

# In Touch



Monthly Newsletter of Karnataka Congregation, Kuwait.

August 2009

## Ego V/s. Enjoying God

- By Jami Smith

I don't ever want to forget that night. The Day, however, I could. The five of us had gotten up at 5 a.m. EST in Baltimore, driven 30 minutes to the airport, flown to Dallas, endured a two-hour layover and flown to Phoenix (a nightmare two-hour flight with screaming kids right behind us). When we landed, it took an hour to get the rental van; we quickly drove through Jack-in-the-Box for fast food; finally, we drove 20 more minutes to the hotel. As we barreled down the interstate, my drummer remarked that the overhead green interstate sign just this morning pointed ahead to New York, and now, we were looking at the same style sign pointing us to Los Angeles. I was stunned that the thrill of traversing the country in a single day still had not worn off after 10 years of travelling.

We checked in to the hotel, rested for 10 minutes, took a shower and left for the church, arriving at 4 p.m. PST. When we walked in to meet the sound guys, we had been on the move for more than 14 hours.

Sometimes all the details, logistics and travel drain my awareness of God. When I am invited to a church to lead worship, people assume I am a spiritual leader; however, in moments like these, I feel anything but spiritual. God knew I needed a glimpse of Him, and He began to show His gentle love to me through the faces of the people we met. We started sound check, and everyone was so helpful, carrying in guitars and drums and every little case of gear that seems to increase with each year of being a travelling musician. As people began to arrive, I sensed a warmth come over my weary body; their smiles comforted me. I felt God's presence there, and it began to thaw me out.

The worship pastor said their church enjoyed worshiping through music, and I could tell that he did too. I was encouraged to learn they had been singing some of my songs in their church, and I marvelled at the fact that God is able to make words mean so many different things to so many different people, all connected by one Truth. I was thankful to know that something of my ups and downs with the Truth had meant something to this body. We slipped away to pray in the worship pastor's office before the service began, and as he prayed, his words were like hot tea on a cold winter's day, each praise and petition to God like warm liquid soothing me from the inside out. I was so glad that tonight did not depend on me "doing a show." I knew I had nothing to give – and not just because I was tired, but because earlier years of trying to

entertain and impress had finally taken their toll on my heart. I no longer (well, mostly no longer) want to win the affections of man, but instead, I want to help point us all to the affection of Christ. This is a back and forth battle – one I will not win unless daily, even hourly, God rights my thinking with His voice.

I am going to want your approval. Even now as I write this, I am wanting you to like me, but if this occupies too much of my heart, then as someone ordained to help focus your attention and affection on God through the gift of music, I am cheating you, and I am cheating me. The world does not need me, and for that matter, neither does the Church, if I am only going to enforce, with what little persuasion I have, that everyone take note of me and my contribution. What a waste of time – mine and yours – and what a distraction for the Body of Christ! God knows there are already enough distractions and people vying for celebrity status to keep us entertained and missing the point until Jesus returns.

When I began this journey about 10 years ago, I was eager, naïve and hopeful to share God's love. God interrupted my life with His love and forgiveness, and all I wanted to do was give this same feeling away to others. I still consider myself a student of worship leading; I am aware that if I am unteachable, I will cease to be a good teacher. (Contd. On page 3)

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Thanks to Pam

10-20-1999

WHILE THE CHOIR IS ON VACATION, WE'LL BE SHOWING VIDEOS OF THEIR BEST-LOVED ANTHEMS

## ದೇವರ ಕುಟುಂಬದೊಳಗೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟುವುದು



ದೇವರ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಾಗ್ದಾನಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವಂತಹ ಬೀಗದ ಕೈ ಇದಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಬ್ಬ ಮನುಷ್ಯನು ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟುವುದು ಅವಶ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಯೇಸು ತಾನೇ ಭೋಧಿಸಿದನು. ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಗಳು ಯೇಸುವಿನ ಬಾಯಿಂದ ಬಂದ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಗಳಾಗಿವೆ.

"ಒಬ್ಬನು ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವನು ದೇವರ ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಾಣಲಾರನು".(ಯೋಹಾನ್ ೩:೩)

"ಒಬ್ಬನು ನೀರಿನಿಂದಲೂ ಆತ್ಮದಿಂದಲೂ ಹುಟ್ಟದಿದ್ದರೆ ದೇವರ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಲಾರನು"(ಯೋಹಾನ್ ೩:೫)

"ನೀವು ತಿರುಗಿಕೊಂಡು ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳಂತೆ ಆಗದೆ ಹೋದರೆ ನೀವು ಪರಲೋಕರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರುವುದೇ ಇಲ್ಲ"(ಮತ್ತಾಯ ೧೮:೩)

"ದೇವರ ಕಡೆಗೆ ತಿರುಗಿಕೊಳ್ಳದಿದ್ದರೆ ನೀವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಹಾಳಾಗಿ ಹೋಗುವಿರಿ"(ಲೂಕ ೧೩:೩,೫)

ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಹೊಂದಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟುವುದು ಅವಶ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ನೂತನ ಜನ್ಮದ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀನು ದೇವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಸಂಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳುವಿ. ಸತ್ಯವೇದದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸುಸಂಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೀನು ಹಕ್ಕಿನ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟುವುದು ಅವಶ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟುವುದು ಅಂದರೆ

ದ್ರುಡೀಕರಣ, ಸಭೆಯ ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವ, ನೀರಿನ ದೀಕ್ಷಾ ಸ್ನಾನ, ಪವಿತ್ರ ಸಂಸ್ಕಾರಗಳ ಆಚರಣೆ, ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಗಳ ಪಾಲನೆ, ಇಹಲೋಕಾನುಸಾರವಾದ ಕ್ರೈಸ್ತತ್ವದ ಆಚರಣೆ, ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಸಂಗತಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ನಂಬಿಕೆ, ಸಭೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವುದು, ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಸತ್ಯವೇದವನ್ನು ಓದುವುದು, ಉತ್ತಮರಾಗಿರಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುವುದು, ಇವ್ಯಾವುದು ಅಲ್ಲ. ಅಥವಾ ಮನುಷ್ಯರು ತಾವು ರಕ್ಷಣೆ (ವೋಕ್ಸ) ಹೊಂದಬೇಕೆಂದು ಮಾಡುವ ಇತರ ಯಾವ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳು ಅಲ್ಲ.

ಯೇಸು ನಿಕೊದೇಮನಿಗೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟುವುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಭೋಧಿಸಿದನು. ಈ ನಿಕೊದೇಮನಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಮೇಲೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅನೇಕ ಗುಣಗಳಿದ್ದವು. ಆದರೂ

ಕೂಡಾ ಯೇಸು ಅವನಿಗೆ "ನೀನು ತಿರುಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಬೇಕು" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದನು.(ಯೋಹಾನ್ ೩:೨)

ಕ್ರೂರಿಯ ಮೇಲಿದ್ದ ಕಳ್ಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಯೇಸುವಿನಿಂದ (ಅತನು ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಇದ್ದಾಗ) ಕ್ಷಮಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಇತರರು ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಗುಣಗಳಲ್ಲದೇನೇ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟರು. ಅವರು ಅತೀ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದ ಒಂದು ಸಂಗತಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಅವರು ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳಂತೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಹೃದಯದಿಂದ ದೇವರ ಕಡೆಗೆ ತಿರುಗಿಕೊಂಡು ಯೇಸುಕ್ರಿಸ್ತನನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಂತ ರಕ್ಷಕನಾಗಿ ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸಿದರು.

ನೂತನ ಜನ್ಮವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ತನ್ನಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ತಾನೇ ಈ ನೂತನ ಜನ್ಮದ ಪ್ರಭಾವದ ಮೂಲಕ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಜೀವಿತದ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಆದರೆ ಧುಖದ ಸಂಗತಿಯೇನಂದರೆ ಮಿಲಿಯಾಂತರ ಜನರು ತಾವುಮಾಡುವ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳೇ ತಮ್ಮನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂದು ಭರವಸೆ ಇಟ್ಟಂತವರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಜನರು ನೂತನ ಜನ್ಮವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದದೆ ಸತ್ತು ನಾಶವಾಗಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಯಾಕಂದರೆ ಅವರು ತಪ್ಪುಕಲ್ಪನೆ ತಪ್ಪು ಭೋಧನೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ದಾರಿ ತಪ್ಪಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದುದರಿಂದ ನಾವು ನಮ್ಮ ನಿತ್ಯಭಾಗ್ಯದ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಗಮನ ಹರಿಸುವುದು ಅತೀ ಅವಶ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೀಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ನಿತ್ಯಭಾಗ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇತರರು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪು ಹಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲು ನಾವು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಾವೇ ತಪ್ಪಿಹೋದವರಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇಮವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ತುಂಬಾ ತಡವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿಷಯದ ಕುರಿತಾಗಿ ಈಗಲೇ ಏನಾದರೂ ಮಾಡು.

ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಯಾರೂ ಮೋಸಗೊಳಿಸಲಾರರು ಎಂಬ ಮನೋಭಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟುಬಿಡು. ನನ್ನ ಸಭೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಸಭೆ ಅದು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪು ದಾರಿಗೆ ಹೊಂಡೊಯ್ಯಲಾರದು ಎಂಬ ಮನೋಭಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟುಬಿಡು. ನಿನ್ನ ಸಭೆಯು ನೂತನ ಜನ್ಮದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಭೋಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿರಬಹುದು ಆದರೆ ನೀನು ಸ್ವತಃ ಸತ್ಯವೇದವನ್ನು ಓದುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ ನಿನ್ನ ಸ್ವಂತ ಹೃದಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀನು ದೇವರಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ನಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಿ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ದೃಢಪಡಿಸಿಕೋ. ಹಾಗೂ ನೀನು ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ನೂತನ ಜನ್ಮವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದಿ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ದೃಢಪಡಿಸಿಕೋ.

ನಿನ್ನನ್ನು ನೀನೇ ಮೋಸಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ನೀನು ಏನನ್ನೂ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದಂತಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದೋ ನೀನು ನೂತನ ಜನ್ಮವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದಿ, ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಹೊಂದಿಲ್ಲ ಅಷ್ಟೇ.

— ಜೇಮ್ಸ್ ನೂಟನ್

**Rohit Lobo**  
who attends  
our Fahaheel  
Service was  
water baptized  
on Friday,  
10th July.



During my first years on the road, God taught me some valuable lessons through people and situations, and both kicked me in the teeth before I could think too highly of myself. I remember being at a camp, and the preacher was an intelligent, funny and spirit-filled communicator. Admittedly, I wanted to impress this guy. When the opportunity came about, he pulled me aside and asked me a question I will never forget; "How's your private worship?" he said. I froze. I knew I had been so concerned with getting bookings, impressing the right people and leading the popular songs, that I had sadly missed my opportunity to enjoy God both privately and publicly. He graciously looked me in the eyes and said, "You will never take a group of people publicly where you have not gone privately." I remember it like it was yesterday; it makes my teeth hurt.

How can we sing about His love replacing loneliness or His truth replacing lies if we have never

experienced it personally and privately? How can we expect to really worship corporately if we do not treasure Him and His words privately? Why do we long for endorsements from others when all we really need is to commune with God? Like the Pharisee who prayed loudly only to be heard, we have received our reward in full. Our reward is simply supposed to be the enjoyment of God. If I crave wider acclaim, the applause of people or to sell out my stock of CDs, I am missing the prize.

Of course, I am not saying these things are bad; I make a living from people buying my CDs. It's just that if these things are more superior in our hearts than the name and fame of God, we only perpetuate an ugly, insatiable ego and bring more destruction to a Body of Christ that needs God so desperately. As leaders, as disciples of Christ, as the Body of Christ, that need can never be far from our hearts and minds. Otherwise, we are sucking up all the glory for

ourselves and leaving little room for people to reflect on the glory of God. Now, of course I am not saying God is any less glorious. God is glorious! God is God, and I may acknowledge it or I may miss it; however, He remains.

Anyway, back to Phoenix. I'll never forget the first song. The place erupted into singing, loud! The first three songs were electric, and I was holding back tears and laughter at the same time. People were singing, clapping, dancing in the aisles – worshipping. After the second song, I was so blown away by their participation that I said, "It's official: I am changing my membership to here." And really who wouldn't want to be in a place where people demonstrate their love to God and others through both songs and actions?

My heart was filled with joy, and I wished I could have lived in that moment forever. To me, that is worship; being lost in a moment with God that you wish would never end.—**Jami Smith**

## Faith in Action!

I was listening to a lady who called a radio pastor. The pastor was a wise, grandfatherly gentleman who had that calm reassuring voice that can melt all fear.

