

A Firm Foundation

Pastor Vijay

www.gracetabernaclehyd.org

Jesus, we thank You once again for this morning, it's Your presence that we want, we desire. Lord this morning even as we are here in Your presence, speak to our hearts Lord, Lord strengthen us, build us up, Your Word say - build yourself in the most holy faith and Lord the end of all things is at hand, Your Word says Lord, be sober and watchful and therefore O Lord I pray even through the ministry of the Word that You would sanctify us, that You would wash us by the water of Your Word, that You would strengthen us in our faith and the foundations that we've stand on will become firmer and firmer, speak to our hearts. We commit this time into Your hands, anoint us in the speaking and in the hearing, believing and the obeying, we thank You we praise You, we give You glory, for in Jesus name. Amen.

I titled today's meditation as 'A Firm Foundation.' A firm foundation. You know one of the things we've been taught in engineering, when we build systems, systems have to last, not only last, they should behave in a way which is consistent over a long period of time because every system an engineer builds will be subject to some kind of uncertainty. There was a scientist whom we use to revere during our days. He said, every system has to be robust to uncertainties and then he says, how good your system, how strong is your system depends on how well you model your uncertainties. Think about it, how can you model uncertainties? Therefore, he puts a cavalier, he says, a precise model of uncertainties is an oxymoron, because uncertainty by itself is uncertain, how can you model it? You know, life will throw at you all kinds of uncertainties and the times that we are entering into are uncertain, perilous, dangerous times. It is going to be allowed by God because it says in *Hebrews 12* and let's read from *verse 25*.

Hebrews 12:25-29

²⁵See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." ²⁷ Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, this is talking about mount Sinai of course when God came in all His glory and hid His glory in the cloud of darkness. Much more shall we not escape if we turn from Him who speaks from heaven whose voice then shook the earth, not only that when He shook the earth, even Moses it says, trembled, the law giver. It says the Law came through Moses and Moses himself trembled. Whose voice then shook the earth but now He has promised saying, this is the promise, we don't like this promise. We like all those promises, this is the promise of God. Yet once more, shake not only the earth but also the heavens. This is a promise. He is going to shake. Now, this yet once more indicates the removal of those things that have been shaken as of the things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain, therefore since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, for our God is a consuming fire.

As a teacher, as a professor or a lecturer, one of the things I'm interested in student is that, make sure that your foundations are firm, strong. A firm foundation and how do you build a firm foundation in the light of what we've been hearing from the testimony of Elijah the prophet who is going to come back once again by the way. In Luke's Gospel chapter 4, this is when Jesus is been tested in the wilderness and He comes out from the testing after forty days and forty nights in the power of the Holy Spirit it says and then He goes preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, enters into Nazareth, He goes to Nazareth and then He goes to the synagogue and then the scroll is given to Him, that day it was divine appointment by the way, right? They were looking for a person to whom the scroll should be given, so they found Jesus, so they said, 'Why don't you read.' I think it was the norm in the days, one of them will read the Scripture. So, He opens the Scripture, goes to Isaiah, and He read a portion we know, the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, and the Lord has anointed Me, etc. and everybody is stunned by the way He reads Scripture. I mean it's remarkably powerful, right? He just reads the Scripture and He says, 'Today this Word has been fulfilled in your hearing,' and everybody stunned by the words, the Bible says, the gracious word that comes from His lips. You know when you read Scripture also, just don't

read it. One of the ways that I read Scripture is I read it loud, faith comes by hearing. So, when I read it loud, what goes out into the ear, into the mind, percolates into the heart and then, what comes? Faith.

He reads Scripture and everybody is stunned just by the way He reads. You know sometimes when people do Scripture reading in some churches, some people just do it by rote and there will be one guy who will be called and when he does Scripture reading that day, the way he reads Scripture with the punctuations and the way he pauses and intonation changes etc. the emphases etc. Just the way he reads, he knows what he is reading and Jesus reads the Scripture and they're all stunned and they say, is this not Joseph's son. That's the reason why, when children pray, and they sing, you should not despise them, listen carefully to the words that come out of their mouth. Today I'm going to mention that. Be very, very careful, don't despise because God is speaking through every vessel and we have to be in-tune. Is this not Joseph's son and then this is what Jesus says *Luke 4:23* onwards.

Luke 4:23-29

²³ He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.' (Then He goes back into the Old Covenant and He mentions two prophets) "
²⁴ Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. ²⁵ But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; ²⁶ but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, ²⁹ and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.

Two testimonies mentioned, pulled out from the Old Covenant and that made them angry. In the last few weeks we've been looking at the prototype of an individual who's prepared for the last days. The story of Elijah. We were looking at the life of Elijah, the journey of Elijah with God. His life as a paradigm for us in the New Testament for those who are living in the last days because the Bible says, there will be a visitation of the Elijah anointing in the last days before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, the primary purpose being that through the Elijah ministry, the hearts of the Fathers will be turned back to their children and the children to their fathers. That means there will be a repentance. This has happened in the Old Covenant and everything that happens in the Old Covenant is a type. There were many widows in Israel by the way, but Elijah was sent to Zarephath. You know, we talk about types and you look through the Bible, the entire Bible is a type of Christ, His Bride, a believer in Christ, etc., you will see the pictures. The widow is a picture of the last day's Church. Much of it is made of gentiles, it's in Sidon, right? The boy is a prototype of the congregation, of the next generation. Being a widow means what? She lost her covering and she's on the verge of losing her strength, her relevance, her authority and influence, that's the Church.

Church lost her covering and the moment it loses the covering, it loses the anointing, it loses the influence and it is at the verge of collapsing. There is no fresh inflow coming into her life. What is she doing? She's literally fighting for her survival and relevance. Trying its best to save its next generation from the onslaught of the demonic and the impending judgments of God. I just went to a youth meeting some couple of weeks back, brother John and I were there. Sometimes, I saw the men, most of them come from believing homes and most of them also come from ministry homes and the kind of things this kids are going through is heart-breaking and when you see the need of what a child is going through especially in this particular age and what is being given to them from so called people from Bible college backgrounds, brilliant minds. I mean it's not an indictment on anybody, I mean I just love everybody, I'm not against Bible colleges but nothing is being spoken into their lives which will bring them to conviction, which should bring them to repentance, which will show to them the holiness of God. I mean when that brother who invited me to share at the youth camp, he was saying, the children don't listen to us, they're going through incredible struggles and we do not know what to do with them and the point is, these are children from believing homes and ironically from ministry homes.

So, we have a prototype of Church and its next generation and the Church has lost its covering, it's a picture of the person who has lost its covering, lost its authority, lost its relevance, there's no Word, there's no fresh inflow of the Word of God, trying to go through the scrapes of the word and trying to make a meal, trying and fighting for survival.

Now, think about it, when Jesus went, He went in triumph, how should the Church go out? You know in Telugu there is a saying which means, either victory or martyrdom, is victory in the presence of the Lord. You see, that is how a believer has to live. I remember Chuck Swindoll, he's about ninety now. You know what he says, 'I want to be preaching and when I'm dying I should be dying preaching, I should have saved through my last message, I should have saved a bunch of guys from the kingdom of darkness and die there and go to Heaven.' That is how the Church has to go and, what has happened here now? You have a widow lost her covering, lost her anointing and now she goes through the Word, there is no fresh inflow of the Word coming and she's trying to manufacture something just for the survival of herself and the next generation and die. The Bible says in Amos 8, behold the days are coming says the Lord, that I will send, what? A famine in the land. What kind of a famine? Not a famine of bread, nor of a thirst for water but of the hearing of the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea from North to East, they shall run to and fro seeking the Word of the Lord but they will not find it.

Amos 8:11-12

¹¹"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. ¹² They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it.

