not man; but the Word of God divides human kind into three categories. The first, general category, we all were once there, and much of the mankind is called 'the natural man' – the man whose born into this world, who perceives everything through his five senses. We have primarily five senses; psychologists have kept on increasing to 18-22 but let's leave that alone. It's like rudimentary but basically, it's five senses which we have. And it's through these five senses, the natural man perceives everything, but Scriptures says, "The natural man is spiritually dead." Meaning – he's separated from God, he has no connection with God. He is separated from God and because God is Spirit and His realm is a spiritual realm, the natural man is unable to understand anything of the spiritual realm because he just functions with the body and with his soul and his five senses.

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; (it doesn't make sense to him) nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. The natural man is dead in his spirit and God is Spirit. Therefore, he's not able to receive the things. He may be an incredibly a religious man that's the function of the soul but he is actually not able to discern God and His Kingdom.

Then, there is the other, the spiritual man; not religious man. The spiritual man, a man who is born again, when he is born again, he is born again in his spirit; he was dead in the spirit, but he has been alive in the spirit in Christ Jesus. Only in Christ Jesus. You see, one of the things I would recommended; that's why we upload all the message on the internet not only for the worldwide Church but also for us, for those who miss because you see, it's like opening the Bible and reading a chapter. You understand something from that chapter but if you read the previous chapter, you understand this chapter are a little better. If you read the chapter before that, you will understand because the messages from this Church is like chapters of a book. So, if you listen to Wednesday and Sunday, you would understand it better but we still try to make each message kind of whole in itself but you'll understand it better if you listen to previous Sunday message because you know we were all dead in our spirit. Religion does not make anybody alive. If you remember on Sunday and yesterday, to the Pastors too, I said the same thing that do not confuse effects for the real things, effects can be manipulated, right? If you take a scent of some ladies use it will be like rose, or jasmine; you spray it; you smell like a rose though you are not a rose. So, effects can be manipulated. That doesn't mean that is the real thing. One of the effects of salvation is that you don't go to hell; you go to heaven. That's the effect. You move from darkness to light – that's an effect. A healing may take place in your body, but deliverance may take place from the powers of darkness. These are all effects that does not necessarily mean you are saved. Salvation, like I said last Sunday, is the judicial term. It's a term associated with the court of heaven where God who

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is absolutely righteous and His Kingdom is a kingdom of righteousness declares a person righteous in His sight. And unfortunately, for all of mankind, Scripture says, “There is none who is righteous absolutely.” And religion, the law, religion is primarily is law. In every religion, there is law. If you keep the law, you are a righteous person. That is why ‘dharma’ and ‘dharmic’. But nobody can keep the law because the nature of the law is that if there are hundred laws, if you break one, you are a law breaker; you can be righteous according to the law only if you can keep all the law. Like I said, the simplest example I like always take the example of Buddhism. If you know actually what Buddha taught, that’s why you have all those monkeys – “See no evil.” He said, “Is there anybody living or dead who has not seen evil? None.” Here, is there anybody who has not heard evil? He is not talking about talking; he is talking about hearing. “Speak no evil.” Buddhism itself condemns every Buddhist to an eternity without God because it is impossible. That’s why when you have a religion which does not go God and you notice His truth because what Buddhism actually says is true. So, you have to have a way out and the way out is transmigration of soul, you die and according to your karma, your work, you go into another body; you come back; you try to get better and may get a thousand, ten million lives, hoping one day, you’ll come to life where you see no evil, hear no evil; it’s a myth. It never happens; it doesn’t happen. That’s why you need to understand what karma is and why religious people who are not able to understand God has to have a way out. Because everybody is caught in this dead end. They all understand the law; nobody can. So, you need a way out. So, they made a hole in their hearing and said they come back again and try but the fallacy of that theory is this, if I had a previous birth, then in this birth, at least I need to know my mistake; so, I don’t repeat it, but I cannot remember nothing. So, I am contempt to repeat the same things, if not more. So, you’re caught in a trap, it is logically proven wrong; therefore, understand. It is when God in Scriptures says there is a righteousness that is apart from the law which is available by faith in Christ Jesus because you have to see sin like as an entity not sinners, sin. We were born in sin because of Adam and Eve; therefore, we sinned. So, you don’t have to do anything to do anybody to sin. They’ll automatically sin because that’s our nature. So, God took Christ and put sin on Him and judged all who believed in Him.

And then, I said, take His righteousness and put it upon you. That’s the righteousness that comes by faith and faith alone. That is the beginning of salvation. That is shut to the religious man. He is still struggling, he’s still struggling, he’s still trying to earn good points by God by doing good and doing good. And he’s frustrated while the man whose born of God and is imputed with the righteousness of Christ is struggling with the sin but is not struggling with his righteousness because that is a natural process. Earlier, sin was his natural process; now, righteousness becomes his natural process because inside, the person has changed. That’s salvation. If you don’t understand salvation, you’ll get condemned under the condemnation that comes from the law or religion. So, that spiritual man as opposed to the natural man he was made alive in Christ Jesus by the Spirit of God,

Romans 8:11

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

It’s a supernatural work of God. It’s got nothing to with man. All that man did was believe. And God did a work in Him. That’s the beginning.

Then, there is this third category which is basically Christians – those who have believe. They’re called carnal believers. He’s born again but reacts primarily to his old nature. And his mind really struggles in the mind.

Romans 8:7

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

The spiritual man has peace with God. Because he is dead to the world, the natural man has peace with the world and he’s dead with God. So, God doesn’t bother, and the world doesn’t affect him because he has peace with God. The carnal man is struggling with God because he goes to world and he says, “Oh no.” Why? That’s his nature. The natural man is alive in the whole flesh but is dead in the spirit. The spiritual man is dead to the flesh and alive unto God. The carnal man tries to live both ways much, not most, of the New Covenant and the Old Covenant is written to the carnal believer because he is the one who is in danger of backsliding into perdition. The Bible is not written to the unbeliever. To the unbeliever, God said, you go talk to them and when he comes, give him the Bible. People read the Bible and get saved. That’s the supernatural

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work but that was never God's primary plan. His primary plan was, "You go be My witness." When they come, and they're saved. Give them the Book, the Book will become life for them.

Hebrews 10:38-39

³⁸ **Now the just** (first, you have to be justified by God, declared righteous. Once you have been declared righteous, once you have been declared righteous, because of faith, the just shall live by faith, faith unto faith) **shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.** ³⁹ **But we are not of those who draw back to perdition...**

Meaning, he says that the possibility that you will draw back into perdition. The natural man is not afraid of this because he has no clue what it is to draw back to perdition because he is already looking at perdition without realizing it. He's already booked his ticket. He's the carnal man who is in danger of going backwards. Like I said yesterday to the Pastors, the Kingdom of God is like; it's not like this; Though we say the earth is flat, when it is not flat, the Kingdom of God is also not flat. It is like this meaning if you are not going up you're going down. You're not going up you're going down because the call from the Kingdom of God is 'come up heather' it's never you can say you can stay where you want its danger. We put our flesh on the cross the old man then by faith Christ will be on throne. On the other hand, if you put our flesh on the throne, then knowingly or unknowingly we put Christ back on the Cross and that is the judgement pronounced in the book of *Hebrews*.

So, this morning we shall move from the carnal to the spiritual. There are three kinds of people in every Church. One, is the Church, the natural man trying to look inside, from outside the kingdom he's trying to look into the Kingdom of God but there is a wall. They cannot see. So, he tries to reason something that is spiritual with his natural senses. He's entertained, he likes it because reasonable men love to hear theological arguments. He's entertained; he's excited, but the fact is that he cannot see that as natural man. Then, there is a spiritual man who is taking in the Word and the Word is going in. If there are convictions, he is cleaning it. The Word is working in him because the Word has the power to work in those who believe. Then, there is this carnal man; he is sitting at the edge. So, when the Word comes, he tries to escape. "Don't try to escape. I'll catch you."

