

Run With Endurance!

Pastor James

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Father we humble ourselves that is the only attitude position in which we can receive Your Word. We claim to be superior to no one, we claim that we need You, we come as spiritual beggars. For You said blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God. We come Lord, poor, poor Father because every day as we stand in Your presence, as we look into situations around the world and we look into Your Word, we realize how weak we are and how strong You are but in You we are complete. So, this morning I pray for hearing ears, a humble a meek, an obedient spirit, a willing heart and let everything that obstructs the Word of God be removed from this place, every power of darkness, every power of darkness, we plead the blood of Jesus, the blood of Jesus over this place and over the hearers offline and online, no weapon that is formed against us will prosper, every lying tongue that rises against us in judgment, lying tongues, spells, incantations, chanting, sorcery, occult, covenants made by forefathers and fathers offering their children to the devil for their own selfishness we break it in name of Jesus. Our children are free, they will not be bound to the pride and progress of somebody, they are released for the glory of God, for whom the son sets free is free indeed. 'The children you bore unto Me,' is what God said, we are Yours and our children are Yours and we will not let any power of darkness touch them. They have been set apart wholly unto You O Lord, we just thank You Father, thank You Father, send forth Your Word as it is written and heal us, teach us, empower us for in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

So, the Bible is for the saved and I do believe you are saved and if you are not saved, this is still a day you can get saved, right, as long as there is a day called today, do not harden your heart when you hear His voice. The reason is because sometimes often many have religion and not the New Life and New Life is eternal, it is the very life of God. Eternity is coming closer and closer and closer like old English will say when God will wrap up time like a scroll. There is no sun, there is no moon, there is no sunset or moon rise, the Lamb shall be the light. O how we look forward to that day, I hope you do, where there is peace and joy and no tears and no sorrow, no grief, that's what the Kingdom of God is. But what people often forget, though we hear, we understand often we forget is, we saw last Sunday when Pastor Vijay was speaking, when he gave the introduction, he spoke from *Hebrews 6:1-2* and he spoke about the six foundational teachings of which four are caught in time and two are in eternity. Repentance from dead works and faith towards God, these go together. You cannot separate one from the other, if you separate the second from the first, you are not saved, you are just dipping in waters, you are not saved. So it means you were going in this direction knowingly, unknowingly towards hell, you had an encounter when the Word of God came, the Spirit of God convicted you, you repented and turned and started walking in a completely different direction; slowly, fast, radically but the direction has changed and as a proof of that decision and in that direction you get baptized. When you went into the waters, you were saying the old man is dead and the new man has risen who lives unto God and then the battle begins. The battle for you, for me and for Jesus, the battle actually begins post baptism and that is the third one, the doctrine of baptisms. Immediately after baptism in water should be that chronological order, generally, you receive the baptism of the Spirit so that you can live that life because no man can live that life, to live that life, that New life, you need the power of the Holy Spirit. That is why He said, 'Don't you dare get out of Jerusalem. Stay there until you receive the Holy Spirit, when you receive, you will receive power and you shall be My witnesses.' *In Him was life and that life was the light of men* and by that empowered life we become witnesses. Then we have the laying of hands, basically different formats and all this equips us to run our race and then one day, the trumpet will blow and the dead in Christ will rise and if we are alive, prepared, we rise with them and judgment begins. People do not know that is the day that is coming and that is our issue, we do not often forget or we are ignorant or we forget that every child of His who is being born again, God has put them in a race. We are not competing with anybody but we are in a race and I will give you five Scriptures for that. *Acts 20:24*

Acts 20:24

²⁴But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

He says, 'You know what one thing, I don't even count my life dear to me, this life dear to me.' All I want is to finish my race, complete my ministry and what should be my attitude? Remember these are little nuggets hidden over then. You

can't walk around with a long face. It doesn't matter what you are going through, you haven't gone through a fraction of what Apostle Paul has gone through but in the prison he is singing because I want to complete my race in Joy. Joy is something of the manifestation of the Kingdom of God. It is not connected to any event that is happening or that is worldly, that is carnal, that is happiness. Joy is something that is supernatural. So you have him talking about the race and then in *1 Corinthians 9:24* we will come back to this later.

1 Corinthians 9:24

²⁴Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

Galatians 5:7, to the church that began very well and then subtly the enemy came in and took them into the law, legalism and he says,

Galatians 5:7

⁷You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

How did you get off track? How did you get off the road? Because we need to realize it's so subtle. We just get off the road because it is a spiritual race. He says, 'You are running so well, you were running so well and then pulled slowly away. You haven't left the church, you haven't left the Word but you have left the race because you have gone into legalism.' You ran well. *2 Timothy 4:7*

2 Timothy 4:7

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

His prayer in *Acts 20:24* is answered here. I have done it, thank You Lord. I finished. Then of course, *Hebrews 12:1*

Hebrews 12:1

¹Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

So in so many ways, technically, officially speaking, the day you got baptized, you entered into the race. Baptism is kind of a marker when you publicly acknowledge Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Like young couples sitting, the day they got married, they began a journey and if they look at it, everything has changed, right? Tej had different friends and all of them and he was a bachelor and Tanmaye had, but forsaking all others, they changed. It happened in a day, everything changed and they have to get used to that new life. They've just been married for roughly around ten days but they have to get used and they have to keep on walking together and walking with God and that oneness has to come in the same way when you went under the waters you forsook everybody and everything and rose up yoked to Him and God says, 'Your time begins now. Run the race my child and run well.' So, if you go to *1 Corinthians 9:24*, "Do you not know that those who run in a race." Do you know? Do you know that you are running a race? All run, meaning everybody runs whether you are aware or not you are all running. If you sit still in the train, the train will still move. No, I am sitting still, I am not moving. Dude you are moving, but the train is moving. The Kingdom of God is moving. If you are in the Kingdom it's moving, you are in the race whether you know it or not. All run, not some, all run but run to win. Run in such a way to obtain it. Run to win, run in such a way that you may obtain that price. Don't be causal about it, why?

1 Corinthians 9:25

²⁵And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

For everyone who compete for the price is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown but we for an imperishable crown. You need to see the people in the world, when they have locked on to something they want in life, whether real or imaginary, career or something. People look like these guided missiles. You need to know what all they are willing to give up, willing to sacrifice to rise up. Whatever sacrifices they are willing to make and you look through the Bible, people sacrificing literally their children to rise up. You look at what they are willing to do in this world

to rise up, how much they are willing to discipline themselves. Athletes, you look at them, for a hundred meter dash which is less than ten seconds the four years of training they go through, if you look at their training, it is unbelievable, every facet of their being is in that training for a perishable crown. Let me ask you this question, do you remember anybody who won any crown in the last Olympics? Who cares, right? But do you know what they went through for that five seconds of glory?

And God says, 'I am going to give you something that is imperishable,' and for that what do you need? You need something, verse 25, **Be temperate**. Self-discipline, self-control. It is Benjamin Franklin who said, the secret to success in life is for a man to be ready when his time comes. The secret to success in life is for a man to be ready when his time comes. When your time comes, will you be ready. Thirty was the time set for two young men in the Bible called Joseph and David and they were ready to take the throne and they were never trained to take the throne. They went to no royal academy but when their time came, they were ready. They were ready, both. These are pictures given to us. When Jesus turned thirty, He was ready. That the Father knew, 'Now go get baptized, go for the test and Your ministry begins now.' He was ready and the key is self-discipline. Be temperate in all things. These are godly disciplines which will stand in good stead in this world and above all in the world to come. Verse 26,

1 Corinthians 9:26

²⁶Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

Run with certainty. If you see boxing, you do see a trained boxer and the untrained one. The other fellow is just wasting energy and punching and the other fellow is parrying, then he gives him one and he is out. He's gone. He says, 'Don't run with uncertainty.' Be focused, be very clear, be very focused. Even in the world, people who succeed are very focused, they are very clear what they want. Run with certainty, clear cut vision. Then we saw last week also in 2 Timothy that you need to know the rules. There is a race the Father has set the rules, run according to the rules, you cannot randomly run, rules are set and one of the first rules for running the race, starting the race and finishing the race; come to church on time. I'm not even joking, I'm very serious. It doesn't matter to the church; it will matter to you because any athlete who has to compete in a race has to be there on time. So, make that sacrifice every week, 'I am not going to be late, I'm going to be in the house of God, I am going to make my moves very clear, even if Pastor is late, I am not going to be late.' Be careful about these things. They may be little things but the price you will pay in eternity; you don't want to pay that price. So, going to *Hebrews 12:1*.

Hebrews 12:1

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. There is a therefore, and there is a cloud of witnesses and numbers are innumerable, starting from Abel to living one, what are they all witnesses of? Faith. We saw that two, weeks back. The first condition is faith, are you born again? Are you born again, truly, truly born again? Because faith is a life, we shall live by faith. So faith is a life. Faith is a battle, fight the good fight of faith. It is a battle. And that life is a race, are you born again is the question? And faith is just not what you call an equalizer, faith is the winner. That is why you have to stay in faith, remain in faith. Remember in *2 Timothy 4:7*, it says, I have finished, I fought the good fight, I've finished my race and I have kept my faith. I have to stay there, stay there till the end, hang in there, till then, at the end. Why? Because *1 John 5:4* says,

1 John 5:4

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Why does he or she overcome the world? Because this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith. Faith is victory. You overcome the world by faith that is why we spend so much time in hearing the word of God because there is primarily, the primary way by which faith comes is by hearing and hearing the Word of God. That's how faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God but that is not enough. In *James 2:5* I'm giving you familiar scriptures just setting the background.

