



“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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Authority and Submission

Today’s world talks about doing whatever you like, doing your own thing, breaking the rules – Just look at some of those ads on T.V. The Lord tells us just the opposite **to Respect and Honour Authority and the people in authority. Definition of Authority - The power to give orders and make others obey.**

- A person or group with official power, official permission.
- A trusted expert, one to whom we must listen and obey.

Definition of Submission - To be obedient to the one in authority.

Rom.13:1 “Everyone is to obey the governing authorities because there is no authority except from God and so

whatever authorities exist have been appointed by God. So anyone who disobeys an authority is rebelling against God’s ordinance.”

Col 3:20 “Children, be obedient to your parents always because that is what pleased the Lord”.

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and give way to them, they watch over your souls.”

God wants us to submit to the people in authority in our life. They are our parents, teachers, people who are kept in charge, prefects, captains, employers, bosses, etc.

The price of disobedience or rebellion is very high and God views it very seriously (Rom.13:2). The very first sin committed by man was the sin of disobedience. **Gen 1:28 “Be masters of the fish, the birds and all living creatures, to you I give all the seed bearing plants and all the trees with seed bearing fruits”**. When man was in communion with God, he had dominion over all the earth but when he disobeyed God and obeyed satan instead, he lost his authority over the earth. He gave his authority over to satan. This is why satan is called the ruler of the world.

Instead of the blessings, he was now under the curse. Gen.3:17 “Accursed be the soil because of you. Painfully will you get your food from it as long as you live. He lost harmony with nature and the living creatures.

1Sam 15:22-23 “Truly obedience is better than sacrifices. Rebellion is a sin of sorcery, presumption a crime of idolatry”. Rebellion/disobedience is a sin of sorcery, **presumption** (to be bold enough to do something you should not have) a crime of idolatry.

We will look at a story from the Word of God of a man Saul who disobeyed and lost everything (1 Sam)

1 Sam16:14 “Now the spirit of Yahweh had withdrawn from Saul and an evil spirit afflicted him with terrors. It was only when David played the harp that he was comforted and the evil spirit would leave him.....”

Deut.11:1 “You must love Yahweh your God and keep his observances, his laws and his customs, his commandments.”

Initially when we disobey and get away with it, we think we will not be found out and the devil lets us believe this; but as we continue to repeat those sins we get caught in a trap and the devil is happy to see us fall/destroyed (eg. boy – party – bike – accident).

Eph.6:1 “Children, be obedient to your parents in the Lord, that is what uprightness demands. The first commandment that has a promise attached to it is Honour your **Father and Mother** and the promise is, “so that you may

have long life & prosper in the land". Obedience is the only command which has a promise attached to it. Honour your Father and Mother so that you may have long life and prosper in the land.

When we obey we have to die to our self. It is that point when our will crosses with the will of God and we have to choose. When we put God first, we sacrifice; but this is pleasing to God and he sees our sacrifice. He blesses our obedience.

CONDITIONS:

- 1) When we obey we must do it with our will, not because we are forced.
- 2) Have the right attitude – do not sulk or whine about it, mock behind the back.
- 3) Respect authority, do not speak critical words, and mock your teachers & bosses.
- 4) Ask forgiveness if we have been disobedient and make a decision to obey.
- 5) Surrender difficult relationships to God; ask him for the grace to obey your parents, bosses and supervisors.
- 6) Our parents discipline us because they love us (Prov.13:24) When you first give your children whatever they ask, you do not show true love. You do this to temporarily keep them quiet or to take away our guilt feelings. (Prov.13:24 “Whoever fails to use the stick hates the child; whoever is free with his correction loves him”).

Heb.12:11 “Any discipline is at the time a matter of grief not joy but later in those who have undergone it, it bears fruit in peace and uprightness“.

When we are able to submit, God will put us in places of authority.

Carmen Fernandes

Never Give Up

One day I decided to quit. I quit my job, my relationship, my spirituality. I even wanted to quit my life. So I went to the woods to have one last talk with God. "God", I asked, "can you give me one good reason not to quit?" His answer surprised me.

