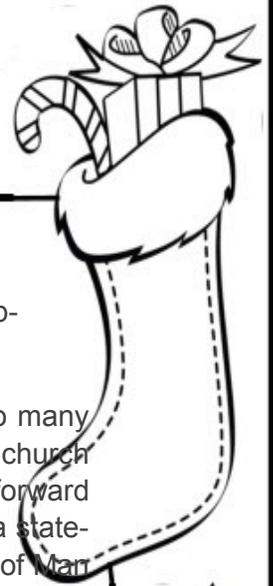


In Touch ~ Dec 13

Karnataka Congregation, Kuwait



What Do You Have to Lose This Christmas?

"Therefore the people wander like sheep, oppressed for lack of a shepherd." (Zechariah 10:2 NIV)

It's easy to forget the purpose of Christmas. This time of year we have so many things that can get in the way: commercialism, traditions, even family and church commitments. To find the *real* purpose of Christmas, you have to fast forward from the shepherds, the wise men, and the dirty stable. We have to go to a statement Jesus made during his adult years about *why* he came: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10 NIV). The reason we celebrate Christmas is because Jesus came to Earth to seek and save the lost.

Jesus uses three parables in the gospel of Luke to demonstrate what it means to be lost: the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. They teach us that when we're disconnected from God, we lose:

Our direction (Parable of the Lost Sheep): The Bible says in Isaiah 53:6, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Sheep don't intend to get lost; it's just what they do naturally. So do we. By our own nature, we follow our own way. When we do that, we lose our way.

God's protection (Parable of the Lost Sheep): Sheep have no natural defense system, so a sheep without a shepherd is a goner. That sounds like us. The Bible says, "Therefore the people wander like sheep, oppressed for lack of a shepherd" (Zechariah 7:2). Without a relationship with God, we're vulnerable to stress we were never meant to have.

Our full potential (Parable of the Lost Coin): One coin can be a part of much good, but that coin has no potential if it's lost. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "What God has planned for people who love him is more than eyes have seen or ears have heard. It has never even entered our minds!" (CEV) The potential of those who are connected to God is immeasurable; the potential that's lost for those who do not have a relationship with God is equally immeasurable.

Our happiness (Parable of the Lost Son): After the son left his father's care and began to go his own way, it didn't take long for him to become miserable and lonely. There's a lot of miserable people who are choosing to go their own way and not God's way. Being disconnected from God will eventually ruin our happiness.

How does your life demonstrate that you are intimately connected to God?



Good Desires...by Pastor

From the beginning of this year God floods us with His promises. Things take a different turn. Everything is victorious, incomprehensible, prosperous, assured and unexpected. Here comes with a flash, God's promise for the month December 2013.

What the righteous desires will be given to him Pro 10:24

Even a loving father can't promise his child, "I will give you whatever you desire." Even an affectionate husband can't say to his wife, "I will do whatever you desire." Even bosom friends can't say, "Whatever you desire I will fulfill it." Only God is all-powerful to know your desires before you tell Him and fulfill them. You think that you're not righteous enough to get from God what you desire. If God counts our deeds, nobody is righteous before him (Rom.3:10). But those who believe in the blood of Jesus become righteous (Gal.3:8). Now you know you're righteous since you believe. It is to you that God assures that your desires will be fulfilled.

God asked Solomon voluntarily about his desires and granted them. King Solomon remembers that. Now he is about to tell us that only through experience you will know the bounty of God's providence. Come and read on! Let's see that God is powerful enough to fulfill your desires!

God never fails to see our desires and he is not an enemy to it. God creates desires according to His will (Phil.2:13). Find out what God puts into your heart and let it grow. Let our goal be that our desires be fulfilled. If we don't have a desire at all how will we long for it? I want to hear the voice of God. I want to see visions. I and my family should follow Jesus. I want to get gifts from God and be useful to him. Only if we had such desires we will ask God giving priority to it.

If we ask Apostle Paul about his desires, he will say that has a deep longing for the salvation of his people. He has such unquenchable desire and so it was his main petition to God. (Rom. 10:1) If there is no desire how will we pray? Solomon had a deep desire for wisdom. Likewise his father David longed to see God. (Ps.27:4). His desire was fulfilled. He saw God's power and glory to his satisfaction (Ps.63:3). If we don't desire, how will we see the result? God wants to know and fulfil your desires, the same God who fulfilled the desires of Solomon, Paul and David. Turn your desires into petitions and your desires will be granted.

If you know God's way of fulfilling your desires, you will pour out to Him only what is in your heart - your dreams and imaginations. God appreciates your righteous desires and never reprimand it as greed. He is able to do beyond our wildest imaginations in whatever we ask (Eph.3:20). He understands the desires in our heart that we have not shared with anybody. He provides an answer unparalleled in many ways. Solomon's desires were transferred to God as petitions in prayer. He not only gave him the wisdom he asked to judge righteously but also gave him an abundance of wisdom and fertility of mind like the sands on the seashore. Not only the Israelites but people from several nations came seeking his face and her wisdom.