Romans 12:1-2

¹ **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice,** (I hope that's how you came. Next verse is what I want you to look at) **holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.** ² **And do not be conformed to this world,** (this world, when he is talking about, he is not talking about earth, he's talking about the world system we live which is based on certain fundamental principles how this world goes.) **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

The Kingdom of God operates according to His will. That's why we pray, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will," but to understand that will, there has to be a transformation by the renew, which means to make new the mind we had which was an old mind which functions according to the ways of the world in which we are born but we have to die to the ways of the world and have our minds slowly, through the Word of God, start functioning in the ways God's Kingdom works. Let me give you illustrations. And illustrations are all original not patented but original. A baby's eyes maybe wide-open small babies at the back he/she looks. Can he see? Yes. Does he perceive anything? No. One of the primary reason a baby doesn't perceive anything is because there is no language there. There no word their language. Now, you all are looking at me and some of the little ones who come on Wednesday fall asleep because they don't have a language; they don't have language. So, I don't blame them. I try to keep them awake and focus so that one day, when they have language, they will have the discipline and focus because you don't need language for focus. All those people who have language here do not have focus. So, don't think, "I have great language; you have focus." No, these are all different disciplines. So, if you don't have language, you don't understand anything. That's why nobody from my Church in all these years has ever come with me to a Nepali meeting because you don't have a language. Though I believe, sometimes, I preach better in Nepali than in even English, it would make no meaning to you. They'll only say, "Pastor was very excited, but I didn't understand what you were saying." You need language to understand – if there is no language, there is no meaning. If there is no meaning there is no significance. That is why none of us have memories of when you were one year old. Do you remember what you did when you were six months old? Eight months? One year? Nobody has. No memories but there was. Because to have meaning significance what do we need language. What is language composed of? Words. In the beginning was the 'Word'. If you do not have the 'Word' in you, this universe has no significance, for you. You'll not understand God and His creation. Because

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significance and meaning comes with the entry of the Word into your life. Your eyes are open; you see, you pursue the Kingdom of God and your entire life changes because till then, you were caught with the significance which was false, created by this world. Understand that. But this child, as the child is growing, and hearing and listening to the words of the parents, little by little, meaning and significance is coming in. And the world which he perceives with five senses start taking shape. Ultimately, every person is what he or she is in their mind. Remember the message? “Whoever has your mind has you.” Where your mind goes today, tomorrow, your body will go. So, all of us are a construct of a certain ideas and those ideas govern us and that’s how we view world. That’s how you view the life and that’s how you react in circumstances. The Bible is an unbelievably unique Book. It may use the same language but it does not relate to the same meaning. We read the Bible in English; the same language but when you read, the meaning is not the same if you are born again. It has opened your eyes to a realm which is invisible to the naked eyes. It’s a realm that is only opened to the spiritual man. That’s why the natural man and also the carnal man struggles with this text. The natural man struggles with this text or he doesn’t struggle because he read this and understands according to his natural senses. So, it doesn’t bother him. The carnal man struggles because he has tasted a little of the Kingdom and this frightens him. So, the carnal man, when he reads it, all he sees is judgment. Ah! Judgment! That’s why they have this vanity mirror like *Psalms 23*, “Lord is my Shepherd. The little mirror that you carry in your purse. The Lord is my Shepherd; he can’t read the whole Bible because the Bible is an incredible Book. It opens even the natural man had some reason or some sense. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And you are stuck there. If there is a beginning, for all that I see and before the beginning, there was a God and He created, “Lord, I want to know You. If You were there before the beginning and You created everything, then my life has significance only if I know You.” That’s how the Bible begins. Its opening text itself takes us to a completely different dimension which you cannot perceive with your natural senses. The last words of this Book, primarily last but one. Last is grace but the last words of this Book is *Revelation*.

Revelation 22:21

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth and at the end, He says, “I’m coming back and the One whose eyes are open to that realm and has become a spiritual man, he is able to respond, “Yes, Lord. Come back.” The other man says, “Oh my God, are You coming back? What is this?” Do you realize this Book, what this Book means? That’s why this is the Book of life, these words are absolutely different because this is about a different realm, a different dimension altogether.

See, we have been looking over the weeks the three realms – the Kingdom of God, the kingdom of man and the kingdom of darkness. The problem is the kingdom of darkness is there also and it controls the air or the atmosphere. Scripture says in *2 Corinthians*.

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

What has he blinded? The minds. How do we perceive the reality? Through our minds. And if our mind is blinded and that’s what is happening. Not the children but the older ones all know. Have you noticed everywhere, they have started controlling the sources through which we get our information? Google has started, Facebook and Twitter has started. First, what did they do? They made us dependent on these things, isolated us from the normal modes of transfer of information which was father, mother, teacher. They took us out of it and your teachers taught you to do that; they taught you a little by giving you a project and check the internet, print it out and bring it. So, they made you dependent on the system. They made internet so cheap. It’s so much cheaper than most of our necessities we need for life. They made phones cheap and they hooked you onto it. They controlled us in a way that our information came from them and we were hooked to that information. Like 50% of American population gets their information not anymore from the radio or from TV but from Facebook. And then, they started censoring the information. So, the information you receive is tilted in such a way that they want you to think and what happens? Your minds are blinded. People don’t realize that their minds are blinded. That’s why I said This (Bible) will not go. And if it goes better, be sure it’s hidden in your heart, because that is one place that they cannot take away from you. One by one, they are controlling every source by which we receive our information and the god of this world, the unseen realm, and the demonic forces. The natural does not see but he is in control and doesn’t realize that he is been controlled by somebody else. And he is just like the puppet like this fellow is sitting at the back and pulling

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and changing circumstance and he is just moving accordingly. He thinks, “I am in control and my money is in control, my health is in control,” without realizing that he is just a puppet. The puppeteer is somewhere behind and he is called as the god of this age, he has blinded the minds of this people.

Salvation is the beginning of freedom; it's the beginning of the liberty. You heard yesterday where the Spirit is Lord, there is liberty. But what these people do is blind the eyes of the people. When your mind is blinded the reality that you perceive is completely in the hands of those who blind you. Because every information that you and I receive has to be processed in the mind. So, God says, “First, please surrender your bodies. Don't run around the internet.” Today, bodies are also termed which is metaphysical meaning? You don't have to move your body but your body can move over the internet from the polar ice to Amazon basin. Everywhere, you can move around, your body and you are imagining all. And they have 3D, 4D and every dimension possible where you can move. But God says, “Sit down and offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.” Come under the teaching of the Holy Spirit through the Word. Renew your mind. Why? Because into this mind came two things called ‘virus of the world’ and the ‘virus of the flesh’ and He started an anti-virus program of cleaning it called ‘the eternal Word’. He is cleaning out the mind and renewing our mind. That's how the Word of God does. Scripture says, “By the washing of the water of the Word.” The Word of God cleanses our mind and He renews our mind and take our idea on which we operated and which we received from the world, take it out and replace it with the Word of God. Slowly, your thinking changes and you start to think like God. That's how you think and Scripture says, “Have the mind of Christ Jesus.” Question is: how do we see? Everything is connected with sight. Sight not in the sense of eye. When the Bible uses sight, it's talking about how we perceive. All the scientists sitting over here, Pastor Vijay and all others, if they were to tell you what is seeing, what is sight and what is seeing, it is actually the work of light. The light reflects back, goes into your eyes and it does some jadoo (magic) over there and therefore, you perceive. Where there is no light, there is no vision. So, light is the one that brings vision. That's why Bible uses metaphors like light and darkness. And the whooped carnal man in the old ages took light and darkness and made it into white and black and condemned the black man but God never said, “Black and white,” He said, “Light and darkness.” But we still carry that prejudice in our inner soul that if somebody is a little dark skinned we carry prejudice because that is the whooped nature of the fallen man. God didn't say that; God said, “Light and darkness.” Darkness is the absence of light. There is no entity called darkness. Darkness means there is no presence of light. Understand this so that the prejudice you carry and you look into your mind and your hearts you realize, “Why do I react with certain people in certain way?” It's because of the old way of thinking. Get rid of those thoughts and get rid of those thinking. So, the Bible uses the terms of light and darkness. So, even if this room is flooded with light. If my eyes are damaged, my retina, my cornea, my nerve cells, optical nerves all is damaged and even if this room is flooded with light I don't see. So, there is a spiritual realm. One is God's which is called light and the other is called darkness and the natural man is blinded to both. He doesn't realize that the darkness is controlling him and he does not know the light because his spiritual eyes don't function. Even those who serve the devil, there are lot of people in the natural realm and religious realm who actually serve the devil. They are his servants; they serve him in darkness. They do all kinds of occult. They get power from him and he gives them certain gifts in return but the problem is – even they have been deceived by darkness.

