

SECRETS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

(Bro. Bakht Singh, Balance of Truth 1966 Nov – June 1977)

2. Peace, Joy, Victory

"My peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give unto you." (John 14.27)

The three chapters of John's Gospel, 14-16, contain the last messages of our Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples, before He was crucified. Every verse of these three chapters is full of many deep truths, which you can never exhaust.

You may read these words again and again and find some thing fresh every time. There is a message for those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ and also for those who do know Him by experience. When our Lord spoke these words it was at a time when the disciples were feeling very sad. The Lord had told them beforehand how He was going to suffer, be mocked and be killed, and they found it hard to understand, after having seen His power for three years.

These three chapters can be summed up in three short fragments. In Chapter 14, the Lord speaks of **My Peace**. In chapter 15, **My Joy**. In chapter 16, **My Victory**. By these three short fragments He answers all their questions. They were wondering in their hearts, why their Lord their hearts, though having much power and authority, should suffer like this, and His answer was that He wanted them to have peace. He is saying: "My peace, I give unto you". It is a very common longing in the heart of every human being to find true peace. Some struggle for many years, but cannot find peace. Our Lord is saying, "My peace I give unto you".

Another longing in the hearts of men is to find true joy. Some try many means to find true joy, but they cannot get it. Our Lord is saying in Jn. 15: 11, "These words have I spoken unto you that my joy may remain in you and your joy may be full". No earthly means can give this joy. Whatever you may acquire, or possess, or do, you will not find that joy. Yet here our Lord is saying, "I am going to die and suffer, that my joy may come into you and that your joy may be full." Again men want power in their lives, but they are defeated: Yet our Lord is saying in Jn. 16:23, "In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." That victory is for you and for me to make our lives fully victorious, fruitful, triumphant and full of power. Our Lord had to die and rise again. So real Christian life can be summed up in these three simple words, Peace, Joy, and Victory.

The whole Christian life is centered around these three words. If you have not found true peace, then you have not found such a life. If you have not found real joy, then there is something wrong in your salvation. In the same way, if your life is defeated, that means you do not know the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to put this simple question to you. Have you found true peace? Many people do not have true peace, even though they have been saved. The Enemy can deceive you.

I will give you a simple illustration. When I first went to England, a friend came to see me. I said to him, "My landlady is a very good landlady." "Why do you say that?" he asked. "Because she gives me plenty of butter for every meal."

Generally landladies do not give us plenty of butter, but only a very small quantity, so my friend said to me, "I am coming to your place for a meal." So, I asked him to stay for food, and showed him the dish of butter on the table. He began to smile. "This is not butter, it is margarine," he said. "It looks very nice, has a very nice colour and tastes nice also. You will never suspect that it is vegetable butter!" It was only after three years that I discovered that I had been deceived. Everywhere you will find Margarine Christians. They say that they are saved, and they say that they are born again, but judging by their life and experience there is something wrong some where.

The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to give peace. Isaiah in his prophecy called Him "The Prince of Peace." This prophet prophesied in minute detail the birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 9:6, He is called among many names, **the Prince of Peace**. It is only in Him, by Him and through Him, that men can find true peace. The same message was brought upon the earth at His birth at Bethlehem (Luke 2:14) by a multitude of the heavenly host! "Glory to God in the highest peace on earth, goodwill toward men." These words are sung by many people just at Christmas. Some times they go out in singing parties, singing the same words, the whole night. But they sing for the sake of cake, coffee and tea, and are not after real peace!

"Peace be unto you" (John 20:19-21). That was the first message which our Lord gave to His disciples after the resurrection. Those disciples were full of fear, and were hiding themselves with the doors and windows shut. All of a sudden, the Lord Jesus Christ came inside and the first words He spoke were: "Peace be unto you?" What He had said in John 14, was now being repeated. Those disciples had seen many miracles for three years, and had heard His sermons. For His sake, they had forsaken all and followed Him. They were good people, and familiar with the Word of God; but till that day had never found real peace. Now our Lord was saying to them "Peace be unto you", and they knew that was why He had to suffer for their sake, even that peace might be theirs. You may be familiar with the whole Bible and perhaps have seen many miracles being performed here and there in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, perhaps even through you and around you. But, have you found true peace? Can you say truthfully and sincerely that that real peace has come into you? The Epistles of Paul the apostle begin with the words "grace and peace", which means that the grace of God, and the peace of God must go together. The more grace, the more peace. The more peace, the more grace. You cannot have God's grace before having true peace. That is why you must make sure that you have found true peace. Many are deceived by worldly peace, but our Lord said, "Not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

In Rom. 16:20, we read "The God of peace will bruise Satan under your feet shortly." We do not defeat the devil by Bible knowledge or long prayers, or by seeing dreams or miracles. The Scripture says that the God of peace shall bruise Satan under **our feet**. That is why the devil tries to disturb our peace. Please make sure that you have found true peace, otherwise, you are going to be defeated by the devil by some trick or device.

Further, in Rom. 14:17, "The kingdom of God is . . . righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Ghost." Your share in God's kingdom also depends upon your peace. "The work of righteousness shall be peace." Isa. 32:17. Just by outward appearance you are not going to be righteous or good. Outwardly you may look good, but inwardly, the throne of the devil may be in your heart.

"Now the God of Hope fill you with all joy of peace in believing" (Rom. 15:13). God's power can only work fully in you when you find true peace. If you have not found that true peace, you cannot pray properly. If you have not found true peace, you cannot defeat the devil easily. It is only by inward true peace, that you can hear the voice of God. Heb. 13:20, 21. "The God of peace make you perfect to do His will." It is only by inward peace we can be sure of God's perfect will, for without that peace you cannot find it.

There is one question which is put to us again and again every where, not only by young believers, but mature believers, and even by God's servants, "How can we make sure of God's will ?" When people do not know how to find God's will, they make many mistakes in their business, marriages and other plans in their lives, and they pay a heavy price in later years. See how necessary it is, therefore, to make sure that our peace is genuine and real, and not an imitation. It is the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself that He gives to us. "My peace I give unto you. My own peace". He Himself becomes our peace. He died and rose again, that we may die to our old nature. Then only can our Lord Himself come and live in us by the power of His resurrection. Unless you are indwelt by the Lord Jesus Him self, you will not find that peace, for that peace does not depend upon Bible knowledge, nor upon any human qualification. He can not live in us unless we are inwardly purified, cleansed and washed. Nobody can purify himself, by his own efforts. The Lord Jesus Christ undertakes to cleanse us from every inward defilement by His own blood. Then He says, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14.27). His true peace will deliver you from all your fears; fear of the past, fear of the future, fear of the enemy, fear of the diseases ; fear of death, fear of war and other calamities, fear of men and fear of loneliness. All these fears are driven away when the Lord Jesus Christ comes inside. No human activities can take away these fears. The Scripture says, "Fear is torment", and that fear will make you restless and take away your sleep and hunger. Fear is much more painful than any painful disease. It affects all your nerves and the entire system of your body and the whole body starts trembling. When fear comes in, the heart starts beating too quick with the thought of what is going to happen. No man can take away that fear. But the Lord can. He says, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

In Col. 3:15, we read: "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts ...be ye thankful." That peace will make you feel one with everybody else. No more Malayalis, no more Tamilians, no more Punjabis, no more rich, no more poor, no more white, no more black, no more Telegu, no more Komti, . . . and whatever it may be, all divisions go away. No man can do this. They have tried, but they have failed. But in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can be perfectly one with everybody anywhere, everywhere.

During the past few months, I have had the privilege to visit fifteen countries. I have never felt a stranger in any country. I did not know the language, but I could feel one with those who love Christ. There was no question of difference amongst us. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can make us one like this.

"Be ye thankful", says Paul. Real peace will make you thankful. There will be a note of praise and thanksgiving all the time. Otherwise you are never satisfied. You begin the day murmuring and you end the day murmuring. Always something is wrong somewhere, either in the coffee, rice, rasam or food, or someone speaking about your head, nose, etc.! The Lord can teach you to be thankful in everything, in all situations, circumstances and conditions, in life. We can thank God for His love, grace and mercy, for every thing turns out for our good eventually.

In II Thess. 3:16, we have peace for always. God Himself will give you peace, and the Lord Himself will be with you always. This peace which I am talking about will make you and keep you conscious of His presence with you. You will be conscious of His actual presence. There are some people who cannot sleep at night time alone. They are terrified by loneliness. If there is any body at home, they are happy. They are so afraid that they will keep a little light burning all night. They are afraid of darkness. Christ says: "I am with you, don't be afraid." That consciousness of His presence is a wonderful thing.

Further in Phil. 4:7, we read "The peace of God which passeth all understanding will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." This will keep you strong within. Like a strong army around you, God's peace will garrison you. Let there be famine, calamity, earthquake or war, you are safe and secure. The scripture says, "Your hairs are all numbered" and your tears are bottled up. You are safe in Him.

In Jer. 33:6 we find these words: "Behold I will bring it health and cure and . . . reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth." True peace will heal all your wounds. There are some wounds, which cannot be healed by ointment or any medicine. They are deep inside. These are wounds caused by friends, relations, or strangers. When friends betray, they cause a very deep and painful wound. In the same way, when you find children are unfaithful, they leave a deep wound, which cannot be healed by any medicine. But this peace heals every kind of wound caused by friends, or enemies. When our enemies try to hurt us by words, they cause wounds and these wounds cannot be healed easily. But the peace which the Lord gives can heal any kind of wound. Ps. 119:165, "Great peace have they which love Thy Law and nothing can offend them". How many believers get offended very easily over a cup of tea or coffee. If somebody does not smile at them, they get offended. They sometimes keep away from meetings for many, many months. Their peace has gone away, because it is a worldly peace. But with the peace of God "Nothing shall offend them" (Ps. 119:165). Whether we have a cup of tea or not, we shall not lose that peace. It is a great peace. Have you found it?

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee" (Isa. 26:3). This is perfect peace, which gives you strong faith in all situations. You can trust God's Word and His promise. "Have you got that peace? How can you find it?" Eph. 2:14: "He is our peace. . . Romans 8:6: " . . . to be spiritually minded is life and peace." By receiving the divine nature, we find true peace. The Lord Jesus Christ died, that we might die to our old nature. He died also to take away our punishment, and rose again to give us a divine nature. That nature gives you peace and by obeying God you have it multiplied. Isa. 48:18. "Oh that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments, then had thy peace been as a river."

May our Lord speak to you and give you that peace. If you do not have that peace, ask God for it. Do not remain without it. You can have it right now, while you read this page.

