



“They are trees planted by streams of water; they bear fruit; their leaves do not wither; in all that they do they prosper.” Ps 1:3

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The Theme for 2011: Walk by the Spirit (Rom 8:4)

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Walk by the Spirit (Rom 8:4) The New MIPC Theme for 2011

The Theme for 2011 was formally launched during the Community's night vigil held on the 27th of January 2011. The first night vigil of the year is indeed an auspicious occasion and heeding the request of the Core Team, our Community's attendance was truly overwhelming.

Bro Godfrey took the first slot, introducing the new Theme. He left the Community in no doubt that we had 'collectively' fallen far short of the lofty requirements of last year's Theme.

He stressed that we all must stand convicted of seriously failing to "Live in the Spirit" and that we all need to do some serious soul-searching to identify the root causes for our failure.

Bro. Henry then took over in the spirit of complementing Bro Godfrey's sharing. Here's the essence of his teaching:

Let's start by taking our cue from **Matt 25**, where the Master narrated 3 parables, relating to the Kingdom of Heaven. Here's the first: *“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps,* , , , and we know the rest of the parable. The wise went for the wedding, well prepared; they carried their lamps, the trimmer, extra oil, all precautions were taken to ensure that they did not miss the wedding feast; their journey might not have been very comfortable, unlike the 5 foolish maidens, who adopted an over-casual approach towards such an important wedding. **This is comparable to our approach, in living the theme.** At the 11th hour, the foolish ones depended on the 5 diligent and wiser maidens to provide them with oil, so that, they too could participate in the wedding feast. **Are we like these foolish and lazy maidens, waking at the 11th hour and desperate for help, without doing our part; are we relying on others to pray for us.** We know the rest of the parable and what happened to the foolish maidens,,,,,,,,,,,,,

We read in Verse 11(*Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*)

The 2nd parable talks about talents, (Ver. 25-26) some have 5, some 2 and some just one – there is none with NO talent. The scripture says, God gave talents to each, according to their “ability”. It does not matter, how many talents we have, all it matters is how we use our God-given talent(s). **Is the parable talking about me? Am I making use of the talents given me by God? If I do not use my talent, I will most definitely lose my talent!**

The 3rd parable (Ver. 31-40) speaks about God judging us according to our deeds of charity. This is our call and reminder to live the theme **“Walk by the Spirit”**

The very fact the theme is being repeated is because we failed to live last year's theme. There is no room to take our God-given theme lightly. We are reminded about St: Paul. When he tried giving Jesus to the Jews they refused to receive Him. Paul then turned to the gentiles who readily accepted Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit. Are we behaving like those Jews? A theme was offered to us and we refused to accept to live it. God, in His magnanimity, is providing us another

chance, this time to **walk by the Spirit of God**. We need to make a decision, the choice is before us!

We are also reminded about blind Bartimaeus, who was so desperate to attract the attention of the Master that he screamed his lungs out, without holding back anything. Even when people opposed his approach, he cried all the more, knowing this was his only chance to meet the Master. His earnest cry caused the Master to stop and rearrange His schedule. When Jesus speaks, the wind and waves stop; the demons stop; the awesome forces of nature stop. Here we see how the sincere cry of a simple blind man causes our Master **to stop in His tracks**. When Jesus stops, everything around Him stops; and this is the effect of a sincere cry.

Father God, teach me to be like this blind man, who was blind only in his eyes, but who was able to see spiritually and perceive what was about to happen in his life. Please remove all my Spiritual blindness and help me to cry out to you Master, you who are my only hope, to help me live the theme for 2011. This is not only my desire, but a sincere prayer to you.

