

Hebron Messenger

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APRIL 7, 2002

NO.7

THE FAMILY ALTAR - 3

Now we come to our second word on this matter and we shall discuss, for a while, what we may call, the blessings and benefits of this practice. Again we have to say that those blessings and benefits are numberless. But we shall mention just a few. It hardly needs to be said that whenever Christ is set in His rightful place as Lord, blessings and benefits abound. Wherever we have His government, we shall have what Isaiah calls the "increase" of that government (Isa.9: 7). Some typical examples of that "increase" are later described by the prophet when he says: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing"(Isa.35: 5,6).

The hymn -writer puts the same truth in other words when he declares:

"Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest".

Now if this is true in a general sense, and it is, it will also be true in a particular sense, including this matter of instituting the "Family Altar" in the home. Such a move is a very practical honouring of the Lord as Lord and a granting to Him of the first and foremost place in the daily schedule of the family. It is, in actual essence, a veritable. Enthroning, on that territory, of this Glorious King of kings. We can reasonably expect, therefore, that "Millennial blessings", in their deep and spiritual form, will begin to appear within that home! Throughout the family, Isaiah's wonderful prophecy, for instance, will begin to have its blest fulfilment. New "vision" will be granted; new "hearing" experienced; a new "walking" and "leaping" will be made possible, (how great the need for this!), and a NEW SONG will be heard! Surely that should be enough to provoke some action in this matter! The very enthroning of the Lord in this particular respect is sure to bring its train of blessing. What a heartening prospect for the Christian parent!

And, of course, that well -worn Bible, handled by the parent every morning in the presence of the children, is sure to bring its own deep blessing to the home. God told Joshua that if he would meditate on the Scripture "day and night" he would make his way prosperous and he would have "good success" (Josh.1: 8). Many are the families who have proved the truth of that sure promise, and have done so through the daily reading of the Word together. In the course of that homely exercise, the Word of God itself has "Converted the soul; made wise the simple, rejoiced the heart, and enlightened the eyes" (See Psa. 19:7,8). In other matters, too, there has been practical "success"; all faithfully granted by the Lord in keeping with His promise.

Let us mention, now, some of the particular and personal blessings, which usually attend this practice, and starting, perhaps, with the one who is privileged to be the head of such a house, and who has the honour and responsibility of presiding at these prayers. That such an one will receive a special blessing there can be no doubt. It is a responsibility, of course, and means an extra load, but God is no man's debtor, and He sees to it that the regular homely ministry brings its own reward.

There is, of course, the priceless joy of seeing the family developing and rejoicing under the gracious smile of God, and that, itself, is wonderful. But there are, as well, particular "side blessings" which such an one will surely know.

Perhaps, for instance, this father of the family has been very recently converted, and he could hardly find the courage to utter an exhortation, or even a simple prayer, in the larger company of the local church. Much as he would like to do so, the words will not come! But here, in his own familiar home, it is very different! Surrounded by the trusting love of little children, and by the humble helpfulness of an understanding wife, he can begin immediately to exercise a precious ministry, which, incidentally, will be all the better for its spontaneity and brevity. During those few minutes together in the morning he can become accustomed to "presiding at the gathering" and to hearing his own voice as he reads from the Scriptures in the presence of other listeners. Sometimes he will feel the urge to add a little comment; some simple thought that has been quickened of the Spirit to his own heart as he has read the allotted portion. These may be small beginnings, but who knows where such a ministry may end? Very quickly it

can spread to the larger gatherings of the local church, and possibly far beyond! This, surely, is a benefit, and quite a considerable one, which very frequently attends this exercise. All unconsciously, it has been the ideal "training ground" for wider ministry!

Another important matter suggests itself just here, and it may be well to mention it. If there are servants in the house, these also can usually be gathered from their several tasks, and all in the home can be encouraged to "bow the knee" together before the Great Lord Christ. This very act of kneeling down with those who serve us, often helps to maintain a happy working atmosphere and to offset proud and haughty attitudes which frequently spoil our more affluent and favoured families, particularly amongst the children. To be sure, our appointed positions in life may be different, but, meeting thus together before our Maker, we are made to realise again, that, in the ultimate things that really matter, we are all on common ground. All are sinners, and only the grace of God can save us (Eph.2:8). Impressions of that kind will bring, in time, their untold benefits, particularly to the children, and will leave their mark, in years to come, in richer Christian character.