3. The Second Coming

"I am He that liveth and behold I am alive for evermore." Rev. 1.18

In these days our attention is being drawn to the second Coming of the Lord, which is a very important subject in the Bible. There are 250 chapters in the New Testament, in which there are 360 references to this subject; and twenty-eight chapters are devoted wholly and solely to the subject; in fact, it is the only subject which is treated exhaustively in the Word of God. God has a purpose in bringing up

this subject again and again. How many times this matter is referred to in this first chapter of Revelation: Chap. 1 : 3, last part, "The time is at hand"; v. 4; "Which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Ai mighty; v. 7; "Behold He cometh with the clouds . . . even so, Amen" ; v. 8; "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending. . . the Almighty".

The same thought is repeated throughout the whole Book, and the main purpose of the Book of Revelation is to prepare us for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we keep our selves ready for His Coming, we can be kept free from many dangers, defilement, and deception. The devil has managed to keep this subject hidden from people for about 1,000 years, from the beginning of the 6th century to the end of the 16th century. For 1,000 years no references were made in sermons, books or teaching to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The result was extreme darkness in the whole of Christendom. From Church history we realize how darkness came into the people's minds in that period, and most of the corrupt practices among so-called Christians were during this period. But when the Second Coming was preached, life came in.

Many people think of this subject just as a collection of all kinds of theories and teachings, and hence they have no real enjoyment of the truth. It is not a subject in which to pass an examination in order to win a prize! It is a matter which should give you abundant joy, and is the secret of a triumphant life. When the matter was brought in vision to John the Apostle, it was at the time when he was somewhat discouraged. All of us sometimes feel discouraged. There are always things happening in and around, which are bound to discourage.

The man of God, John the Apostle, was the most beloved disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is repeated six times in John's Gospel: "the disciple whom Jesus loved". The very same disciple was bound in prison, on the isle of Patmos, for the Word of God, and for the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, because at that time, things were happening among believers, which were beyond understanding. The same thing will happen in the end days also. The enemy will become active, as we see in Rev. 12. He may come like a roaring lion, he may come like a ravening wolf, or he may come like an angel of light or he may come in like a flood.

These are four ways which the devil uses in the end days to attack God's people; and only by the strength of the knowledge of His soon coming, can we be victorious. When our Lord appeared to John the Apostle, He found him so discouraged, so He reminded him that He is the same who will soon come back again. What he could not understand now, he would understand on that day.

There is no need to be impatient. Wait patiently, the Lord will answer all your questions, one by one, when He appears in glory. The work of Salvation also will only be perfected on that day, and we shall know the meaning of that Great Salvation, and the greatness of our blessed Saviour. There is a peculiar joy in keeping ourselves ready for that day.

Our Lord draws the attention of the Apostle to some important matters in Chapter 1, and in verse 4 He draws his eyes to the throne, "Seven spirits which are before His throne." In the following verses He draws his attention to verses 10 and 13.

Verse 13. He makes him see the Glory of the seven golden candlesticks, which indicate the kind of a church our Lord is building. So many people think of the Church in terms of members, buildings and activities. Even though it is such a simple but important subject, people do not know the meaning of THE CHURCH. They spend

so much money and energy on the building and the furniture, and on the activities of the building. Yet, they do not know what the Church really is. These seven golden candlesticks tell us what the Church really is. We see our Lord as the great heavenly and everlasting High Priest walking between those candlesticks. We see our Lord in a new glory. His hair like the white wool, His countenance like the beautiful sun. His eyes are like the flame of fire. From His mouth goes out a sharp two- edged sword; His feet are like burning brass, and in His hand the seven stars, His voice is like the sound of many waters; His garment is very long and beautiful, and girded with a golden girdle.

These few details tell us some thing about the beauty and grandeur of the Saviour who died for us. There is a message for you and for me in all the features of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can spend many hours in meditating on the meaning of these mysteries. Our Lord knew that John the Apostle would find it hard to understand the meaning of the mysteries; and that is why He said in verse 17, 18 "Fear not, I am the First and the Last", v. 18, "I am He that liveth." There lies the great secret: "I am He that liveth." Unless we have felt the experience of the Living Lord Jesus we cannot understand what He is saying in this book of Revelation. That is why many people find it hard to understand. They want only to know the meaning of these things. They want only knowledge and facts and things like that. They do not enjoy these truths. Unless we have a real experience of the living Lord Jesus, whatever is being said in this Book of Revelation will not help us. In the same way, if you want to enjoy the truth of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus, it becomes more enjoyable and more real by coming into a personal experience of Him. Can you say like Paul in Gal. 2 : 20, "Christ liveth in me ?" No doubt you know this by theory, but not by experience, and before you can go further into these things, you must have a deeper, fuller and richer experience of the living Lord Jesus. Without this, you will never be satisfied; but, when the Lord becomes real to you, whatever may be your discomfort, inconvenience and handicap, or whatever be your situation, your joy will be abundant and your life will be triumphant and victorious. To make this possible our Lord rose again to live in us.

Now, many people say, "I believe, I believe, I believe", but they have not got a living know ledge of Christ and His resurrection, Rom. 6 : 5, "If we have been planted together in the likeness of His death we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection." Now these two go together. The word indicates grafting. You must have seen fruit trees and have realized that the very best fruit is produced by grafting, by which trees can be made to yield large sweet fruit. Those trees which yielded small sour fruit, later on yield nice sweet mangoes. How is it done? Men take a branch of another tree, not very long, and graft it to the stem. Some changes take place in the first year, others in the second year, and again in the third year, till the full tree is finally changed, even to its fruit and leaves. Paul uses that same word of planting and grafting into Christ's death and likewise into His resurrection.

Paul says a change must take place in you also. If this tiny little branch of one tree can accomplish such a great change in the whole tree, how much more should the VICTORY of our Lord Jesus Christ accomplish in your life and mine; otherwise where is the use of His dying and rising again? The Lord Jesus Christ died to purchase you for eternity, and rose again to make you a new creature; and to make you triumphant and victorious. Have you had that experience? Are you conscious that the living Lord Jesus is living in you and working in you?

We have seven great proofs of the fact that our Lord is a living Saviour.

Seven Proofs of His Resurrection

- (1) The Prophecies made in the Old Testament by the Prophets. They are: Isa. 25: 8, "He will swallow up death in victory."
 - Isa. 26: 19, "Awake and sing ye that dwell in dust."
 - Hosea 13: 14, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; redeem them from death."
 - Ps. 16: 10, "Thou shalt not suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption."
 - That is our first great proof that our Lord is a living Saviour. No body ever dreamed of conquering death. There has been only one case in the whole world's history. "He will swallow up death in victory." He says it for you and for me.
- (2) The Prophecy made by the Lord Himself through His disciples before He was to be crucified. Mark 8: 31, "The Son of man must be killed and rise again."
 - a. Mk. 9: 31, "The Son of man shall rise the third day".
 - b. Mk. 10: 34, "They shall. . . kill Him and the third day He shall rise again".
 - c. Jn. 10: 18, "I have power to lay it down; and I have power to take it again".
 - d. That is our second proof. The Lord Jesus Christ very clearly and plainly and repeatedly told His disciples how He would suffer, and be mocked and be reviled for their sakes and then rise again.
- (3) Third Proof: Lk. 24: 5, 6. "He is not here; He is risen". This testimony was borne by the angels on the early Easter morning: "He is not here, He is risen".
- (4) Fourthly: Lk. 24:2, 3. "They entered in and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." The empty sepulcher can be seen to day in Jerusalem. Every day people come from many parts of the world to see it. This is the fourth proof: the empty sepulcher. There is no other sepulcher like it in the whole world. Other sepulchers are full of dead men's bones—but this is an empty sepulcher.
- (5) Fifthly; our Lord appears ten times on different days to the disciples for 40 days after He rose again—five times on the first day; again, five times from the 2nd day to the ascension:
 - (i) He first appears to Mary at the Sepulcher.
 - (ii) Then to the others, who were returning from the Sepulcher.
 - (iii) Then He appears to Simon Peter.
 - (iv) Then to two disciples going to Eminaus.
 - (v) And that same evening to the disciples as they were gathered in the room, the door being shut.
 - (vi) He appeared to the 500 disciples in Jerusalem as you see in I Cor. 13:6.
 - (vii) Then He appears to James the Apostle.

- (viii) For Thomas's sake, He appears the 8th time on the 8th day.
- (ix) Jn. 20. At the Lake of Tiberius, He appears for the 9th time.
- (x) Then He appears in Bethany before He ascends into heaven. Like that He appears ten times within 40 days to show us that in the same way He may come into us by the power of resurrection.

(6) Sixth Proof: of His resurrection:

- a. He appeared to Stephen when he was about to be stoned, reviled and mocked. Acts 7: 54, 55 and Acts 9: 5. That is the 6th proof, how He appeared to men like Stephen and men like Saul, afterwards called Paul.
- (7) There is also one more proof, which is much more important than the six other proofs, and it can be much more convincing to those you speak to. He lives in every believer, those who believe in Him in any part of the world. He comes to live in them. Can we all say the same thing? He lives in me, He lives in me. That should be a live testimony. That's why we now put the same question to you. Does the living Lord live in you? We don't wish to know your name. We don't wish to know whether you are called Mathew or Mathai. The question is, does the Lord live in you? We don't want to know of your Bible knowledge or how much money you can give. This simple question you must answer before God. You can deceive man but not God. Does the Lord Jesus Christ who rose again for me and for you, lives in you? What is the proof that He lives in you? There must be proof that He has come into you. Then you find all your questions answered, automatically. New life will come into you and will lift you up. That is called THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION—It is the death conquering power. It is the highest power in the whole universe, and that power will enable you to overcome even death. That power can make mortal men immortal; that power can make the worst sinner a son of God. It is a gift of God—so simple—yet, we make it so complicated.

If you say, "I believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins, then you must believe that the same Lord who died for you rose again for your sake." That is the meaning of that fragment in Rom. 6: 5. "If we are planted together in the likeness of this death we shall be planted together also in the likeness of resurrection." Don't think that just by confessing and saying, "I am sorry for my sins", that you are going to be given salvation, or that just saying, "He died for me", and also: "I know He rose again", is going to save you. It is only by His coming into you by faith that you will be saved. We have to welcome Him and receive Him, and believe that He has come in. He died that we may die to our old nature. It is the old nature which is responsible for all your trouble. There are some skin diseases, which have some deep inner root. People try to cure the disease by outward ointment. Whenever they have an itching sensation, they apply some ointment outwardly. They feel better for two hours and think they are healed. But, after two days again they find the same thing appearing in the same part. I know some people of the same nature, who are scratching their head, feet, or nose for nearly 25 years. They go on scratching with a piece of stone. Sometimes they ask the children to help them. But, they do not know the root cause of the disease. Unless the root of the disease is cured, the disease won't go away. By injection that root cause is cured in a short time. The same thing

is true about the sinful nature. Every human being is with a sinful nature, that cannot be changed by fasting, prayer, Bible knowledge, visions or dreams. You have to take into you by faith the power of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other remedy. It is only by that power that you can die to all these things, when the Holy Spirit shall come into you by faith.