"Look around you", He said, "Look at that fern and that bamboo. When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The fern grew quickly from the soil. Its brilliant green covered the earth. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But, I did

not quit on the bamboo. Next year the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But, I did not quit on the bamboo. In the third and fourth year too there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I still would not quit.

Then, in the fifth year, a tiny sprout emerged from the earth. Compared to the fern it was so small and insignificant. But in just six months the bamboo rose to over one hundred feet tall. It had spent five years growing roots. Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive. I would never give any of my creations a challenge too big to handle."

Then He added, "Do you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots? I never quit on the bamboo. I will never quit on you. Don't compare yourself with others," He said. "The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern. Yet they both make the forest beautiful. Your time will come" God said to me, "You will rise high in due time".

"How high would I rise?" I asked." How high will the bamboo rise?" He asked in return. "As high as it can?" I questioned. "Yes", He said. "Give me glory by rising as high as you can".

I left the forest and brought back this story. I hope that these words can help you see that God will NEVER give up on you. Never ever give up on God!
(*Author Unknown*)

Submitted by Libby Gomes

A man grows tall when he takes the lowly place;
he grows strong when he seeks the quiet place;
he grows great when he takes the servant's place.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.

I Pet 5:6

The man who lives for God is not in a sprint, but in a long distance race. He does not look for the things that will bring instant gratification, but he has his eye upon eternal goals.

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
Phil3:14

(From Roy Lessin, Moments of Strength for Men)

Sacrament of the Season

As the Lenten season takes its course, one important sacrament goes yet again inconspicuous. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not just a medium of receiving God's forgiveness and divine justice for our sinful escapades but is also a characteristic devotion specific to the season of Lent.

If we are moved to ask God's forgiveness during this season, then I'm sure it probably seems that this Sacrament is highly effective in reassuring ourselves that God is always ready to settle our moral offences to Him and His children. Psalm 32 is a wonderfully irrefutable proof of this. Unmistakably enough, we cannot be at peace till we have met the Risen Lord. As St. Nicholas of Flüe rightly asserted,—"Peace always comes from God as God is peace that cannot be destroyed. So try and keep the peace." And so we needn't worry, as the most prominent sacrament of this season ensures just this-God has provided us, those seeking spiritual guidance and those in need of forgiveness; with this tool of redemption. Penance is just another lesson that we learn in this school of repentance!

I shall remain pertinent to this issue as it is a constant reminder of our commitment to the Christian value of self-redemption; after all, Jesus Christ is our Redeemer. So why do we need to go for confession? A couple of reasons may be examined. First, it helps those feeling weak and inadequate lighten their burden of worldly sin. Secondly, it is a source of temporary solace and self-comfort to all Christian sinners. Most importantly, it helps us experience the Easter joy of receiving forgiveness. It is thus a 2-way concept of clearing one's conscience as well as making peace with God. As one teen opinionated, confession does help clarify both the human and divine aspects of repentance.

Yet sadly, this is something still impalpable to the Catholic youngsters of today. They fail to understand the role of a priest in the whole sacrament. But as we know, the priest is an indispensable part of this Sacrament. As all catechists teach, the priest is in place of Christ and therefore acts as a mediator between us and God-i.e. he completes the Holy Trinity. He brings a spiritual

understanding of the sin that no other adult can probably offer. He is a valuable instrument of spiritual advice, absolution and blessing.

Thus, to root out the intolerable casualness and hesitation posed by Christian teens today, when it comes to confession; regular confession is the key. Hence, this being the only way to successfully and completely attain inner peace and relieve ourselves from the burden of sin, I strongly urge you all to enforce the duty of repentance in your lives and prepare for Easter joy by making confession a habit.

“O Lord, I now admit my guilt,
And I accept your grace,
Transform my life and help me grow
Until I see your face”-

Hess ~Scripture watch~-

1 John 1:9-“But if we confess our sins to GOD, he will keep his promise do what is right, he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all wrongdoing.”

Melanie P. D’Souza

If the Lord has you on hold... hold on!

If the Lord has said "NO" to you... thank Him!

If the Lord is molding your heart and mind... go with His change!