And what a wonderful opportunity, incidentally, for sowing the seeds of the Gospel into the hearts of the servants! In earlier life they may have had no Christian background whatsoever, and would never feel free to attend the more public Christian meetings. But here, at "Family Prayers", they can listen every day to a few verses from the Word of God, and, when they hear the prayers, they can see and feel the blessedness of a genuine Christian life lived in fellowship with our Unseen Heavenly Friend! Little by little the Word will do its saving work, and those who serve us daily can thus be brought to Christ (See 1 Pet.1: 23; Jas.1: 18).

Often a visitor in the home, taking part in the regular daily prayers, also receives a blessing; something, may be, which he or she would never get in any larger gathering. And possibly such an one will be encouraged, by what has been seen and tasted, to incorporate the happy practice into his or her own home. And so, praise God, the blessing spreads!

It has been our own frequent experience that an unconverted tradesman or business acquaintance, "dropping by" at that particular time, has been invited to "sit in", for a moment, on the little family gathering, (it is always short; ten minutes at the most) and has been noticeably touched by the Holy Spirit through the verses read, or through the very sight of a Christian family kneeling down in prayer together and blessedly united in this act of worship. All these are blessings, which can be known through the daily operation of the "Family Altar".

Before we close this part of our message there is another solemn matter, which we feel, urged to touch upon. It relates again to the relationship that exists between the individual Christian Home and the local church, and has to do, particularly, with the principle of eldership in that local church. God's Word tells us that an elder must be: "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity", and then is added the significant parenthesis: "(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" (1Ti'm. 3:4,5). Another translator renders it: "He must have proper authority in his own household, and be able to control and command the respect of .his children" (J.B. Phillips).

This, of course, is a tremendous matter, the far-reaching significance of which can hardly be imagined. Those who covet the welfare of the local churches, and of the testimony of Jesus as a whole, should ponder much this inspired directive regarding elders, and they should lay to heart this clear insistence on a right domestic background for all who would hold this office. And, of course, the whole matter is very definitely related to what we are now studying. We may say that this simple! practice of "Family Prayers", with all that inevitably accompanies it, provides a most desirable foundation in the developing and qualifying of one who is later destined to become a shepherd of God's Flock! The very responsibility often does very much towards the setting of our homes in order, and towards the fitting of us, in the eyes of God, for further responsibilities which yet may come to us. Those who have ears to hear will hear.

The benefits and blessings of this simple practice are indeed innumerable". We have not even mentioned the benefits, which will accrue in the sacred area of the relationships between the husband and his wife. Being Christians, they will long to grow up together into Him, and to know a deepening oneness with each other in every realm. Here again the Family Altar will serve its gracious purpose. It will provide a daily occasion for the husband and wife to take their place together as the appointed leaders in the home and as the eager helpers of each other in the training of the children.

We may add that, even amongst Christians, in these unnatural days of rush and drive, the holy harmony of husband and wife comes under constant challenge, for the Devil certainly hates this living symbol of the oneness of Christ and His Church (Eph.5: 31 -32). In view of this, apart from all else, there is growing need for this daily exercise and fellowship together. Those few minutes every morning, when parents are found fulfilling their mutual ministry to their family, will aid them much in their own relationships and in their deepening life together in the Lord. Many will testify to this.

(To be contd.)

C.R.G.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

Hebron
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Hyderabad -500 020,
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Telephone No: 7613066

25-3-2002

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, crucified, raised and exalted to the right hand of the Majesty on High, Who is keeping us by His power, "through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1: 3-5). May Christ and Him crucified, be the power of God and wisdom of God unto us all "which are called", according to His own purpose, in Himself (Rom.8: 28).

By the time these lines reach you we would have passed through another Easter, when Christ and Him crucified would have been brought into sharper focus, through song and Scripture, and the preaching of His servants in all lands. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is to Paul and the other apostles of utmost importance, as it is evident from the place the death of Christ occupies in their writings, besides the other Scriptures related to the ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Table. The cross therefore is not just a universal symbol of Christianity; it is its universal and unmistakable message.

We would briefly consider the three utterances of the Lord from the cross as recorded in Luke 23:34,43,46 -the first and the last being addressed to the Father. In all, the Lord spoke seven times and these seven utterances are like windows which give us a glimpse of what is going on in His mind -the Saviour's thought for the fallen man, the future glory that awaits Him, through His finished work amidst all suffering.