You cannot call yourself an Englishman simply by putting on a suit or a tie; you must be born in that country to be an English man. In the same way you have to come into that divine life, which gives you new longings and new desires, and will lift you up day by day and more and more. Our Lord rose again to live in us, work in us, and work through us, and to make us completely new and eventually to make us immortal, His Priests and kings. He is calling us for that high purpose, and to an everlasting kingdom.

In Rev. 1: 19, John is made to see the throne of our Lord and His heavenly kingdom and He said to John, "John, I am preparing this people for an everlasting kingdom, not for an earthly kingdom. All these sufferings and trials are for a purpose." So, for a true believer every suffering is a blessing; it is not a punishment. For sinners it is a punishment, for the rebellious it is a punishment, but for a believer any suffering of any kind is a blessing to him. By that you are being prepared for your heavenly call or heavenly vocation, that you may have a full appreciation of the things of eternity. Now, there is a flower in North India, which gives the strongest fragrance on the darkest night. On a moonlight night it is not so strong, but only on the darkest night is its fragrance the strongest. It is the same way with the life of the Lord Jesus Christ which is stronger, more inspiring and sweeter in your trials and sufferings. At that time you are being taught many hidden mysteries. I can thank God for every suffering, hardship and trial in my past life. I never would have learnt these truths from books or in colleges. The Lord Himself has become unto me more precious and near in these sufferings. I have been able to prove that power in a new way. It is wonderful to know that that power is given to us when we ask for it. So often we ask for knowledge, but not for this power.

Are you conscious of the living Lord Jesus living in you? Does he speak to you when you pray? Does He answer your question? When you walk with Him, do you feel happy, strong and uplifted? Do you love to go to Him? Does He teach you something every day? Does He help you to conquer your sin and temptation every day? Has anybody else found the same joy and peace through you? If other wise, He has not come into you. You may love Him and respect Him, like some people who go on saying, "So and so is a great doctor, a wonderful doctor, a very clever doctor," and say that they have seen many cured by him, but if asked: "What about you and your sickness?" Then they will answer "I cannot say anything about that." You have to get a definite personal experience of the living Lord Jesus, then you will not have to go about with a sorrowful face.

When our Lord appeared to Mary at the sepulcher, she was weeping. Our Lord said to her, "Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?" She never knew who was speaking to her. She thought He was a gardener. When our Lord called her by her name, straightway every tear disappeared. Her joy was so great. Everywhere there are weeping believers. They start weeping for every little thing. They weep so loudly that they can be heard in America. They weep before their wealthy uncles, they weep before relations, they weep in Delhi, they weep in Hyderabad. Wherever they go, they start weeping, and look so miserable. They walk about with long faces, to show others they are sorrowful. They are constantly weeping for something. They do not know their Saviour: they do not know His power; they do not know His love and grace. He rose again in order to be with us. He has said, "Behold I am with you

always." Matt. 28: 20. Day by day He will say, "I am with thee, fear not"; as He said to the Apostle John: "Fear not, John. Don't look at the present situation. Fear not, I am alive for your sake. I am alive to carry you forward triumphantly." That will also be your daily experience, when you have received your living. Saviour.

4. Joy

In an earlier study we considered three chapters of John's Gospel, 14 to 16, which contain the last message which the Lord gave to the disciples before He was crucified. That is why every word of these three chapters is full of deep meaning and inspiration. We saw also how the messages in these three chapters can be summed up in three small fragments. In Jn. 14: 27: "**My** peace I give unto you . . . let not your heart be troubled." Here our Lord speaks of "**My** peace," in chapter 15: 11, He speaks of "**My** joy"; and in chapter 16: 33, He speaks of "**My** victory". By these three words the Christian life can be summed up: (1) Peace, (2) Joy, and (3) Victory.

We have already spent some time on the meaning of the true peace which we have in the Lord Jesus. It is a wonderful experience to have that peace; it is of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He said, "My peace I give unto you". Again, when He appeared to His disciples on the day of resurrection, He said, "Peace be unto you". The same words are repeated in every epistle, as we see in 2 Peter 1: 2, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you". By the experience through which we have by faith in God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour, we have obtained that peace.

Now, let us consider the second experience of Salvation, John 15:11. "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." Again John says in 1 Jn. 1: 4, "These things write we unto you that your joy may be full". That is the whole purpose of the whole Bible, even that our joy may be full. Even though it is very painful to have our sins uncovered and very humiliating when we see our hidden condition, God does it that our joy may be full. Whatever God may do to us, whether to punish or chastise us, He does it with the same purpose. He wants our joy to be full. Only then is He satisfied.

The very same message of joy was brought to the earth by the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the heavenly host. The shepherds were watching over their flocks in the field of Bethlehem when our Lord was born in a manger in Bethlehem. There came an angel at that time and said in Luke 2: 10, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people". Good tidings of great joy for all people with no exception—people of all castes and countries. Whatever may have been your handicap or failure or condition or sin, these good tidings of great joy are for all people. So, whosoever you may be, if you have had a real experience in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you must have this great joy. There is something wrong with your salvation, if outwardly you look very happy, but inwardly are full of misery, and are not satisfied.

In John 16: 24 we read: "ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full". Now these words were spoken by our Lord to those disciples who had been with Him for three years. It was quite evident that their joy was not full. Our Lord knew there was something lacking in their lives. They had forsaken all, they were nice people, good people, hardworking, kind and God-fearing people. Above all they knew the Word of God. They knew the prophecies about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. They knew how to make sacrifices for God. They had also seen many miracles in three years, and had lived with the Lord Jesus Christ day and night, and had heard all His sermons. And yet, our Lord had to say to them, "I know that your joy is not full yet". If that was said about them, then what about you? What kind of a joy are you having? There are many believers whose joy is not full, complete or real.

In 1 Peter 1:8, Peter calls that joy 'unspeakable and full of glory'. That joy cannot be explained. You may be a very good speaker and preacher; but this joy unspeakable cannot be explained. We require a heavenly vision to understand that joy, 'full of glory', which lifts us from the earth to heaven itself. In Rom. 14: 17, we see that joy is not dependant upon eating and drinking. Alas! most human joy depends upon eating and drinking. Many wives make this mistake. They think they will be loved by their husbands if they give him good things to eat and drink. At the beginning of their married lives they spend many hours, thinking, scheming, and planning what they should cook for their husbands. They find out what he would like. And yet they are not satisfied, in fact they are disappointed. The joy that is created by eating and drinking is of a different kind. You may try today, with every good intention, but you find that joy will not last long. Other people are not so fond of eating and drinking, but are fond of their property and possessions. They go on saving money with that object: the purchasing of land, building and property, the amassing of wealth, or cattle or sheep or whatsoever they like; or diamonds or jewels. None of these things can give you true joy, even though you may come to possess all that you long to possess.

If you go to Denmark, you will not find any poor man there; everybody is prosperous. Nobody is unemployed. Every body has a good job. They have a sanatorium, but no patients, whereas in India, you have a waiting list for the sick for many many months. Yet, in Denmark with all their knowledge and skillfulness and prosperity, they have a larger number of suicides than in the whole world. Every day you find young people and old people committing suicide. That happens everywhere, because they are depending upon their possessions for their happiness, so they are disappointed. But the man of God says in Hab. 3: 17-18 that even though he may lose everything which he possesses, yet he will rejoice in the Lord. For the believer there is a joy which is not dependant upon land or buildings, or prosperity, or any kind of wealth or possession. Have you found that joy? It is for such a purpose the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, and now, so lovingly, He is offering that joy to all people in any part of the world. Phil. 4: 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice". 1 Thes. 5 : 16. "Rejoice ever more". That joy will not go away, whether you have good health or ill health, whether you have many friends or enemies, whether you are in your own home or away from home. There are many people who get home-sick. Tears fill their eyes when they think of home. They lose their appetite and sleep, and look very miserable, and keep on sighing day and night. They think that their joy depends upon their home. This joy is not like that. Wherever you may be the joy is there. Rom. 15: 13, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy. . ." Have you that joy that will keep you in good hope always? Our Lord was saying these words to the disciples, because they were feeling so sad and discouraged. Our Lord was saying, "The time has come. I must suffer, be reviled, mocked and killed for your sake". They could not understand why our Lord with so much power and authority must suffer like that. "These things (about this suffering and dying) have I spoken unto you, that my joy may remain in you and that your joy might be full". He suffered for your need and mine; He did not suffer to get sympathy; but He suffered and died to make your joy full, that wherever you are, you may have that joy.

Not only so, but this joy will increase day by day. Acts 13: 52, "The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Ghost." When they were going through extreme suffering, as in verse 50, they were persecuted, hated, falsely accused, and expelled from their coasts. Yet, they were filled with joy. None of these sufferings and trials lessened their joy. But, in your case, perhaps even a small trouble will take away your joy, and will take you many, many days to recover it. If somebody tries to

accuse you falsely in a small matter, you will be feeling very, very hurt and wounded for many months. That is human nature. But, the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to make our joy full. These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full".

How can we receive that joy? "Likewise joy shall in heaven over one sinner that repenteth". That joy begins in heaven; it does not begin on the earth. Repentance means right about turn. Before a man repents, he has his face towards the devil, and his back towards God. By repentance he turns his back to wards the devil, and his face towards God. That is called repentance. Such a work takes place only by the Holy Spirit, and not by man in himself. Joy begins there! Heaven is first filled with joy, and from there that joy is poured into the person who repents. That is why no man can take away that joy. It begins in the presence of God and goes on flowing from there, and no man can take it away, John 16 22. "Your joy no man taketh from you," no, not even your enemy, nor your neighbours, nor friends, nor any power on earth. Have you repented? What happened when you repented? Was it whole-hearted repentance, or are you still hankering after sinful and painful things? That is why your joy is not full. Your

repentance is not complete. Your face is turned both ways. Some people are like that. They seem to be happy everywhere. When they come for worship, they are very happy. When they go into the world they are still happy. Wherever they go they are happy. They are blind and deaf spiritually. They are the agents of the devil. Oh, please make sure that you have repented truly and sincerely.

Secondly, Luke10: 17-20, "The seventy returned with joy." These disciples were sent by the Lord Jesus Christ. They were seventy in number and went forth two by two, and returned rejoicing, because they had seen many miracles. They said to the Lord, "See, what mighty things happened in your Name". But, the Lord said in verse 20, "Rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven." True joy comes from assurance that my Lord has written my name in heaven, and that my sins are forgiven, covered, never to be remembered, removed as far as the east is from the west. My name is written in heaven! Think of it, when you go to heaven, you will be welcomed by your own name. They will all know your name in heaven. What a joy that thought gives! Even though upon earth very few know you, yet in heaven all will know you, because you are purchased by His precious blood, and are a peculiar treasure of the mighty and living God.