Does it mean they don't have the Bible? Oh, yes, they have the Bible. You know what Jesus says in *John 6:27*

John 6:27

²⁷Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

That is the Word we're talking about. We are talking about the living Word, we are not talking about not having the Bible per se, we are talking about a fresh inflow from Heaven, a fresh Word which strengthens us in the last days. How does faith come? We know this verse very well. *Romans 10:17* it says. So, faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God,

Romans 10:17

¹⁷So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

You know what the word for Word is? The Rhema, not just any word, not the Logos, not your theories, not your understandings, not your ideas but it is the living Word which has been breathed by God. That is the Word. It is the Word which has been anointed, other translation which says by the hearing by the Word of Christ. Christ means the anointed One, Messiac. So, there were so many people in Israel during the time of John the Baptist, there's a lot of accomplishments. They had the Word, they had the Rabbis, they had the teachers, they had the synagogues, look at what it says Luke 3, all these people.

Luke 3:1-2

¹Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word (the Rhema of God) of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

John a type of Elijah. See, the survival of this widow depended completely on how she responded to the prophetic Word, the real living Word. How do we respond? How did she respond? That is the reason why Jesus says, there were so many widows but Elijah was sent to one widow whom He knew beforehand because He is God who sees the end from the beginning. He saw this woman has the faith to obey. Her survival completely depended upon her obedience to the prophetic Word. Let me tell you something, in the last days, our survival completely is dependent not upon hearing the prophetic Word but on obeying. Pastor has been doing the Book of Revelation the series, blessed are those who read, who hear and who keep. It is in the keeping, now that you know them, that's what Jesus says, now that you know all these things blessed are you if you do them, the blessing is in the doing, there is no other way. For this woman, for her survival, for her relevance, for her influence in these last days, for the survival of her next generation it is completely

depends upon how she would respond to the prophetic Word. Obedience to God by the way in little things and in the big things builds the foundation for our life, makes our foundations firmer and stronger. It is the obedience that builds the foundation not the hearing that builds the foundation. I did not say it. *Luke's gospel chapter 6*, look at what it says,

Luke 6:46-48

⁴⁶ "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

But why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do, what is that? everybody say do. Do the things which I say. Whoever comes to Me and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like. He is like a man building a house, dug deep, laid the foundation on the rock and when the flood rose, the stream beat vehemently against the house and could not shake it, could not shake it. The shaking of all things is going to happen, could not shake it, why? Because she obeyed the Word. You know what this kind of obedience was? It was risky obedience. Now, think about it. She's got little flour, little oil, enough to make one roti, two rotis for her and for her son, that's the last meal and God says, give it to me. Risky. See, obedience to God is risky but that risky obedience is the foundation for your life. It is not going to be easy to obey. You see, God told Joshua, the land is there, every place that you are going to tread upon, I have given it to you, be strong and very courageous to obey what I told you. Be strong and very courageous to obey. So, what do you need courage for? Not to conquer the enemy, but to obey. Do you understand that? So, if you obey, the enemy will be in combat. You see there is a verse in *Proverbs 13:15* it says,

Proverbs 13:15

¹⁵ "Good understanding gains favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

The way of the transgressor or the unfaithful is very hard, the people who live their lives without faith, the way of the unfaithful or people who live their lives based upon sight is very hard. We think living by sight is hard, no, living by faith is easy although it might seem risky. Living by sight is hard, it is hard. Okay, chew on those, food for thought for you. Obedience to God in little things and in the big things is the source of all wisdom too. This is what it says in *Matthew 7:24*

Matthew 7:24

²⁴ "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

So, God talks about obedience. Obedience to what? To a prophetic Word. Obedience to what the prophet has to say, obedience to seek what to prophet has to say, the prophetic Word. The second kind of obedience that will build a strong foundation is obedience without offense, say that everybody. Obedience without offense. I will give you an example. *2 Kings 5*

2 Kings 5:2-3

² And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. ³ Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

2 Kings 5:9-11

⁹ Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' Are not the Abanah and the Parpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Who is this? A young girl. That is the reason why I like today's prayer and offertory from a young girl. From the land of Israel, no name. She waited on Naaman's wife and she said to her mistress, 'If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria.' Just one word and what did Naaman do? Immediately he obeyed. Who are you servant girl? Why should I listen to you? He never said that. You could be that young insignificant girl, a prisoner of war POW but has authority because she believed in the prophetic Word. And so, what did Naaman do. He goes to the prophet, you know the story right. He goes to the prophet and the prophet says, he doesn't even meet him, he sends his servant and says, 'Go and dip yourself seven times in Jordan, and you are healed.' And Naaman is mightily offended.

Naaman became furious and went away and say, indeed I said to myself, he will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and wave his hand over the place and heal the leprosy. Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus better than the waters of Israel? Go there and wash yourself, otherwise you will continue in your leprosy. ***So, he turned and went away in a rage.*** You know sometimes people just walk out of the church in rage, Pastor was talking about me only. Rage. And suddenly a guy comes and he says, 'Father, (an insignificant guy), if the prophet would have said something great, would you not have done it? You know what he does? He overcomes his offense, puts away his pride, he takes off his garments, shows to the whole world that he is leper. Remember who is declared as clean, in Leviticus? The person who is leprous from head to toe is declared as clean, he's clean. You now why? He exposed himself and did not hide. He took away offense, obedience without offense, to insignificant voices. That is the reason why you need depth. How do you get depth? When you overcome offense, you find depth. Not my words, *Mark 4*, we know the parable of the sower.

Mark 4:5

⁵ Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.

Immediately it fell away, who are these people? Why did they fall away? They fell away because they were offended at the word. Offended. You see in the Bible you see different kinds of people. The Bible is a story of the faithful and the unfaithful, that's it. Two categories only, the faithful and the unfaithful. Saul and David, Saul sinned, David sinned. Saul said, 'I have sinned, David also said I have sinned.' Why do you think, notwithstanding all the trials that David went through and the mistakes and the horrible sins that he committed, the Bible says that he is a man after God's own heart? In Telugu it is very interesting, he knows exactly what My heart is, he understands My intentions, he understands what is going through My heart and he does it. In Hindi there is a saying, 'Samagdar ko ishaarah kafi hein.' So, David just knows the intentions of God and he does it and because he had a foundation in his life, a very firm foundation, so, even when he fell into sin he could be restored because of that firm foundation.

Now, you look at the story of Israel, you look at the story of Ahab, you look at the story of Jehoshaphat, Ahab belongs to the northern kingdom, whose foundations are the Baal altars that Jeroboam built, remember? And you will see Israel, the northern kingdom is never able to recover even though our semblances of revival in that land, you know why? Because the foundations were destroyed. And you will see king after king after king and even Jehu who had the anointing of Elijah upon his life, he could not bring lasting revival. Only four generations he could do it. You know why? Because he went back to the sins of Jeroboam. He went back to the sins of Jeroboam. David's own words, you know what he says? Look at how he describes his foundation, this is found in *2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18* also, we sing that song, very famous song for us. I love thee O Lord thou art my rock. Remember, this is what he says. *2 Samuel 22*

2 Samuel 22:1-2

¹Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. ² And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

You see, He is my foundation and therefore, notwithstanding all the onslaught of the enemy, all the trials that I went through, all the failings in my life, all the compromises that I made, all the fallings in my life, all the miserable sins that I have committed, I was able to be restored, you know why? Because my foundation is strong. Therefore, the question here is, how do we build a strong foundation? It goes on to say,

2 Samuel 22:2

²The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my Savior, You save me from violence.

How do we build a strong foundation? See, we know the foundations we've been taught but I want to look at foundations today in the light of receiving the prophetic Word. What is the prophetic Word? Prophetic Word is nothing, it is not just predicting the future as to what is going to happen to you. The Bible says the church is built upon the foundation of two people? Who are they? The Apostles and the Prophets; the Apostles who build the doctrine and the Prophets who brings correction based upon the doctrine that you have received and based upon the life that you are living. So, today I want to talk about foundation in the light of receiving the prophetic Word. Let's look at one very familiar passage for all us, this is found in the Gospel according to *Matthew 16*, this is where? This is in Caesarea Philippi, remember Philippi Jesus is asking who do you think people are saying about Me? So, this is verse 14,

Matthew 16:14-19

¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, a stone and later on Peter says, we are all living stones being built up into a spiritual house etc. and on this rock. What is that rock? The foundation of the revelation that he received, I will build my church and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you lose on earth will be loosed in heaven and he commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus The Christ, until the resurrection of course. The first ingredient in building a foundation as I said is receiving a revelation from the correct source. What did I say? Receiving the revelation from the correct source. The revelation and the source of it. Pay attention first of all. So, first let us get the relevance of prophetic revelation.

