

"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" John 16:33b

Periodical Message (November 2021)

A Word from us,

I believe these times need faith, because of all what is happening in the world around us; going to the Bible and reading **Hebrews Chapter Eleven** could help. Going from verse to verse, we find a single common denominator to the lives of the characters mentioned there: FAITH. Of course each had a particular characteristic that denotes the kind of faith God loves. Their faith was born of deep intimacy with the Lord. The Bible tells us "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" Hebrews 11:6

The fact is that it's impossible to have a faith that pleases God without sharing intimacy with Him. The intimacy I'm speaking about is of a closeness to the Lord that comes from yearning for Him. This kind of intimacy is a close personal bond, a communion; it comes when we desire the Lord more than anything else in this life. Do you have a daily Koinonia with God? I pray you do, because Koinonia means the fullest possible partnership and fellowship with God.

Yours in the Lord, Salman

A Word according to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

The God of Restoration.

I believe it is not right to lament and complain about everything happening in the world, because our Lord Jesus TOLD us in advance: "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" John 16:33b.

I believe you will agree with me, that we should start learning to do what we supposed to do, because we are but witnesses of the King; yes, we are saved people with citizenship in heaven!

Of course it is right to be aware of what is happening around us, but it should NOT be central in our life, bringing fear to our hearts and distraction from our Calling. Instead we should remember the promises of our God; yes, HE promised RESTORATION, and though it was for Israel at that time, it is also for US because God never changes "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you" Joel 2:25 I want you to ask yourself this question: Do you think that you waste years before you repented and surrendered all to Jesus? This question is important, because of what you might be thinking like 'I could have been so much deeper in Christ. I could have brought so much joy to His heart. I can never make up all those wasted years; oh, what a great loss!'

I know, we all want to make up to God our lost years, to make amends and 'repay' Him; I believe it seems so 'natural' to the human mind. The 'flesh' is always trying to glory of its own accomplishments and what

it can do. But our God has different standards and He says 'I will make it up to you, because you can NOT repay ME for a single wasted hour, so walk before ME in righteousness and turn away from your sins' The LORD wants you and me, and every person on this earth, to turn AWAY from our sins and our ways; most of us are entangled in different kinds of sins, whether we know it or not. The Saviour wants to SAVE us from ourselves, our ways, our thinking...etc. He wants to tell you 'I will make up all the losses, regardless of whether they are yours, your family's or others' – how much faith do you have to believe THAT?! To repentant sinners, the Lord declares "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things" Joel 2:21

I want you to noticed, dear believer, that the Sovereign Lord, is acting as HE pleases, and as He always do as a loving Father. He is ONLY informing us about WHAT He can do and wants us to LEARN from it!! In fact, He is comforting the land and even animals and assuring them that HE will provide for them; yes, indeed, our God CAN do marvelous things – the question is: Do YOU believe? Many believers in these days are, literally, entangled in their own worries, fears, uncertainty...etc.

The gracious LORD wants to comfort you, that you do NOT need to be ashamed of your wasted years; in His plans for you, you were born for His eternal purposes. Yes indeed, the Sovereign God planned for you and me a life of satisfaction, joy and usefulness in His kingdom, but His plan for YOUR and my life was interrupted by the devourer "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" 1 Peter 5:8

The good thing for ALL of us is: God is in control of everything and in Christ ALL things are NEW...hallelujah!

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" 2 Corinthians 5:17 – I DO thank the Lord for THIS assurance!

Many do NOT realize what does THIS mean; though we are saved, the human mind will try to follow the OLD patterns, the ways we were accustomed to and so on. Trust me this is where RELIGION takes control and we fall prey to man's teachings!

But our gracious Lord goes back to the day the locust came and HE, the Saviour Jesus, starts counting again from the moment you repented. All those blessings you missed were stored up, and all the joy and peace you thought gone forever were actually kept by the Lord. He can NOT forget what He has prepared for you; most of the time WE DO!

Paul the Apostle, guided by the Holy Spirit, writes "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:13-14

Dear believer in the Saviour Jesus Christ the Lord, you may feel pangs of remorse for your wasted time, and memories will keep you humble, but in God's eyes, your past is a dead issue. Your loving Father says 'Forget the past and press on to what I have promised you'

The Lord reminded me of an example from the Old Testament; it was the plight of Judah's subjects when good King Uzziah died (2 Kings 15:13) -- everyone was nervous because his wicked grandson, Ahaz was waiting in the wings to take control – and their peace was gone!