Only make sure that your sins are forgiven. No man can for give your sins, but only the Lord Jesus Christ. Has He said to you, "My son, my daughter, thy sins are forgiven thee". Joy will enter into you when you hear those words.

I know the place and the hour when those words came to my ears. In the year 1929, on the 16th of December, at 11.30 in the morning, on the top storey of the Y.M.C.A. building in Winnipeg, Canada, those words came to me: "My son, thy sins be forgiven thee !" My sins were so black and horrible and shameful, and yet they were all forgiven. I believed the 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 only one thing, that my sins were gone, gone for ever. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself told me this. Has He forgiven you your sins? Did you find your soul full of thanksgiving? Did you feel your whole being full of gratitude? Was there a real reaction in your life? If somebody paid your debt of Rs. 50/-, you could not help but say: "Thank you very much". God has forgiven you more than 50 millions of sins, and He took upon Himself that debt. Did you thank Him sufficiently and adequately? Otherwise, that joy will not be yours, Ps. 16: 11,

"In thy presence is fulness of joy"—real joy comes with the consciousness that my Lord is with me. These words come again and again: "Behold, I am with you"; "Fear not I am with thee; I will uphold thee"; or "I will go with thee"; "I will keep thee and will cover thee!" The consciousness of His presence gives great joy; not your knowledge, but the consciousness, that He is the Living Saviour, and that He has said, "Behold. I am alive for ever more".

I Thes. 2 : 19, "Ye are my joy !" When you find that others are saved by your testimony, a great joy comes into you, and your neighbours and friends will also find joy through you. Every time I find someone receiving that joy, my own joy increases.

Some time ago, when I was in Yugoslavia, I was going in a train to Belgrade. I saw a very tall man 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 straight away he was born again. What a joy came into my heart. Has anybody in your family or neighbourhood found the joy of salvation through you? Do you know the joy of bringing others to Christ?

Psalms 40 : 8. "I delight to do thy will". Lastly, it is by delighting to do God's will that we find joy. It may take you many days to find God's will, but, when you find it, you will have a peculiar joy in accepting it and in doing God's will. Is your joy of that nature? Is your joy unspeakable and full of glory? Is your joy **full joy**? Do you find a heavenly song on your lips all the time? Even though I cannot sing a single note outwardly, I can sing in my soul the whole day. Oh be sure you find that joy. Right now, this moment, that joy can be yours. Only He can give that joy, which does not depend upon teachers, preachers or other people, but on the Lord Himself. If we humble our selves and call upon Him, He forgives us immediately and that experience will begin that joy in your heart.

5. Victory

We have already seen that in chapter 14 of John's Gospel our Lord speaks of '**My Peace**', in chapter 15, He speaks of '**My joy**' and in chapter 16, He speaks of '**My victory**'. In verse 33 (last part), of that chapter, our Lord wants us to enjoy that victory. It is a fact that all of us can enjoy that victory. By it we can overcome our trials, tribulations, hardships and sufferings, and conquer all our dangers. Eventually, we will become immortal, and overcome every limitation and every bondage of any kind. It is a unique victory, and our Lord wants us to enjoy that victory in our lives daily.

Let us listen to the testimony of one who has enjoyed that victory. Rom. 8: 35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" In the preceding verses we have seven obstacles which Paul overcame: (1) tribulation, (2) distress, (3) persecution, (4) famine, (5) nakedness, (6) peril, (7) sword. 'We are killed all day long.' That sentence includes every imaginable suffering, distress or temptation. All these we can overcome, and become more than conquerors, Rom. 8: 38, 39. What a wonderful victory! Please do not think that these words are for only a few men like Paul the apostle who wrote them down. They are also for you and for me, and God intends that we enjoy that victory every day.

When our Lord first told the disciples that He would be crucified and would rise again, they were very, very sad, puzzled and perplexed, so much so that men like Simon rebuked the Lord, even though he loved Him so much. They said, "Why should our all-powerful Lord suffer and die like that?" They had seen His power at the death of Lazarus, when he said, "Lazarus, come forth!" They had no doubt about

His power and authority. But when the Lord began to speak of His death they felt very sad and dejected.

The Lord said in John 16: 33, "In the world, ye shall have tribulation . . . I have overcome the world." That commandment is to all of us. It does not matter where we may be born or live, or what may be our occupation or education, we have all to go through the same sufferings, tribulations and hardships, somewhere or some time, but we shall never be able to conquer them by our own strength. Even the strongest man trembles when sufferings come.

There was a man in France called Voltaire, a very able man and a great scholar. He wrote many books and was also a very good speaker, but he was an atheist. He used to make fun of those who believed in God. A day came when he fell sick and became steadily worse. No doctor could diagnose his disease. Every night he would cry out with fear and terror. His face used to be so fearful and horrible, that no nurse would nurse him for more than one night. At that time, all his knowledge was of no use, and his whole being trembled with terror for many weeks till Death came. That will be your condition when sufferings come into your life, if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ by experience. Your fear will drive out your self control, and you will find storms raging in your heart, home and neighbourhood. But this glorious message of victory is for you.

The Lord Jesus Christ has conquered death, the world, sin and the devil for you and for me, to make us more than conquerors. Not only will you come out victorious over temptation, but you will become stronger, richer, and better through every trial. Have you received that power in your life? Have you had that experience? Does that power work in your body every day? It is for you and for me, and by that power our Lord is trying to draw men to himself.

See John 12:32. "If I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me". Here He speaks of His death and His victory over death. John 12:24, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit". Now this is a simple and wonderful truth, which does not require any education or Bible knowledge to understand. All of us have seen the grain of wheat dying and bringing forth much fruit. One grain of wheat with good soil and water can produce 5000 grains. Again if you sow these 5000 grains the next year and go on sowing what is produced for five years, you will have a whole long goods train full of grain. The Lord Jesus Christ is that grain of wheat. He died to bring many sons into His heavenly glory, and to fill the whole heaven with those sons. All that power was realized for you and for me, when He died and was buried, and rose again.

If a grain of wheat has so much power in it, how much more the Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. No man could touch Him. When they came to Him in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 18:6), our Lord said, "Whom seek ye?" They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth". And He said, "I am He, come and take me". As soon as they heard that, they went backward and fell down. They were afraid to touch Him. He gave Himself up, that we may be more than conquerors. He did not die as a martyr. He gave Himself up to bring into us the highest power in the, whole universe and that power is now being offered to you. Has that power come into you? Does it work in you? Are you being raised higher and higher with the same power every day? Do you find yourself in suffering, persecutions, trials, poverty and what not? Weeping Christians have no right to be called Christians. God's Word says: 'If my man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.'" Again He said, "Whosoever believeth on me hath everlasting life." God has promised these seven-fold tribulations, temptations, trials,

famines, sword, suffering and persecution, to show in us His power and victory that while others start crying and weeping, we can be more than conquerors.

The same power was working in the Lord Jesus Christ as He moved here and there. In John 4: we read: 'and He must needs go through Samaria!' The Samaritans were hated and despised by the Jews so much that the Jews would not drink water from the hands of a Samaritan; verse 9, "The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." For a purpose our Lord was determined to go that way. Evidently, the disciples were not happy about it, they knew that on that way they would not be able to get food or water; however, they followed our Lord.

Just at the right time, our Lord came to the well. His timings, and His ways are so perfect. His movements and His time were controlled by Heaven itself. He came to the side of the well and sat down. Outwardly He looked tired, weary and hungry. The disciples went to buy some meat in that town. He was tired, weary and hungry to show that He knows our weariness, tiredness and hunger. He was also showing how new power can come into us, and make us victorious. Because of that hunger, tiredness and weariness, the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples became the means of blessing to the woman at the well. When the disciples went out to buy food; this woman came, and our Lord began to speak to her. He spoke to her of wonderful truths, which can never be understood, even by the most educated scholars or even D.D's! John 4: 14, "He that believeth in me shall never thirst," He said in John 4: 24, "God is a spirit and they that worship Him, must worship in spirit and in truth." These two verses contain the most wonderful truths of salvation, and our Lord revealed these truths to that poor woman.

In John 3, our Lord spoke as to a child to Nicodemus who was a great man in the nation. He belonged to a big Sanhedrin of seventy members. Nicodemus was one of the seventy leading men of the whole Jewish nation. This man was a master, and yet our Lord spoke to him as to a small child: a few words only to show this great man the need for a new birth, a new creation. But to the woman, He spoke of the wonderful fulness of salvation. What a mystery! what a contrast How different are His ways to the ways of men! Usually, when we know men are educated, we speak in a way befitting their intelligence, and to the lowly we condescend.

There was once a Chinaman who went to England. At a very big dinner party, an Englishman sat next to him, who thought his neighbour was only a simple person who could not speak English. The soup was brought in first of all, and the English man asked the Chinaman, "Do you like soupee" to which he replied, "Yes, it is good soupee". Then they brought the fish and the Englishman said, "Do you like the fishee?" Again the Chinaman replied, "Yes, it is very good fishee". The Englishman was thinking, "This man is only a Chinaman, how can he speak English properly?" After the dinner was over, the same man gave a speech in excellent English. Then he sat down and said to the astonished and mortified Englishman, "Do you like my speechee?" The latter was too confused to reply.

Generally, when you see a simple man, you will not use high language. Nicodemus was a very highly educated man and a leading man in Israel; yet here is our Lord talking to him as to a child. Even then he could not understand. He said: "How can these things be?" Our Lord was proving to him that by worldly wisdom nobody can understand the things of eternity and of God's kingdom. How many remain spiritually blind, because they are trying to understand the things of God and His kingdom by their perishing, corrupt, rotten and defiling human wisdom.

Now we see in Chapter 4, a different story. Our Lord begins by speaking about the fulness of the spiritual life and how to worship God. Generally we as

preachers, will never think of that. We begin by talking of sin and repentance again and again. After we have become exhausted of the subject of repentance, we begin to talk about the fulness. This woman was a very great sinner yet our Lord never gave a hint about her sin at the beginning, even though He knew all about her sinful life. At last that woman said in John 4:29, 'Come and see a man, which told me all things that ever I did'. Our Lord knew all about her sinful, shameful and wretched past, yet He begins by telling her how God's power and fulness can come into any sinner: The water which I shall give him shall be a well of water springing up into eternal life." John 4: 14. He is offering power to her. He is saying to her in simple language, "Oh, woman, ask of me, and I will give it to you" verse 10. He is trying to let her see, who He is: "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee: Give me to drink". That is where we preachers fail. We want them to know who we are, and what wonderful preachers we are and we want them to come and see and hear us. Many preachers depend upon advertisement to draw people to the meetings. Yet our Lord sent away His disciples in the beginning, otherwise her eyes would have been drawn to Peter, James and John. Our Lord said in effect: "You find out yourself Who I am".