Proverbs 29:18

¹⁸ Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

Where there is no revelation, what do people do? People cast off all restraint. There is no direction in their lives. Look at what it says in the ESV

Where there is no prophetic vision, people cast off all restraint. NKJV also says the same thing. Where there is no revelation the people cast off all restraint. And what is revelation? I said you should be very careful about the revelation and the source of it. The source of the revelation is also very important. And what is revelation? It is a revelation of who Christ is, meaning what? These are the standards of God, this is who Christ is, this is who God is. God is loving, God is righteous, God is holy, God is kind, God is gracious etc. All the attributes of who God is and in the light of who God is examining ourselves in the light of who He is, causing ourselves to examine our lives in the light of who He is and what is revelation again? What is the essence of the prophetic?

Revelation 19:9-10

⁹Then he said to me, "Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

So, what does the prophetic reveals? The witness of Christ, the life of Christ, the life of Christ, the standards of Christ, that is what the prophetic means and it is a revelation. So, what should you be careful about? You should be careful about the revelation and the source. *Galatians 1* look at what it says. This is Apostle Paul's own words.

Galatians 1:11-12

¹¹But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Revelation, the source is very important, why? Because there was a woman with the spirit of python, remember, what did she say? O hear these people, these are the servants of the most high God hear them. Was it true? Oh it's true. What is the source? Demonic. Think about it. She had the spirit of python. If Paul did not have the discernment and did not test the spirit, that's the reason why the Bible says test every spirit, abstain from every appearance of evil, cling to what is good, test, source is important. So, what does it mean when you get a revelation or whatever, when you are receiving the word of God, if you do not have a life in the Scriptures with God, you could be deceived. So, whenever you get a prophetic revelation, it does a lot of things. I'll show you what it does. It does at least six things. First, let us look at the word.

Jeremiah 1:9-10

⁹Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant."

Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. So, what am I going to do. See, what I'm doing today. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant." Six things it does. First thing it does, what does it do? It expels, firsts thing, root out. It goes to the root of the problem. See, most of our problems are not just physical, the root of most of the problems are spiritual. It is very important to understand that. Many of our issues are not just physical or even mental, they are spiritual. And unless and until that spirit is identified, and expelled, you don't really get delivered. Expelling is important. So, when the Word comes what does it do? It exposes the demonic in our lives, the influences of the demonic in our lives, very important to understand this. So, it expels, it goes to the root of the problem. Some problems are physical, some problems are mental but the one which is both is dental. Is what I heard when I was a kid. That is all that the science can take you, to the psychology but beyond psychology is the spiritual realm. There is an invisible spirit realm and the preaching of the Word of God, you know what it does? It exposes all the hidden things. It goes to the root of the problem. You see in Psalm 18, this is David's words, it is a Messianic Psalm and he is talking about his Rock, what happens? Psalm 18, this is the NIV translation, verse 44 and 45,

Psalm 18:44-45

⁴⁴ foreigners cower before me; as soon as they hear of me, they obey me. ⁴⁵ They all lose heart; they come trembling from their strongholds.

Foreigners cower before me as soon as they hear of me, what comes out? In all of us there are so many foreigners. They obey me, they lose heart, they come trembling from their strongholds. In all of our lives there are strongholds. The Word comes with authority and with unction, you know what it does? It exposes that. It goes to the root of the problem. See, for us who are spiritual, that is the reason why the Bible says, the spiritual man discerns all things and yet he is not discerned by any man. The natural man or the man of the soul or the soulish man, when you say things of the spirit to him, it is foolishness to him. You know what they will say? Vijay, what are a you talking about? Think about it. In a science lab if I go to my professor and I say, 'Sir,' I mean I remember when I told him, 'I'm actually going into the ministry.' He looked at me and he said, 'Vijay, I don't understand this, this whatever God you are talking about, cosmos, He said that He created the cosmos. Why would He be so concerned with an insignificant creatures like us, I don't understand this. And that same professor when his wife was diagnosed with leukemia. He called me and he said, 'Vijay, please go to your church and pray to your God so that my wife will be saved from leukemia.'

You see, I remember when we were in IIT Kanpur, our professors took us to a mission trip in a place in Uttar Pradesh, it's a very old, remote place. The FMPP missionaries were there. So, our professors knew the FMPP missionaries, so they invited us to do a three-day seminar. So, we went there, they said there was so much of opposition over here, come and pray and strengthen us. So, we went there, the professors, all of us went there, we all technology guys and we go there and then my professor starts preaching, and in the church, people are getting delivered left right and center and we are looking, all engineers from IIT are looking at this, people frothing from their mouths, shaking, all the deliverances happening, right in front of our eyes. And then, that is the first time I was exposed to something of authority, and preaching with authority and confronting not just the physical problem but going to the root and most of the issues that we have in our lives are spiritual. You know the problem though is, there are false prophets, what do they do? It says in *Jeremiah 6:14-15*

Jeremiah 6:14-15

¹⁴ They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace. ¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush. Therefore, they shall fall among those who fall; at the time I punish them, they shall be cast down," says the LORD.

They have also healed the hurt of My people, how? Slightly, means superficially, saying peace, peace when there is no peace. Where they ashamed when they have committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed, nor do they know how to blush, therefore they shall fall among those who fall at the time I punish them, they shall be cast down says the Lord. What has happened? Superficial. You have to go the root, so, the prophetic goes to the root. It tells you, this is the issue. It is not easy and most of the times, we have to discern what is the spiritual problem, what is the spiritual cause behind every situation that I'm going through and tackle it at the spiritual realm. That is the reason why Pastor was saying yesterday, when we were talking about the gay agenda, this month by the way, June month is called the gay pride month. It is not gay pride day. We have Mother's Day, Father's Day, gay month. It's an agenda and unless and until we win the battle in the spiritual, tackle it at the spiritual level, we will still be doing something superficial and you will go back to the cycle of committing sins, repenting, committing sins, repenting, committing sins, repenting giving up and say that there is no God, you know why, because you have not dealt with the root. So, it pulls down every argument, it destroys every lie, it throws down the authority of the lies that has been established in your life and then it builds and then it plants. The prophetic does all of this, it goes to the root first, it goes to the source of our issues and if you obey what is the result? This is what it says in *1 Corinthians 14:3*

1 Corinthians 14:3

³But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

So what happens at the end of the day? You get edified, you get exhorted and you are comforted at the same time. So, once you receive the prophetic Word, whatever you're supposed to do, let's go back to Matthew 16 this is talking about the foundation again.

Matthew 16:15-16

¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, (on this revelation) and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

You see, the moment you receive the prophetic Word, the second thing that God gives you is initiative; acting upon what you receive. The initiative. The gates of hell shall not prevail, that means the initiative is being given to us. Take the initiative. The prophetic Word always looks for people who are ready to take the initiative. It's been spoken but who are those people who are ready to take the initiative. *2 Kings 6* let me give you an example here.

2 Kings 6:24-25

²⁴And it happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria. ²⁵And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed, they besieged it until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a kab of dove droppings for five shekels of silver.