Of course, much to the relief of Judah, good King Hezekiah replaced Ahaz; by recording THIS in His Word, God is telling you and me that HE is in control and no matter what others (Or YOU!) plan, HIS will must be done. He restores everything, as He pleases and He does it in sovereign way for HIS glory. As He restored PEACE to the hearts of His People, Israel, at that time, He is telling you and me today that ONLY HE can restore THAT peace HE left with us.

The Spirit always guides me to go back to the Psalms of David; over the years I discovered that our God revealed to His servants SO MUCH through the Psalms of David. Over and over, David testified "In the LORD put I my trust..." Psalm 11:1 – but WHICH kind of trust the Psalmist is talking about here? Was David trusting that God would restore EVERYTHING as it was? Or, was he ONLY comforting himself in the Lord?

You should know that the Hebrew root-word for trust suggests 'to fling oneself off a precipice'-- That is, to be like a child who hears his father says 'Jump!' and who confidently obeys, throwing himself off the edge and into his father's arms. I LOVE to use and re-use THIS. Trusting and believing God that HE is the One to initiate things, but also controls them!

That is one aspect of trust in the God Who restores back EVERYTHING as HE desires them to be; with HIM, nothing will be lost!

I remember my zeal during the first period of my healing and salvation, where I was asking God to help me do, literally, the impossible: I wanted to memorize the WHOLE Bible. My intention was, I wanted the lost First-Half of my life to be 'replaced' somehow in order to be the 'Perfect Believer' and witness of the Lord Jesus. I am glad to say, that the Lord guided me tenderly, step by step, showing me how HE was the One restoring every single minute I lived as someone who did NOT know or believe in the biblical Jesus. I would say, unfortunately, many of us limit our trust in God, that HE could restore everything, to a 'rescue operation'. As if to say to the Lord, 'I trust you to come and put out all my fires, save me from all my troubles, and deliver me out of all my trials. I know you will be there, Lord, when I need you and I trust you MIGHT restore every lost moment in my life'. But in doing THIS, we think our faith is stretched and pleasing to God, but are we NOT missing on the fact, that GOD alone can restore what was lost? Many don't realize that they are crediting the devil with being the causer and the Lord as the reactor! This viewpoint makes God seem like He simply reacts to all the devil's well-laid plans; BUT, let me tell you, beloved in the Lord, that our God never reacts — He initiates; even the restoration of what was lost, is an initiation from God's side — as His Word states!

If you noticed, dear Saints, that the world and Media are trying to put fear in our hearts; every day we hear about 'new' variant, mutation of THE Virus...etc. Here I am just stating facts: Obesity kills 2.8 million people per year; heart diseases kill 17.9 million people per year; diabetics kills 1.5 million people per year and I could continue with car accidents, drugs, alcohol...and of course abortion. But people, including believers, trust the government to 'take care of everything' and restore normal life – what about trusting God? And we are bombarded DAILY with NEGATIVE news about Covid-19 and how dangerous it is and how many variants we have today! Imagine in whole Australia the so-called 'Pandemic' took the lives of less than 1500 people (YES, every soul is precious in the eyes of the Lord) but to see Australia changing (Mutating?!) before our very eyes to a Dictatorship...a Big Prison is astonishing! WHO is going to restore Australia to its former days?

Yes, those in power, the Governments, say they want to 'restore' everything to be 'normal' again; how could that be? They are ruining the life and livelihood of the WHOLE population, abusing the so-called 'Pandemic' to grab ALL power and change their nations to a completely-controlled territory – there is NO restoration in sight! Why they did not take such draconian measures, say, when cancer is killing people, or when innocent, unborn babies (The future generation) were killed by abortion?!

I want to encourage every believer, especially right now where everything God said is under attack; where perversion spreading like cancer; where the evil one preparing the world for his 'final step' to declare himself 'lord' to TURN TO GOD and His Word. As believers, our trusting hearts should say 'All my steps are ordered by the Lord, and He is my loving Father. He permits suffering, temptation and trial but never more than I can bear, for He always makes a way of escape and He has an eternal plan and purpose for me' Trusting GOD to restore everything, should be the natural attitude of all believers; is it yours? Look to Him today with a trusting heart and be assured that, without a doubt, God has everything under control and HE is willing and able to restore what was lost. You are the apple of His eye!