Do you know your Saviour? Do you know He is the One who offers to give good things. What He says He will do. What He gives, He gives in abundance. He went to Samaria to give that woman eternal life—to deliver her completely. But, she had to ask Him. John 4: 15. Even though she never understood the meaning of the abundance of living water, she said: "Give me that living water" (verse 15). She longed to have something to overcome her handicap.

Why did that woman come to the well to draw water at that time of the day? It was the 6th hour (John 4: 6), midday, about 12 o'clock. Generally, women go to draw water either early in the morning or in the evening, but not in the day, but this woman went at midday. She did not want to be noticed by people. Everybody knew who she was, that she had had five husbands already and the sixth one was not her husband. And that fact was common talk in the whole of Sychar. So she came in the midday, to draw water for the man with whom she was living in sin. She was tired of her sinful life. She was tired of drawing and carrying water for that wicked man. That pot was a symbol of her slavery (verse 28). She left her water pot not because she forgot about it. She left the pot for a purpose, as if to say: "Pot, stay here. From today I don't want your service any more, nor to be in slavery. I am not going to carry you any more". She left it as a sign of true repentance, for power had come into her, Our Lord never told her, "I know who you are". He only said, "I know every thing". He never said, "Don't live with that man any more". He only spoke to her about worship, and the message began to work in her by its power and wrought a change. At last, she brought the whole of Samaria to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, she could say joyfully, "Come and see a man, who told me all things I ever did, and freed me from the slavery of sin."

That can happen to you also. He will free your life from sin, when you let Him pour into you that living water, which will free you automatically from shameful and defiling habits.

New life brings true worship; worship in spirit and in truth. In western countries there are people with plenty of Bible knowledge. But very few people know how to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. They can sing, teach, and preach and do many things. They can give plenty of money for God's work, and build many grand buildings. But they do not know how to worship God in spirit and in truth. This secret will automatically change you, transform and deliver you. Learn how to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. God is a spirit, and in our spirit, and by our spirit,

we can touch Him, feel Him and speak to Him, and be governed by Him, and filled with His divine life day by day. Automatically that same life will come out like a bubbling river. God is a Spirit and His Spirit can come into our spirit,

Every human being is composed of three things: spirit, soul and body; Bones, muscles and blood make the body. Affection, emotion and will-power make the soul. Similarly three things make the spirit, conscience, the ability to hear the voice of God and the knowledge of how to worship God. Because of sin we have a dead spirit, a darkened soul, and a defiled body. God's power must come into us. God is a spirit, and He can only come into my spirit —not into my bones or brain.

I once had to visit some very, very poor homes. When we got there, they said, "Please wait a while", while they took a big broom and swept the room and made it clean. The Lord Jesus Christ is King of kings. He cannot live in our filthy hearts. We are so defiled that unless the Lord Jesus Christ undertakes to cleanse us with His Blood, we cannot be clean. I must ask and He will do it. That woman had to say, "Give me that water". We have to say, "Lord, cleanse me and come into me. Forgive me and transform me and make me like that well," and He comes in. There will be a three-fold change: (a) the dead spirit becomes a quickened spirit, (b) the darkened soul becomes an enlightened soul, (c) the defiled body becomes a cleansed body. Then the Light of God will shine upon your face, and the power of God will work in and through you day by day, and wherever you go, the same power will be at your service giving you victory over temptation, victory over tribulation, victory in famine, nakedness, sword and persecution, and in the same way, victory over every habit of sin. Come now to Him for complete deliverance, and rejoice in His victory.

6. Finding the will of God

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we have many rights and privileges, and one of these is to find and do the will of God, If you learn that secret of finding God's will for every matter, your life will be transformed. Most of your problems, failures and difficulties are due to the fact that you have never learned that secret. Most Christians are suffering heavy loss, and wasting time, energy and money because they have not really learned to find and to do God's perfect will.

He taught me that secret many years ago. I was born again in the month of December, 1929, and I had a desire in my heart to testifying to His saving power. I had also a hunger for the Bible, and began to spend many hours reading its pages. I believed in the Word of God, and that one day the Lord Jesus Christ would teach me what I did not know at that time. I began to attend meetings mostly in the evenings, and whenever I was asked to speak in the meeting, I would readily accept with thankfulness. In 1932, I was in Vancouver, Canada, and there I gave my whole life to God, after 2 years of struggle. God was speaking to me again and again: "Give up your engineering and follow me and preach the Gospel." I kept on saying, "Lord, I promise thee, I will give thee all my income. I have no desire to earn any money for my personal need or comfort. Lord, I promise thee, I will give thee all my income. Only I beseech Thee not to make me a preacher." I said, "I am a stutterer and a stammerer. I can not speak. I do not know a note of music. I am so poor in English. I am very weak and nervous. If I see 20 people, my knees shake. How can such a man be a speaker." So, the Lord was saying, "I don't want your money. I want you." After two years of struggle, I came to the Lord for His service. I went, out wherever doors were opened for me to speak, and gave God's message or my testimony. One day some body telephoned to me and said, "Would you come and speak to us on a certain Sunday." I said, 'Please wait a while. I will see my diary, and when I am free I will come." I saw my diary. I was free on that Sunday. I said, "Yes, I will be glad to

come." And my friend overheard what I said. So, he said to me, "Do you find God's will before you accept any invitation?" I said, "There is no need to find God's will, before you accept any invitation. I am not going for my own personal enjoyment. It is my privilege to testify to my Lord's saving power." But my friend said, "How can you know? God may have some other plan for you." I thought that they were trying to find fault with me. I got very much offended. I never said, "Good Morning", for two weeks. Even though they were trying to speak to me so nicely, I would not even say, "Yes". After two weeks, I came to my senses. I said, "Anyway, I don't know how to find God's will." If anybody was to question me, as to how I could find God's will, I could not answer. I was saying, "Lord, let thy will be done" and that is how I began to pray. I used to go to the sea-side and pray all day. I made up my mind not to take any meetings, unless I was sure of God's will. After two weeks of prayer, God taught me from His Word, how to find His will. That made a great difference in my life and service. Whatever I am going to share with you is based upon the experience which I had then with the Lord.

I want you to keep in mind three things about God's will:—

- (1) The importance of finding God's will.
- (2) The conditions to be fulfilled in order to find God's will
- (3) The proof or test of finding God's will or how to prove that we are in God's will.

Kindly keep in mind, if possible, these three things. I am sure, as you begin to pray the Lord Himself will teach you. Now don't worry if you cannot remember everything that we say, as long as you are willing for the Lord to teach you.

First of all, we must realize the importance of finding out God's will. In Psalm 29, we find that "the voice of the Lord" is repeated again and again in verses 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9. To put it in simple language, it is by hearing the voice of God that we see every obstacle overcome; and it is because we are not hearing God's voice that we cannot find God's will. God's power is at your disposal in its fullness, so you must learn how to hear and discern His voice. God does speak. He is a Living Person, and I have got to believe His voice.

In I Kings 19, the man of God, called Elijah, is very discouraged and dejected. He is under a juniper tree, saying, "Lord, take away my life. From today I resign from Thy service." In a Government job, you must give three month's notice. But Elijah said, "I resign straightaway. I am not going to be Your prophet any more. You take away my life. I want to die". In Chapter 18, he had seen God's fire coming down. He had killed the false prophets numbering 450. Jezebel had heard about it, and had said to him, "Within 24 hours, I am going to kill you." Elijah thought, "Before that the Lord will send fire upon her!" But the fire never came. Elijah was very sad. "Look at God! For His sake I am so zealous, and that wicked Queen wants to kill me, yet God has not taken any action. If I were God, I would straightaway kill her." So he prayed: "Lord, take away my life." That is how some preachers behave. When things go wrong, or they have not enough money for some time, they cannot preach nicely. "How can I preach now? When I go home my wife troubles me. There's no money in my pocket. There is no use in being Your servant. I am not going to preach any more." If they do preach, it is without joy! But if somebody fills their pockets, then their hands go up and down joyfully!

Elijah thought that God was sleeping. But God was so loving, long suffering, and patient. He made a great and strong wind to pass by, which rent the mountains. But, God was not in the wind. After that there was an earthquake. But the Lord was

not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But God was not in the fire. After the fire, a still small voice! That is how God spoke to Elijah: God never slumbers, or forgets. His ways are not our ways, but higher than our ways. God revealed to His servant, what He planned to do;—through a still small voice. You will find all your questions will be answered, by hearing God's voice.

There is no need for you to be under the juniper tree. Do you feel discouraged and dejected? Is your mind perplexed in any way? Are the things which are happening around you puzzling you? Have you found any problem complicated in your home or outside? For all that, you have to hear the voice of God, and that will solve your problem.

Further, John 7: 17. "If any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." Thus you see your understanding of the doctrine of Christ or Salvation depends upon your doing and knowing God's will. Otherwise your mind will be confused. As you do God's will, these doctrines of Salvation will become more clear and more simple and more plain to you. You will find God's will more enjoyable day by day, and something refreshing coming out. You will be saved more and more from many wrong teachings and wrong doctrines.

Then, I John 5: 14. "And this is the confidence we have in Him that if we ask anything according to His will He heareth us." Your prayer life will become more fruitful and very effective by doing God's will. Why is it that so few people get real pleasure in prayer time. They like singing, teaching, sermons and other things. But for prayer time, they have a headache. They have a stomachache and all kinds of aches, because they do not know how to find God's will. You find that the secret of finding God's will makes your prayer abundantly fruitful.

Further, Acts 21: 13, 14. Paul is on the way to Jerusalem. On the way, he is stopped at Caesarea, and there was someone prophesying how Paul was going to be bound at Jerusalem. All his companions said, "Please don't go there. We won't let you go there. We need you". "What mean ye to weep and to break by heart?" said Paul, "I am ready, not only to be bound, but to die also." Why did he say that? Because he was clear and sure of God's will. Knowing God's will, we can suffer joyfully in case of necessity, otherwise, when troubles come, we are downcast, full of fear, no appetite for food, and no sleep at night. But by knowing God's will, we can suffer joyfully in case of any need.