Our Lord's first utterance from the Cross was a prayer, "Father, forgive them...". In Greek it is translated as "Jesus kept on praying" -not just one isolated prayer. He stormed the Throne of grace, the Father's Throne -with this repeated prayer on behalf of His persecutors, the soldiers, the priests who delivered Him to Pilate for envy and even Pilate, who yielded to the cry of the multitude to maintain his position and prestige etc. (Luke 23:23,24).

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do". In sin, it may be said, there is a strange combination of ignorance and knowledge. He was by no means excusing them, but rather meaning "suffer" -do not interfere with them yet until such time they would learn the deeper meaning of His death, and come out of their spiritual ignorance through true repentance and faith. The Lord foresaw us also so many centuries across, as living unaware of the magnitude and consequences of our sin, and made intercession for us too (Isa.53: 12). In the value and victory of His intercession true light dawns in the heart of the sinner, and convicted of the magnitude and terrible consequences of the sins committed, he repents and obtains mercy, pardon and forgiveness. So Paul says in 1 Tim.1: 13, "I obtained mercy...! did it ignorantly". Also Peter charges the Jewish nation with the guilt of having killed the Prince of life (Acts 3:15,17,19), and adds a comforting thought, "through ignorance you did it", and called them to true repentance and faith. On the day of Pentecost 3000 came out of their pride and ignorance, and repented to receive remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost, and were baptised, in that very Name, the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, they had hitherto despised and disowned. "...the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). Dear reader, receive this forgiveness full and free, and the cleansing from sin through His precious blood (1 John 1:7,9; Heb.9: 14).

The second utterance of the Lord addressed to the repentant thief reminds of the power of the death of Christ, to bring the forgiven soul into fellowship with Himself. "Today shalt thou be with me". "Thou...with...me...", an intimate relationship, personal relationship into which the Saviour brings the forgiven sinner, inspite of that unimaginable moral disparity and impurity that has been a great gulf between them. Though far far apart hitherto, henceforth they will be together in holy heartfelt communion. The power of the cross removes that which is of the old man and the old creation, and instils and inbuilds that which is ever new -the new man. Cross is the remover, and the Holy Spirit becomes the revealer of the deep things of God, making the saved one spiritual, to enjoy spiritual communion with

the Father and the Son hitherto unknown.

This leads to the last utterance of the Lord from the cross, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). These words reveal to us Jesus as the dependant Son of God. Even after accomplishing the work committed to Him, through His cross, He is wanting to be in the hands of the Father for all that pertains to the future. His resurrection and exaltation to the right hand of God is entirely by the Father, "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted..."(Acts 2:33). Till now He was in the hands of men. "...The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men..." (Matt. 17:22). And now comes the moment the hands of men could do nothing more. He was out of their hands forever. The mighty hands of the Father conducted His Son in triumph to the highest position and privilege, power and glory at His own right hand (Eph.1). The Son through His finished work on the cross-brought back everything into the hand of the Father, which sin and Satan had taken away, for a season. Fully in the Father's hand He conforms us to the image of His own Son, to continue in His purpose for the ages to come. Such is the power of God and the wisdom of God manifested in the death of His Son. It brings us into this great salvation beginning with forgiveness unto fellowship with the Father and the Son and unto full Sonship. Conformed to the image of His Son, we are to continue with Him in unity unto eternity. Who is sufficient for these things?

Bro.Samuel Christian of Baroda, who was with us from the early years and laboured for the Lord for more than five decades, was called Home to Glory on 14th March. He was a humble servant of Christ, and after a long period of illness, came to his grave "in a full age" (Job 5:26).

Bro. Stephen Bhagavandas, formerly employed in A.G.'s Office, a faithful and humble believer who was in fellowship with us, and laboured with the saints in the assemblies of the twin cities beginning at A.G.'s colony was suddenly called Home to Glory on March 25th. Pray for the comfort of his family in bereavement.