James 2:5

⁵Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

There's a subtle mental attitude. God hates the proud. I didn't say it, He said it. I'm just repeating what He said, He hates the proud. Therefore, the first blessing pronounced by Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount is - *blessed are the poor in the spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God*. Then Luke will put it across, *blessed are the poor*. So, you have to ask this question: God makes those who are poor rich in faith. It is a poverty of the spirit actually and when He uses the term, *blessed are the poor* in the Book of Luke, honestly a physical poverty kind of automatically makes you humble. Poverty has a way of humbling you. Hunger has a way of humbling you, that's why the Bible says, He led them into the wilderness and cause them to hunger. When you are hungry, you are used to having a banquet, after seven days of hunger, eight days of hunger, ten days of hunger you start eating your children, when the famine hits Samaria and donkey's head and dove's droppings. What happened? It humbled you. Why are you eating that? Because you are poor. So, poverty creates a natural ambience of humility, so the gospel is given to the poor because they receive it very easily.

So, in so many ways that's how it happens. I think, one of our kid's mother asked the question as to, why is that in your church, there is no excitement? My answer is because they are rich, that's why there is no excitement. Like I said, the last time I went to Dubai morning service, first service was with the Pakistani laborers and the second service was with the rich ones who come in SUVs, the reaction back to back was absolutely different. The big ones were leaning back, folding their hands and sitting, appreciating the message, the Pakistani Pathans were on their knees crying and clapping and praising God while the word was going on. Why the difference? It is because we are not poor. Why the difference, why are we not excited? Because we cannot receive a greater gift than God's own Son and eternal life, why are we not excited? Why are we not excited about eternity? Be careful because He has made the poor in the world, those who are poor in the spirit rich in faith. In *1 Corinthians 1:26-28*

1 Corinthians 1:26-28

²⁶For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

That's the kind of people God chooses, be very careful because in *Jeremiah 9:23-24* watch out this is what God says.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

²³Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me.

Three primary things in this world we take pride in, this worldly wisdom, knowledge, second is might, third is riches, whichever order. These three things bring pride. Even in the Church; little biblical knowledge, after that they don't listen any more, be careful God says, don't glory because all these three things creates pride. Wisdom creates pride, might creates pride, riches creates pride. So, you become rich in wisdom, rich in power and rich in riches and God says it is impossible for the rich to enter into the Kingdom of God. It is easier for the camel to go through the eye of the needle. So, be very, very careful, we are setting the parameters of how the Kingdom works. So, the first thing is faith but God has not made everybody rich in faith, some have only saving faith and after that they haven't progressed at all because they are not willing to deal with pride. They are not willing to humble themselves. They are not what we call poor in the spirit; spiritual beggars. You can meet beggars but these are not actual beggars, they are crooks with their gangs but you can see them at paradise crossroads when you stop for the traffic and they knock, 'Amma,' outside also they will be there, amma. Give them one rupee, they won't say anything, five rupees, they won't say anything, ten rupees they won't say anything, yesterday's lunch, they won't say anything, today's breakfast, they won't say anything, 'Amma.' No complains. Why? They are beggars.

How did you go to God today? Did you go with that attitude, Lord, did you begin your day by saying, 'Lord, I cannot do without You'? There are two things that will determine your spiritual journey, one is your prayer life, the other is your

Word life, two things. It's not before man, it is before God. God sees, that's why God says, He who sees in secret. In secret God sees, 'This man is desperate for Me.' That is why David always got out of all his troubles, why? What does he say? *This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and delivered him from all his troubles*, because God has made the poor rich in faith. And your Word life, you are not reading for knowledge, you are not reading for wisdom, you are not reading to quote, you are reading this as your life, this is my sole life. This is my life, if I don't take it, I die. *As the deer pants for the water so my soul longs after Thee*. God watches these two things. Your attitude to these two things and He says, 'You know what I see you and I will make you rich in faith.'

So, that's where we all begin, we all begin at that starting point -faith. Everybody has been saved by grace through faith, or saved through grace through by faith. Faith is given, you start; ready, steady, start. We begin our journey. *Hebrews 12:1* look at this. Listen to the stress I'm making on the syllables, the words on which I'm stressing so you will get what I am trying to say. *Therefore, WE also since WE are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let US lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares US and let US run with endurance the race*. What did you get?

Hebrews 12:1

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

What did you get? Unlike in the world, there are no lone rangers in the Kingdom of God. We run together, we are running our own marked race but there are no lone rangers in the Kingdom of God. Lone rangers are there in the world, and we who have come from the world as you go higher you realize there are more and more lone rangers. You go to that library when you are doing your research, you cannot find a single book because the books have been misplaced by the lone rangers because they will not give you access to those books because if you get that book you may run a little ahead of him or ahead of her. The kind of stuff people do because you know what, as he or she is going up the ladder, they are pushing the others down. This is not that race, we are not competing with anybody. We are complementing one another, that's the first statement God made. *'It is not good for man to be alone, I will make a help meet for him, who is compatible.'* Not one who will compete with him. No, we are all in the same journey. The husband and the wife are joint heirs, heirs of the grace that has been given. You are heirs of that grace, you are not fighting each other, you are walking together because being a lone ranger is a very dangerous thing, very, very dangerous this. Remember these are dangerous things which you have to understand because there is somebody called the lion, not the Lion of Judah, the other one. Be sober, be vigilant because there is a lion who is waiting to devour. Have you noticed the wildebeest and those animals when they run, the lion is waiting? Who is he waiting for? The straggler, the one who has come out of the herd and before you know it, the lion catches it and takes it. Why? He got out of the herd, the lone ranger and that's how people get in.

So, God says, be very, very careful because there may be seasons of isolation but after that be careful. Some of you are alone by choice because you cannot get along with anybody. Let me tell you, get back or you will lose because there is a lion waiting. All the cults who have caught people, they have caught the lone rangers, they catch the lone rangers and before you know, the man, the woman is gone, everything is secretive, nothing is known again. He's gone because the lion got you. The church is not a secret place, it is a very open place, very open place. Everything is taught, everything is up there, everything is open for discussion but that is not how it works. When the lion catches a person, the person is gone, you know why? Because he forgot this, we, us, we run together. All run, we are together, the Church is a Body, others are not alone by choice, you are just longing for somebody to be with you to encourage you and help you along. Help will come. Others may be alone for a season by God after that, you will be back with the crowd. Even John will be back with the crowd. He came out of the wilderness and he started speaking before you know, John has disciples and he is with his disciples. Before you know Elijah has Elisha and then you have groups and groups of prophets everywhere, there are no lone rangers. Get that first principle when you are running a race because when Pastor Vijay preached I think last Sunday or two Sundays back when he mentioned about Sammy, he said Sammy made him his accountability partner. I'm accountable to you, I'm accountable to you Pastor, help me, a young me. It is very good. A young man, it is very good, a young man, unmarried you man, unmarried young women make yourself accountable to an older person, I want to be accountable to you. why? Because I am not this alone and I cannot do this alone. If you have doubts look at *1 Corinthians 12* how the church is described. I'm just giving you a few verses.

1 Corinthians 12:12

¹²For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:14-18

¹⁴For in fact the body is not one member but many.¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

So, we are members of the same body and verses 25, 26

1 Corinthians 12:25-26

²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

That's why I said in this there is no completion, no envy, no jealousy, nothing because nobody is competing with anybody, everyone is running their own marked race but everyone is running together and everybody is willing to help the other. So, when somebody does well you rejoice, when somebody hurts, you hurt. That's how the body works. This is not the way the race is run in the world. So, you have to get that picture very, very clearly because that is not. What is one supposed to do when you are running the race?

Hebrews 3:13

¹³But exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Exhort one another daily while it is called today, encourage one another daily, brother how are you doing, sister how are you doing? Pray for one another as a fact, we as a church, leadership we pray for the Church. I pray with my wife morning and night and I pray with Pastor Vijay during the day. So, three times a day, every day except Sunday, practically we pray for the Church. We are called to pray for one another, we are called to exhort one another, why? We have to keep on, hang in there because this thing is coming, "The deceitfulness of sin" it quietly hardens the heart. It is so subtle. It hardens and hardens and hardens after a point you are so brittle you cannot be changed. So, God says spur each other, exhort each other, encourage one another, we have to do that, in the world you don't do that, you don't encourage anybody, you wish that one would fail.