The full life of the Lord Jesus Christ was lived by doing God's will. John 4: 34. In John 5: 30; John 6:38; John 8:29; Math. 26:39. Whatever He did or wherever He went, it was for the same purpose. In Matt. 12:50 He asked: "Who is my mother? Who is my father, or who are my brothers and sisters?" All affection depends upon doing God's will. Eph. 5.17-18. If you do not know how to find God's will, you are a fool. If anybody were to call me a fool, I would get very angry. Nobody likes to be called a fool. But, the Bible says, if you have not learned that secret, you are a fool. And the fullness of Christ depends upon doing God's will. Some think that by rolling upon the ground, they receive the Holy Spirit. But the Scripture says that by doing God's will, you come into God's fullness.

Now we have seen from these references, how important it is to learn that secret. This is no ordinary matter, but very important. You must think about it more wisely. Your happiness, joy and fruitfulness depend upon it.

6. Finding the Will of God

Secondly there are conditions to be fulfilled in order to find God's will. Psalm 143: 10. "Teach me to do thy will." "Teach me" is the first condition. You have to say these words by faith. God will not force you nor compel you. He has given every man free will. It is only when we go to Him and say to Him: "Teach me", that He will teach us.

The second condition is in Matt: 26: 39 (last fragment). "Not as I will but as thou wilt". I will to die to my own will. Many of us go to God with many requests. We want God to say "Yes" to our plans. But you have got to say again by faith, "Not my will, but Thy will. I am willing for all my plans to be broken". We must say this from our hearts every day and not as a matter of formality.

Psalm 40: 8. "I delight to do Thy will". "Thy law is within my heart". This is the third condition. "I delight, O God, to do Thy will". Be willing to obey God joyfully. Don't go with a sorrowful face. Some are afraid to find God's will, for fear that God may say "No" to their plans. They have already decided to go to Madras, but, the Lord may say, "No", so they are afraid. The seat also is reserved, so they are frightened. "I delight to do Thy will, O God!" Can you say this honestly? "Lord with joy I will obey Thee, whatever it may be. Whatever you say, I will do joy fully and not half-heartedly. Thy law is within my heart."

Fourth condition: Romans 12:2. "Be not conformed to this world." You must be free from the worldly friends and worldly relations. "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind". Allow the Holy Spirit to work in you deeply every day. Say in the beginning of the day, "Lord, is there anything in my heart which is grieving Thee?" Only then you can prove what is that good and perfect and acceptable will of God. You must long for God's best. In the worldly sense, we want everything to be of the best. We want the best jobs, the best food and everything of the best. But for God's will, the second or third best, anything will do. When getting married, is money the first thing you want? In Kerala parents give a big dowry with their girls, and even many believers will say that money comes first. They do not care whether the girl is black, fat or short, if the parents offer Rs. 20,000/-, she is the best girl for their son. But if they offer Rs. 10,000/-, the girl is not fit for him. Consequently, there are many girls there with mental break downs, because the parents are governed by worldly advantages, and not by God's will.

I am not talking to unsaved or worldly people. Those who are not born again cannot find God's will. They are dead spiritually. They cannot hear the voice of God. You have got to be born again to hear the voice of God, for without divine life you cannot hear Him. Many believers, like Eli, become deaf spiritually. God was speaking to Samuel. Eli could not hear, even though he was a high priest, because he was negligent and because of his defilement, he had become deaf spiritually. Oh keep your ears sensitive to the voice of God.

The fifth condition is in Proverbs 3: 5. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart". Then your request will be fulfilled. Without faith you cannot find God's will. Be not wise in your own understanding. Do not depend upon your own ordinary, natural, human wisdom. You require divine wisdom. When we are born again, the Lord becomes our wisdom.

Further, Proverbs 3: 6. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him." You must go to God every day for every matter and for every problem. Not only occasionally, but daily. Then you will hear the voice of God. Even for small things, you must pray.

Before you spend your money or go any where or do anything, pray, "Lord, teach me and show me Thy heavenly plan. In all thy ways acknowledge Him."

Isa. 30: 21. "This is the way, walk ye in it. - . ." Take heed to the timely warning which our Lord gives you. If you are about to take a wrong turn, there will come the Voice of God. "Do not go that way, be careful, be careful! This is the way, walk ye in it." Wait patiently till God gives the real guidance. Don't be impatient in finding God's will. There are times when you may have to wait a week or more.

Thirdly: How can we be sure of God's will? We have seen (a) the importance of finding out God's will, (b) the conditions to be fulfilled in finding God's will; and (c) now we come to evidences of the proofs of knowing God's will. Isa. 32: 17. "The work of righteousness shall be peace and assurance for ever." That is inward peace. Heb.13 20. If you divide this verse into seven parts, you have seven evidences of the proofs of God's will:

(1) **The God of Peace:** Whenever God speaks to you concerning any matter and shows His will, there must be in your spirit an increasing and multiplying peace, not an ordinary peace. It should be a perfect peace and a great peace. It is like a river of peace which grows as it flows. You must wait upon the Lord again and again, and then the inward peace will become very strong. Keep on saying, "Lord, I want to be in your perfect will. Please show me," and then wait patiently. I find the early morning devotion time is the best time to pray,—when the morning is fresh and clear. "Now Lord, I am prepared to die to my will. I resign myself to Thy will. Show me Thy will, and I will obey Thee, and do so joyfully." Then wait, and read His word till you find your soul full of divine peace.

(2) **"That brought again from the dead."** This is the power of His resurrection. When you are in God's will, the power should be abundantly and fully manifested in and through you. Wherever Paul went, he found God's will, and because of that God was able to use him mightily. You have to say by faith, "Lord, I want the power of Thy resurrection and fullness. Don't allow me to make any plan which will lessen Thy power in my life."

(3) **Our Lord Jesus Christ.** His Lordship must be acknowledged. There are some people, who hear the voice of God for His service. But when they want money, they start begging. Wherever they go they start hinting. They have to give so many hints to get money, and send false reports, with the same object. Our Lord is not like that. It is a dishonour to God. If you are in God's will, He will supply all your need. God's Word says in Phil. 4: 19, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory". Not by begging, not by weeping, not by report or by letter, not by photos—but by trust in every matter, He will supply your need. There is no need for you to beg and borrow, or to look miserable with torn shoes or torn shirts, because you want money. Come under His Lordship. He will take away every sorrow and every anxiety.

(4) **That great Shepherd of the sheep.** The Bible is the pasture. The Lord Jesus is the Shepherd. Psalm 23: 1, 2. He will lead you to the portion of the Scriptures which confirms His will, Read your Bible slowly and very systematically. Ask the Lord to confirm His will through His word day by day, either by a fragment or a full portion. For that purpose you have to be systematic in your Bible study. Read it slowly and carefully.

(5) **The Blood of the Everlasting Covenant:** Blood for cleansing. Heb. 9: 14; "How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without Spot to God purge your conscience from dead works to serve the

living God." Our guilty conscience is cleansed by the blood. When you are in God's will He will cleanse you from every unworthy motive. Our hearts are deceptive. Sometimes, in the heart is greed for money, or love for power; sometimes, you are troubled by your lustful desires, or by hatred or enmity. To do God's will, you must be freed from all these things by His blood. So, say by faith, "Lord take away from my heart every unworthy and un healthy thought, which is against Thy nature and character."

(6) **Make you perfect in every good work to do His will** be governed completely by God's will. There are some people who want to find God's will about their marriage, and after much prayer, they find it. But they will not gather together to find God's will about the arrangement for the marriage. They want a grand and worldly function. Only for the choice of bride or bridegroom they want God's will, but after wards they want to be like worldly people. You have got to be controlled in every matter, not only in one thing but in all things. Refuse to take any step without being sure of God's will, and that will make you perfect in every good work, for He will work "in you that which is well pleasing in His sight".

(7) **Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.** That is our seventh evidence of God's will. His name should be highly magnified through the matter for which we seek God's will. Can you say from the heart, "I want Thy name to be magnified in this matter"?

You must learn to apply these seven tests day by day. Then your ear will become very sensitive. Some of you have motor cars. Those who drive by experience, when they hear a strange sound, stop, and check up the engine and repair what is wrong and are thus saved from many losses. But new drivers go on driving till the car is ruined. Do not wait till that time. Keep your ears sensitive, and when you hear a strange sound, stop.

You have seen here (a) the necessity (b) the importance, and (c) the value of finding God's will. But remember again, if you are not born again, you will never be able to find God's will, even though you pray for many months. It is a divine privilege to receive divine life, and by that life, we hear the divine Voice. Have you received that gift of everlasting life? Before God, you are dead and completely deaf spiritually. The gift of everlasting life cannot be received in an impure heart. It is a most pure gift given freely, but you need a pure heart to receive it, and no human effort can purify your heart, because man's heart is defiled and corrupt. The Lord Jesus Christ undertakes both to cleanse you by His blood from every defilement, and to forgive you. Will you call upon Him: "Oh Lord, forgive me, be merciful unto me and cleanse me, and pour Thy power and life into my spirit. Speak with me also. Teach me Thy laws, and keep me in the way everlasting." It is a wonderful gift and a wonderful experience, and then you will hear the Voice of God day by day, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it. Do not go to the right side or the left"; and you will be conscious of God's hand holding your hand, and tarrying you triumphantly through every suffering and trial. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God are the Sons of God." Amen.

7. Spiritual Understanding

The Book of Revelation is a book that we should read again and again upon our knees. Then and then alone we shall be able to get the right word or message from this book. Its main purpose is not to give us information about the coming days, but that our Lord wants us to learn how to live an Overcoming life, and thus be qualified to inherit all things, for every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is being

prepared for a great, rich, heavenly and spiritual inheritance, "an inheritance incorruptible reserved in heaven" I Peter 1:4.

Those of you, who have a right to some portion of your family property, know how to fight for it, when somebody else in your family wants to have more than you. Even though you may be willing to let that small portion go, your wife will not agree. Perhaps you may say, "It is my brother who wants it,—let him take that small portion." But your wife will say: "Don't be a fool. You've got your children. Go, and claim your portion". There are many who have fought for their family portion for many years, and have spent more money on the court-case than the worth of the land!

Spiritually you have only to claim your inheritance and be ready for it. In Rev. 21:7 we read, "...Shall inherit all things." What a privilege! Our loving Lord wants us to inherit all things of the new creation. The old creation will pass away, but the new creation will never pass away. In that new creation, God wants us to have our portion, which is only possible as we learn how to overcome.

That is the main message of the Book of Revelation, How to overcome! This is repeated nine times in the Book of Revelation: Begin to read the Bible by faith yourself, and He will reveal to you how to overcome. To begin with, we require a strong, active, living faith. "This is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith." God has to use many means to put into us such a strong active faith. I Pet. 1:7, "The trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." Gold will never become bright with soap and water. It has to go through refining fires. So for a tried faith, we must be willing to go through many refining fires.