In order to understand the theme “Walk by the Spirit” **Rom 8:4** It is necessary that we go through **Rom 7:14-25** Here we see St. Paul, speaking as though he had a split personality, as though 2 men were living inside one skin – pulling in different directions; haunted with 2 different thoughts and desires within. It is not possible to place 2 legs in 2 different boats, we have to decide urgently, otherwise time will decide for us. The famous Roman poet OVID wrote, “I SEE BETTER THINGS AND I APPROVE THEM, BUT I FOLLOW THE WORSE” St. Peter also went through this problem, he said, Master, even if everybody deserts you, I will not! St Paul knew his problem, but did not have a solution on his own. In Rom 7:24 he cries out, “*Who will deliver me from this body of death?*” His answer comes in Rom 7:25 “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Rom 8:1 assures us “Therefore there is no condemnation for **those who are in Christ Jesus**. The key words are, “**Those who are in Christ Jesus.**”

Keeping the above in mind it becomes quite clear that we cannot walk by the Spirit, **without first being delivered from this body of death.**

We can work out our own strategy to live the theme effectively. Pray and decide today – plan and execute. Once we make the choice, God will surely supply His

strength to help us live the theme. I am sure we will all agree that we are quite good and meticulous in drawing up plans for various occasions and we implement them with such precision, no matter what the occasion is.

All of us have time for various things; remember the parable of the Talents? God is providing us with time, if we don't use our time (and talents) appropriately, we will lose them.

Losing our time is a very serious thing. Let us pause and think for a while, "*What if all my time is taken away*"? If we do not find time, **we will have to make time.** If we want to, we can make time. Let us decide and start implementing our theme immediately. We need to keep a record of how we are progressing. Let it not be a one day emotional affair.

We cannot afford to waste our time. In all fairness to ourselves, we should give God a chance to work in us.

In Him, we are more than conquerors.

Henry Sanjivi

MIPC 29th Anniversary Celebrations

The Mary Immaculate Praise Community (MIPC) of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Ruwi, celebrated the completion of 29 glorious years of 'Walking with the Holy Spirit' at the Annual Day 2011 Celebrations on Friday, 11th February 2011.

The evening started at 5.30 p.m. with High Mass, celebrated by His Lordship, The Most Reverend Bishop Paul Hinder, followed by a spiritual & cultural fellowship at the Parish Hall, culminating with a delicious family meal.

The MIPC has successfully translated the gentle and subtle, yet irresistible urgings of the Holy Spirit into dynamic reality, year after year. This year, however, there is a very special emphasis on living each day in full communion with the Word of God, as embodied in our theme and Mission, "Walk by the Spirit".

The Holy Mass was very well arranged and in his homily, His Lordship laid much

emphasis on the need for us to abide by the Word of God in our daily lives. The Mass was wonderfully enriched by the angelic music of our MIPC Choir as well as by the well-attended Offertory procession, where MIPC members offered their tributes to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving.

After the Mass in the Church, the venue shifted to the Church Hall where Brother Freddie D'Souza took over as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. With his excellent repartee and humor, and dozens of spot prizes, he kept the audience engaged and on the edge of their seats, throughout the program.

Fr Christudas from Ghala was the guest of honor and His Lordship Bishop Paul Hinder also joined in the celebrations a little later.

In their addresses, they shared on the importance of being Charismatic and how we should apply it in our day to day lives. They congratulated the MIPC on being the Mother Prayer Group for all the Charismatic groups in Oman.

He also informed us about the launch of the Oman National Service Team in the coming days.

The Bishop took everyone by surprise by starting an impromptu Q and A session, and although the audience was unprepared, it turned out to be a very lively and useful interaction with His Lordship, because he expanded on many topics of great importance and common interest like vocations, the need to encourage our youth, how to conduct the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, etc.

MIPC Servant Leader, Brother Eugene Das, thanked both speakers for their kind words and for gracing this important occasion with their presence on this auspicious day.

Then it was time for the cultural show which kicked off with a couple of great action songs by the little ones, followed by a presentation by the MIPC Youth group on the need for unity among Christians from different corners of the globe.

This was followed by a superbly choreographed dance performance by the teens and lastly the piece de resistance; a short but extremely well put-together skit by the MIPC adult members – which really had the audience in splits at the theatrics of the cast, and the Devil's antics in particular!

The program ended with a sumptuous buffet meal, catered by Tawoos and all went home with full stomachs and happy hearts.