You know what one kab is? One pint, two cups make one pint. Two pints make one quart, four quarts make one gallon. One pint of dove dropping is what? Five shekels of silver. So, what happened? They started eating their children. So, two mothers said, today we will cook your child, tomorrow we will cook my child. They started eating their children. This is what happens. So, then what happened? They cooked the child of one mother and the other mother said, 'I want to preserve my baby,' so they had a fight, they went to the king. The king is so upset with Elisha, then Elisha prophecies. Look at what Elisha says, *2 Kings 7*

2 Kings 7:1-2

¹Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria." "

² So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

So, the prophetic Word is given and one fellow says, 'Not possible.' The prophetic Word is given, the Word will not come back void, what is He looking for? He is looking for people who are going to take the initiative.

2 Kings 7:3-4

³ Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴ If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die."

Now there were, how many lepers? Four leprous men. You know what they said? Why are sitting here and dying? If we stay here, we will die, if we go back we will die, if we at least take the initiative and go to the front, we may live. You need to understand this, the Kingdom of God is not for lazy people. It is for people who take the initiative. It is not for lazy people, it is not for people who give excuses. The Word was preached to Israel, to the people in the wilderness but it did not profit them, you know why? Because it was not mixed with faith – They did not take the initiative. Twelve spies, ten came and said you know what, we can't go there. Two said, let us go there, their defenses are down, the Lord has given the land to us, laziness in the kingdom of God will never ever be blessed. Jesus looks at Peter, cast your net on the other side. You know what Peter's testimony was? Lord we labored all night but at Your Word. Look at some indictment of lazy people. I like this beautiful proverb on lazy people because I am one of them maybe you are all hardworking. This is what it says.

Proverbs 26:13-16

¹³The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets! The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!" ¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed. ¹⁵ The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth. ¹⁶ The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

In other words, you know what, he gives excuses, he doesn't take the initiative. Remember Mordecai and Esther? Mordecai sends this message to Esther. This is the edict from the king, do something about it. No, no I don't know what will happen, if I go to the king, I might die, Madam, you went to the palace, you are wearing nice clothes, eating fantastic food, what has happened to you, you got used to comfort? You got used to a comfortable lifestyle. You see I like what one man of God said, he said, you know what, there is one mindset we should have, we should have the warrior mindset. What mindset? A soldier mindset. You know what a soldier mindset is? When you are in the battlefield, every day in the battlefield, you are thankful that you are alive, if you have that kind of a mindset, when you get in the morning, what will you say, thank God I'm alive. Second, in the battlefield, if you get some food you are thankful. You

will not say today only fish ha! Aare! Everyday chicken, chicken, chicken, you will not say that. If you are able to get two hours of sleep, you say, thank you, I slept. A warrior mindset.

The problem is many of us have literally become domesticated Christians, we are like Esther in the palace and Mordecai says, what are you talking about. Take the initiative, don't give excuses. Look at what it says, as a door turns on its hinges, so does a lazy man on his bed. You get up, you ask children to wake up in the morning, what do they do? Two turns like this, I have three daughters, one sleeps here and the other two sleep here and I said get up, one turns like this, the other turns like this. What are they doing? Turning on their hinges. On the other hand, I'm on the other extreme and my wife says get up, if I oversleep, I'm never oversleep, tock, I just get up like this and she says, why do get up like that, you will have BP. Look at this, a lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, it wary him to bring it to his mouth, so difficult. The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven people who can answer sensibly. Look at another lazy man, *Proverbs 24*

Proverbs 24:30-32

³⁰I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; ³¹And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. ³²When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction:

If the stone wall is broken down, what are you expected to see in the farm? That is the question that I had. When I saw it, I considered it well and I looked on it and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of hands to rest, so what will come? Poverty, and need. What has happened to a lazy man? The stone wall has been broken. What are you expecting to see there in his house and his vineyard when the stone wall is gone? I want to give you something very interesting over here. This is the train of thought, please follow this train of thought. *Ecclesiastes 10:8*,

Ecclesiastes 10:8

⁸He who digs a pit will fall into it, And whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent.

He who digs a pit will fall into it and whoever breaks through a wall, what will bite? If you break through a wall the serpent will bite. If the stone wall is down, what will happen to the serpent? It will come inside. Now, think about it, many people's lives, there are not just serpent bite, the whole spiritual house is full of serpents. I did not say this, this are not my words, let Vijay be liar and God be true and this is Jeremiah the prophet in *Jeremiah 9:11* look at what it says.

Jeremiah 9:11

¹¹And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

You know what dragon is? Poisonous serpents, you know why the walls are down and what has happened? The entire place has become a den of dragons. I'll give you an example, this is the picture that came to my mind. We went to our new house, new apartment that we moved to in the month of January, before and we have a very nice relationship with reptiles in our home, all of us have, reptiles of all kinds. So, my wife says, you know what, our new home will be a lizard free home, absolutely no lizards, we are going to seal everywhere, every hole, everything will be sealed and meshed period. So, the balconies are meshed, even the crevices through which the lizards might come is also sealed. We put white cement all over, everything was completely sealed. It is a lizard free zone, so, when you come to our house, you can sleep peacefully. You know what my wife says, 'If at all I find a lizard in my home, I cannot sleep in the night, Vijay.'

So, one day in this so-called lizard free home, there was a fantastic lizard, right behind our bed in our bedroom. I saw it, okay, I ignored it. I didn't want to tell my wife, I was praying, 'Lord, let her not see it Lord, let her seeing eyes be made blind,' etc. And you know what she does, she sees it, and she says, 'Vijay, lizard,' and you know I told you, we have got fantastic relationship with reptiles. I said, okay, what am I supposed to do? Do something get it out or kill it. Now, I am an engineer, so, I'm thinking projectiles. You know projectiles means arrow or you know. So, I said you know what, can I make a liquid arrow, okay I'll do one thing, hundred degrees centigrade, I'll boil water and from a distance, throw at it. So that hundred degrees centigrade will kill the lizard because I tried it on small lizard and it dies immediately but unfortunately, this fellow is big. So, I made sure I had boiling water hundred degree centigrade, as I went behind it, the problem is, when you throw the water, the surface tension increases and when the surface tension increases, the

temperature cools down, immediately. So the water is going, falling on that fellow, the temperature is down below hundred degrees, that fellow is not dying. Soon the whole bed room is getting flooded with boiling water, that fellow is not dying. So, I said, 'Baby what do we do, just okay, no.' No, do something. And I called Sammy. 'Sammy, I'm so sorry,' it's not because I'm ashamed to say that I'm scared of lizards, it's just that I don't like to trouble Sammy. I called Sammy, I said, 'Sammy, baba, there is lizard in the home.' So, Sammy said, 'Sir I'm out, I'll call Mahesh.' Mahesh, Vikas, everybody came to our home now and they're all after the lizard and Vikas asked, 'Uncle do you have a big stick or something like that, he took one stick, went after the lizard, finally he smashed it and my wife is like, 'Is it dead? Is it dead?' Out, the lizard is gone. And she said, 'It is all because of you,' you know why? In your absent mindedness you would have opened the door and that lizard would have gotten in while you were putting your shoes on. Then I learnt a very important lesson in demonology.

You see, lizards can slither in without your notice, they don't ask your permission, 'Can I come to your house?' If they see the door open and if they can smell an insect, they are in. Now, think about it, that is a lizard, let us extrapolate it to another reptile called a snake. Just imagine a home, the walls are down, you go into the closet and you open, there is a viper coming out, you open another closet, another viper is coming out, you go to the commode and you open the commode and another viper is coming out, the whole house is full of vipers and snakes, can you imagine that. Can you even think about staying in that home? No, my point is this my dear brothers and sisters, if breaking through a wall is going to cause a serpent bite, how much more, the walls coming down, your life is full of dragons and you don't even know it. You don't even know it, you have domesticated them now, you have domesticated your demon. I can't imagine having a python a Burmese python as a pet, what the heck is wrong with you? And now, this Burmese python is a pet, now they can't do anything about it, now the entire Florida is full of Burmese pythons and what are these Burmese pythons doing? It is messing up the entire ecosystem over there. You know why, they are swallowing animals, they're wallowing alligators, alligator were supposed to be very dangerous, these Burmese pythons are going and swallowing alligators in Florida.