2 Corinthians 11:14

¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Satan never comes to his servants as an angel of darkness; to his servants, he comes as an angel of light. I have heard and I have met people who serve him and everyone think that Lucifer is the real god and when they die, he is going to make them into a prince. That's what they believe and that's why you have all this Netflix and new things called Masters of the universe. Where do you think you get these masters of the universe from? That's exactly what he has told his servants, “All of you will end up as masters,” and Jesus Christ is only One among the masters. They have a rude awakening. So, there is this natural light. Understand this fellow can do anything. Only God's people, when their eyes are opened, they are able to distinguish. There is natural light and there is artificial light. I'm trying to explain to the young ones and the older ones through examples. There is natural light, if you go out there is natural light and when you come in, there is artificial light. This whole world system is an artificial construct of the enemy using natural men who were deceived. This whole world, whatever is real will last and this world is not real, this world is passing away. This whole world and not earth. Don't mistake earth. The earth was created by God and the world was framed by natural men who were deceived by the devil. It is artificial; it's not real. One of the temptations of Jesus Christ in *Luke 5*, Scripture says like this.

Luke 4:5-7

⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

So, the devil has showed Him the world system which he has made using natural men and their glory and he is trying to get Jesus to serve him saying, "I can give it to You and all You have to do is serve me." So, it shows us the origin, the construct and the builder behind this world as opposed to earth. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth but the world was not built by God; it was built by man and its systems on which we live. Some good, some bad; living in this world is actually living in spiritual darkness. That's why salvation is put in terms of light and darkness as the opening of eyes. In Acts 26, Paul will tell the king.

Acts 26:17-18

¹⁷ I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I ^[e]now send you, (this is what God told him) ¹⁸ to open their eyes, (The first effect of salvation is an opening of your eyes, you see what you never saw before) in order to turn them from darkness to light...

Who in the world, if you are not saved sitting here will say, "I'm not sitting in the darkness"? No, I'm not sitting in the darkness, I can see, I can understand, I can perceive, I can read, I have an education. But Scripture says, "That's a construct." It's darkness.

...and from the power of Satan (which kept you in darkness and blinded your eyes) **to God**, (God opens your eyes and turns you to light and turns you to God)

...that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

That's the beginning of salvation. To a blind man, who is born blind, you can describe everything of this world; yet, he cannot perceive because that is not his reality. Yet, if his eyes were opened and progressively opened after some time, you don't have to explain many things to him. Imagine a man or woman born blind. Let's say, Hepsiba was born blind, you will have to explain to her what a phone is. You have to say, "Hepsiba, feel it." "What is this?" "Oh, that is the screen." "And this?" "That is the back." "And what is this?" "That's the button." "And what happens?" "The screen will come on." "And what is this?" "Well, if you put your finger and your code is there, it will open." "And how do you?" And so on. You see, you have to explain and it doesn't matter how much you explain, her reality about the phone and yours is different because you can see and she can't. Are you getting the picture? If you are born blind, your reality is different and you explain to him what you see, they cannot perceive it. We were all born blind to the spiritual realm and you get saved and you see and when you are saved and you go try and explaining the Kingdom of God to somebody who has not seen, it's not possible because they can't understand it. They have to experience what you have experience and to understand what you understand. Because where do you get vision from? From light. Where there is no light there is no vision. That's how Jesus introduces Himself and one of His introductions in *John 8*,

John 8:12

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Interesting! Have you ever thought, when you read these things, you stop and think for a minute? And compare Him with all the others who came before and after Him? I'm talking about religious leaders. He says, "I am the light of the world." He doesn't say, 'I am the eyes of the world.' All the others, practically, in other words, He is saying, "I am the eyes of the world and I will show you how to go," but He says, "No. I am not even showing you how to go," He says, "I am the light and if I am not there, you won't see. I can teach you from morning till evening, this is the way to go but if I am not your light, you will not know where to go." He doesn't say, "I am your eyes." He says, "I am the light because where there is no light, there is no vision." The reason we see and, if suppose, the sun were to go total eclipse and the power were to go and we are sitting in darkness though our eyes are fantastic we see nothing because there is no light. What did Jesus say? "I am the light." He

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didn't say anything about the eyes. He didn't say, "I am the eyes," but He said, "I am the light." Meaning, "Without Me, you won't see." So, don't be too hard on people who don't see. Nothing is wrong with their eyes. They just don't have the light.

So, salvation is completely... Last time, we looked at salvation in terms of righteousness. Today, we are looking at salvation in terms of light. So, when I am born again by the Spirit, Scripture says, "By the spirit," and my spiritual eyes are open, the most familiar example – this is Nicodemus, a great theologian, full of theory, full of religion of the law.

John 3:3

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

The world, your books, yourself in the mirror? No. He says, "You cannot see the Kingdom of God." For the Kingdom of God is a spiritual entity; you cannot see.

John 3:4

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Don't laugh at him because he is talking as a natural man with his natural senses. He says, "You are talking about birth. As far as I'm concerned, birth is an experience in the natural realm which means you come from your mother's womb. Sir, I am these many years old. How do I get born again?" Jesus is talking something that is spiritual and he is receiving it in the natural. He asks, "How is this possible?" What did Jesus say?

John 3:5

⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Because to enter anything, you need to see. If I don't see anything, how do I enter? If I cannot see the door, I cannot enter. You cannot see, you cannot enter. So, a natural man, with all incredible theological knowledge and training of God's return Word, because he is spiritually blind, he is not able to see. It is about him who came in the night, and left in the night. Because in the entire *Gospel according to John* is in terms of light and darkness. Nicodemus came in the night to the light of the world. Because He didn't receive Him, he went out back into the darkness. Because, if Jesus is not the light in darkness, then you walk in darkness all the days of your life. Though, you may be incredibly successful in the world, you're living in darkness because He said, "I am the light."

So, when we are born again, the first act of God by the Spirit, we don't see very clearly. There are so many healings, unlike other healings. There are so many healings of blind people recorded in Jesus' ministry to show us the difference between blindness and sight. Because these are spiritual metaphors using physical examples – blind man who is healed. And Jesus, touched Him and said, "Do you see, a little?" He said,

Mark 8:24

²⁴ And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking."

"But how do I see? I see, men like trees." The born-again person in the Spirit sees the Bible and sees the reality. Do you read your Bible? "Yes, I read *Genesis*." He cannot pin point verses from where God has spoken to Him. He sees the Bible like trees, without seeing the individual specifics from which God speaks. But that's good. Better see a tree than see nothing. Because one day, Jesus will touch you again and again and again and your clarity, your visions starts getting better and better. So, the question is this: when you come out of darkness into light, have you tried that? First, to try that you have to wake up in the morning. In an absolutely dark room and you wake up late, its 10 o' clock; curtains were down. Everything was dark and in the dark, "Ah, I can sleep a little more." And you look, "Oh! My gosh it's 10." And you pull the curtains, when the light comes in, it hurts your eyes. That's why the light of God's Word hurts us, we were used to living in darkness. The Word of God is in darkness and the light comes in, it hurts our eyes because our eyes were used to darkness. That's

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why God reveals the truth progressively because if He were to show the light the way it is, you would be blinded. Get that very, very clearly.

