

Rejoice, give thanks and pray to God while going

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

> Periodical Message (April 2022)

A Word from us,

I just wanted to be home, to be with my family and to give the children some special time; that was while I was in Iraq serving the Lord and His people. It did not happen!

Sometimes we desire things, because they seem essential, and though being with my children is necessary, BUT I know my Lord and the Calling He entrusted us with: Yes, there are STILL billions of people dying every day, every hour, every minute...without Christ! We need to trust the Lord and His guidance in every step we make, as millions of other missionaries and servants of the Lord did before us. They left everything behind, sometimes even their own families, because they followed the small, soft voice; those servants had faith, not fear; had wisdom from above, not worries; had fellowship with the Lord...and with one another.

A good example to follow; I pray for you, myself and every believer in Jesus Christ.

Yours in the Lord, Salman

A Word according to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Closeness to Jesus and Freedom,

It was a great blessing for me, and I believe for my family and our children too, to be home before, during and after Resurrection Sunday/Easter. In the Orient, believers in Jesus Christ turned the time before, during and after Resurrection Sunday/Easter to a Family Gathering and they celebrate together. Relatives cook together, visit each other and of course talk about biblical matters concerning the FEAST. One day, while walking, somehow I had a good, talking time with my Lord, 'Lord' I cried

'I can't live with fears and worries of all kinds; I see people frightened by the news, by false teachers, by worries about their children...but I want, O, Lord, to face whatever the future holds with rest, joy and simple trust. I wish the same for all those who believe in You; yes, I want total freedom from all fear and worries'

Dear Saints, let me tell you, no matter how much faith you have, there are things in life, which could put fear in your heart, even if for a short while...or a minute!

I believe you know that it is impossible to have a faith that pleases God without sharing a closeness to Jesus that comes from yearning after Him. This kind of close personal bond can only come when we desire the Lord more than anything else in life. Of course Resurrection Sunday gives us the BEST example about having faith, despite trembling, crying, and pleading, like Jesus did in Gethsemane, before being arrested and later crucified. Jesus cried "And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" Matthew 26:39 and "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying 'O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done'" Matthew 26:42 --- For us, Jesus is the best example of absolute faith in the Father.

It is good to know that the writer of the Book of Hebrews gives us several examples of faith-filled servants who walked closely with God. Let's look together at Abel: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts..." Hebrews 11:4. Abel offered sacrifices to the Lord on a frequent basis and his sacrifices always required an altar. Abel brought not only unspotted lambs for the sacrifice, but the fat of those lambs as well. "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering" Genesis 4:4.

I believe MANY todays don't understand these ritualized sacrifices, because they don't know the background to all these requirements God asking for, or its significance. The fat is important here because it caught fire quickly and was consumed, causing a sweet aroma to rise. **"And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD'S" Leviticus 3:16**

It is a type of prayer or fellowship that is acceptable to God, representing our ministry/service to the Lord in the secret place of prayer. The Lord Himself states that such intimate worship rises to Him like a sweet-smelling savor. **"For we are unto God a sweet savour/ fragrance of Christ..." 2 Corinthians 2:15** I don't know what you think of THIS verse, but to me it is, literally, mind-blowing: WE are the fragrance of Christ?!

Despite our sinful nature, all our sins, failing, disobedience...etc. STILL God regards us as 'The Fragrance of Christ' – how do you feel, Preacher, when you read THIS? Do you, literally feel the prompting of the Holy Spirit to tell God's People about THIS fact?

Able had faith, he remembered what his parents said and he was watching them doing what God did for them, when He sacrificed animals to cover them with the skin. I believe, somewhere along the line, Abel made the choice to pursue a relationship with God, to have communion and fellowship with Him as his parents had. His brother Cain also brought sacrifices but they were fruit, an offering that did not require an altar as there was no fat, nothing to be consumed. As a result, there was no sweet aroma/fragrance to rise up to heaven. In other words, no personal exchange between Cain and the Lord was involved. That is why Abel's offering was 'more excellent than Cain's'

Abel was coming to God through the blood of the sacrificed animals, as God shown it to his parents, Adam and Eve; Cain followed his OWN 'way' thus rejecting God's way through the blood of sacrifices! The faithful servant seeks God's touch in his life; like Abel, he won't settle for anything less: Either do what God wants, and his parents performed/did or nothing. This servant tells himself 'I'm determined to give the Lord all the time He wants from me in fellowship. I long to hear His still, small voice speaks to me, so I'm going to stay in His presence'

Beloved, I only pray, and may you determine to be this type of servant; such pleases God and He reveals Himself to them.

As I said, I cried to the Lord concerning those issues of fear, despite my faith; if you want to be set free, be assured ONLY Jesus can do that. And if you want joy; I assure you ONLY the Joy of the Lord would last forever...and it is BRAND Joy: JESUS Joy!

There was a moment of silence, I couldn't hear anything, then the Holy Spirit quickened me and I heard Him whispering: "The key to freedom from all fear and worry is found in two words — sparrows and hair". My mind couldn't get it, I was crying to the Lord about fear and worries and His Spirit is whispering about sparrows and hair!

"Remember" The Holy Spirit went on "Remember what I said in Matthew 10:28-33.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them (Sparrows) shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" Matthew 10:29-31

We are talking about faith, nearness to the Lord and freedom from fear and worries, but the Lord wants us to remember what He said; and what Jesus said sounds so elementary, so very simple — but what Jesus tells us here is very profound!

Out of 9,000 species of birds, God singled out the sparrow to reference in His Word; His Wisdom is difficult, if not impossible to fathom...