Think about it my dear brothers, think about it. If we as a people staying in a house are so careful of a lizard not coming in and when a lizard comes in, hey! Get it out. Can we say how many children of God, when they know that they are being demonized, being attacked by demons will say, 'Pastor, get it out, Pastor get it out, get out this demon, pray over me Pastor, get out this demon Pastor, cast this demon out of my system.' No, we are lazy people. We have lost our initiative my dear brothers. We have lost our initiatives, we have lost it and our walls are down and our children are going to hell in a basket and we do not even know it. We lost initiative. Jerusalem is a den of dragons. What! What, can you say that again? Jerusalem, what is Jerusalem? Yara, Shalem, means what, a teaching which is supposed to bring peace and perfection and completion in your life.

Jeremiah 9:11

¹¹ "I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a den of jackals. I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant."

And that very place, called the Church of the living God is full of dragons. And you don't even know it. Oh my dear brothers, they have lost the initiative. Think about it, Derek Prince makes some dangerous statements which scares me, he says, "Sometimes when the Lord rebukes you, first He send financial crisis, strike one. Second, He sends health crisis, strike two. Third He sends family crisis, strike three. If you don't respond, He will take you out." They lost the initiative. That is/ the reason why un-examined life is not worth living. David says, "Year 1 famine, okay maybe natural cause. Year 2 famine, what is this? Year 3 famine, there is something wrong over here, let me go and ask God." And God says, "There is a curse over your land, because you broke the covenant with the Gibeonites."

Think about it, how many of you have gone home and done a deep dive into your own spiritual condition? Your entire life is a mess of wipers and you don't even realize it. You have domesticated them, tolerated them and you have learnt to live with your vices. The initiative is with you, not with the demonic. It is with you. Did we ever cry and say, "Lord, get this demon out of my system."? "Why is this happening to me?" did we call up and say, "Pastor, can you just pray. Can we just touch and agree in this? I am just struggling with the same problem over and over again. What could be the issue? Can we just pray about it and ask God for discernment." How many of you actually do it? "Get this thing out of my

life. I am not supposed to be living like this. I am supposed to be living in triumph and victory. But on the contrary it seems that every battle I am facing is defeat." Maybe there are vipers in your house and you don't even know it.

Take the initiative, my dear brothers. The authority the prophetic Word gives and shows you the issue and behind it shows you the spirit. Get rid of the spirit. That is the reason why, the very presence of Jesus would agitate the demons. You need to understand something, the very presence of Jesus was not enough to get the demon out, Jesus literally had to cast them out. The Word came, Jesus came first, He spoke the Word and He stirred up the demons. Then they said, "Why are You here?" Jesus said, "Get out!" they had to be cast out, they cannot be tolerated. Understand this, this is very, very, important. Don't take things lightly, especially in the last days. Don't be just casual believers just going through a morning worship on Sunday, Sunday morning devotion, daily morning devotions. No, no, no. These are the last days and Jesus is coming. You know what we are supposed to do? What manner of life are we supposed to be living? We are to live in holy conduct and godliness, expecting the arrival of the Messiah on the other side. Examine! Take the initiative, don't become lazy. And there is a serpent bite.

And when the serpent bites, do you know what a serpent bite means? A bite means interest. Usually, the same word. And you are accumulating interest upon interest, your 1 lakh rupees that you started with, and the principal has not gone down, but you have only been paying interest and now you don't even have money to pay the interest. It is accumulating. Jesus is coming. Oh! I don't want to be lazy. I don't want to give excuses, do you know what Mordecai tells Esther? "Those who are clothed in royal apparel and eat well they are found in king's palaces. Now don't tell me that just because you are not going to take the initiative that you are going to be saved. You are going to perish and deliverance is going to come from some other place. The Lord is not going to stop. If you don't take the initiative you will perish." What does she do? She goes on a fast.

You know some of us have to go on a radical fast. Some of us have a go on a digital fast. Honestly I am telling you know, maybe we should make a covenant among young brothers, some of you are very strong I will leave you alone, but we people who are weak, we should possibly come together and say, "Brothers, we hold ourselves accountable not to give heed to digital (whatever inclinations) for the next 21 days." 21 day digital fast, how will that be! Oh! We want to consume data. We are gluttons for data, we want unlimited data. Maybe we should do a digital fast. Fasting from food after awhile is easy for me now, but do you know what my wife said yesterday? "You only listen to three women." I asked, "Who are those three women?" she said, "You flirt with three women." I was like, "Boy! That is an indictment." She was like, "I will tell you who those three women are; your mobile phone, your iPad and your laptop." I said, "Boy" thank You Lord. This is a moment of revelation now." She has become a prophetess now. It is because I am always with my headphones, I am either listening to news and to some message. With big, heavy headphones. I have got all kinds of issues with that now because of that.

You see, take the initiative. Listen to the prophetic, when the prophetic comes you know what it does? It shows the root of your problem. And if you don't deal with the root and you just try to trim off the branches you will have a semblance or the form of godliness but no power in your life. You will be an absolute 1st class hypocrite. I went to the youth meeting and I looked at them, I looked at them and said, "You know what? When I look at you, I am looking at a bunch of masturbators and pornographers." I looked at them and said, "You know what, you are all coming and asking these fantastic questions about evolution and what happened to creation? Etc, etc, etc, but when I look at you!" the moment I said that, the very next session of Q & A – 'Is masturbation wrong?' 'If it is wrong, how do I overcome it? Please help.'

I am telling you, teenage girls struggling with pornography. Girls! Girls of all people? My dear brothers and sisters, the walls are down, demons have infested our homes, snakes all around the place and do you know what we have done? We have tolerated them my dear brothers. Take the initiative. Parents take the initiative with your children. Even a slight word God will send through someone and source which you will least expect and she/he will speak a word into your life, take heed, the Lord is speaking something. Don't take it lightly. Nobody else would have seen the problem, but God will send some vessel into your life and He speaks something into your life, examine, that could be it. You know it; the problem is that you already know it. That is only a confirmation. The problem is that you are hiding in a veneer of religious activity. And after a period of time, do you know what happens? You are tired of playing the hypocrite and you will stop coming to church, saying, "Anyways, you know what, the church is full of hypocrites, I am a hypocrite. Why should I go to the hypocrites? I might as well be what I am openly."

Why do many people lose interest in coming to church? It is because they have not dealt with the secret things in their lives. And the problem is, do you know what the Bible says? God will judge the secrets of men according the Gospel in *Romans 2:16-18*. Get the demon out! Get the lizards out! Get the reptiles out! Don't get used to them. Any foreign body should not stay for a long time. Sickness for a long time should not stay. It should not stay in your body, refuse it. Ask the Lord, "What is going on Lord? What kind of correction should I make?" I am not asking you to stop taking medication, no. I am not saying that at all. I am just encouraging you to ask the Lord, because every problem is not just physiological for a believer.

Take the initiative! Receive the prophetic! And the third one – Agree with God.

Agree with God and receive the authority. You need to understand this – you have to agree, with whom? With God. *If two of you agree...* that is the reason why walking with the Lord is important. Enoch walked with God for 300 hundred years. Can you imagine? The Bible says, who can dwell in the midst of everlasting burnings. You see, I will tell you something very interesting about snakes which I learnt. Paul was feeding the fire, what came out? The snake. If you want the snakes to come out, light and fire and feed it. Who is the fire? God and His anointed Word. Be on fire for God and the vipers will come out. They will not stay there one second. So what has happened? Enoch is walking with the everlasting burnings, and everything is coming out – snake #1, snake #2, some days 3-4 bunch of snakes come out, 'God I did not realize.' "Yes, yes, slowly. You will not be able to bare it. Little by little. Little by little I will drive them out."

Walk with the Lord, agree with the Lord, agree with the Lord, agree with the Lord day by day. And you know what, the Bible says that Enoch was taken up because he pleased God. Agree with the Lord and receive authority.