Let your goal be to fulfill God's wishes. When you try to satisfy the wishes of men, you will always find them unthankful and they will not recognize your efforts. Why should you still be busy fulfilling the aspirations of the people? Let God's wish become your wish!

You should have good desires and the desires should be conveyed to God. You should fulfill God's desires and He will give you the desires of your heart!



God's Love Makes You Strong by Joseph Prince

...know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:19

If you were to thank God for something today, what would it be? It would be thanking God for giving me Jesus. For when I see Jesus on the cross, I see the love of God overcoming everything for me. It causes me to say, "Thank you, Jesus! I love you, Jesus! I worship you, Jesus! Bless you, Jesus! Hal-lelujah!"

First, let us understand just how much God loves you.

Remember the story of how God asked Abraham to give up Isaac, his only son, in Genesis 22? Abraham's heart must have been broken when he led Isaac, his one and only promised son, up Mount Moriah to be sacrificed. But in the end, Isaac did not have to die because God provided a substitute—a ram. That ram caught in the thicket was a picture of Jesus, God's precious Son, the apple of His eye, who would one day be led up Mount Calvary to be crucified in our place for our sins.

God so loved His Son, but He so loved you too, that He willingly gave up His Son for you to die on the cross. This is how much God loves you! And it is this truth that will help you to break down the barriers in life, conquer every defeatist thought, and succeed in whatever you set your hands to!

The apostle Paul explains it like this in Ephesians 3:14-17, NKJV, "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man..."

I like how the NIV puts it, where the words "strengthened with might" are translated as "strengthened with power". The power Paul is talking about is actually a power that comes as a result of having a revelation of something. The scripture continues by saying God will strengthen you with power [or with might], "through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love..."

So Paul was praying for you to be rooted and grounded in God's love, so that you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width, the length, the depth, the height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge—and be filled with ALL the fullness of God!

This means that when you are rooted and grounded in God's love, you are truly strengthened with power, and have access to all that God is—wisdom, strength, peace, favor, health, provision...

And as we worship and celebrate the love of Jesus in our lives, we will find ourselves changed, and we will see the mighty power of God displayed for us and through us. This was the case in the life of David. His personal times of worship, of being absorbed in God's love for him, changed him from a mere shepherd boy to a lion killer, bear killer, giant killer and finally, a king over Israel.

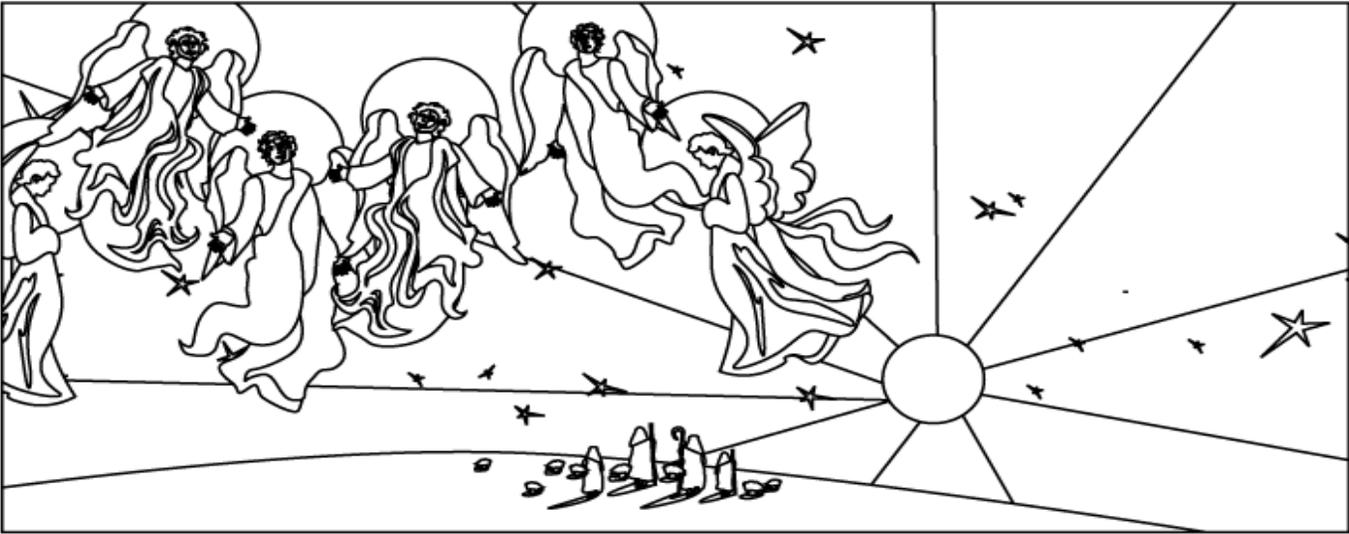
Now, no one on earth, no matter how strong he is, let alone a youth, can come against a lion and prize open its mouth to snatch back his sheep which the lion had carried away, unless God's anointing is on him. And this was indeed what happened to David the shepherd boy who went after the lion, caught it by its beard, struck and killed it, and thus delivered the lamb from its jaws. (1 Samuel 17:34–37)

My friend, no man can truly enjoy living in this world without God's strength in his life, God's favor in his work and relationships, God's protection for him and his family, God's increase in his finances, and God's health and healing for his body. Likewise, no woman can survive emotionally, socially or physically without God's tender touch, loving presence, sweet assurance and words of life in times of need.