And may be, during these days, the Lord is taking some of you through refining fire. Don't think God is punishing you. If you are truly born again, God's Word says you are free from every condemnation (Rom. 8: 1). All your sins are buried, forgotten and removed, because they are washed away. Now our Lord wants to give us a strong faith by taking us through refining fires. For that purpose, we have to go through sufferings. In spite of our desire to suffer joyfully, we are bound to be discouraged. We are going to see something happen in our life, our home, our country and around us, which is going to puzzle and confound. You may say, "Lord, why did it happen in my case or my family? Or in my country?" None of us can understand everything upon the earth. Many unexpected things can take place in our lives. Our friends may fail us, our parents may fail us, our plans may be broken, our health can fail, and we may find ourselves alone for a period, without a single person to sympathize with us. Even though many have been blessed through our ministry, yet they may also turn away. Such things are bound to discourage.

At such a time we require a new glimpse of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, for our individual life, our family life and our church life. At such a time our Lord Jesus Christ gave John the Apostle a fresh vision of Himself. He Himself became his wisdom in his old age. No angel came to take him out of the jail. In the case of Peter, the angel came. In the case of Paul the earthquake came and shook the jail. But John was a prisoner in his old age, in a very lonely place, hearing that many have lost their lives, that many have gone astray like Demas; and naturally all this sad news would make him sad and discouraged. But the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to John the Apostle to answer his questions and to let him know the secret of God's purposes. We are living in the end-days, and must be prepared for the signs of the

end-days. Don't be surprised. These things must happen. Be ready and be prepared to face them.

In the first chapter of Revelation the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to John the Apostle as the ever lasting High Priest, who cannot fail, and whose intercessory ministry goes on day and night. Heb. 7:23-27. He is our everlasting High Priest. He is perfect and complete. He did not require any sacrifice for Himself. Whatsoever He did, He did for our sakes and we are complete in Him. We are not complete in ourselves, by our own activity, and by faith take into us His life as our life, and welcome Him as our living Saviour, and as our High Priest.

In the Old Testament if any body did any sin of any kind, he could go to the High Priest with a sacrifice, and the priest would offer that sacrifice on his behalf that the Lord might forgive his sin. He had to confess his sin, and then offer the sacrifice. Even so, men were not free from their sins.

Now, however, our Lord Jesus Christ has become our everlasting, heavenly High Priest, constantly interceding and pleading that we may be forgiven and restored. He is able to save us to the uttermost. John the Apostle saw Him wearing a long, beautiful white robe. He did not appear with a crown, though He is King of kings, but as the ever lasting High Priest. The apostle was wondering about those who had gone astray, and those who had lost their lives for the sake of the Gospel, and the Lord gave the answer: It is not merely by rebuking and teaching them that they will be restored, but by the constant intercessory prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those who are truly born again, even though they may fall into some horrible sin, and remain in sin for some time, will find the Holy Spirit striving with them constantly in their hearts. This may go on for a number of years, but the Lord will not leave them till they come back to Him. He will not pull them by their hair or ears, but He will pull them by His prayer. Many backsliding believers have been restored after many years of backsliding. Their friends and fellow believers may have given up hopes of their restoration, saying, "There is no hope for such a person; he has fallen so low." Believers thus may forsake other believers, but our Lord Jesus Christ will never forsake them.

In a sanatorium, there was a patient whose heart was very hardened, and who would never listen when anyone spoke about God. One old lady used to go to the sanatorium for Gospel work once a month, but that man would never listen to what she said. Even though she gave him many things, he paid no attention. The lady had a small girl of about ten years of age. One night in the family prayer, the lady did not mention the name of that man. The small girl said, 'Mother; you have forgotten to pray for that man in the sanatorium.' She said, "There is no hope for him, so there is no need to pray for him. I have given him up." And the little girl said, "Has the Lord Jesus Christ also given him up?" The mother could not answer that question. The small girl went to sleep, but the mother could not sleep. She began to pray, "Lord, forgive me, forgive me", and soon she had a new burden of prayer for that man. The next day, she went back to the same sanatorium to see him. A neighbouring woman said, "I will also come with you", and took her small daughter with her. The little girl saw some flowers on the way, and plucked them. When they came into the sanatorium, the small girl went forward and offered the flowers to the sick man. The man began to weep. "Why are you weeping?" they asked him, He said, "Some years ago, I also had a small girl like this. I was very fond of her. At that time, I used to love God, and honour God. Suddenly that small girl died. I could not understand why the God of Love should take away my child like

this. From that day onwards, I lost all interest in the things of God and the Bible. That is why I did not like to hear from your lips about God, and that He is the God of Love. Why did He take away my child," The lady said to him, "I remember some time ago you told me that your wife was not a very good woman. You told me that she was living a sinful life." "Yes, I did," he said. "Then," she said, "suppose your daughter was alive, she would also have been ruined by your wife. To save her from the horrible life, the Lord took her away." He said, "I never thought of that!" From that day he repented and turned back to God. Unknown to him, the Lord had been striving in intercession on his behalf. Many believers backslide in the same way. They doubt God and His grace, but the Lord Jesus Christ will not leave them. He is constantly interceding on their behalf.

Are you in this condition? Your heavenly High Priest is constantly interceding for you. He will not leave you. You will become more and more miserable till you come back to Him. Come back to your Saviour now! You may have backslidden for two years or forty years. He is constantly praying for you that you may come back to Him.

In that vision in Rev. 1:14 our Lord Jesus Christ was seen with beautiful white hair. In Dan. 7:9, we read, "The hair of His head was like the pure wool". There He was called the Ancient of days, and the white hair speaks of His eternal wisdom. John was trying to understand those problems by human wisdom, and got puzzled. When, however, we receive by faith the wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, then whatsoever may be the situation, we will easily get the answer. With the help of divine wisdom, we can answer all questions. Psalm 119:99-100. "I have more understanding than all my teachers. You may be a wise man but that will not help you to solve your problems. Yet by reading God's word and receiving God's wisdom, you will find day by day your questions being wonderfully answered. What a privilege! Things that have been hidden from wise and great men, and even from prophets, are now being revealed to us, because the Lord Himself is my wisdom, and that wisdom is received by faith. Do not depend upon your own wisdom for these matters. Day by day, ask God to give you His wisdom as in James 1: 5, "If any lack wisdom let him ask of God".

One day a man came to me and said, "I have thirty-five questions. Will you answer them?" I said, "That requires a lot of time. Wait a while till I call you. Put your questions on a piece of paper, and keep it with you". After three days I had some time, and called him and said, "Please bring your paper". He said, "I do not want any questions to be answered." "What has happened?" I asked. He said, "As you spoke in the meetings, the Lord answered my questions. I have torn up the paper, as now I have no question to be answered." He was born again and was baptized. It is only God's Word that can answer your question. We do not use the Word of God sufficiently. We go here and there and get no answer,—to aunts and uncles but not to God. Call upon Him for help, with confidence, claim Him as your divine wisdom, and you will find that He will answer every question, provided you go by faith and perseveringly.

All the features of the Lord Jesus Christ (in Rev. 1: 14) have a message for you and for me. We require at least seven hours to study them, taking one hour for each feature. The Lord will become more precious and real as you see Him in His glory.

John the Apostle was made to see the eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ. "His eyes were as a flame of fire" (Rev. 1: 14). The eyes speak of different things. With the help of the eyes we see. John was thinking that the Lord was not seeing these

things, but the Lord could see everything (Zech: 4.10). "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro." His eyes will be upon us provided our heart is perfect toward Him, and we love Him without motive.

Some parents try to win the love of their children, by giving them cakes and apples and other nice things. When the children grow older, their love often depends upon the parent's money and the things they give. In the same way the wives show more love to their husbands in the 1st week of the month, because they know that within a few days they will get their salary, so they are very sweet! Once the salary is given, the love grows less! Such is human nature. Let us love our Lord however with a perfect heart and sincerely. Then He will work on your behalf. He knows your heart's thought and need and He goes on moving that way. His eyes are like a flame of fire. You have to look into His eyes.

Sometimes, when guests come into your house, you want to give them tea or coffee, and tell your wife, "Bring coffee for so and so". But there is nothing in the house, and your wife cannot say openly: "We have nothing in the house!", so she stands in the door and talks with her eyes. Our Lord says, "I want to speak with you. Look at my eyes. I will tell you what is in my heart." As you turn around, you find eyes like a burning flame, and the fire must burn out sin. If there is any defilement or sin, we dare not look at Him. We will look the other way. But if you keep your heart pure, you can look at Him. You will find love in His eyes, when your eyes meet His eyes, and what words cannot say, the eyes can say.

A very wealthy man had one glass eye. One day a small boy looked at his face. He said to Him, "Now child, tell me which is my natural eye, and which is my glass eye." So, the boy pointed to the glass eye. He said, "How do you know?" "Because there is no love there" he answered. The Lord is saying, "My children look at my eyes. Then you will know how much I love you". Do not look at the situation or trouble around you. Look at His eyes constantly. Then you will know how great and powerful His love is for you. For a purpose He has to chastise you, punish you and rebuke you (Heb. 12 6). "When the Lord loveth He chasteneth." In the midst of trouble, look at His eyes; you will never doubt His love. Ask Him: "Lord, give me eyes to see thy beauty and thy glory!" and you will find that a new glimpse of the Lord Jesus Christ will solve all your problems.

8. Living in the Sunshine of His Presence

Do not be concerned about information contained in booklets, but be concerned to have a desire in your hearts to truly live an overcoming life, and to inherit all things of God. The seventh verse of Revelation 21 sums up the mystery of the whole book. It has been the desire of God from the very beginning of the creation that man should inherit all things. When He made the first man Adam, He gave him dominion, authority and power over the whole creation. He gave to Adam, birds, fishes and beasts as a birthday gift. Most parents love to give their children birth day gifts, even though it may be only a small thing. And God gave to Adam the whole creation as a birthday gift. He gave him power and authority over the whole creation, but because of disobedience, Adam lost that privilege. But God is eternal, and His purposes also are eternal. Whatsoever he desired and proposed for man will not change. That loss was recovered fully by the Lord Jesus Christ, and to put the devil to shame, we are going to receive much more than Adam lost. That is the mystery you will know when the eternal life begins to flow into you freely and abundantly.

Then we are reminded in I Cor. 2: 9, "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for

them that love Him". We can never understand these things by our human wisdom or thinking or Bible knowledge; but when you know the love of the Lord Jesus Christ increasing in a greater measure, then these things will also be understood. The devil was trying to rob God's people of their spiritual inheritance. That is why you have to be very careful and take firm hold of all that the Lord has given you. Mark 13: 37, "What I say unto you I say unto all! Watch." Watch, and do not allow the enemy to rob you of your spiritual, heavenly inheritance. The enemy cannot take away the gift of eternal life from you. But, he has the power to prevent you from enjoying your spiritual inheritance. The weapon which he uses most often is spiritual blindness, which seems to be the strongest weapon the devil uses during the end days—even spiritual darkness. He uses all kinds of rituals, ceremonies and traditions to bring that blindness into men's lives, from which we have to be freed. The apostle Paul says in Romans 8: 14, "For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the Sons of God". We have to have a very clear understanding of our salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have to be kept constantly under the Headship, Lordship and Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ, governed and controlled by Him and His Law at every moment. The Lord says in John 15: 5 (last fragment), "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit!"