Matthew 16:18-19

¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

What is 'keys'? A symbol of authority. You can lock and you can unlock. I will give you the authority. Who has got access to the money? The one who has got the password. Press the key. "I will give you the password," In other words. "I will give you the password, you can lock and you can unlock. I will not only give you the password but I will also give you the authority to change the password also." So that you will never be hacked.

¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Who is that 'two'? You and God. Agree, our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thine Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in my life. I agree with Your will in my life. I agree! It is locked. And what comes? Authority. Do you know why there is no authority in our lives? We listen to the Word and we disagree and we say that we should always agree to disagree. I have reservations with that king of an attitude. I mean, not am not saying we should agree on everything, there are some non-essentials which we don't have to agree upon. But there are some fundamentals where there is no disagreement there. You and the Lord are one.

You know, the Bible says that He became an atonement for us. Do you know what atonement means? At one with Me. It comes in two words. At one with God. You are being made one with God now. You have been, through the blood of Jesus Christ, there is atonement, there is peace with God. In other words now, you and God have come into a relationship based upon a covenant. You are agreeing with God. That is the reason why it is very important what kind of company you choose. And the people that you get married to especially. Do you know why? I will tell you why. The Bible says that every sin that you commit is outside your body, but he who commits sexual immorality sin against his own body. Why? I mean I used to wonder, why is that? Why is that the act between a man and a woman is considered so sacred with God?

The Bible says that Adam knew Eve and she conceived. There is something in a union of a husband and wife, there is something that transcends, it is just not physical; there is a knowing that happens. You remember *Psalms 1*? The Lord

knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish. The same word 'Yodea' Adam yodea Eve. And God yodea, means He knows us. There is some kind of a union. That is the reason why it says – he who is joined to the Lord is one Spirit with Him. And therefore the person with whom you are getting married to has to be a person who is joined to God so that when you are agreeing there is no demonic transaction that is happening. Think about it Solomon loved Moabites, Amnons, Sidonians, all kinds of people from other faiths. Think about it, the kind of demonic transaction that would have taken place in every mating. And if Solomon was restored it is only a miracle by the grace of God. He was the one who said, run away from the strange woman who flatters with her mouth, but she is like a double-edged sword. Her steps go down to hell and her place is full of the people of the dead none who take that path return, nor do they regain the paths of life. And that same Solomon who wrote against being one with strange woman becomes one with strange women.

Think about Samson, with Delilah. Delilah means 'of the night' 'of the darkness' and her agenda is very clear. Lilith means goodnight in Hebrew. Delilah means of the night. And her agenda is very clear. "Samson, Samson, how do I destroy you? Tell me how do I bind you and destroy you. I want to bind you Samson, I want to bind you." This idiot one with her. What happens? His spirit is vexed. Do you know why? It is because there is a demonic transaction that has happened there. My dear brothers and sisters, in the last days there is a sacred zone inside of you, there is a sacred zone inside each one of us, guard it with all of your mind and with all of your heart. That is only for God and nobody else. There is a sacred zone.

That is the reason the Bible says – marriage is honorable among all and the bed undefiled. But whoremongers and fornicators God will destroy. My dear brothers and sisters, why? It is because, you know why, what fellowship has light with darkness? What agreement has temple of God with the temple of idols? Is there even a choice for us, my dear brothers and sisters? Be careful, young people. Ask the Lord, in these things you cannot goof up. I just admire and I get inspired from young people who have stayed that course of purity like Joseph. Those who have stayed innocent. I am not saying that they had no struggles, we will all have struggles and we might have fallen. Come back! There is repentance in God.

Agree with God. Don't agree with the idols, don't agree with the value systems of this world who say, 'Anything is okay. Whatever your heart says you do.' And that fellow will do whatever his heart says. And if you question him he will say, 'Dil tho pagal hein!' (My heart is crazy/foolish) Of course it is foolish. Remember the story of that woman who was dying? Husband is next to him, he is weeping and she asked, 'Mere bina jee payyega?' (will you be able to live without me?) he looked at his wife and he said, 'Paagal ho jaunga mein.' (I will go mad without you. I'll go crazy). 'You will marry again?' 'Crazy man can do anything.' She just wanted to know whether he will marry again after she dies. That is jealousy.

That is the reason why the Bible says – you shall have no other gods apart from Me. For I AM the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, from the house of bondage. You shall not make for yourself any carved image because I AM a jealous God visiting the iniquity of the fathers and to the children on to the third and fourth generation.

So understand this, we are in the last days, if you want to have a firm foundation,

- Receive the prophetic
- Take initiative
- Agree with God and receive the authority; only in agreement with God you have authority. No other way. There is only one authority, which is the Scripture and when you agree with the Scriptures and the revelation of the Word of God you have authority.

You know I was listening to Rahul Gandhi's Stanford speech. How many of you listened to that? Boy! What a speech! you know I had tears in my eyes. You know what he said? I was stunned at certain words that he used, he said, "when we started off this Bharat Jodo Yatra first thing is that we just wanted to walk. And the moment I started walking my knees started to act up. I was supposed to walk 4000 Km, I was wondering whether I will be able to do it or not, but something incredible happened, the moment we started walking it was just not we who were walking, the entire people started walking with us, it started with 125 people and it turned into millions and then crores. There were absolutely lot of people next to us and even as I went through this journey for 4000 Km there was a complete information download

into my life, so many lessons that I learnt and after the yatra was over I was reminiscing and I was trying to learn the lessons from this yatra,” and he said something very powerful, “there are two things which are important. I understood the difference between force and power.” How many of you heard that? Force and power. Do you know what he says? This is mind blowing, I was listening to this and I had tears in my eyes. He said, “Force is what the government has; it has the force of the ED, it has the force of the CBI, it has the force of the media, it has the force of money, it has all the so called authority in its hands, but you know what, we the people of India had the power. We had the power because we are as close to the truth as possible. And because we were as close to the truth as possible and we had the power and the force could not overtake this power.”

I looked at the speech and I was like, you know what, he is plagiarizing from the Bible. That is my Bible. The entire demonic hosts are against you, but what God gives you is authority. As long as you are close to the truth of the Word of God you have authority in your life. And none can overpower you. “Behold I give you authority over all the enemy. Nothing can harm you.” And you know what he said? “In this yatra we experienced power and the force could do nothing.” I was stunned. I was like, ‘Boy!’ I had tears, at that moment in time you know what God said, “Fast and pray for this guy.” Have you heard any leader talk about this in recent times? And he said, “As long as we are close to the truth we have the power and no force can overcome that power. They thought they had the force but we had the power.”

They might have the power, but we have the authority, the authority of God Himself backing us up. That is the reason why when brother John Wesley was praying he said, ‘We have the government and the government is upon His shoulders and the increase of the government there shall be no end.’ Agree with God.

I remember the Gandhi movie, I don’t know if you disagree with Gandhi, but I love Mahatma Gandhi. I don’t care what you think about that. I like that man, whatever he is, I watched that movie ‘Gandhi’ and I wept so many times. That was the second movie that my dad showed me. The first was ‘The Jungle Book’ the second was ‘Gandhi’ 1983. Whoa! What a movie it was! Man! I watched it so many times. You know what he says? ‘The British are against us,’ Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Sardhar Patel, Gandhi and Nehru they were all having a conference. And the British have issued some edict. And Muhammad Ali Jinnah says, “I want to resist the government, I don’t agree with it. We should act upon it and we have to resist it.” And everybody is thinking that we should apply force. And Gandhi comes and says, it is a beautiful scene in the movie, “Yah! I agree with Jinnah.” They were all shocked, Gandhi? You agree with Jinnah that we have to resist it? “Yes, absolutely.” So how are you going to resist it? Do you know what he says? “We should proclaim a national day of fasting.” What?! National day of fasting? “Everybody in your home don’t go to work, just fast. Don’t do anything, their entire government will stop, they will come to their knees and they will surrender.” He was a great man. They might have not known God, they might have had their failures and shortcomings. He has his Christian companion, right. He is walking through the streets of South Africa and there is one guy calling him, “kooli! Kooli! Kooli!” and the Christian friend says, “Let us avoid this street.” Gandhi asks, “Why? Why should we avoid this street? Let’s walk through it. Does not your Bible says that if somebody slaps you on your right cheek, show him the left cheek also?” and you know what he was saying? He said, “Your God is saying that when you do that you are telling the enemy that you are not scared of him. That you are going to die for your convictions no matter what he does to you. Come! Walk beside me.” And he walks through those streets looking straight into that fellow’s eyes and even as he looks into his eyes and walks through the fellows who were hecking at him slowly give way and he walks pass them.