If the Lord opens doors that you have asked Him to open... Praise Him!

Be blessed wherever you are in your life today! God has His hands on the situation!

A Testimony

My husband has worked in Oman for the past 15 years. He was healthy with no health issues. On 19th June 2010 he complained of a severe head ache and giddiness. He was admitted in the Royal Hospital. A CT scan showed he had a Cerebral Infection and also a swelling in his brain.

He went into a Coma. The Doctors gave him only 48 hours to live! He was shifted to the Khoula Hospital ICU. This was one of the most traumatic moments of my life. I didn't know what to do, but kept one thing in my mind, that God is there with me. I asked everybody to pray for God's miracle. Prayer requests were sent to MIPC, Ghala Church, Divine Center Potta, etc. I can say throughout the world.

After 15 days he opened his eyes but he was not able to breathe properly. His condition kept deteriorating and on 19th July he was given the Sacrament of The Anointing of the sick by Fr. Albert. We believed God would heal him through this powerful Sacrament. These were most difficult days but I kept hearing a voice telling me that my husband will be fine; just have faith in the Lord.

I read Ps. 91 daily, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and said the holy rosary. St. Anthony our patron saint. I told my children that we all have to pray for St. Anthony's intercession so Dada would recover soon. I also told them that God never refuses children's prayers.

On 20th July, I called the ICU and told the nurse it was my husband's birthday. She called back and told me that when she wished him, she discovered he was fully conscious! I ran to the picture of St. Anthony and prayed that my husband would soon be fully restored to health. We rushed to the ICU. To our delight my husband was conscious and looking at us. We were so happy that no words could express it. We started praising The Lord. It was his birthday gift from God.

He was recovering but still not able to breathe and so was on the ventilator. On 29th July I attended the MIPC Night Vigil and prayed that he should be able to breathe on his own. The next day our prayer was answered. The Ventilator was removed and he was able to breathe by himself. He was finally out of danger and at last, after 1½ months, he was released from the ICU.

My husband was unable to move except for his right hand finger. The physiotherapist said it could take up to 6 months for him to regain use of his limbs. Brother Albert, who had been informed by one of the MIPC members, would come regularly and pray over my husband. Within a month, miraculously, my husband was able to sit and stand and even the physiotherapist was shocked.

We shifted him to Goa on a wheel chair. My neighbour, who was attending the Divine Retreat Center, carried my prayer request for my husband's healing. He said, "During the retreat they announced that a person from abroad is being healed. God is touching this person." After one month my husband was able to walk by himself and by end of November he walked two kilometers alone. Praise The Lord!

We now prayed that he would be able to return to Oman as he had lost his job. We sent in his fitness certificate in Dec 2010. In Feb. a company manager visited my husband in Goa to check on his recovery. On 13th Feb 2011 we received the wonderful news that my husband was to be reinstated. He returned to Oman and resumed work on 26th Feb. Praise the Lord!

This miraculous cure brought about many transformations in my own life. My negative feelings and insecurity left me when I experienced the loving support, kindness and comfort of strangers. I learned to forgive others. I stopped drinking beer. My faith has increased. We started family prayers and the whole family have started reading the holy Bible. I joined the MIPC and a Family Cell and attend meetings regularly.

God Bless!

Cinthia Dias Juliao

God Always Answers Prayers

When the idea is not right God says, "NO"

No – When the idea is not the best.

No – When the idea is absolutely wrong.

No – When though it may help you it could create problems for someone else.

When the time is not right, God says, "Slow."

What a catastrophe it would be if God answered every prayer at the snap of your fingers. Do you know what would happen? God would become your servant, not your master.

Suddenly, God would be working for you instead of you working for God. Remember: God's delays are not God's denials. God's timing is perfect. Patience is what we need in prayer.

When you are not right, God says "Grow."

- The selfish person has to grow in unselfishness.
- The fearful person must grow courageous.
- The timid person must grow in confidence.
- The dominating person must grow in sensitivity.
- The critical person must grow in tolerance.
- The negative person must grow in positive attitudes.
- The pleasure-seeking person must grow in compassion for suffering people.