The lady, who was obviously crying, said, "Pastor, I was born blind, and I've been blind all my life. I don't mind so much being blind but I have some well meaning friends who tell me that if I had more faith I could be healed."

The pastor asked her, "Tell me, do you carry one of those white canes?" "Yes I do," she replied. "Then the next time someone says that hit them over the head with the cane," he said. "Then tell them 'If you had more faith that wouldn't hurt' "!

## Age Old Problem!

A pious man who had reached the age of 105 suddenly stopped going to synagogue. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance the Rabbi went to see him.



He found him in excellent health, so the Rabbi asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man looked around and lowered his voice.

"I'll tell you, Rabbi," he whispered. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and I don't want to remind Him!"

## Worse Than Swine Flu?

Morbus Sabbaticus or Friday Sickness, is a disease peculiar to church members. The attack comes on suddenly on Fridays. No symptoms are felt on Thursday night; the patient sleeps well and awakes feeling well; eats a hearty breakfast, but about church time the attack comes on and continues until services are over for the morning.

The patient feels easy and eats a hearty dinner.

In the afternoon he feels much better and is able to take a walk, go visiting, talk politics and reads the papers; he eats a hearty supper but about church time he has another attack and stays home. He retires early, sleeps well, and awakes on Saturday morning refreshed and able to go to work, He does not feel any of the returned symptoms until the next Friday.

The peculiar features are as follows--

1. It attacks only members of a church.
2. it never makes its appearance except on Friday.
3. The symptoms vary, but never interfere with appetite and sleep.
4. It never lasts more than 24 hours.
5. It generally attacks the head of the family and continues to spread until every member is affected.
6. No physician is ever called.
7. It always proves fatal in the end to the soul.
8. No remedy is known for it except repentance and prayer.

## Which Service?

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Johnny was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The seven-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning son."

"Good morning pastor" replied the young man, focused on the plaque.

"Sir, what is this?" Johnny asked.

"Well son, these are all the people who have died in the service," replied the pastor. Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Johnny's voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, "Which one sir, the 10 AM or the 4 PM service?"

### INVITATION

Now you can encourage others through your articles in 'In Touch'. Short articles in English or Kannada are welcome. Please hand-over to Max or Email to:

**karnatakacongregation@gmail.com**



## Good News Bad News

Two buddies Chris and John were two of the biggest Cricket fans in India. For their entire adult lives, Chris and John discussed cricket history and they never missed a 20-20.

They went to 60 matches a year. They even agreed that whoever died first would try to come back and tell the other if there was cricket in heaven.

One summer night, Chris passed away in his sleep after watching the Indian victory earlier in the evening. He died happy. A few nights later, his buddy John awoke to the sound of Chris's voice from beyond. "Chris is that you?" John asked. "Of course it's me," Chris replied.

"This is unbelievable!" John exclaimed. "So tell me, is there cricket in heaven?"

"Well I have some good news and some bad news for you. Which do you want to hear first?"

"Tell me the good news first."

"Well, the good news is that, yes, there is cricket in heaven, John."

"Oh, that is wonderful! So what could possibly be the bad news?"

"You're fielding tomorrow night."

## Church Bulletin Mistakes:

1. The Reverend Merriweather spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

**2. Ushers will eat latecomers.**

3. The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

**4. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.**

5. Don't let worry kill you - Let the church help.

**6. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.**

7. 8 new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

## Loving God with 'All Thy Heart'!

**Love thy God with all thy heart and all thy soul, and all thy mind and all thy strength (Mark 12:30)**

Now beloved in Christ, I write about 'Loving Our God **with all thy heart.**' When I first accepted Jesus as my savior (and followed by water baptism) I could not stop talking about Jesus. I used to make a fool of myself. Many gave me the cold shoulder, including my friends & family members. So I started begging people (specially my family who are unsaved) to read the bible so that they would get to know Jesus. Now I reason with people. What would it profit a man, if he gained the whole world but suffered the loss of his (or her) soul Matt.16:26. What about just loving them with a God kind of love? For God is love.

I quote Colossians 3.1 'If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of The Father'.

In life we not only seek, but strive for better position in jobs, educational degrees, wealth, property, success, power etc. and are continuously looking for ways and means to get our hearts desires; New car, new flat, new bank account, new big-shot Kuwaiti friends and the list goes on and on.