You know, these are powerful scenes. Do you know why? It is because he had the backing of the truth of the Bible and this is an unbeliever, my dear brothers and sisters. How much more you and I? Agree with God! And receive authority. Fourth thing - The basis of all authority.

1. Receive the prophetic
2. Take the initiative against the demonic
3. Agree with God and receive authority
4. And the most important thing; basis of all authority is the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Don’t forget the Cross. We don’t retaliate. We only apply the Cross in our lives.

Matthew 16:21

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

This is the Gospel. Jesus Christ died for our sins according to Scriptures, was buried and rose again from the dead, according to Scriptures. This is the Gospel, this is the message of the Cross and all authority is based upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. The source of all authority. Or rather the basis of all authority. This is what I got from Derek Prince. The thing is that I learnt so many things from Derek Prince so I have to mention him many times. But I agree that we should not mention about Derek Prince so many times, we should be mentioning about Jesus.

So the source of all authority is God. The channel of all authority is Jesus. The basis of all authority is the Cross. And the receiving of authority is by faith. The way you receive this authority is by faith on the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the Cross. So what should we have? We should have a Cross mind set. We should develop a Cross mind set. A mind set to suffer. A mind set to deny. A mind set to be hidden in Christ. Like John Wesley was praying in the morning, he said, "We were crucified with Christ. It is no longer we who live." See, the life of faith and the application of the faith on the Cross is so intricately connected, you cannot separate one from the other. This is the victory that overcomes the world, faith.

Paul also says in *Galatians* – *it is through the Cross of Jesus Christ, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.* So how do you get this faith? By the application of the Cross. You see, it is in everything. *Anything which is not of faith is sin.* You want to overcome sin you should have faith. If you want to overcome sin, sin shall not have dominion over you because you are no longer under law, but under grace. Therefore what should you do? Yield the members of your body; in other words it is the application of the Cross. Knowing that your old man was crucified on the Cross, so that your body of sin is done away with. So application. The basis is the Cross. The source of all blessing is God. The channel of all blessing is Christ. the foundation of those blessings is the Cross. And the way you receive that blessing is by faith. The source of all healing is God – *I AM the Lord that heals you.* The channel of all healing is Christ. The foundation of all healing is the Cross. How do you receive that healing? By faith. You see?

The source of all righteousness is God. The channel is righteousness is Christ. The basis of righteousness is the Cross. How do you receive this righteousness? By faith. Anything of eternal value is from God and the channel is Christ, and the foundation is the Cross. And you receive it by faith. But the problem here is that we do not like the Cross. So the moment Cross is mentioned what does Peter say?

Matthew 16:21-22

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

The moment the Cross is mentioned you don't like it. But think about this - Peter just got a revelation from God. Like I said, check the revelation and check and source. Immediately Jesus responded. Do you know what Jesus says? 'Get thee behind Me Satan.' Look at the wordings. Listen carefully this is what He says, - ***But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan, you are an offense or a stumbling block to Me. You are not mindful of the things of God but you are mindful of the things of men.'***

If you were there at the Nepali service, some revelations are only in Nepali, if you are after revelations you will listen to the Nepali services. So this is something which I heard for the very first time from Pastor. Abraham is given this promise from God and Abraham asks this question, 'How do I know that You are going to give me this promise?' so what does God says? 'I am going to make a covenant with you.' So what does He do? He gets 3 year old Heifer, lamb, another animal and a turtle dove and a pigeon and God says, 'Divide them,' and what is that a type of? After he divides them who walks in between those? Abraham is put to sleep, God Himself walks through those animals saying that if anyone breaks the terms of the covenant I am going to take the punishment, in other words I am going to be the substitutionary sacrifice or atonement. But before that happens Abraham does something. The vultures come, what does Abraham do?

He shoos them away. And pastor said something very powerful, I love that, he said, 'Whenever there is Cross there are demonic agendas and ideas to steal the message of the Cross.' Vultures are a type of the spirit of demons and what we have to do as children of Abraham is shoo them away.

So if you really want a blessing from God since the source of all authority is God, what you should develop is a mindset of the Cross.

1 Peter 4:1-3

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

You know what Jesus told Peter? 'You are not mindful of the things of God, but you are mindful of the things of men.' So what should you do? Arm yourself in the mind. That is what I said; you should develop a warrior mindset. A warrior mindset.

² that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

I told you, all the snakes in your life are eating you up, and you don't even know that. Or you are actually made your compromise with them. Some people have just given up; they have vice in their lives and they have fought and fought and fought with it and finally said, 'You what know, this is going to be there for the rest of my life,' they have made peace it.

³ For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Say, 'Enough Lord, enough is enough. No more for the rest of my life. Whatever life is left of me, I do not want to live for these snakes in my life.'

Guard your mind against the onslaught of the demonic. For it steals the message of the Cross. That is the reason why it says in Philippians 3 – they are the enemies of the Cross of Christ whose glory is in their shame, their god is their belly and their mind is on the earthly things. Life of faith and the application of the Cross are intricately connected. So don't miss out on the Cross my dear brothers and sisters. The Cross, the Cross, the Cross. The Cross before me and the world behind me. No turning back, no turning back. If any man puts his hand upon the plough and he turns back he is not fit for My Kingdom. He is not worthy.

Remember Elijah comes and put his mantle on Elisha and Elisha says, 'Can I go and say bye bye to mommy and daddy?' he says, 'What has this got to do with me? I did not call you. I did not call. First of all I did not want you. It is the call of God. This has got nothing to do with me. And if you really want to follow me burn all your bridges.' Unfortunately Elisha had a servant who had another mindset. Saving mindset; 'As the Lord God lives, I will get something for myself. My master has rejected this offering.' So he runs, 'Why are you coming?' 'My ministry needs some support. There are two prophets who came, can you give me one shekel of silver and clothing.' Naaman said, 'Take 2, take 10' slowly he comes and puts everything inside, hides it nicely and he comes and stands before Elisha and acts as if nothing has happened. 'Gehazi, where have you been?' 'Your servant did not go anywhere.' 'Gehazi, when you were running after that man, did not my soul go with you? Is this the time for your to build houses? To get gold and silver? To get female servants and male servants?' 'I only took 2 pieces of silver.' 'But I know your plan. You have a 5-year plan. Just in case ministry does not work, something to back myself upon; a cushion for me to fall.'

Elisha might have said, 'When Elijah called me I burnt all my bridges. You thing this is the right thing?' anyone who puts his hand on the plow and turns back is not worthy. And you know what he says next? 'The leprosy of Naaman will stick to you and your descendants forever. He # short-circuited the life of his entire generation.'

Oh my dear brothers and sisters t he Cross, the Cross, the Cross. A mindset to deny.

So first,

1. Receive the prophetic
2. Take initiative against the demonic
3. Agree and receive authority
4. The basis of all this is the Cross

5. Develop a mindset of the Cross; a mindset to suffer

How does it look like? Desire Christ. Not desire fellowship, not desire pastor, not desire anybody else, but desire Christ. My entire focus is Christ, not money, not fame, not authority but Christ.

Matthew 16:24-25

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

I love that word 'desire'. See, if you do not love that word desire. I can tell Abigail so many things, but the breakthrough in my life is when she goes and takes the text book by herself. Oh boy! What a day that would be! Now she has several other books, except the text book which I desire. I am like, 'Lord, do I have children after my own heart? I don't know.' That day, what a day of rejoicing that would be. That is what God is looking at – *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. The scepter of My Kingdom is the scepter of righteousness. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.* Where are those people who are hungry for God? Who desire things after God's own heart.