Prayer Ideas

- 1. Join us to thank our God for His care, protection and provision; merciful Father, we are so grateful to all what you've allowed to happen in our life. We thank you that we could worship you, serve others and reach out to the lost. Eternal God we received much more than we deserve; thank you for your care, in which we see Who you are. We want to have hearts filled with thanks to you, in order to keep thanking you everywhere we go.
- 2. Gracious God, Paul the Apostle wrote, as guided by Your Holy Spirit "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen" 2 Corinthians 13:14.

We pray and ask you in Jesus holy name to let the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be visible in our life, to be multiplied through our service and to change our way of life, as YOU desire. We pray that we could love, as YOU loved us; without conditions or 'strings' attached to it. We pray, that people will recognize

us as YOURS through our love to the brethren. We pray and desire a continuous communion of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, in order to have communion with other believers. Help us, O, Lord, to achieve that.

- 3. Lord Jesus we don't get a choice in what people are going to do to us, but we do have a choice in whether or not we are going to be offended. Thus, we ask in your holy name to help us understand that forgiving others is part of God's curriculum. Help us to understand that forgiveness is teaching us the true value of what God does when He forgives us. We pray, that your Spirit, O, Lord will help us to endure injustice in humble hearts and to let forgiveness flow out the moment somebody does us wrong. You also told us this "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses" Mark 11:25-26 help us to do so.
- **4.** Since we received a Word from you nearly two years ago, in which you let us know that you'll be taking us beyond all our expectations, we feel humbled!
- Yes, we've been taken further than ALL our expectations, thus in Jesus holy name we want to pray, asking you to help us. We want to be ALWAYS ready for you, Lord Jesus; to be ready to serve you and serve your people; to read your Word diligently; to have communion with your Holy Spirit and with one another. Grant, O, Lord, that you'll always be with us in all what we say and do, as promised in your Word.
- 5. Like you, Lord, we want to love with genuine love, as your Word tells us "Let love be without dissimulation/ hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. Not slothful in business/ zeal; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" Romans 12:9-11. We pray that your Word will be fulfilled in our life and through our service; and help us to obey that command with all of our hearts today!

 6. We just celebrated the First Advent and the children were so joyful to lit the first candle; may our love towards you burn in our hearts, and may we appreciate such tradition in a world drifting very fast away from you and your Word. We pray that this Advent Time will be filled with prayer, psalms and hymns and your joy will overflow from our hearts and our presence to others. We also pray that what we need for the Christmas celebration will be provided for in time; you are our refuge and only from you we ask.
- **7.** A long struggle concerning our Mission in Erbil is coming to a final and Glorious Victory; we want to thank you, Lord, for standing with us despite fierce resistance from the enemy. We are triumphant because JUSTICE prevailed and people KNOW now with certainty that YOU and YOU ALONE was our God Who fight for and defend us. Yes, our hearts are bleeding for those who caused us such misery and great loses and we pray today that the Holy Spirit would touch and change their hearts. We pray that the Spirit will humble and bring them to repentance; Jesus, may YOU be glorified through this matter. Amen.
- **8.** New radical course has been advocated by politicians of ALL colours to FORCE the people to accept vaccination; it is challenging, Lord, and we ask you for protection. Protect us, Lord, against anything which is NOT from you and help us to cope with what to come. We don't fear man, neither are we afraid of persecution, but we want to have the Testimony about your wondrous works in our life continue. You are our shield, O, God, so please make us invisible to the virus, as you did with Sister Missy. Make us invisible to every evil authority. WE rebuke the plans of the enemy in your holy name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Finally, we encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep the Word, live the Calling and continue serving in a humble heart WITHOUT fear. Don't ever forget your joy in the Lord no matter what might happen---He will never fail you.

We also ask you, dear Saints, to forward our Messages to as many people as you can, whether believers or else with many thanks. We would love to visit you, if invited to your Church, Prayer Group or else and share our testimony with all the Saints or hear from you. Please let's know through an E-mail containing a phone number to send a message to or even call you back. We will be waiting for your Feedback or commentaries too. What did the Message tell you and what did the Holy Spirit teach you through it? If you want us to pray for you, or for somebody else, please let us know and we will pass the name/s over to our 24/7 Prayer Team-Jesus Highland Prayer House-JHPH.

Have a \\\^I^/// Blessed Day

"...I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me" Micah 7:7

Built on the Rock: JESUS CHRIST THE LORD

"Choose this day whom you will serve, As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15

Thank you for supporting International Christian Outreach Ministry and standing with us and the persecuted Christians in Iraq.