Let me get back to it again, because we'll confuse Old Covenant people and the light being outside. The light is not outside; the light is inside. That's why the Old Covenant people couldn't see what we could see because the light in them was outside; for us, the light is inside. *John 1*, Gospel according to *John*

John 1:4

⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

His life was light. So, imagine when I am born again, I am born again of the Spirit of God, who comes in? Jesus' life comes in, the life of Jesus becomes my life. Jesus' life is light. With His very light, I start seeing things differently.

Now, another example – think you go into a room or, let's say, this room, eclipse; no lights; lights are gone. If you try to walk in the darkness, you will always stumble and fall, right? The better the light, the better you can walk. Why do believers stumble and fall? It's because of the lack of light in their lives. I'm not saying light alone is enough; you also need the power to walk. That, we will get back later.

The entire world which is part of the kingdom of darkness is controlled by the powers of darkness, let me explain; our young people will understand. Older also will understand. Go to a movie theatre, what do they do first? Switch off the light. The more the lights go off, the better you see what I want you to see. Right? What do they do in a movie theatre? Oh! You will say, "Boy! it was so great." Imax sound; what did they do first? Put off the light, as soon as they put off the light and they beam this in the screen, they got your eyes. They control what you saw. And to keep the control, they have to add the masala and trees and dancing. And they have control their vision, "Think, children, think." Don't get excited by the world because you don't know what the world does to you. And for the next two or three hours, they give you an alternate reality. Is it real? No. If the movies are real, you have forgotten all the issues of life. Right?

You are sitting there, at the edge of your seat and you are alternately moving like this – accordingly. See, they not only controlled your eyes; they controlled your movements. Do you see what's happening? That's exactly what the world does to man and that's how the devil controls. This world is not the reality; the reality is the spiritual realm that overlays this world. One day, people will wake up to the reality either with God or either in the darkness. That is the reality. What does he do? He controls by putting off the light gets you glued onto this world and you're so excited by the world you have forgotten the actual reality. The actual reality there is a day declared by God there is a time appointed by God when you die. And you wake up to the reality which is forever and ever that's when reality begins. This not a reality this is a drama. This is a movie. It will cease. The light will go and suddenly, some red lights come, and this thing comes. What is it? Exit! Suddenly, one day in life, red light – exit. When you exit, where do you go?

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Not migration, judgement! And how will you be judged, is how you walk in the light or in the darkness. Wake up! That is why to escape this reality, for people God says in *verse 28*, what does He say?

Hebrews 9:28

²⁸so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

That's the whole purpose of salvation. Are we getting it? It's a light and sound show today. Okay? Listen carefully.

Another case scenario, okay? You don't have to go to theatre; you have come here. Now, technically, why is the stage less lit than where you are sitting? If you look where you are sitting, all the lights are on and all the windows are open; here, the widows are shut and only one light for me. Why? So that you can see this better. On the other hand, let us get two flood

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lights here and put it on massive and focus it on the screen. Can you see it clearly? No. Why? Because the light has blinded. This is how Jesus says – *John 17:15-18*,

John 17:15-18

¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Let me explain to you what it means – Jesus is the light of the world and the world has artificial lights. What does Jesus say? Jesus says, “You are not of the world. I’ve set you apart; I sanctify you by the Word and I’m sending you to the world.” How do we go into the world? If our hearts are full of the light of God, then the light of the world is dim. You don’t see. It doesn’t affect you. You can project all of this over here; all I have to do to dim this, without even touching this, is to focus even more bright light on it. So, the question God is saying is: if Christ the centre of your life and He is burning in you like a floodlight, all the light of the world will have no effect on you because you are not of the world and the light in you is greater than the light in the world. Greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world. The world has no effect. We are not of the world but we are actually sent into the world. And if the world has an incredible effect on you, it’s because the light outside is more powerful than the light inside because you are still worshipping Infant Jesus. We are not of this world. We were sent into this world. How are we sent into this world? Two ways – first in *John 20:21*,

John 20:21-22

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 17:17

¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

How does He send them? Born of the Spirit and born of the Word. We have the light inside; we have the power inside. Get these theories right so that practically, you can work. The question is: Old Testament was *Psalms 119:105*,

Psalms 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Where was the light? It was outside. In the New Covenant, the light is not outside; the light is inside. In the Old Covenant, the light was outside. In the New Covenant, light is inside.

John 6:63

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

In the Old Covenant, the Word was light which was outside. In the New Covenant, Word is life because in Him was life and that life was the light of men. So, what does the Word of God do, unlike in the Old Testament? In the New Testament, it feeds the life in me. The more I am able to digest the Word, the more Christ grows in me and the more I see clearly. It is internal; it is not external. In the Old Testament, people read and they tried to keep the law. In the New Covenant, it’s not that. It is the life of Christ; it’s not the keeping of the law. That’s why Jesus said, “Lord, sanctify them, separate them.” In *John 17:17*,

John 17:17

¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

What is sanctification? Sanctification is not the act of making you holy; it is the act of separating you. What is He separating us from? He is separating us from the world because the world is covered in darkness. The Spirit and the Word separates us from the world because the world is darkness. That’s why the biggest stumbling block to the Gospel of light is not the natural man or the spiritual man; it is the carnal Christian because he is neither in the light nor in the darkness. Where is he? He is in the twilight zone. Therefore, his life has no power to convict the natural man as Jesus said, “In Him was life and

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that life was the light of man,” and now, when He gets into us, “You are the light of the world.” But I am not in the light; I am somewhere in the middle between light and darkness. So, the natural man is not convicted because God did not send a Book into the world; He sent people into the world to convict the world. He said, “When My Spirit, you shall be My witnesses.” And the greatest danger to the Gospel is not even the enemy, it is the carnal Christian.

How did the enemy compromise the Church? How did he? See, like I said earlier, we know light and light actually has scientifically so many elements in life called photons and all. Is there any element in darkness? No. Darkness is the absence of light. But imagine darkness also is like light and it has element. So, what can we do? We can mix light and darkness. Right? But you cannot mix because darkness doesn't have any elements. So, let us think in terms of black coffee in a transparent jar and milk in a transparent jar. You add black coffee and you can milk, what do you get? Is the colour the same? Is it white? Is it black? It's brown. That's what the devil did. He quietly didn't do anything with the Church. He just brought the world in. That's all he did. He brought the world in. So, what is the Church now? A mixture. He quietly added the world into the Church and before you can know it, people lost sight of what the light looked like. You know how the first Church was? It was incredibly full of the light of God. And anything of darkness, even if somebody thought in their mind, God was so zealous about His light, Ananias and Sapphira, without anybody knowing, was trying to do a good deed in darkness, they were judged and their dead bodies were taken out because God was so zealous about His light. That was the first Church. But little by little, they kept adding the world. As the world kept on being added, finally, how does the Church look like? God says in *Revelation 3:15-18*; this is what God says,

Revelation 3:15-18

¹⁵“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Look at what the Church has become! It has become exactly like the world and God says, “You have only choice – either get hot or I spew you out.” This is exactly what happened with Israel. God picked Israel that was very weak and He said, “I did not pick you are smart; I picked you because you are weak and I'm going to make you as a sign and a wonder to this world. You will be a city on the hill. You are going to be a signpost to all the nations because your God is different from all the other gods and if you obey My voice and if you walk with Me, the whole world will want to know Me.” Instead, what did Israel do? They went after the world and the other nations. God sent prophet after prophet, warning them; they didn't listen. So, finally, God says, “You want to be like Babylon? Good. Go to Babylon.” He allowed Babylon to capture them. “You want to look like Assyria? Good. Assyrians, come, take My people because they want to be like you; they don't want to be like Me.” To the point, God finally says, “Leave Ephraim alone because he is joined with idols. A point will come, God says, “I will tell the Church to leave the Church alone because they are joined with idols. Because this whole world is one big massive idol. The world system is a creation of idolatry.” Understand that. So, this is the process. Salvation is a process. It begins with Jesus. And it begins with Him coming inside of us. His life, when His life comes, I start seeing. The difference with people who are excited by the Word, and preaching but they are still standing outside the Kingdom and they look in and they hear the message and they say, “Wow, wow” but when they go in, they forget, because the world takes it away immediately. But the person to whom Christ has come in, and Christ is growing, his excitement is different from the person who is excited from looking outside. Understand Scripture. Understand how these things work because we don't see.