May the Lord help us to work out our own salvation, in fellowship with the crucified, risen, exalted One, awaiting His coming,

I remain yours in His grace,
K. PHILLIP

1 Cor. 1: 18, 24, 25, 30, Phil. 3: 10, 13, 14, Gal. 6: 14

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NO.8

THE FAMILY ALTAR - 4

We have mentioned the Biblical authority for this practice of family prayers, and have also listed some of the blessings, which will follow. The message, however, would not be complete without some reference to what we shall call: **The battle entailed in the actual implementation of the plan.**

It is a strange fact that whenever this matter is raised in any land or in any company, difficulties and questions immediately arise! Even those who are sincerely desirous, and perhaps deeply wistful about it all, will reluctantly voice their doubts as to the practical workability of it...in THEIR case! Mention will be made, for instance, of the wild pace of modern living, and the virtual impossibility of incorporating THOSE few minutes into the already heavy schedule of the harassed family. Sometimes it is objected that all have to be hurried off to work or school together; sometimes, that they have to leave at different times! In both cases, strange to say, it is accepted as a convincing veto against the "Family Altar" and the Rights of God !

Now let us say immediately that we know full well that there ARE many difficulties, and certainly every case is not the same, but behind it all, is there not here some sinister "intelligence" putting up a desperate battle? Is this, perhaps, the "roaring lion" of whom Peter spoke, who "walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"? (1 Pet.5:8).

Yes, there ARE these difficulties, and, for ourselves, we are prepared to face them helpfully and squarely. Some, we know, have had to make very big adjustments and considerable sacrifices, or perhaps content themselves with some alternative arrangement to which the Lord has mercifully led them, in their case. But, when all is said and done, it is our sincere conviction that this wholesale turning back, WITH ALL THE RESULTANT AND IMMEASURABLE LOSS, is by no means justified. That very much will need to be pressed through, we do not question, nor that the Lord may need to be consulted very earnestly regarding some great difficulty which seems to stand quite firm across our way. But to give up, before the battle is even fought, seems to us an untold tragedy. If the alternative gains and losses were really understood, and rightly valued, we believe the battle WOULD be fought, and, by His grace, the victory won, and yet another family would be added to those who daily know the joys of the "Family Altar", and who NOW and IN ETERNITY will reap the fruits thereof!

This is no place for listing and attempting to answer all the possible and conceivable difficulties. Better for each individual to bring his own particular situation to the Living Lord, doing so with a vigorous and expectant faith and a fully open heart, and with no fixed prejudices or conclusions regarding the issue. Praise God, we worship a LIVING God Who moves the mountains, (Jud.5: 5; Mic.1: 4; Mark 11: 23; etc.) and, with such an approach, the sincere enquirer will usually find that, after all, THERE IS A WAY, ...if only he will pay the price!

Whatever the difficulties may be, it is probably safe to say that the thousands of Christian families who HAVE got through in this matter have somehow and somewhere faced those selfsame difficulties! This means that someone, somewhere, has faced YOUR difficulties, and has fought YOUR battle, and, by God's grace, has gotten him the victory! The "Family Altar" has been actually instituted in that home, and now, years afterwards, parents and children are reaping the precious fruits. Best of all, perhaps, the Lord has gained spiritual material and substance for His wider purposes. Lives are now available to Him for what He wants.

The sufficient motive for such an aggressive and productive attitude is usually to be found in what we would call an adequate sense of the urgent need, and in a far-seeing and spiritual appraisal of the very much that stands to be gained or lost by the decision made. And, of course, right at the foundations, the love for the children has been what it ought to be, engendering a due concern and holy jealousy for their highest good.

O may God raise up parents of this kind in these dark, and darkening, days when our subtle and plausible enemy is everywhere abroad! And may God help them to press through on this matter and to set up this "Altar" in their homes, securing to themselves, and to their children, the blessings we have mentioned, and, perchance, to children's children! May God save our rising generation from the kind of parents who easily give in to our blustering and deceptive foe, and who take the line of least resistance, mildly hoping, that their children will not be too much the losers! That, we say, is neither Christian character nor true parental love.

But we certainly know the many problems, and have every sympathy with the honest parent who is truly baffled on this score, and who does not see at all how God can do it in their circumstances. We would only urge such parents to hold on strongly to the Lord about this matter. In due time they will see what can be done where true parental care is a functioning reality, and where the inner choice of Christ's own Lordship in the home is deep and genuine. Often, too, we find we have to take a step of faith, and then it is, God shows us His surprises! That this may be your experience is our earnest prayer.

(To be contd.)