And there was a man in the Book of Acts, his name was Joseph, but he was such an encourager the Apostles changed his name to Barnabas which means 'son of encouragement'. He encouraged everybody, even nobody would come anywhere Apostle Paul, he went and took him too. Because Apostle Paul's history was following him. So, they were very scared about him, 'Is he real or is he actually pretending to be something else, coming to us to mess us up?' Barnabas said, 'Come brother, I will encourage you.' Now, think about it, isn't that what happens in the world? Now, I don't know modern things because in so many ways, I'm so detached from the world, so I have no idea other than what I read on news. I read the news but I don't watch sports, I don't watch movies. If I watch, it will be at least, around seventy-five to hundred years old, and you have to see some of them, absolutely clean, such powerful Christian messages. Theirs is a different world altogether and you look at what it is now, you don't even understand which world we are living in but I can go back to cricket till Sachin retired. He retired, I retired. We retired together, it was a mutual agreement but do you remember even cricket, any sports, fifty thousand people in the stadium with color of their team and jerseys what are they basically trying to do? Encourage eleven players out there, shouting and screaming and everything. I think I saw the finals, last twenty minutes of the finals of the world cup football, that's because Hepzibah was watching and I watched. I didn't even know the name of that French player and she was going, I couldn't even pronounce it, she was going Mbape, I said Messi, so we had a fight over that also. You are looking at what people would do, now let me ask you, who thinks about the world cup football? Do you know what people do, including my own nephew? Booked early, he stayed in that place, got the jersey, he and his wife was there, what extent people go to encourage those player whose kicking a leather football around.

And this is what God is saying; run your race. Look at these cloud of witnesses, these people of every generation ran, they didn't quit, they finished, keep encouraging yourself, run, run, run. Encourage yourself, exhort yourself daily don't quit because it is so easy to quit. That's a real thing, that is the encouragement you have to give because this is the race of all time, the greatest race of all time and the rewards are eternal. Don't get distracted, don't quit because the devil is as wryly as a fox, he will try to derail you, detour your or deter you. I'm not going to explain, I'm not going to give a lecture in English. Think on these things. So, these are cloud of witnesses. I always look at these traffic advisories that comes and I wonder, then I found out that there are people who pass these message on, like we also when we have our weddings, Sammy is our traffic advisory, traffic is heavy, so come early. We haven't even started from our house and we get a traffic advisory from Sammy who has gone ahead and says, this and this places traffic is very bad, maybe you can take the other route. So, there is a cloud of witnesses who have gone ahead of us and says, 'You know what, you can do it.' They are giving us directions.

From Abel onwards to the last man standing He is giving us directions. And that life of faith touches every area of our lives. Like I keep saying, there is nothing new under the sun. There are witnesses to any problem any man may go through. 'How do I enter into the presence of God?' Abel stands up and says, 'By the Blood. By the Blood.' 'Oh! How do I walk with God?' Enoch says, 'This is the way you walk with God.' 'How do I build a house?' Noah says, 'This is the way to build a house.' 'How do I live in this land?' Abraham says, 'This is the way I live in this land.' How does a young man surrender to the will of God and to his godly father? Isaac says, 'Here I am, on the altar.' Every one speaks. Everyone speaks in every age. These are the witnesses who have gone before us and telling us, 'Endure, endure. Do not quit.' Because the temptation to quit is very powerful. Especially of all days, in the last days it will be difficult, because the Bible says that many will fall away from the faith.

That is why the Bible says in *Hebrews 10:24-25*,

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

As you see the Day approaching. You gather more and more and we encourage one another, we keep encouraging, because we see that the Day is coming. The Day is coming. Hang in there! Hang in there! Help is on the way! Hang in there! It will be over! It will be over. Don't quit! Hang in there! So we are the modern day witnesses. Do you know that we are one of the most unique churches in Hyderabad? Considering that we are so small. Comparatively small. We are complete orphans, we have semi-orphans, we have widows and widowers, we have single fathers, we have single mothers and we have normal families. Everything here. Do you know that you have a unique experience to encourage somebody? Which is just yours. 'Brother, I came through what you came through. Hang in there! It can be done through Christ.' 'Sister, hang in there! I too was in your position once. I was a single mother. I raised up my children. Look what they are doing. God is with us.' That is how you encourage each other today. Encourage one another.

We are not ashamed. There is no shame in Christ. We are grateful to God how He has brought us through. We are not covering up anything. We know what we are. We know where we were, we know who brought us out. And we want to give Him glory and we want to help and edify others. It can be done. Some maybe battling alcoholism and you are the one who overcame and you can tell, 'Brother. I want what it is. I struggled with this for years and then I met Christ. I went through it and I am free now.' Somebody like me, I cannot encourage you, I can give you the Word, I can pray for you, I can fast for you. But I cannot encourage you because that is not my experience. The one and only time I went to a bar with my UG friends in the year 1984, the first peg and I was drunk. (Where is the lawyer? Deepika, that is the day I failed the bar-exam. She is writing her Bar-Exam in 2 months.)

So I don't have an experience there. Because sometimes people listen to me and they all say, 'Your testimony is so boring.' Everybody wants spicy testimony – 'I was drunk for 14 tears,' etc. No, you don't need that kind of a testimony either. But if you have that kind – 'I was into substance addiction and I have come through. I haven't touched that for

years together,' there may be others who are going through the same who can be encouraged. Your testimony is unique and you are a witness of the power of deliverance that is there in the Name of Jesus.

Or you may be a wife who has come through enormous abusive marriage. And then you prayed, you refused to quit and you hung in there and your husband is delivered. You can tell another sister, 'I am a witness of the power of God in my marriage.' Fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, men, women, everyone, there are a cloud of witnesses, encouraging one another. That is what the Bible says, - ***exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*** You see the Day coming closer and closer and closer, you say, 'Don't quit.' That is the gift in the Body of Christ. And it is a gift everybody should have – the gift of being able to encourage.

When somebody comes to me and says, 'I am hurting, I am broken.' Somebody really did come to me and said, 'I am broken because I lost my father.' I said, 'Son, I understand, because I lost my mother and I still haven't gotten over it. But I will still fight the fight.' It is very strange right when your pastor says that he still hasn't gotten over his mother? My phone is full of pictures I don't go into that page at all because my mother's pictures are there. I don't go there. So I am able to agree and say, 'I know your pain is real.' Otherwise we have no testimony. In *2 Corinthians* Paul talks about the God of all comfort who comforted us in our suffering. That is the comfort we pass on to others. We have nothing of our own. We have nothing other than what we have received. But when we have received something, be careful that you pass it on. This is important. Every man, woman, child who is born-again here, is on two journeys and both journeys have to be there to finish your race. One is the internal journey of sanctification, because the One who called you is Holy. The internal journey of righteousness because the One who called you, the sceptre of His Kingdom is righteousness. It is internal and it is personal. The other is the eternal; you are called to be a witness. You should have both. You cannot be stuck with one alone. If you get stuck with one alone I am telling you, you will get stuck in your race. You have to have both journeys; an internal and an external. An internal journey which is your own, which is your personal. There are no two people who have all the same battles, though there may be common areas. It is personal, it is an eternal journey. And then there is an external journey; you become a witness.

As you win this battle, even without words, you become a witness. Isn't that what is told to a wife who is in conflict in her home – if the husband does not believe, what does *1 Peter 3* say?

1 Peter 3:1-2

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

Without a word she was a witness of the life of Christ. You cannot question that life because it is not your life; it is His life. *In Him was Life and that Life was the light of men.* The people who live with you close together know you very well. The most difficult person, for me, to bring to Christ was my mother, because she knew me from the womb. So she was testing me out whether I was authentic or not. And then she came through. She had 5 children, and one of them left the catholic fold. When she talked to people she never mentioned me, she mentioned the 1st, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th all doing well in the secular realm, but the 5th she did not mention because she was ashamed. One day I overheard her speaking to a friend of mine who had visited her and I was in the other room. She said, 'But now my 5th son. I understand that I was born to bare him. That was my purpose.'

The people closest to you are the most difficult to win. They can be won only without a word.

Ask Tanmaye, ask her about her father, some of them are so righteous, they will give the Pharisee a run for their money, the righteousness that comes by the law, for them to come across, they have to see that your life is the life of Christ. 'Lord let me die that You live,' then they will come through. That's what the Bible is talking about. Two journeys we are running, one is internal, one is external. We are running a race, 'Lord I want to be a witness but I know Lord I don't have the capacity to be the witness, You help me.' That should be your prayer, not Lord I want this, I want that. It is not. Shopping list, real prayer goes beyond all that and say, 'Lord help me to be a true witness, a genuine witness. I have failed to be a witness, I lose it Lord when I'm just overwhelmed, I just lose it Lord. I don't want to lose it, don't want to lose my temper because I become a false witness. I don't want to be envious of somebody Lord, I become a false witness.'

Like I said yesterday if you listened, the first two question God asks outside the Garden, both are very important, why are you angry, why has your countenance fallen. And sometimes it is so very visible. Somebody when they hear good news about somebody, their countenance falls, they are not able to rejoice about the good of somebody else. That's why Shakespeare said, one can smile and smile and still be a villain. 'Thank you, Pastor, so nice Pastor,' never reaches the eyes. We were taught early in the classroom, 'Watch the eyes,' that's why the Bible says, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Why has your countenance fallen? The countenance is the expression of your soul and you cannot control it all the time. Sometime the mask slips and the real person, looks like, but if you are genuine inside, Christ is transforming you, the mask doesn't slip or fall because you don't have a mask. He wants to make us genuine, real people. Remember this, everywhere, you are helping people, you are encouraging people. Lord, what is my ministry? Encourage one another. Can you imagine there are very few places I can go but the kind of places you can go, because I use this illustration. You go to churches anywhere in India, in their own language, the statement is the same, you go to Assam, they will say, 'I'm feeling very sad,' you go to north India, 'Pastor, I'm feeling very sad.' You come further down, every language the statement is the same. Why are you so sad? What a testimony!