I have no issue with the world, because I have nothing to do with the world. My issue is always with the Church. I never preach to the world. To the world, I have only one message – repent, and believe. To the Church, I have a lot to say because Christ has a lot to say to the Church, from *Genesis 1:1* to *Revelation 22:21*, it is written to the Church and not to the world. Every advice, every promise, every warning, everything is to the Church, not to the world. Only when the world, gets into the Kingdom, the Bible becomes a living book for him. They are not asked to live by the Bible. So, people were talking about the verdict, Section 377. Does it bother me? I said, “No it doesn't bother me at all.” “Why? It doesn't bother you at all?” I said, “No, it doesn't bother me.” Homosexuality has been there for immoral times. In the world, that is all a part. Only thing was, it was hidden and it has all come out. But that's exactly the way Jesus said things would happen in the end. Right? So, why should it bother me? My issue is not that homosexuality is legalized in the world; my issue is that homosexuality has been legalized in the Church. That's my issue. It didn't begin in the world. It didn't begin in the Supreme Court in India. All

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the precedents their quoting has come from Christian countries, by scientists from the Christian nations, Phycologists from the Christian nations, from Churches which ordain great clergy and bishops. My issue is not with the world. I have no issue with the world. My issue is with the Church. Because the world sees only these as rights - Gay rights, Abortion rights. True, the kingdom of darkness these are all rights. God says, "This is what you want? A time is coming I will give you all that you ask Me. He, who restrains now, will be removed and the lawless one will be allowed to manifest, and you can go have your rights. Then you can realise what My Kingdom and the other kingdom was." I have no issue with the world by any ruling. Because this is the question of light and darkness and the problem is; we have to understand, people were saying, "Did you see all the Ola and all the Uber have got the rainbow on it?" Poor driver has no clue at all; the bosses who control from the top all are the part of the Illuminati, Freemason system. All of them are part of the kingdom of darkness actively working with them and for them. So, they sent out the order and the poor fellow put a rainbow but it is very interesting that the very people who are angry with the God of the Bible because He is the One who said that the Sodomite will not enter into the Kingdom of God, they still need His Word and His Covenant to legitimize their sin. Because rainbow was the Covenant between God and Noah saying, "I will never again destroy the whole world by flood." Absolutely true; you can put the rainbow because He said, "I will destroy this world by fire; no longer with water. You can put it up, absolutely true! Your sign is true." He is not going to destroy the whole world with water. He is going to burn it up. Because water won't do the work the second time. But why I am saying is, you see, they are against the God of the Word but they need the Word of God to legitimize their sin. That's how the guilty conscience works. So, don't get upset because they have to put it across all that as rights. I find it very funny all these Rights people. "Oh! One beetle is there in somebody's yard; it has to be national protected territory because we have to save the beetle," but you can kill all the babies in the womb. "That's our right. Pro-choice! Abortion Right! I have to save the beetle; kill my child." Whooped mentality! One of the first preamble of the Constitution is right to life but the baby has no right. Because you have become very scientific now – it is just a piece of tissue. Light and darkness! That's what we are looking at. So, Paul's prayer for the Church for those who are saved, we looked yesterday,

Ephesians 1:18-19

¹⁸ ***the eyes of your understanding being enlightened...***

Your mind has no eyes but your spirit has eyes.

...being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Do you know that you have a calling, child of God? Do you know what are the riches of glory of His inheritance? Do you know that you have an inheritance? Do you know that you have a possession? Will your eyes be opened? The real world is not this, the real world is that is coming in that world, according to that world you have a calling now. And in that world, you have an inheritance. And for that do you know that what is the exceedingly the great power of those belief who believe. Do you know the power that is released into your life to fulfill that calling and inherit your possession one day? Why are you running like a dog after a car in this world? Do you know the dogs chasing the cars? You know that illustration, right? The dog runs after the car but supposing you stop the car, open the door, get out of the driver seat and tell, "Okay, now you chase, take the car." What is the dog going to do with the car? So many people running after the world. God says, "Okay I stop the world and give it to you. What are you going to do with it? It's going to the fire one day. What are you going to do? Go with it? Foolish fellow, don't you know the hope of your calling? Don't you know your possessions and inheritance for eternity? Don't you know the exceedingly great power of God? Its available for you? Do you know? Are your eyes open? As a question can you see? Because you cannot possess anything that you do not see." Right? All the children who have seen a dream – "I want to be an engineer, I want to be a doctor." They have seen doctors and engineers in the world and now they saw something in their mind and they are struggling to possess it. You don't possess anything, which you don't see. The problem is – the believers have been blinded very subtly by the enemy with the world again. See you are saved, you are going into an eternity and you are chasing a shadow. This world is a shadow is passing away. Do you see the difference between the material, physical world and the spiritual world? Do you see the difference? Are you able to notice the difference, do you believe the Word of God? One thing I noticed about myself is this – the Word of God is with this; it doesn't matter what I do, my eyes are growing weaker, my ears are growing weaker, my teeth are growing weaker, my body is growing weaker. If it is true about me, then it is true about all of us. We may not accept it but it is true. You can eat

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the best kosher meat, you can exercise like an Atlas, but it is like putting food in the fridge, after sometime that also will go bad. You can stop corruption for a little time; you cannot stop corruption for all time because it is written. So, all that sins shall die. As soon as God told Adam, if you eat you will die. Nobody died. It's a question when? It's not a question whether. Some may live fifty, some may live sixty, some may live hundred, but everybody dies. What is the symptom? Look into my mirror; I see all the instruments of the body are progressively growing weaker and weaker. Is that what I am running for? Everything in this world is connected with this body and body alone. When my body is going weaker and weaker, what am I running after for? If I live till eighty or eighty-five and my teeth fall apart, ultimately drinking soup-dreaming meat. What am I running after? Like I told, if I run after the world, I am just like the dog chasing the car. What am I going to do? On the contrary, what about my spiritual? That's the question. The spiritual reality is different. Am I seeing better today than before? Am I hearing better today than before? Are my spiritual teeth stronger today that I cannot only bite on the meat of God's Word; I can crunch a few bones also? Is that true. That is the reality I want to run after because in the spiritual I realize there is no corruption there is progression. In the natural all I see is corruption, Lord! I don't want to run in the natural, I want to run in the spiritual because there is hope here. That's why in the Bible Paul says, if only in this life we have hope we are the most miserable men, I am telling that the most miserable of the people are saved people. You know why? Because the unsaved man enjoys the world because he doesn't know it's end, the saved man knows the world is ending but is still is miserable because you knew you were created for eternity, saved for the eternity but you are running for the temporary, you are the most hopeless man of all. I was not saved for this world; I was saved from this world. That's what,

2 Corinthians 4:16

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

The question is: what if the outward man is perishing? You know it is perishing. What if the inward man is not being renewed? That is the dangerous thing for the believer. Believer has no clue of this but ask this question. My outward man is perishing and I see that every day but my inward man is also perishing. That's why God said, "Be hot or be cold." Go to the world have a blast and die. If you want I will send some money also on the way but if you want to walk with me be hot, don't be lukewarm. Because outwardly and inwardly you will perish. That is miserable. At least some of the people sitting in the hell upset can say I had a blast while I was on this earth. The rich re saying, "I am thirsty but he can also think of how much wine I drank." Imagine the poor man reaching the hell and say, "I didn't drink there and I even can't drink here." That's what God is saying. Do you see the physical reality? Can I see better, can I hear better? Question is "if the eyes of my mind are enlightened what do I see? Paul says in,

Philippians 3:12-14

¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

He realized that "I have a purpose, my salvation is not random, my salvation is exactly like every act of God with purpose, and my salvation is also with purpose."

...Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

There is a prize. I told that example when I was in school and my parents never gave me first in all the papers irrespective of what I wrote then my mother said, "You score in the Board Exam I will give you my watch." Can you imagine for a twelve-year-old kid what a watch can do? The town had only two watches. My Dad had a watch and my mother had a watch, nobody else had a watch. Oh ,that watch had bought motivation like nothing else. That was the prize. I ran like nobody ran and scored top in every subject except the national language. And I got my watch and like I said I walked like this (hands up) for many days. "I got a crown. It is mine?" Jesus said, "Yeah, it's yours." "Is it really mine?" "Yes, it's yours. I am not going to take it away. It's yours."

¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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Not stationary, not horizontal, not down, upward call of God. Do you see the prize? The question is: what did he see? That is the key.

This has happened to the Church, devil infiltrated and changed the minds of the people. You see if were to tell Hepzibah, "Hepzibah, you really pray and you really study the Word and you really walk with the God, I promise you I will give you a bike when you turn eighteen." How long can a bike motivate you? You think class 5, 6 and 7, I studied for a watch? Watch cannot motivate you for too long. You have to be given something bigger. If God were to promise if you were run your race because you are being promised heaven, a house in heaven and all the amenities in heaven; the devil can provide that on earth too. You have got a wonderful house, you got all the stuff you want, and suddenly you would say, "What is this race?" That's how the prosperity gospel got into the Church and blinded the eyes of the people. There is nobody running for the race because they don't know what is the prize is. What is the prize? What did Paul say?

Philippians 3:8-9

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

Yesterday, I was telling the Pastors, in life, we always think of all things in terms of loss and gain. If there is no gain, we will not be willing to look. If EAMCET or IIT entrance and becoming an engineer from IIT is not gain, you will not willing to suffer loss by getting up 5 in the morning or 4 in the morning, slogging for 18 hours; everybody who works 12 or 13 hours is not because you love the company but you love the money the company gives. It's fine because they also know that if there is no gain there is no loss. You will not be willing to forsake these things if they don't offer you something. So, you look at that, this is bigger than that

⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord,

That's not enough there are lots of theologians, believers with incredible excellence of knowledge of Christ Jesus.

...for whom I have suffered the loss of all...

Those theologians will sit in their house and write book after book, they are alive above and dead below. This Christ cannot move them.

...things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Gain Christ and it's not heaven. Like the preacher who said that a lot of people would be happy to go to heaven even if they don't meet Jesus there because their heaven was never connected with the person of Jesus Christ. It was just an escape from the hell here and heaven there. Paul said that he is running for a prize and the prize is Christ, possession is You. Do we see life that way? Do you see what the devil did? How infiltrated the Church and changed our focus from things, from Christ to things. What did Jesus say in,

Mark 4:19

¹⁹ and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

This is the Word of life and it becomes unfruitful. But what if it is connected with a person? That's why do you think Bible records stuff like that, here is Jacob in Haran, he is Laban's house, he meets Rachel at the well, he looks at her, he falls in love with her and he loves her with his heart sincerely. He is willing to work for fourteen years as a slave in his Uncle's house to get her and the Scripture says, because of his incredible love for her those years looked like a few days for him. "Who are you Jacob?" "The son of the richest man in Canaan." "Who is this girl?" "That's my Uncle's daughter." "Are you willing to work fourteen years for her?" "Yes." "Is everyday a drudgery?" "Yes." "Are you getting anything out of it?" "No." "Are you being paid any wages?" "No." "What are you?" "A son-in-law." "Are you treated like a son-in-law?" "No." "What are you treated like?" "A slave." "And why are you going through this?" "Because I love that girl." If you don't love Jesus, everything is burdensome. The prize is Him; it's not a place; it's not the home. That is the reason why Jacob's love for

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Rachel is put over there as a paradigm, as a metaphor to us because that was Christ's love for the Church. Church is like Rachel but Christ loved the Church. "Jesus, You are the Son of God, God Almighty from heaven; how do You find living in Nazareth?" "It's okay." "Thirty years?" "It's fine." "Haven't You left Your glory, Your splendour, Your comfort, everything?" "Yes." "Aren't the people going who come after You in next 2000 years going to enjoy comfort like You never will." "Yes." "Doesn't it bother You?" "No." "Why?" "Because I love My Church." Unless we see it that way. That's the difference. See, these riches, things, all these, we don't see them as distractions; we see them as attractions; we don't see this as distraction. A believer is clear in the mind. He said, "You know what? This dude I have heard and read in the Bible, my God has told me he is very cunning. He will try to distract you with what is attractive in the world and I will not be distracted, I will not lose my focus." That is the difference. The Church in US and the Church in China. Why is the Church in US so compromised, why are they so fearful? You know why, because they built these structures and these structures run around in US and you need more and more. They put all their money into the building and not into the people and in US, the thing is that Churches are tax exempt and if you speak against the system and against the government, there is a very unclear clause where they can take you tax exempt status off. So, most of the preachers have been compromised because they know, "Oh, this building cost a million dollars, we have constructed it all, if we lose our tax exemption, then we don't have the money to pay taxes," because in US, you are taxed like crazy, if you breathe they will tax you. You know why? This choked the Word. So, when all these new rights why are called as sin in the Bible came, they shut up and legitimized all that in the Church. Church in China has no buildings, they gather in secret, they get beaten up, they get arrested, they get killed. Have they changed the Word? No, they are growing more and more that the man is terrified. He doesn't know what to do with the Church because the number of people in the underground Church is more than the communist party. You need to understand – we lose our focus unless we see in terms of gain and loss. Christ is gain. Do we see that gain? I'm telling you, if you are not connected to the Person of Jesus Christ more and more each day, you may fall. That's not the point, David fell. Why did he spring up every time? Because he was connected to the Person of God. He loved God and God was very upset with him, very upset with him. Why was God upset with David and not so upset with Saul? He said, "I don't want to talk with that fellow." But with David, He was so upset. You have to really read it in our modern-day language what God actually told David. He said, "You picked all these women, I kept quiet. Then, you went and picked another man's wife," Bathsheba, He was so upset. He actually tells in our modern crude language, "If you wanted women, I would have given you all the concubines of Saul. Why did you break My law and take another man's wife? Because you are My kid. I know you love Me and I love you too." See, only whom you love and who loves you back have the power to hurt you. Others don't have that power. Your wife says something unkind, you carry it through the day. Somebody on the road, while you were going shouted something at you, are you carrying that with you all the time? No, you don't know that fellow, you got irritated but you forgot who he was. You know everybody doesn't have the power to hurt you, everybody doesn't have the power God only those He loves and only those who love Him back, understand that. Don't lose your focus. In *2 Corinthians 4:18*,

2 Corinthians 4:18

¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

I wish God had given me the authority of Nehemiah. I would have pulled some beard and some heads and said, "Walk like this. Fix!" Fix your eyes on what is unseen, not on what is seen, that is this world but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary." Stomach for the food, food for the stomach, both will be destroyed and shall we add to that? Pastor James' addition. 'Clothe for the body, body for the clothe, both shall be destroyed. Shoes for the feet, sandals for the feet, both shall be destroyed. Earing for the ear, ear for the earring both shall be destroyed.' Did you get it? You have to keep adding, according to your taste you have to add, get it. Fix your eyes on what is unseen because what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal. When you die, even if they put you in a tailored suit from bond street and a twenty-thousand-dollar gold rimmed coffin, it makes no difference to that dead body. It makes no difference. Once you're dead, you're dead; it's gone. It makes no difference, children come back to Christ. Fix means to focus.