Sparrows are wonderfully made, their thin, small bones are strong and specially equipped for flying. In fact, modern science still cannot copy the intricate wing system that allows them to migrate up to three thousand miles. God designed every bone, every feather — and He counted every one of them. This is about sparrows and what about the hair?

Well, every hair on our heads is counted by our Father in heaven; some do NOT want to believe that God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Almighty God has nothing to do but count every hair we have! The world of science tells us that between 100 to 150 thousand hairs blanket the average human head and even those who are bald have the villus variety hair which is unseen by the human eye. God made hair useful — eyebrows keep sweat out of our eyes and eyelashes protect our eyelids when dust or tiny insects get too near. Tiny hairs in the ears and nose filter out incoming particles. Every hair is a cylinder of cells that has tunneled deep into the skin to reach the blood vessels that nourish it. Did you think of that, dear believer?

Well, it is, no wonder, then that King David said "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" Psalm 139:14

If we could be mindful of the intricate design of God's creation, then THAT could make us even more attentive to our heavenly Father's watchful care of us. He cares so much, but most of the time believers do NOT even think that God is around, when facing troubles in the world or facing persecution. Having continuous fellowship with Christ is the solution to many of the Christian's problems, fears and worries; be encouraged to remember THAT.

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" Matthew 6:34

Yes, I had a wonderful talk with my Lord, and His ways of communication always surprise me, but I want you to know, believer in Christ, that God knows what we need and will gladly supply it to us, even without being asked!

May you live in peace, full with joy and walk in faith, not forgetting your fellowship with Jesus.

Prayer Ideas

1. Lifting our voice, we pray: O, dear Father in heaven, grant that we will never be so arrogant as to stand in judgment of Your word, but rather that we will always submit to its scrutiny, obey its commands, and trust in its divine message. Help us, dear Lord, to remember what you commanded us to do, what you promised and what you told us about having faith in you. You said "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" Matthew 24:35 -- may we be encouraged by that. In Your name, faithful Jesus, we pray. Amen.

2. We come to you, Lord, to give thanks, because of what you are doing in our life and through our Ministry; thank you that ALL those, whom we support, have received their rations and money, that our Teams were active delivering goods and money, praying and comforting people and through the process sensing your Presence. Yes, we are thankful that no harm touched any of us, despite very critical situations and difficult circumstances; continue, dear Jesus, to keep us protected, and encourage your people to pray for us and our Ministry.

3. You opened new doors Lord, to serve other people, whom you brought our way, thus we pray for them to be touched by the Holy Spirit, brought to repentance and to be saved through their faith in you. We pray that those who want to be baptized should be baptized SOON, because we don't know the hour of your Second Coming, but we KNOW that you'll come again. We pray for those whom you brought our way and ask you to enlighten their minds; let them, precious Jesus, test your beauty and sense your heart. Put thirst in their hearts to you and let them long to be yours forever. We, as family, but also as Teams, will continue praying for every one willing to accept you, Lord Jesus, as Saviour, and trust that YOU will set the time to baptize them, teach them and help them to connect to you.

4. In the coming days we have many doors opened for evangelizing, visiting Ukrainian families to pray for and also hand them needed goods and money and to teach and preach; we surrender to your Holy Spirit and ask for wisdom from above. Help us, O, Spirit of the Living God, to do the right thing at the right time. We experienced great resistance from the enemy, but we just say 'The Lord rebuke you satan...' and give glory to you, Lord God. May you keep us covered with the prayers of the Saints, help us to speak Word of Life and make us invisible to the enemy and may our efforts be fruitful.

5. Everywhere we feel the difference because of the easing the 'COVID-19 restrictions' and life seems to have returned to 'normal' still nothing is normal these days. Politicians and the Media are trying to control our every step, including our Free Speech; our You Tube Channel was blocked many times ONLY

for telling the truth! Lord, we ask you for YOUR protection and guidance; we know the enemy is furious, but we NEED to tell the truth and we need MANY to hear it in order to be set free. Help us expose hypocrisy, even in the midst of believers and Church leaders; we should not accept 'watered down' Christianity. We ask you for NEW methods to spread Your Word and the Truth without any hindrance and may You make our ways of teaching, preaching and evangelizing prosper...YOUR way; in Jesus holy name we ask and pray. Amen.

6. Our God, King David declared: **"Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it**

altogether" Psalm 139:3-4 – YES, we admit that you know everything about us; our thoughts, our heart; where we go or stay...etc. thus in the precious name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, we beseech you to help us. Help us to speak the TRUTH, no matter the consequences; help us to do JUSTICE, no matter what others think or say; help us to be honest with you and with one another. The lie is dear to the hearts of many, Lord, and we do NOT want to be liars in order to please man, but speakers of the truth, because only the truth sets people free.

7. There is progress on many fronts in our life and in the Ministry and we want to thank you, dear Lord, and pray that you would put an end to all kinds of bleeding, whether in the financial, where the enemy is stealing, or the robbing us of our time with foolish matters. We ask, in your holy name, that our time should be completely dedicated ONLY for YOUR service, for reaching out to the lost, for doing what you called us for and to expand Your Kingdom on earth before your Second Coming.

8. When we look around us, we see a world in turmoil with all kinds of wars, proxy wars, diseases, natural disasters and catastrophes and most of all the GREAT Falling Away from the Faith is happening before our very eyes!

Yes, Lord, we remember what you said: "... In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" John 16:33b – we experience it every day, BUT we want to cling to your Word "...but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world".

We pray that all what is happening in the world would NOT affect our faith in YOU, but strengthen it; we proclaim your Word upon all those who believe, claiming YOUR peace for them. We proclaim YOUR Justice upon the Church, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth, especially to your people, but also the whole world. May you, faithful Father, help us to be like your beloved Son Jesus Christ. 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

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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.