Kudos to the sponsors, the organisers, the participants, the back-stage crew, and the Service Ministry all of whose contributions and support were truly invaluable in ensuring that everyone present had a memorable and fantastic time.

Daniel Sequeira

Why There Is Adversity In Our Lives

We often wonder why there is suffering. The common question asked is: Why does a good God allow so much pain and suffering? Why is it that good people have to face so many difficulties? The only acceptable answer is that Jesus taught us through His own life, that suffering is the stepping stone to victory; that there can be no crown without the **Cross**

The Book of Judges gives us an insight into why God lets unpleasant experiences enter our lives. God had promised the Israelites that a land flowing with milk and honey would be theirs. He used Joshua to defeat the enemies of the Israelites as they marched into the Promised Land. However the Israelites were not able to completely subdue their enemies. Was it because the Lord was powerless to defeat all of Israel's enemies? Defeating all the enemies of Israel would have been child's play for a God who parted the Red Sea for his chosen people. Yet He left some of Israel's enemies alive to oppose them. Why? Judges chapter 2: 21-23 and chapter 3:1&2 give us the answer.

Judges 2:21-23 –“ I will no longer drive out any of the nations that were still in the land when Joshua died. I will use them to find out whether or not these Israelites will follow my ways as their ancestors did. So the Lord allowed those nations to remain in the land; he did not give Joshua victory over them, nor did HE drive them out soon after Joshua's death.”

So the Lord left some of their enemies alive to see if the people would be faithful to Him in times of trial. Would they still follow His commandments and laws or turn to the false gods of their neighbours?

We know how the Lord allowed the devil to test Job's faithfulness. For we know it is easy to follow the way of the Lord and be faithful when things are going well, but trials and adversity test the true mettle of a person.

Judges 3: 1& 2 – “So then the Lord left some nations in the land to test the Israelites who had no experience of wars in Canaan. He did this only in order to teach successive generations of Israelites about war, especially those who had never been in battle before.”

Here the word of God says that He kept some of their enemies to teach the new generation the experience of war. What is this experience of war? Did the Lord intend to teach them how to wield a sword or to use bow, arrows and spears? The Lord definitely didn't need any of these to win a battle. What then did He want to teach them about war? What He wanted to teach them was to TRUST IN HIM in the midst of all their trials.

The previous generation had seen the mighty hand of the Lord at work when He fought their battles and defeated their enemies without a single arrow being shot. But here was a new generation that didn't experience the Lord and His works first-hand. Judges 2:10, says, ‘Moreover that whole generation had died, and another generation grew up after them who did not know the Lord or the work that He had done for Israel.’

So the Lord had to start the teaching process all over again. He was teaching them to conquer their enemies on the strength of His mighty arm and not on the strength of their armies or weapon. Through the book of Exodus, Judges, Kings and Chronicles we come across a people who overcame their enemies just by trusting in the Lord and calling upon His name.,

“In all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us,” – Romans 8:37. How can we know that we are conquerors if we have not conquered (gained victory over) our problems by calling on the name of Jesus? And how can we gain victory over our problems if our life is all smooth sailing with no problems?

It is only when we have had the experience of going through difficulties, sickness, poverty and come through unscathed, by the power of Christ, that we can say with the confidence and conviction of St. Paul, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”- Phil 4:13. Then we know that no storm or flood will overwhelm us, for we are convinced that our Father is King over the storm. And it is then that we can hear our Father's still small voice say to us in the midst of our deepest anguish, “Be still and know that I am God.”- Psalms 46:10. This is what Moses told the Israelites when they were faced with the Pharaoh on one side and the sea on the other. Exodus 14:13&14- “Do not be afraid, stand firm and see the deliverance that

the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still.”

“Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass..... it’s about learning to dance in the rain”- Vivian Greene. When we realise the truth that my Father is in control of every situation of my life and that nothing happens until He allows it in His love, then we learn to trust in Him and dance through the storm, for then we know that the battle in His not ours. So let’s take every trial that comes our way and turn it to our advantage and learn to lean on the Lord and trust in Him for this is what He wants to teach us through our trials. Be assured God is in Control.