I was telling the Pastors yesterday, children were born in sin and iniquity but have you noticed that children were always born with focus? When the child is hungry, it cries and we go. You know, we are not focused. So, what do we do? We will distract because we want to watch our favorite time. "Ah, this baby is crying at 12:30; that is my favorite serial." Okay, you started distracting with the rattle while you are watching, the child is focused, "I want my milk; you are not focused." So, from the beginning, what do we teach the child? How not to focus. How do we feed, Indian mothers, how do we feed the

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child? Take it around, “O baby!” What are we teaching? Thou shall not be focused! Scripture says, “Be focused! Fix your eyes on things that are not seen.” In *Hebrews 3:1*, Scripture says

Hebrews 3:1

¹ *Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.*

Nobody has to tell any boy or girl to think about their boyfriend or girlfriend, it is automatic. Once in a while, in five minutes, they will sigh also. You know who they are thinking of but sitting in Church, hearing the message, I don't see anybody sigh. They are looking at the time, “When will this finish?” Because your mind, your thoughts are not fixed on Jesus. Fix your thoughts on Christ Jesus, the Apostle and high priest. We are not getting into that part. *Hebrews 12:2*

Hebrews 12:2

² *fixing our eyes on Jesus, the [b]author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,*

I asked the pastors, He also saw something. He saw the joy before Him. He's here; imagine the pulpit is the joy, He saw that and He endured the cross. The shame, the agony, the scorn, everything of the Cross, He endured because He saw something, what did He see that He did not have before? A bride. That's all. He saw the Church, His wife. He looked at her like Jacob looked at Rachel and said, “Yes, she is spiritually ugly, she is all that but I love her and I'm willing to go through the Cross for her.” He saw something; the question is: do we see something? How do we see life? If you see life in terms of Jesus Christ, everything is gain, even death is gain. People ask me, “Are you afraid of death?” I said, “No. I'm afraid of the pain of death but I'm not afraid of death.” “How come? Don't you love your wife? Don't you love your children? Don't you love your Church?” “Yes, I do,” “but you don't mind dying?” I said, “I don't, because there is somebody I love more, He is waiting on the other side and that love in the light of that everything else is negotiable.” That is the only way you will finish your race. There is no other way you can finish your race. That is why the saints sang, “He is the fairest of ten thousand to my soul. He is the lily of the valley.” Those are all love songs because they saw the beauty of His Person and they said, “You know what? Life was all about Him. It was all about Him. It's not a but.” That's why we have to come to the core of the gospel, it is not about you and me, it is about Him. *Colossians 1:15, 16.*

Colossians 1:15-16

¹⁵ *He is the image of the invisible God...*

Can you imagine? God is invisible, Christ is visible, that's why Christ came in the flesh. He is the image of the invisible God. If you don't love Jesus, you can never love God. God is invisible, He made Himself visible in Christ.

...the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

By Him, through Him, for Him. It's an eye opener, the universe doesn't revolve around me, it revolves around Him, therefore let me also revolve around Him. It is not about me it is about You. That's what this creation is all about. It's about Him, by Him, for Him, through Him. I will change your mind! In *Colossians 1:26-27,*

Colossians 1:26-27

²⁶ *that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, ²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Christ is a mystery! I'm just looking at my phone notes. I write stuff on my phone, I'm learning. You are attracted to what you are exposed to. If you are not exposed to Jesus, you will not be attracted to Him. Remember after everybody had left on resurrection Sunday morning, Peter is gone, John is gone, tomb is empty and she looks at Jesus, as she cannot recognize him, she asked Him, “Have you seen Jesus?” She refused to go? Have you see Jesus? Christ is a mystery! Paul says, “Marriage is a mystery! For most people, marriage is a mystery.” But Paul says, “Marriage is a mystery!” Why is marriage illustration a mystery? It is a relationship with God. Do you know children who have read mystery novels? Every page is

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exciting, you are waiting. That's life with Jesus. It is a mystery. Marriage with Jesus is a mystery because every day is a revelation of the beauty of the person, it is a mystery. Do you see Him like that? Do we see Him like that? That's what Scripture says in *Ephesians 1:19*,

Ephesians 1:19

¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Power is there. The only thing that can bring that power into my life is faith. Do I believe? Ultimately, you will end up from here, you heard for one and a half hours but the question is not what you heard. The question is: do you believe? *Faith comes from hearing and hearing from The Word of God*. Do you believe? Even if Christ were to come and speak, it will make no difference.

In *Mark 11:24*, concerning prayer, Jesus said,

Mark 11:24

²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

All the prayer in the world is powerless without faith. To believe, you should have heard. I cannot ask for something and believe, if I have not heard first. That's why I said, "Much of prayer is in silence, hearing," if you study your Word, spend time with God, God will tell you certain things and then, when you pray for these things, you are able to believe because it is connected with a promise which He has given you. Scripture says, "I watch over my word to perform it." Otherwise, it is just a monotonous religious institution called prayer, there is no faith in it. In *1 Thessalonians 2:13* Scripture says, "When I came to you and preached to you as servant of God..."

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

That's is the faith we preach. There is incredible power of God towards those who believe. Will you believe?

We were talking yesterday from *Hebrews 11:1*, we were talking about, "*Faith is the substance of the things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen.*" Faith has evidence; faith has substance. Malayalam has an incredible word called 'kanibhavishwasam.' Meaning – vishwasam (faith) has substance. You can feel it. You can literally experience it. That's faith. It is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. And one of the primary; we've looked at different things yesterday. You can listen to the message something which the Lord always opened my eyes to. One of the most liberating things God opened my eyes to concerning faith always was *James 1:21*,

James 1:21

²¹ ...and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God but receive with meekness. One of the most fundamental substance faith needs to have is – meekness. Why? Why is it so? Because faith ultimately is completely trusting someone else. And if you are not meek, you cannot trust somebody else. That's why Jesus said, "Be like little children to enter into the Kingdom, because the little children are meek; they trust their parents." And that's the substance which you need to make your faith real. Because you are trusting somebody else. That's why we lift up Jesus. We show the character of Jesus; we show the Person of Jesus; we saw the sacrifice of Jesus and God says, "If you can't trust Him, you can trust nobody." But I need something to trust Him; I need meekness to trust Him. Meekness is something which you and I can know whether we have it or not. That's one of the substance. In *Hebrews 11:8*, Scripture says,

Hebrews 11:8

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⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Do you realize this man was meek? “Abraham, where are you going?” “I don’t know.” “Then, why are you going?” “Because He told me.” “Who told you?” “God.” “God told you? Gods don’t speak. We only give them flowers. They don’t speak.” “No, my God speaks.” “And?” “He told me to go.” “And where are you going?” “He didn’t tell me that.” “You mean you believe Him?” “I believe Him.” “Where are you going?” “I don’t know.” “And you will go?” “Yes.” “Why?” “Because I believe the One who told me.” If you believe the Person who told you, then you can go wherever He takes you. For that, you have to be meek. He was an incredible meek man. In *verse 9*, Scripture says,

Hebrews 11:9

⁹By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

“Abraham, who are you?” “People say I am one of the richest, if not the richest.” “You are one of the richest?” “Yes.” “Are you strong?” “Yes, I once defeated five armies.” “How many servants do you have?” “I don’t know. I have to ask Sarah or Eliezer. I haven’t counted.” “And where do you stay?” “I live in a tent.” “Why?” “Because He told me.” “You haven’t built a house.” “No.” “But I heard your nephew built a house.” “Why don’t you build a house?” “Because He said ‘no’.” “And do you stay in one place?” “No.” “Why?” “Because He said ‘keep on moving’.” Can you live like that? The Kingdom of God on earth was established by servants of God who were like Abraham. They moved when God told them to move. They did not have any permanent establishment on earth because they knew they were a son, a daughter of Abraham and they lived in tents. Tents, he is talking about the temporariness of this passing world. To accept it, you need to be meek. Your faith needs to be meek. Then, incredible power of God flows into your life. Nobody could touch Abraham in all the days of his life. Nobody could touch Isaac all the days of his life. Incredibly meek man. “You tell Me to stop? I’m stopping.” “What do you see?” “Famine. I will stop. What do You want me to do?” “Sow your seed.” “Okay, I will break the ground and sow my seed. I dug and got a well.” “It’s our well.” “Take it.” He dug well and he got water. “It’s our well!” “Okay, take.” “Why?” “Because I know my God.” Can you move and give away what you value? Meekness will be tested. That’s how he moved. That’s how he has touched the lives of thousands upon thousands of servants of God that time. They looked at Abraham and they said, “If he could move, I can move for God.” Because sometimes, your act of faith will start a chain reaction among the others but God is waiting for the first one who will move. Do you remember the woman with the issue of 12 years of blood? She had finished all her money and she had lost her strength; she had gone to all the doctors and then, by faith, she crawled and she touched the hem of his robe. And everybody... Jesus said, “Who is it? Come and testify.” She stood before the crowd and testified, “It is me. I did that.” God said, “Go, daughter. Your faith has healed you.” The word spread. What does Scripture say?