Ten unbelievers, one believer, unbelievers are all talking about their problems and the believer says, 'Stop, you don't know my problems.' Don't talk about your problem, talk about your God. If you lift your problems I will draw all men towards me. No, He didn't say that. He says, 'If you lift Me up.' Paul and Silas were lifting Christ up, the God they did not know but they knew this God was radically different from the gods they knew, so, everybody was silent at midnight hour and they were listening because that was their witness for the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit and Joy always sings or if you are me, you whistle because if you sing, they may put their fingers in their ears. Think about it, do you have a witness? Old days they used to say, can I have a witness. Do you have a witness without a word?

Now we have another child over here. Hannah sitting over here, her mother had a fall, gone through surgery, now the daughter is taking care of the mother, the mother is bedridden and the mother cries and says, 'I should be taking care of you,' but that is your witness, take care of your mother. Feed her, clean her, do everything. Take care of your mother and keep praying and after sometime the mother after six months, the mother will say, 'You know what, her God is God.' Have you heard about Florence Nightingale? Who actually started this wave of nursing, awesome lady, I think first world war, or second world war, I cannot remember all the soldiers, wounded, lying in the wards and the nurses will all come to check on them and then there is Florence Nightingale, the woman of God. You know when she goes with her lamp, her shadow falls on the bed, do you know what the soldiers did, they kissed her shadow because that was her witness because she loved and cared for the patients.

What is your witness? What is our witness? Think on these things children. So, we have all kinds here. We are uniquely equipped to encourage people going through any problem. Brother you are going through a divorce, I'm there. Sister, you're going through this? I'm there. Oh, you have no parents, I am there, I too had no parents and God brought me up. Ask of it, you have it there. You have your own unique ministry defined for you. Unique way only you can encourage somebody in your situation, how God has brought you through and He is still bringing you through. The One who is a Father to the orphans and the Husband to the widows. So, *Hebrews 12:1-2* there are weights and there are sins. We will come back to that later. Let us run with endurance, but to run with endurance the race that is set before us, we need something. Verse 2 Looking unto Jesus. Fix your eyes on Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What is God saying? Focus is important for you to finish your race. Think about an actual race, an actual person who is running, lot of people don't win because while they are running, they look to the right or to the left or they look down or they look back, but the fellow who wins doesn't look anywhere except to the front, focus. And when you walk on roads, if you do, evenings and all you walk on roads or when you drive slowly, watch people and you can see the amount of depression in this land. Older people among because they are all walking like this and the amount of casual carelessness

among another set, the young people. All cool, you can see the way people walk, the way they are addressing life, no focus, Bible says, keep your eyes fixed on Christ Jesus. He is not just the Author, He is also the Finisher. If you keep your eyes on Him, He will finish the race. Both races, both journeys He will finish. Your sanctification He will finish. *May the God of peace sanctify you wholly spirit, soul and body* and He will do it but if He has to do it, keep your eyes on Him. And to be a witness, keep your eyes on Him, He will do it.

Paul never took His eyes off Jesus. You know what two thousand years, he is the witness of the Church after Christ. Take Christ death away, then he is the witness, why? Because he never took his eyes off. This is how you witness in your work places, everybody is a witness. You have your unique spaces, but how do you do it? You need focus, keep your eyes on Christ Jesus. Why do you also keep your eyes fixed on Christ Jesus? For those of you who run or go to the gym or those who play or anything. You know it involves a lot of pain, lot of people quit the gym because they cannot take the pain anymore, because every level you go there is more pain, right? Otherwise you cannot progress. There is pain, but you can keep your eyes on Jesus. Do you know why?

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Therefore we can go boldly. Why? It is because He understands my pain. Why can I keep my eyes on Him? Because if I go to this one he cannot understand I am going through. You go to another one, he will say, 'I don't know, but I will pray for you. I don't understand.' Finally you go to Jesus and He says, 'I understand. I understand exactly what you are going through, because I went through the same thing. But I didn't give into sin. Therefore you can come to me boldly because when you are in pain you sin. When you are under that struggle you sin, because there are all kinds of anesthetics available. All those who drink are not drinking for pleasure; they are drinking to hide their pain. All addicts are not addicts; they are addicted to something because they cannot handle the torment and the pain. Those who are addicted to movies they are just trying to kill time because time has become their enemy. They are just trying to forget that they are alive. Depressed people just eat and eat because that is their cop out to. And to all of them you say, 'There is somebody who understands.' Who is He? That is Christ.

That is Christ. you can come boldly to Him, you will receive mercy. Mercy and mercy and mercy. All you have to do is cry out, 'Mercy! Lord, mercy!' go through the Word, the words of Jesus Christ, go through the Bible. Every time it didn't matter who it was, 'Mercy!' and He stopped. And He hasn't changed, He is the same yesterday, today and forever. The cry of mercy. You will say, 'I cried and nothing is happening.' Don't worry, it started. It has started, help is on the way. It has started and you will find grace to help you in time of need. You are in the race. Don't quit.

Hebrews 12:2

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

He endured the pain and despised the shame. There are two things here; one is pain and the other is shame. Do you know that a lot of people are ashamed? Lot of people are ashamed so they pretend to be something that they are not. But Christ took the shame away. See, if you are ashamed you will never be a true witness. You will be a pretender. If you want to be a true witness then you must not have any shame about your past, because you are under the Blood. You have encountered Christ, you have put it before Christ, Christ has dealt with it, it is under the blood, now you are taking that in an appropriate setting and encouraging somebody because you are no longer ashamed. But if you do not do that, that means you are ashamed of Christ. That is why the Bible says – when the Son of Man comes if you are ashamed of Him now He will be ashamed of you then.

I listen to prayers of people. That is my job. When you are praying I listen. And I have seen one person who is most open is Bro. Wesley. I listen to his prayer and I said, 'Boy! Did you hear what he is saying? Did you hear what he is saying? He is not ashamed.' He is not ashamed, I am not talking about today's prayer, I am talking about many weeks back. I listened to him what he said. You know what? He is not ashamed, because Christ has taken His shame. Because if you

are an alcoholic and God has set you free, when somebody is struggling you are ashamed to accept the fact that you were an alcoholic before. No. you tell, 'Brother, you know what, I was worse than you. I was a mess. But Christ delivered me, He delivered me from addiction and from the shame associated with that. Christ delivered me.'

Christ will say, 'You know what? You were not ashamed of Me. I will not be ashamed of you.' Lot of people are ashamed. Are you ashamed? Do you know what Christ has done in your life? From what all He has saved us from? Are you ashamed? So in an appropriate setting when you here that somebody is struggling with something which you went through and God brought you through, don't be ashamed of Christ. Don't be a pretender. Do you know who we are? We are unbelievably corrupt sinner saved by grace. Every one of us. Given the opportunity and the chance and the power you would have committed every sin under the sun. It is His mercy that He did not give us the power or the chance. His Son was given all of it, He had the power but He never sinned. That is what the Bible is talking about. Deal with these things because we are living in a world of absolute evil.

I look at the videos coming from the west of these trans and plansexual. You feel so sorry for them, what is gone wrong with that generation? Now it is no longer Homo or Bi, it is plansexual; you are in love with the tree and you want to marry the tree, the cat, the dog. What has gone wrong? Do you get upset? Or are you broken? Do not be judgmental. One thing I always tell myself is that, it could be my son or my daughter. I will not judge, I will not judge. Tomorrow or the day after it could be one of the young ones whom I have mentored, who wakes up 5 years from now and says, 'Pastor, I am plansexual now.' What are you going to do? Cry? Or get angry?

This is not the time of judgment; this is a time of intercession. This is a time of prayer, because a generation is going wonky. And who has the power to move Heaven? The people who can pray. The people who can stand in the gap. And for that we need to be authentic witnesses, by saying, 'I too was in a particular place, in a particular time, this is what my life was, but I thank God He lifted me. I was in the miry clay, but thank God He put my feet on the Rock. I didn't lift myself, He lifted me. Oh He lifted me. He lifted me.' and God says, 'I lifted you, now you be My hands and My feet, lift somebody today. don't be a Pharisee, lift somebody today.' That is how you run your race.

There was a young pastor who came here many weeks back. He came here once, somebody gave him my name and he came here. He is a mayali pastor, he doesn't speak a word in English. He came and he didn't understand anything because he doesn't understand English very well. But when I looked at him I knew that there is an anointing on this young man. He shared his testimony with me, and I will not share his testimony with you because it was only for me. I looked at him and said, 'Son, you know what? God brought you to the only church in the city, to the only pastor who understands what you are going through because I went through that. And I am with you all the way.' His baby was born and his baby almost died and he had only me to call in this city. I said, 'I am with you son, the baby will come through.' Then he called me again, 'Pastor, my baby is just three days old and my mother just died I have to go today.' I said, 'Son I am with you. Go and come back.' And yesterday right before we started he called me and said, 'Pastor, would you pray for me.' I asked, 'What happened son?' 'I am going to Mumbai, for a 6-day fasting and prayer revival meeting. They have called me.' I said, 'Ill pray. But I cannot pray in Malayalam, can I pray in English?' he said, 'yes you pray and send me.' and I prayed. The he said, the pastor who was supposed to preach cancelled his trip so they called me as replacement. I asked, 'Who is the pastor?' he said, 'Pastor Anish Kavalam' I was like, Whooo! you do not know who he is. Anish Kavalam is one of the big Pentecostal preachers in Kerala and this young man is replacing him today, tomorrow, till Thursday in Mumbai, because there was somebody to encourage him, to tell him, 'Don't quit son, I am with you.'