When everything is all right, God says. "GO."

- Then miracles start to happen:
- A hopeless alcoholic is set free!
- A drug addict finds release!
- A doubter becomes as a child in his belief.
- Diseased tissue responds to treatment, and healing begins.
- The door to your dream suddenly swings open and there stands God saying, "GO!"***

Dr. Robert Schuller

<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE PROOF</u>
Impossible	All things are possible	(Lk 18:27)
I'm so tired	I will give you rest	(Mt 11:28-30)
Nobody loves me	I love you	(Jn 3:16 & Jn 3:34)
I haven't the courage	My grace is sufficient	(2 Cor 12:9 & Ps 91:15)
I'm lost	I will direct your steps	(Prov 3:5-6)
I can't do it	You can do all things	(Phil 4:13)
It's not worth it	I will make it worthwhile	(Rom 8:28)
I can't forgive myself	I Forgive you	(I Jn 1:9 & Rom 8:1)
I can't manage	I will supply all your needs	(Phil 4:19)
I'm so worried	Cast all your cares on me	(I Pet 5:7)
I'm not smart enough	I will give you wisdom	(I Cor 1:30)
I'm so lonely	I will never leave you	(Heb 13:5)
There's just no way out	I will make a way	(Prov 4:2)

Submitted by Ethel Fernandes

Smile Awhile

We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.

Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

You don't need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice!

Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

“Did that crate of chickens reach you safely?” asked the farmer.

“Well, yes,” replied the poulterer, but you didn't pack them properly and after searching the neighbourhood I only found twelve.”

“Umph, you did all right, I only sent eight.”

Daughter: Mama why did you marry dad?

Mama: Have you begun to wonder too?

Two women were driving in the country one day when they stopped beside an old castle that was little more than a pile of ruins.

One of them suggested taking a photograph.

“OK,” said the other. “But don’t get the car in the picture or my husband will think I’ve been reversing again.”

Revelation

Which (Church) Category do I belong to??

CHURCH/ Category	AGAINST/ PROBLEM	CHANGE/ TO DO	To those who win the victory/ BLESSINGS
Ephesus	You do not love me as you did at first	Turn from your sins.	I will give you the right to eat the fruit of life that grows in the Garden of God
Smyrna	The devil will put you to test by having some of you thrown into prison.	Be faithful to me even if it means death.	I will give life as your prize. You will not be hurt by the second death.
Pergamum	Some among you practice sexual immorality	Turn from your sins or I will come and fight against those people with the sword that comes out of my mouth.	I will give them manna and also a white stone on which is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.
Thyatira	You tolerate that evil woman Jezebel. She misleads my servants into sexual immorality.	Unless she and her followers repent: she will suffer terribly. All will be repaid as per what they did.	Those who continue to the end to do what I want, I will give the same authority that I received from my Father:

Faith ends where worry begins. Worry ends where faith begins.

Sardis	I know you have the reputation of being alive even though you are dead, so wake up. What you have done is not yet perfect in God's sight.	Remember what you were taught, and turn from your sins.	I will not remove their names fm the book of the living. In the presence of my Father and his angels I will declare openly that they belong to me
Philadelphia	As for those liars who claim that they are Jews but are not, I will make them come and bow down at your feet, they will all know that I love u	I am coming, keep safe what you have so that no one robs you of your victory prize.	I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from my God, I will also write on him my new name.
Laodicea	I know you are neither cold nor hot. Because you are lukewarm, I am going to spit you out of my mouth. You do not know how miserable you are! You are poor, naked and blind	I rebuke and punish all whom I love. I stand at the door and knock. if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house.	I will give the right to sit beside me on the throne, just as I have been victorious and now sit by my Father on his throne.