C.R.G.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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8-4-2002

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

All honour and glory, praise and power be unto the Lamb enthroned and exalted in heaven, even our Lord Jesus Christ "...declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead" by Whom every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ. May the exceeding greatness of His power which He wrought In Christ, when He raised Him from the dead be experientially known to us as we seek to serve in the furtherance of His Testimony in this land or the regions beyond, in the fellowship of His sufferings (Rom.1: 4; Eph.4: 7; 1: 19,20; Rev.1: 8,9).

As we have come through another Easter Sunday, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, triumphing over death and the grave is fresh and firm in our minds, giving us a lively hope. Though all the redemptive values of the Gospel come to us from the Cross of Calvary, they would have never come to us at all were it not for our Lord's resurrection. A dead Christ could be no mediator. Resurrection is the divine declaration that atonement on our behalf is accepted. It is God's demonstration that the life, which Christ lived out and then laid down, is indeed a complete and accepted satisfaction.

The emphasis in the New Testament is upon the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, since by His death He dealt with our sins and our enemy Satan himself (1 Peter 2:24; Heb.2: 14,15). But the Christ Who died and descended into the grave rose again. The mighty Conqueror strode forth alive. He is the first fruits from among the dead (1 Cor.15: 20).

We may consider three Scriptural truths concerning this resurrection. Firstly, resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrates His deity. "...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom.1: 4). When our Lord Jesus foretold His disciples that He must die, they did not understand it. Was He really the Son of God? When at last He was arrested, tried, condemned and crucified, the disciples must have wondered. How could He be the Son of God and allow men to kill Him? Could it be that He was not the Messiah to reign over a kingdom on earth? So they might have queried! But then He arose; He lives; He comes forth again to God, proving His Sonship beyond a shadow of doubt.

It was the resurrection which convinced Mary in the garden; which restored Peter's confidence after his threefold denial; which made doubting Thomas cry, "My Lord, my God"; which revived the hopes of two despondent disciples who were going to Emmaus; which brought new hope to the disciples who had gone back fishing and had caught nothing; and which convinced Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus road crying trembling and astonished, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

The resurrection confirms the efficacy of His death. When the Lord Jesus died, anxious hearts might have inquired -He came, He died to save, but might He not have failed? He foretold also the purpose of His death; to give His life a ransom for many and that His blood was to be shed for the remission of sins. But how do we know for sure? Might He not have failed? The resurrection proves that the purpose for which He died was accomplished. All claims were

satisfied. All enemies were subdued. All the power of hell and death was put to nought. Because all this had been accomplished and full satisfaction for sins had been made, God raised Him from the dead for our justification. Apostle Paul in 1 Cor.15: 20 says, "...now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept". So believers are no longer in their sins, but are justified from all things. Those who died in the Lord are not perished, but are safe home with the Lord.

The resurrection completes the redemptive work of the Lord. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom.6: 5). The resurrection of our body is part of the fruit of redemption. Death like the devil, though a conquered foe, will extend its hand to take down our crumbling clay abode. It will consign the bodies of believers to a narrow cell and the worms will do their work. This sin-soiled body cannot be taken into God's heaven. Death's seeming triumph over the believer's body will soon be changed to total defeat, when "the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed... Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor.15: 52,54). The trumpet will soon sound, and the bodies of believers will be raised in fresh beauty. It will no longer be fleshly but spiritual (1Cor.15: 44). Then will the Lord display before the Father the many members who compose His spiritual Body? Oh what a sight it would be when the Saviour's nail-pierced hand would present our fully redeemed persons to the Father - "...faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24). The Lord sustain us in this blessed hope and anticipation.

Please pray for the Special Meetings God willing to be held at Luru, a village about 200kms. From Ranchi, from 10th to 14th April where Bros. John Stewart and Doreen would be sharing the word based on Rom. 13: 14, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ". Many of our brethren from Hindi speaking areas are expected to join. Pray that arrangements for their stay etc. be made available also pray for the two days ministry in Siyon Prarthana Bhavan, Ranchi, following the above.

Let us remember to pray for the ministry of the Word as preached by our fellow labourers, this Easter season in various assemblies. In Hebron the gathering numbered to about two thousand on Good Friday and Easter when Bro. Theodore Reginald ministered the Word.

Bro. N. David, God's servant at Malakpet, covets our prayers for the Special Meetings God willing to be held there at Horeb, from 12th to 14th April, the evening public gatherings to be held at Mumtaz College grounds. Bro.Paul Sudhakar would be ministering the Word in these meetings.