That is what you do to people. You encourage them and say, 'Don't quit! Don't quit!' and each one of you have a unique ministry because you all have come through pain. In your own way you have come through pain. These two young children, I have shared their testimony everywhere, last Pastor's Conference on Tuesday, today morning, etc. it is a very unique testimony; I have never in my life heard about two people waiting ten years without talking to each other. I went to Tej's mother also and I held her hands and said, 'You know Ma, I need to tell you, your testimony is equally strong; you waited ten years with your son. He loved her and she loved him, but you loved your son and time is passing away and you waited.' It is a unique testimony. So for all those who are waiting they are able to encourage in ways nobody else can. It is good to wait on the Lord, because it is said about even Abraham, through patience and faith he inherited the promises of God. Everyone here, just take a look around and you look at the stories here; this church is full of

stories. Your own stories. Do not zip your mouth. Be a witness. Don't look down, don't look to the side, don't look behind, look unto Jesus. He is the Author and He is the Finisher.

That is why the Bible says, 'Consider Him, who endured such hostility from sinners. **Hebrews 12:3.**

Hebrews 12:3

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

That is the reason; people are getting weary. Whenever I get mails from around the world I tell them, 'I am tired but I am not weary. I am tired but I will not be weary.' Over and over again the Bible says –*Do not grow weary*, because if you grow weary you will get discouraged. One entire generation wasted their life in the wilderness and perished because they were discouraged. The Bible says that they were discouraged. When they heard the testimony of those ten spies they got discouraged. God says, 'Look at Him. He faced such hostility against Himself from sinners.'

There is this guy I forgot his name. He was a secular guy who heard about these persecuted churches decided, 'I am going to make a trip around the world and see these persecuted churches.' His record is there going from place to place encountering the persecuted church. He says that it was mind blowing. He talks about the stories in Soviet Russian, in the old days, where there is this one believer among the hardened. And he gets up every morning and starts singing these songs and every one would mock him and spit at him, but he would not stop; every day he would praise and worship, there is no second person to sing with him. The prison guards are brutal, the prisoners are brutal. It was a huge massive prison. Then one day the prison guards come and they start beating him up and decide to beat him to death. When they are beating him up something happens; from every cell, every prisoner is standing and singing his song and then the guards leave him and walk out. One man's witness, one man's testimony, he endured so much hostility against himself and he stood there.

Then he talks about another encounter with the persecuted underground church in China. He said that he managed to find a church and they were all there, they had no clue about the outside world, they wanted to know whether they are Christians in other countries and he said, 'Yes.' They asked whether they are persecuted Christians, he said, 'yes' and he said, 'I just came from Somalia,' and he shared about what the Christians in Somalia go through. He stayed with them that night, next day morning he woke early and heard and saw this wailing and crying going on and found that the underground church had woken up one hour earlier than their usual timing and he couldn't understand one word they were speaking because they were crying and praying in Mandarin, the only word he understood was that all of them were crying, 'Somalia! Somalia! Somalia!' because they were praying for their brethren who were persecuted in Somalia. So they woke up one hour early. That is the witness Christ has on earth.

I read these stories because that is how I began. I always tell my children and everybody, when I went into that country I was just a born again Christian, I never had a church. I had Richard Wurmbrand's God's Underground. Watchman Nee, Llyod Jones' Daily readings. Two people; one was in the prison for 13 years and the other was hung in the prison. As a young 22-23 year old boy my doctrine was framed by that. And then when I came and looked at all the flashy ones, somehow I was like, 'No! This can't be real. This and the ones I read about both can't be real. Either this is real or that is real, both can't be real. This flashy one can't be real. This is real because these people were willing to stack their lives for what they believed. So this has to be real.'

Ask yourself – how authentic is our witness? We have no life except his life. So the Bible says, 'Consider Him.' **Hebrews 12:1-3** is talking about – there were could of witnesses, many others who ran and finished, some didn't finish well, some finished well. But we have our witnesses. Each one in their unique ways, how they struggled with their unique things. Whatever it is; if it is lust there is Samson, at the end he overcame. There is David, he overcame. If it is anger, there is Moses, he overcame. If it is compromise, there is Aaron, the same man who made the golden calf is standing between the dead and the living. They are dying in rows as the plague is hitting them and Moses says, 'I can't do it. You need to take the censer,' and he is standing there literally between the dead and the living. How did this whoos become this? Because he overcame. So if you are a whoos and you compromise before people, you are a people-pleaser and you compromise everywhere, God says, 'Look unto Aaron and see how he finished. You too can.'

The whole idea is to finish and to finish well. A cloud of witnesses. That is where you need endurance, 'I will endure it. I will not quit. I am not going to give up. It doesn't matter if I fall seven times, I will get up 70 times a day. There is one thing I have decided – I will not quit. I am running this race.'

So God says, in verse 1, get rid of weights and the sin that easily entangles.

Hebrews 12:1

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Get rid of fear, it is a weight. Anxiety is a weight. You have to face your fears. Even if it is a fear of a lizard. Now let me ask you this question O pastor Vijay gets a call, 'Pastor would you come to my house? My father is dying. Would you please lead him to the Lord before he dies?' And he says, 'I am coming, I am coming.' he goes there, the man is lying on the bed and there are three lizards on his wall. What will you do? What will you do? You have to face your fears. We all had fears. I had this terrible fear of heights. So you know what I did? How I overcame this fear? I went to the highest building and I looked down, and then realized that I am not afraid anymore. I had a fear of water, of drowning. So I never swam until a child told me that even dogs swim. And I learnt to swim like a dog and I realized that I could swim. You have to face your fears because the fears are not real. False Evidence Appearing Real. It is not real. You have to face your fears, it is a weight, get rid of it.

I tell my wife, 'Oh the day we go to see our grandchild. There is our grandchild and their dog in the same house. What will you do? For them the dog is their son and they have their daughter. Both son and daughter together. What will you do? Ask them to kick the dog out? They will not. So you stand outside and I will go play with the grandchild, because I love the dog and I love the child. No issues.' So face your fears. We were all afraid of snakes and I was also afraid of snakes until one day in the kitchen I saw the snake, in Assam. My child was right there, so I took the snake and just threw it out. After that I have never been afraid of snakes because that child of mine, 2-year old toddler who is running around is precious to my heart and there is this snake. You know what? Perfect love overcomes fear – to heck with the snake. My child is more valuable to me than the fear of the snake. And after that I have been killing snakes. You have to face your fears because it is a weight. It is a huge weight. Face it. Don't run from the dog, face it and you will realize that the dog doesn't do anything.

That is what I told, every time I ride on my bike, every time consistently I do that; if a dog chases my scooter I stop and ask, 'What do you want to do? Do you want to ride?' and the dog stares at me and smiles. 'Okay, got the message? Now let's go.' I do it consistently, why are you chasing a scooter? What are you going to do if I stop and give you my scooter, will you ride?

You have to face your fears, you have to face your anxiety, you have to face your worries. Do you know what happens? You will stop, you will stagger, you will stumble. Do not worry about tomorrow, sufficient unto the day are the evils. Meaning you are not able to handle today's issues because your eyes are on tomorrow's troubles. Your focus is gone. Your focus should be Christ, the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. All these things shall be added unto you. But worry took your eyes off. God says, stop worrying. Do you know how many people I have to tell every day, 'Stop worrying, He only promised daily bread. Not the month's rations. Did He take care of you yesterday? Yes. He will take care of you today. Hang in there. Did you go hungry yesterday? No. did you sleep well? Yes. Yesterday's need was met. Thank You Lord, You said Daily bread and You gave me my daily bread.' Yesterday He gave so why are you worrying today? Let today take care of its troubles. And don't start worrying about tomorrow. These are weights and you have to consciously learn to handle this, because you know why? It is because you do not run your race with weights. You go to the gym and lift weights but you don't run with weights. The only ones who run with weights are those who are in paramilitary or military. They run with weights to build their endurance. But that is not what Bible is talking about. If you are running your race you try to be as light as possible. Let me give you this Word in English – if you continue running with weights at the end you will be a dead weight. You will be a dead-weight in your home, in your church, your office, you are a dead weight, because you did not get rid of those weights.

The Bible says –get rid of these weights. Because the weights are what the devil attacks; it is in your flesh. Your flesh, the old man, the old nature. It is there, it is very easy for the enemy to activate the flesh and that is where the flesh comes in.