The desire to love thy God with all thy heart and all thy soul, and all thy mind and all thy strength (Mark 12:30-34) somehow, at least for me, used to be a hypothetical remark. But it's the greatest commandment. And Jesus says to the scribe he is having this conversation that those who know this commandment are 'not far from the kingdom of God'. We make time and take pains for many mundane things in life, stamping our residence permit, or for our civil id, buying clothes, or household appliances, travel arrangements, job opportunities, watching TV, Internet surfing, even visits to the clinic or hospital. I need to bring this request not only to you but more so to me, to seek the things of God, or more specifically to seek HIM, with all our hearts. Jesus promises that those who seek Him will find Him. He's closer than you think, it's easier than you can imagine. Jesus once said the Kingdom of

God is within YOU! But after accepting Jesus, we have to Love HIM, and then follows the second-tied greatest commandment: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

If we believe that one day, we will be with HIM forever and ever in Heaven, should'nt we then seek HIM, know HIM, love HIM and Serve HIM now, on Earth? This Godly love, I'm talking about has it's similarity in human love, 'filia' or brotherly or natural love. Somehow again there is a tie or similarity. If we cannot love our brother whom we can see how can we love a God whom we cannot see? Many times we are confronting the opposite, we can love the God of the Bible, The God and Father of Jesus and our Father, but to love a person, (who may have disgusting behavior or wicked ways) we need to be first filled with the God-kind of Love. Remember God first loved us when we were yet sinners.

- **Allan Menezes**




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### **Be a Member—Not just a Number!**

Be a part of what God is doing in the Church. Attend church regularly. Get involved in worship services. Find out how you can contribute. Be a blessing. You have been blessed to be a blessing.

Don't be kanjoos!

## Welcome Pastor Shalom



Pastor Samuel Shalom who arrived in Kuwait on Wednesday, 29th of July takes up his responsibility of pastoring the Karnataka Congregation with ministry of the Word of God during the 6 PM combined service on Friday, 31st July at the Hall of Hope.

As Pastor Shalom takes up his new responsibility, we wish him all God's blessings and pray that his time in Kuwait will be fruitful both for him and to the church.

## Celebrating Birthdays in August ...



2nd



5th



8th



13th



14th



18th



19th



30th

## .... And Wedding Anniversary

Aug. 22- Mr. & Mrs. Alex Sumithra

Get In Touch ...

**Pastor Samuel Shalom— 2561 6845**

**Samuel Prakash— 9985 8291**

**James Newton—6621 3640**

**Maxwell Francis—2565 8207**

Email : karnatakacongregation@gmail.com

## Angels Watching Over Me!



**For He shall give his angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**  
(Psalm 91:11-12)

In these verses GOD makes a unique promise regarding our protection. In fact this is one of the promises Satan used to test Jesus.

Most Christians read past this promise with very little thought about the magnitude of what is being said. Only after we get to heaven will we realize all the things from which we were spared because of the intervention of God's angels on our behalf.

I am sure we have heard of, if not read stories about missionaries whose lives were spared because would be murderers saw large body guards protecting when, in fact , there was no one in the natural.

We can all recall close calls in which we escaped a tragedy, yet there was no explanation in the natural. Not only is it possible " to entertain angels without knowing it," as it says in Hebrews 13:2 but sadly most Christians have a tendency to disregard the ministry of angels altogether.

Are you in harm's way? Do you feel alone? You are not alone, He has assigned his angels-personal heavenly bodyguards-to protect you. There are more fighting for you than against you.

Verse eleven of Psalm91 says, "For He shall give his angels charge over you!" What does that mean? Think for a moment! Have you ever taken charge of something, you put yourself in a place of leadership. You begin telling everyone what to do and how to do it. God has given the angels, *not the circumstances*, the authority to act on our behalf. The same truth is repeated in Hebrews.

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?  
( Hebrews 1:14 )

When we look to God as the source of our protection and provision, the angels are constantly rendering us aid and taking charge of our affairs.

Verse 11 also says, "Angels will keep (guard) you in all your ways." Have you ever seen a soldier standing guard, protecting someone? That soldier stands at attention: alert, watchful and ready to protect at the first sign of attack. How much more will God's angel stand guard over God's children, alert and ready to protect them at all times? Do you believe that? Have you thought about it? How comforting it is to know that God has placed these heavenly guards to have charge over us.

- **By Priya Francis**