Libby gomes

Live by The Spirit

God the Holy Spirit helps the whole church to grow. Together we try to follow Jesus' examples and lead lives of holiness. The Holy Spirit helps and supports us. The Holy Spirit is with us always. The Holy Spirit helps us to listen to our conscience and to make good choices. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to follow God's law and live as Jesus did. We receive these gifts in a special way in the sacrament of Confirmation. The gift of knowledge help us to know more about God and his love for us. Through this gift of knowledge I can spread the good news of Jesus Christ to people living all around me. By this gift of knowledge I can change my life. Knowledge gives me the courage to speak about Jesus; helps me to love God, know God and act according to God's teaching and helps us to lead happy life. Knowledge prevents us from keeping anger, hatred and jealousy. Knowledge makes me understand what is right and wrong. It gives me courage to correct others when they misuse their knowledge. When we apply the gift of knowledge we become children of God. Knowledge gives me wisdom as well as understanding. It gives us a new life.

Andrea Carol Noronha (11)

Bible Quiz #50 & The Book of Joshua Challenge

The entire Community has been reading the Book of Joshua for more than 5 months. Let's see how much we remember! This **Book of Joshua Challenge** is open only to MIPC Adults, Youth and Children.

Rules to qualify for the Joshua Challenge Championship Award:

- 1. All MIPC members are requested to take this Quiz and submit your answers. There is no need to write your name on your answer sheet if you don't wish to. Submit your answers to the Core Team.**
- 2. If you wish to participate in the Challenge Championship Award then you must write your full name and date clearly on your answer sheet. If you are a youth please also write your age. Submit your answers to the Core Team.**
- 3. You must answer all the questions by yourself. If you do not know the answer skip to the next question.**

4. **This is a closed book Quiz/Challenge. You must not refer to your bibles or the internet or ask anyone else.**
5. **Once you begin the Quiz you must answer all the questions at one attempt (one sitting) within 15 minutes maximum. (Please get someone to time you or time yourself accurately)**
6. **You have to stop after the 15 minutes are up.**
7. **The Challenge Award closing date is 10th July. Answers after this date will not qualify for the Challenge Award.**
8. **The Challenge can also be answered On-line at our MIPC website <http://mipcmuscat.org>.**
9. **Please tell members who are away on holiday so they can participate.**
10. **PLEASE BE HONEST!!**

The top scorer will win a PRIZE!! Winners will be mentioned in Oasis July-August edition and on the new MIPC website!

Joshua Championship Challenge:

1. Whom did Joshua succeed as leader of Israel?
2. What was the name of Joshua's father?
3. To what city did Joshua send two men to spy upon?
4. What was the name of the woman who hid the spies Joshua sent?
5. At what town did God stop the waters of the Jordan as the Israelites crossed over on dry land?
6. How many stones did the Israelites take from the dry river bed of the Jordan?
7. Once the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, what happened in the days after they had celebrated the Passover?
8. What did the captain of the Lord's host command Joshua to do?
9. How many priests were chosen to carry the rams' horns as they marched round Jericho?
10. What was the name of the man who violated God's command not to plunder anything from Jericho?
11. What signal did Joshua give for the army waiting in ambush behind Ai to attack?
12. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making a covenant of peace, but as what did he make them serve the Israelites?
13. What natural phenomenon helped Joshua defeat the Amorites?
14. What was the only tribe not to receive an inheritance?

15. How old was Caleb (one of the original 12 spies) when he was given Hebron as his inheritance?
16. What tribe was given a portion of Judah as their inheritance?
17. What was the last tribe to be apportioned their inheritance of land?
18. What city was given to Joshua as his inheritance?
19. For what sin were the cities of refuge created?
20. What did the tribes east of the Jordan do to incur the wrath of those to the west?

Answers To Bible Quiz #49

1. Because Rahab hid the 2 spies earlier and made them promise to spare her family.
2. A robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold.
3. 7 days in all 4. Achan 5. A silken red cord.

Answers To Lent Quiz

- 1) *Ash Wednesday*
- 2) *Palm Sunday*
- 3) *Because Sundays are not included*
- 4) *St. Joseph's Feast*
- 5) *By burning palms used during previous Palm Sunday*
- 6) *Maundy Thursday*
- 7) *Stations of the Cross* 8) *Easter*

Winners of the Bible Quiz and the Lent Quiz:

Samantha Pinto (12) Sneha Sequeira (11)

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Dr. Robert Schuller

***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.***