Galatians 5:23-24

²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Walking in the Spirit is very light. It is very light, because the Spirit will teach and show you what your weights are. My weight and your weight may not be the same. He says, 'Get rid of this. Get rid of this. Get rid of this. Let us walk together light. One of the kids from another state, I can talk to them so I told them, 'You are overweight.' And she said, 'I defy gravity.' I said, 'Good for you. I like that you are not offended.' I love people who are not offended. When people come with me on missions I tell them very clearly, 'Don't get offended. I will teach you whether your flesh, your old man is dead or not.' I told somebody last week, 'Lose weight because Jesus said the way is narrow.' She said, 'Pastor I tried, after you told me, but I hurt my foot when I was walking.' I said, 'When it is healed start walking again. Jesus said that the way is straight and the gate is narrow. Lose weight.' You see, if the old man is dead how can you be offended?

But if the old man is not dead, if you are offended, that is a warning. Check yourself, 'I shouldn't be getting offended. Am I still living in the old man?' I shouldn't be getting offended. So the Bible says, 'Those who are of Christ's, **²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh.** Mark that. They have got rid of weights, they have got rid of sins, they are fighting it, battling it daily, they are getting rid of it daily, why? Who are they? They are Christ's. That is the marker. They are daily battling it, not that they are perfect, but they are trying to be blameless.

1 Corinthians 15:23

²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

Who are Christ's? Those who have crucified their flesh with their lusts and passions, they have got rid of their weights and their sins. That is the order of resurrection. That is why the Spirit is given. So we fight it. And there is no condemnation at all and God says, 'My Spirit is there. Fight it (your flesh) every day.' Each day, at the end of the day, you only have to look at that day, you look back and move on. One day at a time, one day at a time I will handle it. That is how you work it. Because you are governed by one thing,

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. (Why don't we lose heart? Why do people lose heart? Because their outward man is perishing and their inward man is not being renewed. Therefore they lose heart. One pimple on the nose and they are gone, that day joy and everything is gone. One grey hair and immediately gone. Outward man is perishing, but why are you so upset? It is because the inward man is being renewed. That is the race. If the inward man is being renewed day by day, then you are not bothered about the outward man. But if your inward man is not being renewed. You are absolutely worried and upset about the outward man.) **¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,**

How do you see pain and suffering in this life? You will see it in a different light altogether. Light affliction. It is very light. But how can it be light? In comparison. If there is no comparison it is not light, it is heavy. People die or commit suicide. We have the highest percentage of youth suicide in history ever. Why? it is because affliction is not actually light, it is heavy. But how does it become light? In comparison in the light of eternal weight of glory. So there are scales. Here is affliction in this life – 50 years of suffering, or 30 years of suffering. Unbelievable suffering for Joseph and then in one day you are prince of Egypt. In the light of this, all his suffering is gone. At 30 you are the governor of Egypt. And for the next 80 years you are prince. 13 years and 8 years, compare it. Is there any comparison? And then if you live for 70 years or 80 years, 80 years of suffering and eternal glory, is there any comparison?

That is how you need to think, if you do not have eternity in your mind. Remember, as Pastor Vijay taught, the first four are caught in time and the last two are connected with eternity. Resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment, eternal weight of glory. How do you see time? Here on earth it is a moment. And there it is eternal. You have taken pain, you

have taken time, you have rationally thought it out and compared it and come to the right conclusion, that it is hardly anything. When I look at what is coming, this doesn't mean anything at all. That is how you compare.

And people do that in this life, for this world but there is no guarantee. There is no guarantee. You can burn the midnight oil and the day light sun, you can do whatever you want but there is no guarantee that you will clear the Civil's exam. You can take 3 years off and you can go to any coaching there is no guarantee. Do all the kids, who go to KOTA clear the IIT? They don't, they commit suicide. 28 this year. There is no guarantee. But in this (BIBLE) it is guaranteed by God. It is guaranteed – everyone who finishes well will enter into glory. You will receive a rich welcome He says. And they don't want to run this race. Guaranteed forever and ever. And all of creation is groaning for the sons of God to be revealed. Nobody is groaning on earth, except the saints who are running. Think!

Think! That is where the mind has to change. Read *Ephesians 4:22*, only when you get this perspective will you start understanding what the Bible means, because the Bible is written to born-again people. It is primarily written to people who are running the race. Otherwise it is just a text book.

Ephesians 4:22

²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, Put off! Lay aside! The Hebrew writer will say, lay aside the weights and sins that so easily ensnares. Here the writer, Paul, through the Spirit of God says, ***put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man.*** Put off the old man.

²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Now you have to start thinking differently. You have to keep eternity in perspective. 'This decision if I take how will it affect me?' Nobody is thinking. One decision you make. A choice was given, 'We are brothers, there shouldn't be conflict among others. If you go to the right I will go to the left. If you go to the left I will go to the right. You choose.' What did he say? He should have said, 'You choose. I have followed you thus far, I have seen your witness. I have seen your testimony. You choose for me. One thing I will tell you, if you ask me to move I will move but I want to stay close to you.' But that is not what he did. He looked, he chose and he moved. Next time he wakes up it is judgment day.

Do you know how many people will wake up like that? Were they saved? Yes. But they will wake up on judgment day because they went away on one decision and they never came back. It is not that he cannot come back. Lot was given opportunities to come back, he didn't come back. Even after he went into captivity and was rescued by the same uncle he still didn't come back, he still went back to Sodom.

You are running a race. So God says, 'Put off. And put on and be renewed in this mind.

Ephesians 4:24

²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

This new man was created according to God. The old man was created according to the devil. 'You are of your father, the devil. I am of God,' that is what Jesus will say. New man was created according to God in true righteousness, not the righteousness of the Law, not self-righteousness. You can smell and spot a self-righteous person a mile away. ***True righteousness and holiness***, that is a new man. And it is there in all of us who are saved. Now in verse 25 it is getting practical, how do you do this? You see, there are miraculous interventions of God in everybody's life. You should expect miracles, signs, wonders and all. But God has also called us to live a clear normal Christian life where we do things in His power which He asks us to do.

God is not saying, 'I will put off' He says, 'You put off.' When I taught elsewhere, I said, 'Take a book, you are all students here. Take a book, make 3 columns. What should I put off – what should I put on – what is the reason. The reason is important because it gives validity for you to persevere and endure. What should I put off?

Ephesians 4:25

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

What should I put off? I should put off lying. Second, I should put on the truth. Why? Because we are the members of one body. That is the reason. Will my hand lie to my eye? Will my eye lie to my feet? No. for it knows that if my eye lies to my feet I will stumble and fall. If my hand lies to my face my food will go into my nose and not into my mouth. They will never lie to one another. God says, 'See, you are one Body. So put off lying. Stop lying. Start speaking the truth.' So when I counsel parents I say, 'Don't put pressure on your children. Children are fragile; they are like a balloon, if you press it it will burst. So if you put pressure on the child the child will lie.' If you shout, 'Did you do it?' He/she will lie, because they can't handle it. So the atmosphere in the home should be an atmosphere of trust and serenity and peace and love where the child does not want to lie. Let me ask you this question – why is it so easy to tell the truth to Jesus? It is because He will never condemn you. He will never condemn you if you tell Him the truth, 'Lord, I lied.'

Here is David standing before Him and he says, 'Lord, I lied. I sinned and You are right when You judge me. I lied; I took another man's wife. I deceived, I killed her husband. Everything was a lie. I sinned.' God said, 'I will take your sin away from you.' Create an atmosphere, do not put pressure. Do not put pressure. That is why I never ask you anything. If you come to me and tell me it is fine. I do not want to know your stories unless you come and tell me. And if you tell me it stays with me, I am good. Do I say anything to anybody? People come and tell me the worse things they have done, I tell them, 'Go to God. Let's pray. Get over it and let's move on.' That is the purpose for which Jesus came – to cleanse you for your sins and set you free. We are not under Law, we are under grace. Confess.

If you confess, He is harsh? Is that what the Bible says? If you confess He is harsh and angry? No. He is faithful and His blood will cleanse you of all your unrighteousness. Can you think about it? Your unrighteousness if all cleansed by His blood. When you reach heaven all your tears are wiped by the Father. Think! Put off! Put on! Why? It is because you are members of one Body. And who is the Head? Christ. 'You are of your father the devil, he was a liar.' Who is the devil? A liar. So do not lie. Your parenthood has changed. Who is your father? God. Who is He? God of Truth – 'I am the Truth.' The Spirit of Truth. And therefore I focus on making decisions based on the Word because this is the Truth that I hold. So stop lying. If I make a decision which is outside Scripture and not ratified by the Holy Spirit it is a lie, it doesn't matter how good or how successful it may look.

Like Lot, who must have thought, 'Poor old man. I made the right decision. Look at it! Look at me. He is still growing older. I am young, I have my wife, I have my daughters, I have become an elder in the city. Everybody says that I am smart.' Until the Day of Judgment came and he found that he was a lie and Abraham was true. Do you know why? It is because Abraham did not look until God said 'Look'. Put off. I am making it very practical, what is a weight? Lying is a weight. I can still remember this incident. As parents you remember your children when they are small, right?