After my conversion, I found in my heart a great hunger for the Word of God, and I began to spend many hours a day upon my knees with the Bible. With out any struggle the Lord freed me, from all the pleasures and attractions of the world, but still I was conscious that there was something lacking in my spiritual life. So, I began to pray secretly, "Lord, give me that life in fullness". It went on for many months, but one night I heard the Voice of God asking me, "Tell me, how were all your sins forgiven". I said, "Lord, I believed that I was the greatest sinner living, and that your blood was shed for me and that you forgave me". Then the same voice said to me, "Now believe that you are the weakest person living, and you will have My power". These words became my experience. The Lord said, "Without me ye can do nothing". I realized then how completely I was depending upon the Lord for everything; for every word to be spoken, every thought, everything to be done and planned. I had to go to Him, even for the smallest thing. That's how the Lord became real and precious and true to me. I knew then that He is all powerful, and that that power is for me. We have to keep our eyes constantly upon the Lord, our highly exalted, glorious and loving Saviour. Our overcoming life depends upon that and not upon Bible knowledge, long prayers, fasting, or other qualifications. When our Lord becomes real to us, He takes charge of everything.

When the Gospel was being preached during the early clays, for a period, the Lord performed many miracles, Acts 6 7, Acts 12: 24, Acts 13: 49, Acts 16: 3 and Acts 19: 20. It went on thus for about six years. Then came a sudden decline. Many were scattered, and many of God's servants and believers were put in prison and bound. Many lost their first love like Demas. Paul had to say, "Have you forsaken me?" That is why the apostle John was puzzled, depressed, and dejected for a short time. When we are born again, we do not become supernatural beings or angels. We remain ordinary human beings. There are times and days, when we are full of discouragement and confusion, and even down-hearted. But for a believer, it is only for a short time. By going to the Lord over and over again, we find our burdens lifted; that's why when you are discouraged, depressed and downcast, go upon your knees and remain upon your knees, even if you fall asleep. There is no harm in that! If you remain on your knees don't worry if you go to sleep. Be on your knees till your burden is lifted. By faith you can roll all the burdens on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

On the isle of Patmos our Lord appeared in a new vision to John the apostle. His eyes were in the wrong direction. If anybody comes to see you, they will come from the front and not from the back; man can make mistakes, but our Lord cannot make mistakes. John turned round, and then he saw the Lord. He had been looking in the wrong direction. The Lord said, "If you want to see Me, look in the right direction; turn right round and look at me fully. Then all your burdens will be lifted, and all your questions will be fully answered." You try it yourself, saying, "Lord, I have come to Thee to get a fresh glimpse of Your beauty and presence. I have no other request, problems, difficult questions or need. I want only to see You in a complete way." Then you will find your whole life full of joy and gladness, and you will find yourself saying, "Am I upon the earth or heaven?" You will find your self in high places. You will see all things in a new way.

All the features of the Lord Jesus Christ have a spiritual meaning. Res. 1: 16. "His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength." Now many names are given to the Lord Jesus Christ in the Word of God! as "Sun of Righteousness" in Mal. 4 : 2, and Matt. 17 : 2, "His face did shine as the sun". How many blessings we receive from the sun! As a matter of fact, all that we receive from the earth depends upon the sun. Without the sun there will be no rain, for, because of the rays of the sun, the water evaporates and is turned into clouds. In the same way, the growth of the trees, all depend upon the sunshine. The leaves are so green, because a substance called chlorophyll absorbs the sunshine and the trees grow and the fruit ripens. In this country there is plenty of sunshine, but we do not know its value. There are countries where they do not see the sunshine for many, many weeks. And if they happen to have a sunny day, it is a day of happiness. Even those who are miserable look happy on that day and you find crowds going here and there, because of the sunshine.

The doctors say that every germ of every disease can be killed by sunshine. There are hospitals in Switzerland, where many diseases are cured by sun shine. No pill, no injection, no medicine. The sun is allowed to shine upon the patient at different angles at different times. God's Word says that "the Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in His wings". Let that Sun shine upon you and you will find all diseases being cured automatically; your spiritual diseases can be cured by the Lord Jesus Christ, by spending sufficient time upon your knees every morning, mid-day and night in His presence. Very few believers spend enough time in God's presence. Their quiet time is formality or habit. They do not spend the time with real joy in His presence. Many people are too full of fear to spend long hours in prayer.

Many years ago two of us went out for open air preaching. We walked miles that day, to give the gospel from house to house and from street to street. In the evening both of us knelt down to pray before sleeping. I was on one side and the other man on the other side. It so happened that I was very tired that evening. I finished my prayer in a few minutes. I turned round and looked at the man on the other side. He was still on his knees. I said to myself, "What will that man think if I lie down?" So, again I began to pray. But I was very tired and sleepy and again I turned round after some time. He was still praying. The third time I looked and he got up. Then I felt happy. I could sleep now. That was compulsory prayer! There must be a longing and a joy to be in God's presence. Psalm 16: 1 says, "In thy presence is fullness of joy and at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore". You will not get such joy anywhere else, not even in the company of your most beloved friends or relations. Have you learned the secret of enjoying yourself in the presence of God, and of feeling the sunshine of His face entering into your being, refreshing you and healing you and giving you peace? Just as the sunshine makes

the tree to grow, and bring forth fruit, in the same way, you will find the sunshine of His face will make your joy multiply and bring forth fruit.

Sometimes you may be a bit troubled about your wandering thoughts. You want to pray but your mind is disturbed. Your thoughts wander on your money. You go on counting so many things. You can't pray, but think about wearing a certain coloured sari tomorrow. There are thirty-five in the almirah you think—which shall I wear? Or may be your thoughts are upon what to cook for tomorrow: Shall we have 'Upama' or 'Iddly'? Such thoughts will be wandering here and there. That is how the prayer time is so often occupied. But do not give up, you have got to stay upon your knees. By faith, you can rebuke Satan. Say by faith, "Lord Jesus, I am being troubled by wandering thoughts. Will you help me now? Will you please bring my thoughts under captivity to Yourself?" Only He can do it! Nobody else can control your thoughts, but the Lord Jesus Christ can bend them and bring them into captivity. When you spend sufficient time upon your knees, and feel God's presence, you will be happier and better.

In cold countries people like to get warm by the sunshine. The whole body may be shivering, but with half-an-hour's sun shine, the body feels better and every bone in the body says, "My dear master, I thank you for bringing me into the sunshine." People long to be in the sunshine in those countries.

I remember many years ago, I went to a barber for a hair cut in Canada. In the Western countries, the barbers are very talkative. They do the cutting and at the same time talk. The barber said to me, 'What a miserable day! What a rotten day! What a cold day! What a bad day!' It was raining and it was a very very cold day. I said, "There is sunshine in my soul". He said, "You come from India". I said, "I am not talking about the sunshine of India. I have a new sunshine which keeps me warm and rejoicing every day." I have never once said, "It is a rotten day." Every day is a good day for me,—rainy, or sunny, or cold. As long as I feel my Lord's presence, to me it is a happy day. I find how from His face the sunshine goes into me, healing me and curing me of many germs many times. Evil thoughts are like germs. Most diseases are caused by germs of some kind. Even though you are careful yet somehow or the other they push through the food into your mouth. You may drink boiled water every day. You can wash your hands and feet with carbolic soap many times a day, and you avoid going to any filthy place, or eating food anywhere. Every fruit which you eat, you first wash with potassium permanganate. Even so these germs will find their way here and there, for they are very clever.

In the same way evil thoughts are like germs. You can shut your eyes and ears, but evil thoughts are still there. Only the sunshine of His face can kill these evil thoughts. That is why we have to remain on our knees in the presence of God, to be washed in His sunshine. And you say by faith, "Lord, these thoughts are troubling me. I cannot control them. Please control them". Thus you will get victory over your thoughts, and your prayer will be a delight and an inspiration. You can talk to the Lord as a friend to a friend; and you will feel healthy and fresh the whole day. And many will say that the light of God is shining upon your face.

Our Lord's face was shining as the sun on the Mount of Transfiguration. Whatever our Lord said to His disciples, before His death, had to be made clear on the mountain top. They were even told by our Lord, that He would suffer and be killed, and would rise again the third day, but they could not understand. Our Lord took them to the mountain top, and before them He was transfigured. They saw his face as the midday sun. And our Lord was saying, "My dear disciples, whatever I have told you, you could not understand then; till the light from My face comes into

you, you cannot." He let them see on that day, how that divine light could come into them. 2 Cor. 4 6, God has given us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. As you begin to spend more time on your knees in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, the light from His face will come into you, upon your face, and upon your path. You will begin to see yourself as God sees you. All your hidden weaknesses will be uncovered. The same light will give you wisdom for hidden mysteries, and you will find divine light shining on your path as you go here and there, and you will be saved from taking a wrong turning. Only in the dark night people stumble and fall into ditches. The divine light from His face will help us day by day to walk upon the right path, and we will be made to walk upon high places. With all our human limitations, we will enjoy His sunshine. He is the Sun of Righteousness shining with healing in His wings. Mal. 4 2.

Children take a long time to walk, at least nine months, and even then they can only crawl and do not go very far. The calf however walks in a very short time. How quickly it will start walking and running about. The Word of God says the Sun of Righteousness will make you like a calf to leap and run about. You will find new life and energy in you. You will tread down the wicked and they shall be as ashes under your feet. All your enemies will be confounded. All the enemy devices against you will be broken down. But for that purpose, you have to seek His face, and the secret is, to have sufficient time for your morning devotion, mid-day devotion and evening devotion regularly. Whether you read one or two verses or two or three chapters is a secondary thing. The main thing is to remain upon your knees. Till you feel His presence, go on saying, "Lord, I have no request or supplication of any kind, but I want to be in your presence. Let me look in Your heavenly sunshine; let me look at Your shining face." And the sunshine will come in.

Those who are not born again cannot feel the presence of God, even though they may wait upon their knees, for a whole month or a year. It is very necessary for you to be born again, and get your sins forgiven. Call upon the Lord. Today is the day of Salvation. The God of grace is willing to forgive you and to cover your sins and to welcome you. Then you can talk to Him and live in His sunshine. It is a wonderful experience to walk and live in the sunshine of His presence.