Josena Verghese

A Testimony Of Double Blessings

We Praise and Thank Our Lord as he has done wonderful things in our life. I would like to give a testimony and honour Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I had a vitiligo (skin problem) in March 2009 and visited many doctors seeking treatment. The white patches were visible on the right side of my face. I visited a Skin Specialist, Homeopathy Doctor and also an Ayurvedic doctor. The Skin Specialist advised me to take steroid injections to stop new patches. I declined. I approached a Homeopathy doctor and started treatment in April 2009; however, there was no improvement. Another Skin specialist suggested steroids and external medications on the white patches.

My wife Jessie and I were not sure what to do next. Jessie tried hard to comfort me. When she was alone at home she used to cry a lot.

My sisters saw these patches and were surprised. They suggested that we should attend the Pentecost Novena. On Friday, 29th May 2009 we attended the MIPC Pentecost prayer. After the meeting we felt the Lord’s peace in our hearts. All our fear disappeared as our Lord Jesus Christ strongly touched our hearts. There was the healing word Seminar conducted by Dr. D. Jayanand of Bangalore which we decided to attend.

I remember that Dr. D. Jayanand had a slogan on his leaflet which says “Every Disappointment is an appointment with God”. Indeed our disappointment brought us closer to God. We trusted in our Lord Jesus and kept our Hopes high. After this

event we started attending the MIPC meetings regularly. We learned many new things in the MIPC– How to Praise God and how to Thank God at all times – in good times and bad times. Our trust in our Lord increased day by day.

In October 2009 we met one of our friends who had a similar skin problem in the past. I truly believe that God made this meeting possible. He advised me to apply garlic (Moroccan treatment) over the patches every day and we started this treatment also. With God's grace the treatment was successful. Within 9 months of joining MIPC Group, I was cured completely internally and externally. The internal medicine cleared the disease from the root and the external medicine cleared the white patches. All Praises to Our Lord Jesus Christ. This was our Second Blessing (my physical healing).

Our first blessing was for my wife Jessie. She was having sleep problems. It started 3 years before my skin problems. When I started developing my skin problem she forgot about herself and started worrying about me. Jessie has a thyroid problem. She saw a TV Program about yoga treatment for thyroid problems and started doing yoga. Within 3 months of practicing yoga, she started having sleep problem. We approached many doctors, even Psychiatric Specialists and Homeopathy Doctors. This went on for years, but when I developed Vitiligo we turned to God because of my problem, attended MIPC meetings & Dr. D. Jayanand's healing retreat. When we attended Dr. D. Jayanand's healing session we were confident she was cured. With faith in Our Lord, she decided to stop the tablets the same day and by God's grace she had a peaceful sleep. Praise the Lord. Our Lord blessed us with double healing on the same day. When there seems to be no way for us, God made a way for us.

We thank our Almighty Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ and Our Holy Spirit for our healings and accepting us. I also thank my family and Jessie's family for praying for us. We thank our MIPC core members and Intercessory Group especially Brother Manuel who prayed for me during intercessory prayer and also came to our house along with Brother Xavier and Sister Blessy to pray over us. Last but not least, our heart-felt thanks to all the members of the MIPC for keeping us in their prayers. It is indeed lovely and proud to be part of the MIPC Family for the glory of Our God.

Bernard & Jessie Fernandes

Situations Vacant

1. Female qualified Staff Nurse (need not be license holder) to take care of an elderly lady. Contact: **Doctor on 92754806** between 9 AM to 1 PM.

2. Qualified Civil Engineers and Quantity Surveyors with minimum 7-8 years Gulf experience in Road Construction and Civil Works.

Fax CV to 24595130 or email: hrdept_prefer@yahoo.com

Smile Awhile

In Sunday school, the children were learning about how God created everything, including people. One little boy was especially interested in the part where God created Eve out of Adam's rib. Later that week, his mother saw him lying on the sofa, looking ill. "What's the matter?" she asked. He replied, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife!!"

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The children were learning about the Ten Commandments.