One day my little fellow I think he was only 4 years old, he just started school. I packed his bag, gave him his lunch and everything and then we were sitting down. He had a shiny thing in his hand, I asked, 'Hey! Where did you get this things from?' he said, 'Jade gave it to me.' I know all his classmates. 'Jade gave this to you?' I was wondering, as far as my intelligence goes little children do not give shiny things to others. I kept quiet, I said, 'Okay, Jade gave it to you? Okay.' That night I was sleeping in my study on the floor. And he crawled and came to me and slept next to me. Around 12 O' clock he woke up and he was crying, I asked him, 'What happened?' he cried, 'Jade didn't give it to me. I took it from her.' I said, 'Well I knew you took it from her, I was waiting for you to tell me that you took it from her. I knew it. Now you do one thing, I love you very much. Tomorrow when I drop you back to school give it back to Jade.' Stop lying.

Stop lying. That is why you can go to God. Tell Him the truth, nothing but the truth, the whole truth and He is never surprised because He already knows. He is not angry, because His anger and wrath was poured upon His Son. And He shows mercy on you and me when we go to Him and speak the truth. He says, 'Now that you are born by truth,' it says in *James 1:18 – we are born by the Word of Truth speak truth to one another. Don't lie.* That doesn't mean that you have to be like the Spanish Inquisition – 'I want to know the truth.' There is somebody who is always looking for truth, 'I want to know the truth! I want to know the truth!' and then the truth is put on the notice board. That is not what it means. You don't need to know the truth of anybody, unless they volunteer and tell you. You just have to make sure that you are true. You should not be a truth-seeker of other people's lives. The Bible talks about it - busy bodies. The Bible uses the word 'busy bodies'. Their bodies are not busy but they are busy bodies. No, that is not what the Bible says. It says, put away and put on and the reason is given. That is your new man; that is your new nature. He says, show that.

Ephesians 4:26-27

²⁶ ***“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,***

You were always angry and sinned. Now be angry at sin and don't sin. There is a subtle difference. Be angry at sin and do not sin because you must not give place to the devil.

²⁷ ***nor give place to the devil.***

Like I shared a powerful illustration last night about Jo. The wife says, 'Curse God and die.' Did he shout at her? Did he scream at her? No. he said, 'You are talking like a foolish woman.' Like I said, you do not look at the full picture. This is a man and a woman; a husband and a wife; a father and a mother. both have gone through the same tragedy; in one day they have lost all their children and all their wealth. The father, because he is a man of faith responds differently; he goes on his face and worships God. But she does not have it. So the Bible says – live with your wife with understanding because she is a weaker vessel. So he doesn't shout at her, he says, 'You are talking like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good from God and not evil?' He is not angry, and he is not sinning. He is dealing with the issue over there. Because if you don't that do,, the devil is waiting over there to come in. you are giving place to the devil.

That is what God is telling Cain. Why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen? Get a handle on it and deal with it the right way otherwise sin is crouching, the devil is crouching to get you. He didn't deal with it. It was so easy to deal with it. It was such a simple thing to deal with it. Can you imagine? It was the easiest thing to deal with. He should have just gone to Abel and said, 'Abel, you are the shepherd, you offered the first lamb and the Lord accepted. Do you have a second one to give me?' 'Yes of course.' 'Thank you brother. Could you please help me to clean it?' it is over. Done. The solution was so simple. Right before your eyes. Such a simple solution. But for that you have to humble yourself and say, 'My brother was right and I was wrong.' You don't even have to say it, you just accept it. 'But if I accept it I am wrong. I will not accept it. God is wrong and he is wrong. I am right.' He gave place to the devil and the next thing you see is that he kills his brother.

So God says, 'No! No! Lay aside these weights. Lay aside these things and run.' Put off, because we do not know that we are framed in our race by our relationships. The most important relationship in which you are actually framed is the relationship between you is your spouse. And no one's marriage here is a mistake; every body's marriage is right because that is the actual person you need to be sanctified. Probably if you married somebody else you wouldn't have been sanctified, so God gave you the right woman or the right man. Rocks don't become smooth stones just like that; they have to rub against each other. And suddenly they become smooth because of the flowing of the waters. You are hearing the Spirit speak and you are getting it right, getting it right and after sometime you become smooth. One thing I said about this couple, you know what usually it takes years for couples to look like brother and sister, but you both are already looking like brother and sister. I think for 10 years they were dreaming about each other.

Your marriage is not a mistake. Marriages maybe made in Heaven but life has to be lived on earth; in a sinful fallen world. And God says that in this world, you know what? Be angry and do not sin. You know what, you ask any man or any woman – with whom do you get angry the most? With your spouse. Let us say, Pastor Vijay and sis. Jacinth. Pastor Vijay is driving on the road, he is on his bike. Somebody just hit him through and passes by, he shouts, 'Hey!' and that man shouts at him and goes. And then when he comes home Jacinth shouts at him. Two people shouted at him. The man on the road shouted at him and his wife shouted at him, which will he remember for the rest of the day? Both of them shouted; she used few words and that man used abusive words but that doesn't bother him because there is no relationship there. So you need to realize that it is through relationships that we are made into what God wants us to be.

That is what God says. You know what, there will be issues in marriages, in homes, in churches, in workplaces. Deal with the issue. Don't deal with the personality. 'Why are you talking like a foolish woman?' he did not call her a fool and become guilty of hell-fire. He said, 'You are talking like one.' He is basically saying, 'What happened? All these days you were talking like a wise woman. Calamity has made you foolish? Should we receive only good? Because when everything was going well I never heard you talk like this. God hasn't changed, only our circumstances have changed. Why are you talking like this?' that is the only time she speaks, after that she doesn't. Do you know why she doesn't speak? It is because a gentle answer turns away wrath. His answer disarmed her. That is what God is talking about. Put off and put on.

Shall we look at one more? Let's go to verse 28,

Ephesians 4:28

²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Put off stealing – replace it with hard work – so that you may have something to give him who has a need. That reason defies the old man. because the old man does not work to give; he works to take. You have to look at the reason given. That is why I said make three columns. Why do you work? The spirit of your mind has to change – why do you work? I don't work to eat, because my Father feeds me. I work to give because my Father is a Worker. That is the reason I work and not otherwise. **but rather let him labor.** So if you don't work you are a thief. You don't have to steal anything from anybody. By not working you are a thief because you haven't given anything. The devil never gives anybody anything, he just takes and takes and takes. God is a Giver from the beginning; He gives and He gives. He gave His Son, He was still not satisfied, He gave us His Spirit, He gave His church and for all of eternity He is still giving. And God asks – why do you work?

Do you know that to be a thief you don't have to steal in the Kingdom of God; you just have to stop working. You just have to do nothing. You are a thief. Change the way you think. This is the new man to whom the words are addressed. The new man does not talk like the old man. He doesn't think like the old man. The old man also works hard, he labors hard, but it is all for profit – me, mine, myself. New man works harder and it is to give to him who has a need. He understands the power of grace. If you read *1 Corinthians 15*, Paul says, 'Though I was the least of the Apostles I worked harder, labored more than all of them. But it was not me, it was the grace of God in me.' that is why from the least he becomes the best. He labored and labored and labored. Just for a moment pause and ask the Spirit of God – 'Lord, am I a thief?' children – are you thieves? Do you help out in the house? Young ones, do you help out in the house? Do you help your parents? That is the question I ask in Bhutan and all, 'Are you saved?' yes. 'Is your father saved?' No. 'When was the last time you washed your father's two-wheeler?' Never. You are a thief. Your new life has not changed.

Do you wash the dishes? Do you wash the clothes? Do you do the laundry? You can, because we have every gadget possible today which saves time. From morning till evening, is your mother slogging? Or your dad slogging? Then you are all thieves. Are you are thief? Male- thieves, female-thieves, old-thieves, young-thieves. What are you giving? 'Oh! I am studying.' No. you are taking. That is for you; your studying makes no difference for your father's or mother's life. Your life will be benefited by that. But what did you give? Ask these serious questions because these are questions connected with a race – am I a giver?

That is what the Bible says - **but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good.** Don't do evil work; don't sell alcohol, don't sell cigarettes. Till the day I got saved I sold cigarettes in my hostel room. I could safely sell because I did not smoke. And everybody smoked. So they had to go down the hill, down the street to buy cigarettes. So somebody gave me an idea, 'James you can sell cigarettes and make your pocket money,' and I did. I was working hard, laboring and making profit. But God said, 'It was not good.' Do something that is good. 'I am working hard, from morning till evening, late night and early hours.' What are you doing? Selling drugs. That is not good; that kills. That is not what God said. He is laboring with what is good. And what is the reason? So that he can give. Change today, don't keep it for tomorrow. Let us not get into the church; we have to see it as our home. Our home is a micro church; one body with many parts, all working together. All trying to make life easy for each other. Wives, husbands and children. 'Honey you don't have to cook today. you take a day off. Today I will cook.' My wife already asked me, 'Today is Sunday will you make dinner?' I said, 'Yes I will.'