Matthew 14:36

³⁶and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

One act of a woman set off a chain reaction. That’s what God is talking about. To everyone sitting here, God says, “There is one act you do in life which will be unique to you which the Christ in you will do and it will set off a chain reaction; will you believe Me so that others can be healed?”

Like Abraham set off, why? *Verse 10*,

Hebrews 11:10

¹⁰for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

He saw the unseen. Therefore, this tent didn’t bother him and the thorns of the people did not bother him; the scorns of the people did not bother him because he saw something in the unseen realm, a city whose foundations and builder was of God.

Hebrews 11:11

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¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

“How old are you, lady?” “90.” “What are you?” “I’m expecting.” “What did you say? You’re expecting?” “Yes.” “Why?” “Because the One who said this is faithful. I’ll take Him at His Word.” She knew the New Covenant before any one of us do – anyone who calls upon the Name of the Jesus will not be put to shame. “I will not be put to shame. I believe Him. I trust Him because the One who said is faithful.” Do you believe? Do we? The invisible power of God available to those who believe.

Hebrews 11:17-19

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Did you see the meekness and faith, the substance? You know why people here believe but they don’t obey? Because one ingredient is lacking. See, to make a nice dish, if you take the salt out, it doesn’t matter how good it smells, it tastes terrible. There is a fundamental ingredient for functioning faith, which is meekness. Do we have the faith, the meekness, the obedience, the boldness of Moses? With that, I will close.

Hebrews 11:27

²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Writer of *Hebrews*, as an ex-English teacher, I think you need to correct your English. How can you see somebody who is invisible? It’s a contradiction. How can you see? The very fact you cannot see him; that’s why He is called ‘invisible’ but he saw Him. So, how did you see Him? Are you getting the picture? That’s how the child of God, in meekness, walks in faith because he realizes, “My Father loves me, my Jesus loves me and I love Jesus and I look at all the things that are happening in my life as being controlled by a Father who has got my life in His hands.”

One of the most powerful... we have to look at it. Did I give you *Psalms 139*? These are the most beautiful verses in the Bible.

Psalms 139:16-17

¹⁶ 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.

Even before I was formed in my mother’s womb, God had completed the book about me. Every page in my life was written about me because He knew, before the foundation of the world, I was His child. So, why do I worry? What a liberating Scripture!

¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

Even before I was born, every day of mine was written. Therefore, we don’t worry. Yes, situations will come; circumstances will come but every circumstance in a child’s life, God’s child life, has been ordained by God to shape him, to fashion him or her in the image of Jesus Christ. Let me ask you this question; I read this and this was beautiful. This is lime juice but let’s say this is coffee. I am walking with the coffee down. Suddenly, Hephzibah gets up and she bumps into me and the whole thing spilled. Let me ask you this question: why did I spill the coffee? Because of Hephzibah? No, that’s the wrong answer. I spilled the coffee because what was in the cup was coffee. If it was tea, it would have been tea. I got upset because it was coffee but what if it was perfume? What if it was jasmine? Every situation in my life is ordained by God to show me what is in me; not the bumps that I have faced in life so that I will change and I will grow. God says, “Don’t fault the person who bumped into you. Because she bumped into you, you know who you are. Otherwise, you would have never known and I have a plan and a purpose for you. You are angry. So, when she bumped into you. Your anger came out. Don’t get angry with her. Instead, get angry with yourself and get rid of it.” Understand. Abraham would have never known what a coward he was until famine came into the land. When famine came into the land, he realized, “This is what I am.” He comes to Egypt and says, “Lord, have mercy. I sold my wife out to protect my life.” But he would have never known it unless famine

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had come. Look at life differently because what is coming is what is inside. The shaking and the bumping is irrelevant. If what is inside of you is Christ, Christ will come out. If what is inside of you and me is darkness, darkness will come out. But if it is Christ in me and if it is Christ... or you can take Him, literally, beat the life out of Him; back is broken; He cannot even carry the Cross all the way; He is nailed and put on the Cross. The whole world has shaken Him but when His mouth opens, what comes out is what is inside – “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” Because that was what was inside. Every situation in our life, for God’s own people. That’s why Scripture says, “All things work together for the good of those who are in Christ Jesus and those who are called according to His purpose,” because if these bumps in life don’t happen, you wouldn’t know who you are. Because then, you will know whether it is Christ in you, the hope of your glory or whether it is you, destined to darkness. If Christ is in you, He is the hope of glory. So, two disciples are beaten, stripped naked, thrown into the prison in the midnight hour; chained and the legs are put on stock; what came out of them was thanksgiving and praise because what was in them is what came out when they were bumped. Simple. Because we are running a race and the prize is bigger than what you and I can think about. The prize is Christ Himself. He, who has the Son, has everything. He, who overcomes, inherits all. What is this ‘all’? Are you going to get all of Heaven? You are going to get the Prince of Heaven because everything was made by Him, for Him and through Him. He who gets the Son, gets everything. The prize is Christ Himself. If we don’t see that and if it doesn’t change and define our lives, nothing will. So, put your eyes on things that are unseen; not on things that are seen because the things that are seen are temporary; things that are unseen are permanent. Like I said, we need education; the discipline of education. Don’t make it into an idol. We need clothes, good clothes; don’t make it into an idol. We need money. Money is useful for a lot of things but don’t make it into an idol. Don’t make anything that is seen into an idol. Even your husband or your wife or your children. Because, God, from the beginning, has been an idol-breaker. Things that are unseen. Hallelujah? Are you tired? I am not. Come, let’s stand up.

Closing Prayer:

Father, we just want to love You, Lord. First, we just want to say, Father, we just love You, Lord. How can we not love You, Father? The more we hear, the more we see, the more we know, all we can say, Lord, thank You, Father. Truly, Lord, as the songwriters wrote – a thousand years and ten thousand tongues in eternity won’t be enough to thank You when faith becomes sight that day. When we behold Your glory and Your amazing love and the beauty of Your Person, Heaven will not have enough words but today, with the words that You have given us and the strength that You have given us, we just want to lift up holy hands and bless You. We just want to say, Father, we thank You. We just want to say, Father, we love You. Jesus, we love You. We are here in the 9th month. You brought us through, Lord. 8 months; we are in the middle of the 9th month. All we want to say, Lord, is open the eyes of our heart. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding that we may see the hope of Your calling. Incredible calling, Lord. And we see the inglorious inheritance of the saints that Christ Himself is the hope of our glory and we are able to see and receive the incredible power towards those who believe. Every situation that we may face in life, including death, Your power is available to face it. Help us to believe. When we reach the bumps in our lives, when You shake us, help us to observe carefully what comes out of us because for those who are perishing, Scripture says, “We are the aroma of Christ,” and I pray, Father, out of us, it’s the aroma of Christ alone that will come. Help us to grow. Help us to be focused. Help us, Lord, to daily surrender. I surrender the Church into Thy hands once again. All of us, Lord, and I pray that You would bless us; You would keep us; You would empower us. You would guide us and, Father, we would stop sitting on the fence because You hate fence-sitters. Set our hearts on fire for You, Lord. A fire that is lit from Heaven and not on earth that no fire, no water, nothing of earth can blow it away. Set us from fire from above, Lord. Because You saved us from eternal fire, now, Father, set us from fire that we may blaze forth the glory of the Living God. Thank You, Father. Thank You. We give You glory, honor, power and praise. It’s all Yours and Yours alone, Lord Jesus. 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.