That is the reason why God loved David, because he was a man after God's heart. What You desire is my desire. Where You go I will go, Your people my people, where You die I will die. The reproaches of Christ are better than the passing pleasures of sin. Desire! Do you desire Christ? Do you have a hunger for His Word? Do you have a hunger for His righteousness? Do you have a hunger for holiness? Do you have a hunger for purity? In your thought life? Do you have a hunger? *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they, (only they) will be satisfied.*

If you do not hunger and thirst after righteousness and instead hunger and thirst after anything else you will not be satisfied, like Solomon. You will be a miserable wreck at the end of your life. And you will say, 'Vanity! Vanity! All is vanity.' Look at David's psalm,

Psalms 42:1-2

¹As the deer/hart (it could have been heart as well) pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.

My mind is so drained. It is not just my spirit now anymore; my spirit has transferred its desires to my soul. My will is Your will Lord, Your feels are my feels. Your mind is my mind. I want to know Your mind. My soul thirsts after You, for God, for the living God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

You know, if you have this kind of a desire, when you come to church you will be literally desperate and desiring for the Word, 'Lord! Teach me! Teach me! Teach me! Lord. Speak to my life, speak to my heart. Your servant is listening.'

So first thing,

1. Receive the prophetic
2. Take initiative against the demonic and kick out the devil
3. Agree with God and receive authority
4. On the basis of all authority don't forget the Cross
5. Develop a mindset of the Cross; a mindset to suffer. And when you do that you will automatically begin to,
6. Desire God

That is the reason why don't worry about the number of people in your church. Forget about that. You know what, Jesus gave a very simple formula – *Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.* So what should you do? That is the point. The secret of Church growth, the secret of any growth in your ministry is to flow Christ. Not strategies as to how to get numbers. Follow and I will make you fishers of men. We sing that song – follow, follow, I will follow Jesus, every day, every way I will follow You. Follow, follow, everywhere He is leading I will follow Him.

So

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? Desire God.

Develop a Cross mindset, desire God and finally deny your self. Denying of self can happen in so many way; you can deny food, deny sleep, deny phone.

You know we should come into a covenantal relationship, all the young men in the Church. Maybe we should do it after somebody's wedding. All of us we should make a covenantal relationship and say, you know what, no phone for 21 days. And if you want to reach us, call our wives. Something like that. That will be interesting, right? I just want to cut off and do a digital detox. Get all the junk out of your head and just read the Word, not on your gadgets, but the written Word, the printed Word which you have forgotten completely. Deny!

Titus 2:11-13

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (why do we have to do that? Why do we have to deny ourselves? Because this is what He did) ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

He gave Himself for me so that He could purify for Himself a pure, spotless, precious bride zealous for good works. So how do we build our foundation and make it firm? One last recap,

1. Receive the prophetic Word
2. Take initiative against the demonic and kick out the devil
3. Agree with God and receive authority
4. On the basis of all authority don't forget the Cross
5. Develop a mindset of the Cross; a mindset to suffer. And when you do that you will automatically begin to,
6. Desire God, desire Christ
7. Deny self

And be one with God. If you are at one with God let us rise to our feet. On the 11th of July, on the 16th year of Grace Tabernacle Church, Hyderabad.

You know in the book of Nehemiah there are several meetings. Fasting and prayer meetings are there, feasting meetings are there, thanksgiving meetings are there, all kinds of meetings are there. But there is one specific meeting, it is called covenant meeting. Do you know what they do? They come together and make a covenant with God and say, you know what, 'We will not allow foreign people to come into our lives. We will deny ourselves this worldly lust and we will stick to the Word of God.' And they make a covenant among themselves, with God.

Every time we come to the ministry of the Word, do you know what it should be? It should be a covenant meeting. It is not just an ordinary meeting, it is a covenant meeting, my dear brothers and sisters. Meeting means what? We are agreeing with God, we have resolved all the disagreements that God has with us, not we having issues with God. We have resolved and we are coming to a commitment saying, 'Lord, I want to make a covenant with You and I am going to follow You. I want to live a life for You. I want to make my foundation firm.'

Shall we pray?

Closing prayer

Father in Heaven, we just thank You this morning. Lord, we have a long way to go, but the time is short. So many of us have unfinished business, with God and with man. Strives that have to be resolved, arguments that have to be resolved, misunderstandings that have to be resolved, forgiveness that has to be asked, accounts that have to be settled, debts that have to be repaid. Your Word says – owe no man anything except the debt of love. And there is work that has to be finished, Your work in our lives and through our lives. Even as Your child sang, make me a blessing. That is our cry this morning. That Lord we will just not be blessed, but we will also be a blessing. We want to agree with You, we want to have resolved all our disagreements with You. We want to clear all accounts with You. We want to clear our accounts with our spouses. We want to clear our accounts with our children. We want to clear our accounts with our pastors and our elders. We want to clear our accounts with our brothers and sisters in the church. We want to clear our accounts with anybody that we have offended, before You come. Lord, inject into us a sense of urgency, because Your Word says

through Your Apostle – My little children this is the last hour. The anti-Christ is coming, a world which is against the Church an agenda which is against the Body of Christ. But Lord, before that happens we want to make our foundations firm. We want to receive the prophetic. We want to obey like the woman, even if it is risky ostensibly but we know Lord Jesus that obeying You is never risky. It is a risk not to obey You. It is when Jonah ran in the opposite direction he fell into a swamp. It is always safe with You in the midst of the storm because following You is not a risk. We want to obey You, overcoming any offense and any pride. Even if it comes from an ostensibly insignificant voice, Lord, we want to humble ourselves and receive that Word knowing that it is not from man, but it is from God. We want to make course correction in our lives.

Grant us that sense of urgency this morning. We want to have our foundations firm and sure, because we want to receive the Kingdom and a part of the Kingdom which cannot be shaken. And You said O Lord, "Little flock, it is My will and it is My desire to give you the Kingdom." It is Your desire to give us the Kingdom, but do we desire You, O Lord? Create in us a hunger for You, a desire for You. The Lord made His ways known unto Moses, but His acts unto the children of Israel. We want to know You, O Lord. We want to know Your ways. And Lord, we want to experience Your presence and we want to say along with David, 'Lord, do not take Your Holy Spirit from us. Do not cast us away from Your presence.' Yes Lord, in the New Covenant we have been sealed by Your Spirit, but help us not to grieve Him by our disobedience and by our unbelief. Forgive us Holy Spirit if we have grieved You. Come back into our lives. If we have silenced Your convictions, if we have silenced Your warnings and Your voice forgive us, we do not want to quench You. We do not want to lie to You. We want to be filled with the Spirit. Lord even as we receive Your Word by faith fill us with Your Spirit. Even as Your Word goes out through the week, through different meetings, O Lord I pray that You would strengthen and that You would continue to make our foundation firm. So that Lord, we will have a strong basis upon which to stand and no matter what the enemy tries to hurl at us, we will not fall because our house is founded on that Rock. On Christ the solid Rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.

Thank You Lord for this morning. I commit all of Your children into Your hands. Even as we go through the rest of the week You be with us and guide us. The sun will not smite us by day nor the moon by night because we look at that hill, the hill that was far away, on that hill where the prince of glory died on that Cross. That hill, the hill of Golgotha. We look at that hill O Lord, from where comes our help. Our Savior who was crucified on that hill, who shed His own blood for us, who bore our shame, who bore our sin, who bore our curse, who bore the penalty for our crimes and our rebellion. We look up to that hill and we confess that we will be blessed in our goings out and we will be blessed in our comings in. the Lord will preserve our going out and our coming in from this time forth and even forever. For in Jesus' mighty name we 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 through this week. In Jesus' name, amen.
God bless you.*