Think about it. Are there male thieves here? Many male thieves. How about female-thieves. Honestly if we work together as a family, how many of you actually need maids? I mean, if you have the money, let her work, let her also make money and feed her family. That is also a witness. But if you cannot afford. I know what I am talking about. I know from where God brought me through. I know how He brought me through. That is what I talk about. Your career is irrelevant, but your work is. The first thing the Son of God did is that He brought in the dignity of labor. When the Son of God came in the flesh He was just a carpenter. He was not a CEO. He was just a carpenter. So there is dignity in any work

you do as long as it is good. I was a classroom teacher in a different country which was not Christian but I always try to put the Gospel across and tell them, 'Kids, you are all looking for this white collar job. Why? It is because you do not see dignity in other labor. In other areas there are plenty of opportunities but you don't want that. Let me tell you, you are all Buddhist and I am a Christian and my God, when He came He was a carpenter.'

There is dignity, because we are not working to eat, because my Father feeds me.' Pastor Vijay, when he was leading worship said right? 'Even a sparrow does not fall to the ground without your Father knowing. How much more us?' so I am not working to eat. I was sharing with the kids who were in my home two nights back, I said, 'Those years, when I didn't have a church, when I didn't have anything, do you know what my income was? This was 20-25 years ago. I had nothing yet I never lacked and yet I worked harder than anybody. My income used to be 1.5 Lakhs. People would just drop money through the window and go. Till today I don't know who are the ones who dropped money and went. All I did was work; preach, preach, preach, wash the clothes, iron the clothes, cook the food. I did everything in the house and I did everything outside. But my income was only supernatural. You have to believe what is written, this (WORD) is the truth.

Why do you work? To give, not to eat. Bread comes from above; my Father gives me and I am content and satisfied with what He gives me because it is written unlike the first generation I will not detest the manna, my soul will not loath. I am satisfied. And I give and I give and I give. And I worked hard and I will work hard because I have found things in the Word that sets you free. Ask yourself today. I was sharing with the young people, because when you are just starting, start off right. I told them, 'Many years ago, when I first got into ministry I didn't know what ministry was because I come from a catholic background where you only see priests. I didn't know anything about ministry. Then I come to a protestant church, I get saved and I am called and I go into ministry. Then the pastor sends me to a house to preach and I finish preaching. When I was leaving they give me a cover, I looked at the cover and there was no address. So I said, 'You haven't written the address.' Because I thought that they had given it to me so I can drop it in the postbox on my way back. For I didn't know that preachers got offerings. That's how I started, I had no clue. I never knew that preachers got offerings.

Then I said, 'Lord, right in the beginning I want to break this. I don't want to live in fear about finances. How do I live?' God said, 'What is written?' I said, 'Give and it shall be given to you.' So God said, 'That doesn't change.' So I asked, 'Whom do I give it to, other than my tithes and offerings.' God said, 'Don't worry, I will send them to you.' I am telling you, I keep dairies and I keep accounts in my dairies. So you can go back, years and years and years back and you can see my accounts with God. When I look back I had 1 lakh 25 thousand or something in my account. In those years I was big money. That's all I had. God said, 'I will send you people. You give it away.' One night there was a knock on my door. Two African brothers from my church standing at my door. I asked, 'What happened? I haven't seen you in church for 2 weeks. What happened?' 'Brother James, we haven't been getting our money from home. We haven't paid our rent, we haven't eaten for a week.' I was like, 'What? Come in! I only have bread and eggs.' They said, 'Anything!' and they sat and ate the whole thing. And the Lord said, 'Pay their rent.' I said, 'Okay.' By the time the year was over, I looked, every pie in the account I had given out. 1,25,000. And then I checked the other account and found that God had sent me 1,50,000. That is the day, in my first year of ministry I said, 'I will never fear.'

This is the fear of man, the fear of money. Boy! When you break that. There is only one way you can break it – *Ephesians 4:28*. You don't work to eat, you don't work to take. You work to give. When I teach pastors I say, 'There is one good thing to say – Lord, You are my riches, You are my inheritance. You are my everything. Your wallet is mine wallet.' God says, 'Absolutely agreed son. Now I want to repeat to you. You are My riches, you are My wealth. Your wallet is My wallet.' AND WE SAY, 'AAAhhh!!!'

It is not one way. It is two ways. Get these pictures right. There has to be replacement. Put off – put on – this is the reason. And you look at the reason and the reasons are mind blogging. They are divine and they have eternal power and they have the power of God in them. That is why you do it. The reason is what sets you free. So go with this in your heart, go with this in your mind – 'Lord, I am running my race. I have weights, I have sins.' Some sins easily snares. Watch out for them. Some sins are waiting to grab hold of you. And then there are weights. Get rid of them. Nobody who runs a race runs weighed down. We sang that song, 'O my soul, why are you weighed down?' this was not the load you were supposed to carry. Get rid of weights. Worry, fear, anxiety, jealousy, envy, bitterness which defiles many. Get rid of all

those things, walk free. But you don't walk by just getting rid; you have to replace. You have to replace, because the devil when he came back he found the house cleaned, in order and empty. They did not replace; they put off, but they did not put on. And the devil came with six other friends and had a merry party in that house. His condition was worst than before.

Young children, little children, go back home and be a help, be a blessing. Not a burden. Women, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, be a blessing and not a burden, because we are created in the image of God. God is not a liar, He speaks the Truth always. If He gets angry He never sins. He doesn't steal, He gives. Jesus said, 'My Father and I are at work from the beginning till now.' What is He doing? He is giving. Forever making intercession for whom? For others. He is still giving. Do you know why we are all seated here? It is because He is praying for us. Do you know why I was able to preach this morning? Not because I prayed, but because He prayed for me. I know He is faithful, He will never forget to pray for His servants who are preaching His Word, I know He will pray for me even if I forget to ask Him to anoint me, He will pray, 'Father, anoint him, he is My servant.' He is forever making intercession; He is still giving.

So with that heart stand up and say, 'Lord, transform me. Transform me. So that when I look to the future I truly have the hope of glory.' Like I said, last night and Friday, God will love everyone perfectly, but He will not honor everyone equally. If He does then He is not righteous. He will love everyone equally. The Father loves all His children. But He will not honor everyone equally. For honor there are parameters set, any athlete who runs must run according to the rules. We have been hearing about the rules of the race.

Let's look to the Lord,

Closing prayer:

Father, this morning I just want to thank You Lord. So many generations are standing here. Generations, different age groups, Lord. Little ones, to young ones, to teenagers, to 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, they are all here Father. And many, many more ages who are listening online, all the way to 90s and 100s, those who have crossed their 100s are listening. Every age. But every one of every age is called to be a giver like their Father in Heaven. For God so loved the world that He gave. And He gave His only begotten Son. Today I pray Father, that Your Spirit will guide us, each one of us, individually, personally. My weight is not their weight, my sin is not their sin. You will show and help us to get rid of these weights, get rid of these sins and run with endurance the race that is set before us, above all looking unto Jesus. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Oh! That Name Jesus. The name above every other Name, that Jesus. Look unto Him. Even this morning as You stand in His house look unto Him who is heavy laden, who is burdened. Look unto Him because He is the One who said, 'Come to me!' lift your eyes today in your spirit, look unto Him. Whatever weight it is, whatever sin it is. Look unto Him, for He is not just the One who began it for you, He is the one who will complete it for you. Only He, only He. That is why the Bible says, 'Cast your burden on to Him because He cares for you.'

Look unto Jesus you single mother. Look unto Jesus you single father. Look unto Jesus you orphan who is grieving. Look unto Jesus you child who is struggling. Look unto Jesus you young man who is struggling. Look unto Him. Because He is the One who bore your sins and my sins. My iniquity and your iniquity and it is by His stripes, not His words. By His stripes we are healed. His back was broken so that we could walk straight with our head held high as redeemed children of God. You don't have to carry that weight one more day. Let there be a release in the house of God today. Put off and put on for this purpose the Son of Man came to destroy the works of the devil. You can do it, because greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world. To him who asks He will give more of His power. 'Behold I give you power over all the power of the enemy. You can trample upon snakes and scorpions.' Do not fear them, for they shall not harm you. That is the place where they belong; under your feet. Run with endurance. Run with endurance the race that is set before us, because the One who promised is faithful. 'Behold I am coming quickly and My reward is in My hands.'

We believe, we believe You, Lord. We believe You. I cancel every work of the enemy against Your people standing here and listening online. Every work of the enemy I cancel it. Let the work of God grow in strength and in strength. And I pray, Father, that everyone by the time they come back next Sunday they will feel a perceptible change in their inner man. They will know that something happened inside, 'I just let go and Christ received me.' I want to be free, I want to be free.

Set Your people free Lord. Set Your people free. I rebuke sickness in the Name of Jesus. I command demonic entities to leave in Jesus' name. I break every wall that has been raised by the enemy to come down in the Name of Jesus, for Baal-perizam will break the siege and overflow. Blind eyes will see, deaf ears will hear and those who are lame will walk and the captives will be unbound for the Son of Righteousness shall rise with healing under His wings. And people shall go out like calves fed in the stalls. For that is what You do, O Lord. That is what You do Lord. That is our witness, the life of Christ in us. That life cannot be defeated. Thank You, thank You Father. Thank You Lord. I bless Your people in Your name. Let the hand of God rest upon everyone, through the day, through the week, let them grow in strength and power, in love, in compassion, in kindness, in longsuffering and everything that is good O Lord. Let them come to You, O Lord. That we may give You the glory, the honor, the power and the praise and the dominion which is Yours forever and ever, Lord. Thank You Lord. For in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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.