



“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 2015: “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord” Jer.17:7

CONTENTS

- ❖ *Send Forth Your Spirit & We Shall Be Renewed*
- ❖ *Restoration & New Life In Jesus – Living The Easter Spirit*
- ❖ *A Personal Testimony*
- ❖ *Testimony*
- ❖ *Let The River Flow*
- ❖ *Quiz On The Holy Spirit*

SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT & WE SHALL BE RENEWED

THE PENTECOST highlights the importance of the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and in the life of each individual of the faithful. The Holy Spirit transformed the disciples, from frightened people in hiding to courageous preachers in the open. The gifts and talents in the individual members of the Church are all given by the Holy Spirit for the good of the whole Church.

The call to holiness is a life long journey. Jesus said “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and let the one who believes in me drink. And out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.” (*Jn 7:37–39*). This is the Lord’s promise to us. We are offered the fullness of life yet we struggle. We want freedom, yet we are afraid to let go. We long for the power of God, yet we

are reluctant to surrender control to Him. This has been our struggle from the beginning of time. **The Bible tells us to walk by the Spirit and in doing so; we will not gratify the desires of the flesh.** The victory comes when we **walk** taking one step at a time in obedience moment by moment.

Jude 1:20 says, “Beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith and praying at all times to the Holy Spirit”. When we don’t know how to pray in our weakness, the Holy Spirit of God leads us to pray. So rather than delay, we need to yield to the sensing of the Spirit as soon as we sense it. When we are praying in the Holy Spirit, we can know for sure that our prayers are reaching the throne of God and they will be answered. **We need to ask the Holy Spirit to be involved in everything we do.** He is the Helper and He is waiting for us to ask him. He is also called the Comforter, Sanctifier, Consoler and our Advocate, who pleads our cause before God. (*Jn 14:16, 26; 15:26 and 16:7*). If we walk with Him on life’s journey, we will never be defeated.

From my own experience, there was a time when I used to find it difficult to pray. I think a more appropriate way to say it is – whenever I find it difficult to pray and get into the presence of God, besides singing Praise Songs and praying audibly, I pray in the Holy Spirit (in tongues) again, audibly. This no doubt helps me focus on what I am praying and interspersing it with confessing verses of the Word of God, makes it all the more effective, helping me to remember to pray for those who have asked for prayer, as also those whom I sense need prayer. In this way, *Eph 6:18* can be fulfilled: “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all God’s people.”

Brothers and sisters, today more than ever, we need to be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led people. We live in a broken world and every day the Lord will send our way, opportunities to love people... in our homes, our work place, in our parish... If we are not tuned to the Holy Spirit and sensitive to HIS promptings, we will miss these opportunities to be witnesses for JESUS. **PRAYER IS OUR LIFE-LINE** with the Holy Spirit. There was no one busier than JESUS. But HE always found time to connect with HIS

FATHER and that's where HIS POWER came from. What about us....?

Do we want to be people of POWER?

Then we should not let a single day go by without Prayer and reading the WORD. This will guarantee VICTORY.....because this will enable us to WALK IN LOVE and be the Lord's instruments, overcoming sin, being filled with boldness and wisdom..... for the Lord has said, **“I have not given you a spirit of fear but spirit of love, power and sound mind”**. When we are depending on the Holy SPIRIT WE WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS AND MORE THAN CONQUERORS... making every storm and challenge of life an opportunity for growth.

I would like to end with this beautiful story.....

There is a story told of a sea captain who in his retirement skippered a boat taking day-trippers to the island. On one trip, the boat was full of young people. They laughed at the old captain when they saw him say a prayer before sailing out because the day was fine and the sea, calm. However, they weren't long at sea when a storm suddenly blew up. The boat began to roll and pitch violently. The terrified passengers came to the captain and asked him to join them in prayer. But he replied “I say my prayers when it is calm and when it is rough, I attend to my ship.”

Here is a lesson for us... if we cannot see God in the quiet moments of our life, we are not likely to find Him when trouble strikes; we are more likely to panic. But if we have learned to seek him and trust him in quiet moments, then most certainly we will find him when the going gets rough.

Let's not miss those quiet, Spirit-filled moments of seeking the Lord, for that will determine the quality of our Christian character.

- *Core Team Member*

RESTORATION & NEW LIFE IN JESUS LIVING THE EASTER SPIRIT

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live”. (*Deuteronomy 30:19*)

The Bible tells us - rather sets a command to us – “Choose Life”.