"Way of Life", Youth quarterly magazine, Issue No.2, is ready for dispatch. Send you're annual subscription Rs.501- in India or U.S. Dollars 3-00, to the Editor, Way of Life, Hebron, Golconda Cross roads, Hyderabad -500 020, by Money Order only.

Let us pray for the country, especially Gujarat, and our people and assemblies round about -for their peace and protection.

Bro.Lazar Sen, of Beersheba, Ahmedabad covets our prayers as he is being led to give some time to Kalimpong and the regions round about including Nepal as also desired by the saints and brethren there. So pray for him and family, for journey mercies, as they hope to leave from Ahmedabad on 16th April.

Let us pray for the sisters from Hebron together with many others involved in the V.B.S. ministry in nearly 70 centers in the weeks ahead besides the special classes in a dozen other places.

Praying that we may confidently present our petitions unto Him, even our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

I remain yours in His grace,
K. PHILLIP

Eph. 3: 16, 20; Rom. 8: 15, 32, 37; 1 Cor.15: 57, 58

MY JOY MIGHT REMAIN IN YOU -5
BAKHT SINGH

I know the place and the hour when these words came to my ears, "My son, thy sins are forgiven thee". In the year 1929, on the 16th of December, at 11: 30 a.m. on the top floor of Y.M.C.A. building in Winnipeg, Canada, those

words came to me. My sins were so black and horrible and also shameful, but they were all forgiven. I believed those words and a great joy filled my soul. Even though I never knew what the Bible was at that time, I never knew who was Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, I knew one thing, that my sins were gone, gone for ever. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself told me this. Has He forgiven your sins? If so, when? And what happened? Did you find your soul full of thanksgiving? Did you feel your whole being full of gratitude? Did you see a real change in your life? When someone pays your debt of Rs.50/-, you cannot help saying, "Thank you very much. On my behalf you paid Rs.50/-". God has forgiven you more than 50 millions upon millions of sins and He took upon Himself that debt. Did you thank Him sufficiently and adequately? Otherwise, that joy will not come to you.

Thirdly, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psa.16: 11). Real joy comes with the consciousness that my Lord is with me. You find these words coming again and again to you. "Behold, I am with you. Fear not, I am with you. I will uphold you, I will go with you. I will keep you and cover you". That consciousness of His presence gives great joy. Not your knowledge, but consciousness, that He is the living Saviour, and He says, "Behold, I am alive for evermore"(Rev.1: 18). Are you conscious of His presence? Has He come into you?

Fourthly, please see 1 Thess.2: 19,20: "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy". Paul is saying this to all those who were saved by God's grace. When others are saved through you, you find that joy coming into you. When your neighbours and friends find the same joy through you, your joy will increase. Every time I find someone receiving that joy, my joy increases.

Once when I was in Yugoslavia, I was going in a train to Belgrade. I saw a very tall man sitting in front of me. I began to pray, "Lord, give me the privilege of speaking to that man about his soul". Then I spoke to him and straightway he was born again. What joy came to my heart! It is a peculiar joy. Kindly tell me, has anyone in your family or neighbourhood found that joy through you? Real joy must be shared. Long for everyone to get that joy.

Further, we read in Psa.40: 8, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart". It is by delighting to do God's will that we find that joy. It may take you many days to find God's will. But when you find it, you will have a peculiar joy in knowing and doing God's will. Is your joy of that nature? Do you have joy unspeakable and full of glory? Is your joy full? Do you have a heavenly song on your lips all the time? Even though I cannot sing a single note audibly, I can sing in my soul the whole day. I find someone singing all the time. It is a heavenly song. Oh make sure, you have found that joy. We offer that joy to you. Whosoever you are, right now, this moment, that joy can be yours. The Lord Jesus Christ loves all of us equally. He only can give us that joy. That joy does not depend upon teachers, preachers or other people, but on the Lord Himself. If you humble yourself and call upon Him, straightway He will forgive you. Say, "I am sorry for my sins; kindly forgive me". He says, "Yes, My daughter, My son, your sins are forgiven. Go and sin no more. I have paid full price for your sins. Now let Me be your life and your strength". Such an experience will give you that joy. Please ask for it and receive it.

(Concluded)

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