Teacher: "The 5th Commandment shows how we should treat our Parents. It says; Honor thy father and thy mother. Does anyone know a commandment which shows you how to treat your brothers and sisters?" "Yah," says little Johnny, "Thou shalt not kill!"

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A little old man stood by the grave of his wife who had just been buried. The service just barely finished, when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance. The little old man looked at the preacher and whispered, "Well, it sure sounds like she's there!"

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Catechism teacher: "Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus with them to Jerusalem?"

"Little Johnny: "Cause they couldn't find a babysitter."

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A father said to his daughter, "Your young man approached me and asked for your hand and I consented."

"But father," cried the daughter, "I don't wish to leave mother."

"No problem, child," the father said. "You can certainly take your mother along with you."

Our Greatest Need

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an *educator*.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a *scientist*.

If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an *economist*.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an *entertainer*.

But our greatest need was *forgiveness*,
so God sent us a *Saviour*.

-Roy Lessin (from Dayspring Blessings)

Bible Quiz #48

Name the place where the following incidents took place.

1. Jesus heals the man possessed with a legion of Demons and where the demons come out of the man and enters a herd of swine.
2. Mary anointed Jesus feet with costly perfume.
3. Peter brings the dead Tabitha to life
4. Paul heals a man crippled from birth
5. The successor of Judas, Mathias was chosen by the 11 Apostles

Answers to Bible Quiz #47

1. Mathew, Mark, Luke & John
2. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy
3. Revelation
4. 3 Wise men from East.
5. Cain & Abel
6. Angel Gabriel. To a town in Galilee called Nazareth.
7. Jesus was 30 years old when he began his work.
8. Bethlehem

Winners Of Bible Quiz #47

*Pearl Luiza Fernandes (10) Relina Vas (11) Yohan Yesudas Chettiar (10)
Crescida Rina Fernandes (13) Ruwena Gomes (13)*

A Day With The Lord

On Friday, 12th November 2010, the MIPC organized a “Day with the Lord” for the youth of our parish, Sts. Peter and Paul, Ruwi. The guest speaker was Brother Victor Pereira from Mumbai who had come to address a week-long seminar for the parishioners.

Bro Vic. was a light-hearted pastor with a catchy sense of humor and his presence was a boon to the youth gathered that day. He addressed the currently prevalent teenage issues of peer pressure and offered counseling and viable solutions to the same, which made him all the more compatible with the youth. He explained to them the 3 types of youth - firstly, the confused (who are unsure of what they want from life); secondly, those living in deception (those who choose to believe whatever they do is right); and lastly, those of wasted potential (those who lack combinations of talent and character). Bro Vic. emphasized on the fact that every choice has a consequence, and gave an insight into his own teenage life to support the same. He also explained his law of success (the 3Ds) i.e. Desire + Direction = Destination.

He addressed the issues of problem children in today’s society – those who create problems wherever they go; and those who are emotionally sensitive. He then preached about the concept of Living Water in the parable of the Samaritan woman. He reminded the youth about God’s unfailing love and mercy as in Jn. 14:6 and Jer. 31:3 (...I have always loved you, and so I continue to show you my constant love). Bro Vic. also got the youth to interact in groups and reflect upon and discuss what they had learnt; as an ice breaker. After inspiring videos on the Passion of Christ, and on God’s unconditional love and sacrifice, the MIPC music ministry got the youth involved in peppy action songs of praise and worship.

The “Day with the Lord” ended with Bro Vic. stressing on the need to involve oneself in a prayer group, and a healing session, where all the youth were blessed by senior MIPC members, and were left feeling spiritually awakened. As a youth of the parish, I personally believe that more such programs should be conducted to

enable the youth to come to the fore and to enhance their spiritual maturity.

Kudos to Brother Victor and the MIPC!!!

Melanie P. D'Souza

God And The Geese

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays. His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy Eve, his wife was taking their children to service in the farm community in which they lived. They were to talk about Jesus' birth. She asked him to come, but he refused. "That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

The winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. Then he heard a loud thump. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them, and they moved further away. He went into the house and came with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread crumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on. Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe.

"Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?"

He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms, as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese. He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn - and one-by-one, the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!" Suddenly it all made sense.

That is what God had done. We were like the geese--blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished with the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer:

"Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm!"

By Rowland Croucher

The Secret Of Being A Wise Man

The first people to come and see Jesus when He was born were the shepherds. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and gave them the tidings of great joy. The glory of God surrounded them and they saw a heavenly host praising God. These shepherds came with haste to see Jesus, but it is sad to observe, that unlike the wise men, they gave absolutely nothing to Jesus. The Bible does not also say that they bowed before Him or worshipped Him.

The wise men came to see Jesus from a faraway land that itself was a sacrifice. And when they saw the child Jesus, they 'fell down and worshipped him' and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matt 2:11)

The shepherds did not offer anything to Jesus and were not called wise men. However, the ones who came and worshipped Jesus and offered their treasures to him are called wise. Today too, many come to Jesus like the shepherds to receive some blessings they cannot be called wise men. But those who give their treasure to Jesus and worship him are indeed wise men. Note that while those who gave gifts to Jesus are called wise men, the rich man who kept everything to himself is called a fool! (Lk 12:20)

Presenting gold, frankincense and myrrh shows offering spirit, soul and body to Jesus. Gold, frankincense and myrrh also signify acknowledging Christ as king (gold), priest (frankincense) and prophet (myrrh). After the wise men worshipped Jesus offering Him their spirit, soul and body and acknowledging him as their king, priest and prophet, they did not have to meet Herod or obey him any more although he had demanded it (Matt 2:8:12). Once we accept Christ as our All-in-all, Herod or Satan has no authority over us we are free from his power.

Those who worship Jesus giving Him their all are still wise men. Have we given our all to our Master? Are all our treasures laid up before Him? If not this is the best time to surrender our everything and make Jesus the sovereign ruler and king of our lives.

Sourced From Morning Manna and Submitted by Josena Varghese

If I Had The Gift Of Faith

If I had the gift of faith, I can proclaim that Jesus died for our sins and was resurrected by God without any doubt and I can firmly believe in the RESURRECTION of Christ.

According to Christianity, faith requires a belief in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The truth of the resurrection is substantiated in several ways. 1 Cor 15:14-17, says, "Had Christ not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is our faith. More than that, we are lying about God raising Christ..... and if Christ is not raised, then your faith is an delusion".

All of us exercise our faith when we accept Jesus as our saviour. We recognize that we are saved by grace through faith, by entrusting our lives to Jesus Christ. As Christians we all share a common faith in our saviour, and in his promises to deliver us from eternal punishment. I believe that the gift of faith is something unique.

If you're far from God in life, you'll be so in death, too!

When it is hard to have faith, I just pray to God and ask him for the right answer and He does respond if you put your faith completely in God. There are times when I get impatient with God, when God's timing doesn't match with my timings. I misdirect my faith into my own ability to get things done.

When I pull back from faith and internalize it, I demonstrate a lack of faith. When faced with this struggle, I look to some examples of uncommon faith, and there are many. One such is 'Job was a man of uncommon faith. He lost everything near and dear to him and was afflicted with sores, yet he resisted the promptings to curse God. This man, who is the poster child for, "why bad things happened to good people" maintained his faith in God. Considering the circumstances, his faith was undecidedly uncommon.

This uncommon faith is not restrained by doubts. Doubts crop up when we allow human thoughts and weakness to diminish the divine power of God. In Mark 11:23-24, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, go throw yourself into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart but believes what he says will happen, it will be done".

Keeping these verses in my heart and using this faith I can conquer each and everything small or big. I believe that this uncommon faith is a charisma. It involves a total surrender of one's own will and selfish desires. It places all faith in God, rather than on men. It is this faith that opens to me miraculous works and healings.

Sheldon Pinto (16)



***MIPC Prayer Meeting: Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.
General Intercessory Meeting: Last Monday of every month at 8:00 pm.
Community Mass: Every Friday at 9.00 a.m. except the last Friday of the month.***