Beloved, as you feed on Jesus' love for you, you will be filled with the fullness of God. Like David, God's anointing will begin to operate powerfully in your life. And when you encounter spiritual lions, even the devil himself — when he comes like a roaring lion against you, your loved ones or your possessions — you will grab hold of his mouth and tear him apart!

Thought For The Month ..Feed on Jesus' love for you, and be filled with the fullness and power of God to tear your spiritual lions apart!

For unto you is born this day...a savior which is Christ the Lord



Good News at Christmas: You Matter to God by Rick Warren

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’” (Luke 2:10 NIV)

Knowing that Christmastime is God’s chosen time teaches us that Christmas is the time for us to renew our faith. We need not fear God because of the Good News of Christ’s arrival; it is a Good News meant to “bring great joy to all people” (Luke 2:10).

What is the Good News?

You matter to God. God knows everything about you — the good, the bad, and the ugly — and he still loves you. He cares about you. He loves you more than you could ever know. God is *for* you, not against you. You’re so valuable that God paid the price of his Son to find you on the very first Christmas. The most famous verse in the Bible says, “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NLT). You matter so much to God that he underwent a rescue mission to come get you. He came to Earth as a little baby so that one day he could die on a wooden cross for your sin. The Christmas

You are not an accident. Regardless of the circumstances of your birth, you were not the result of an accident. God has a plan and a purpose for your life. The only way you will find meaning and satisfaction is to discover God's purpose for your life and then to get right into the center of his will. God sent Jesus so you could know what he's like. If God wanted to communicate to birds, he would have become a bird. If God had wanted to communicate to cows, he would have become a cow. If he wanted to communicate to dogs, he would have become a dog. But God wanted to relate to you and to me, so he became like us — a human being.

This is why Christmas is not about a religion. You may be Catholic; you may be Jewish; you may be Presbyterian, Buddhist, Baptist, or Lutheran. I don't care what your religious background is; Jesus didn't come to give you religion. He came to give you a relationship.

Christmas is God saying, "I want to relate to you. I want you to know me as much as I know you." That's joyful news. It's Good News! Is there someone in your family or in your neighborhood who needs to hear this Good News? Don't delay just share it!

Talk About It

- What steps can you take to get to know Jesus better this Christmas?
- How do your celebrations reflect the eternal significance of Jesus' birth?

*To find out more about how you can have a relationship with God, just make a
“A Fresh Start with God”*

Just Laugh...A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages.

“Momma, look what I found,” the boy called out.

“What have you got there, dear?” His mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: “I think it's Adam's suit!”



Christmas Carol

Nov 30th & 1st to 9th Dec 2013

Coordinators
Bro. James & Godwin



On 13th Dec 2013 Christmas Bash

9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Indian Public School, Salmiya

Keep in touch
Pastor or Bro. James



On 25th Dec 2013 Christmas Service

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

TLC Downstair, NECK

Keep in touch
Pastor or Bro. Cecil



Watch Night Service

31st December 2013
10 pm to 12:15am

TLC Class R.No 101
(backside)

Keep in touch
Pastor or Bro. Maxwell

BIRTHDAY BASH



99865363 99698487 66213640 66643059 25647613 25619824 66473526 97560877

ANNIVERSARY

1. Mr. Clifford & Mrs. Lily - 1st December
2. Mr. Samuel & Mrs. Vijitha - 13th December
3. Mr. Manohar & Mrs. Annet - 14th December
4. Mr. Michel & Mrs. Jenniffer - 21st December
5. Mr. James & Mrs. Prabha - 21st December
6. Mr. Charles & Mrs. Ashalatha - 30th December

Keep in touch with Elders & Deacons

1. Bro. Gladson - 99858291
2. Bro. James Newton - 66213640
3. Bro. Richard Soans - 99076363
4. Bro. Maxwell Francis - 97789588
5. Bro. Cecil Jently - 99961637
6. Bro. Godwin Bernhardt - 94940984
7. Bro. David Salins - 97502866

Parsonage : 25616845

Birth News

God has blessed Sebastin & Jasmin
with a baby Boy on 4th Nov 13

Blessing & Prayers from KCK fly

www.hallofhope.com

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**



rev.shalom@gmail.com

Ps. Shalom - 99929529

Keep in touch with us