As I ponder upon the expression behind this command... if God had to audibly utter these words “**CHOOSE LIFE**” – I would picture him as commander of a vast army, preparing his men for battle; directing them which way to march - towards victory.

With the resurrection of Jesus, He proved once and for all that He won the battle over sin and death for us. He marched ahead, taking sin upon himself, being lashed and whipped, enduring all the shame in the midst of a crowd, making his way to Calvary, bearing the pain of the awful blows of nails in his hands and feet, giving up the very last drop of his energy and blood – like a warrior determined to win the victory, come what may. This was his mission and his reason – his one purpose. To overcome death so that He can restore eternal life to mankind. A life everlasting! This is also what we profess at every obligation mass in the creed. But often in the chores of life, we lose courage to make the decision to choose the life that Jesus purchased for us with his own blood. Is it that we are not aware of the truth? Is it that we do not know of the victorious life we can live with Jesus as our guide and commander of our life? Or is it that we knowingly ignore this fact?

We are called to choose life in various situations daily as we are challenged to do so by the Holy Gospels. The Gospels are full of instances where Jesus chose life over death. For instance on being tempted in the desert, Jesus ward off the devil’s temptation by speaking God’s word back to him saying, “**Get behind me Satan, you shall not put the Lord your God to the test**”. If Jesus had to fall to temptation, it would have meant death for all of us, wouldn’t it?

Again, when the woman caught in sin was brought to Jesus, He being the pure, spotless Lamb of God could have condemned her. Instead He chose to forgive her, challenging her to leave her life of sin and live for the Glory of God. In another instance, Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, even asked of his Father that the Cup of suffering be taken from him, but in retrospect affirmed that he placed his Father's will over his own.

In these and many, many other cases in the Gospel, God's Word calls us to imitate Jesus in choosing the path that leads to Life when we are faced with similar situations of temptation, occasions to show compassion and accept God's will...

Over time I realized, that the experiences we have faced influence and shape the way we perceive life and the choices we make. Our experiences of fear, rejection, temptation, deception etc. from the time we were conceived, slowly close the door on us inch by inch. We pass through school and university and after a while come to a crossroad, where we have no clue which way to go. Some might come to this crossroad earlier. The spirit within us wants to go ahead. But our negative experiences arising from wrong choices we have made, block us from going forward, that we find it impossible to break through and experience freedom and reach the potential God made us to achieve. Being bound in the negative environment and mindset, we tend to live a mediocre life as a result of these worldly choices unaware of the glorious life we are meant to live in Christ Jesus. But God in His mercy and grace brings us to himself through these experiences so that we might be convicted that the way of the world is not satisfying because the spirit within us is not at peace. Since we are made in the image and likeness of God himself, (*Gen 1:27*), our spirit will not find peace in the mediocre and worldly way of life. *Jer 6:16* says "This is what the LORD says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it'." If we are honest with ourselves, we will find this to be quite true. We have said at some point in our life, that we will not choose the way of the Lord because it is too boring. It is too rigid/firm. When we chose to not walk in His way, we chose death. We chose darkness. We have allowed the powers of

darkness to tie us up in chains. We chose to take a drink or may be three to relieve our troubles of the day instead of choosing to read his word and be comforted. Take heart brother. Take heart sister. No matter how low you might have fallen, the mercy of God reaches out to you. Jesus paid for your life with his blood no matter what you have done or where you have been. His grace is for all those who believe in him. You will notice there is a clause here which says – for ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM.

This tells us that we have a choice to make in the matter of Life over death in our daily living. Let us go back to the opening verse *Deut 30:19-20* “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.” We are told that it is up to us to make the choice. To make that decision to live in the victorious life that Jesus has called us to live.

But how can we live this life? How can we make that choice?

Indeed, He has given us the scripture that instructs us to hold fast to his Word – the Word of God. The numerous Psalms encourage us to be assured of God’s love and protection, his strength and the providence of his abundance. All that is required of us is to agree with his word and know that if God could raise Joseph from a slave to the governor of Egypt HE CAN DO IT FOR ME ALSO. If God could take David, an ordinary shepherd, and raise him to be the king of Israel – HE CAN DO IT FOR ME ALSO. The Lord has made provision through his resurrection, not only to heal our brokenness, but make us brand new people in Christ Jesus, so we have no excuse to blame our past for our present. We need to appropriate HIS VICTORY AND BE AN EASTER PEOPLE walking in His freedom by choosing life. By persevering in His word and soaking our energies in this rich hope of a victorious life with Jesus, will it not gain us also the fruits of it? Will we not partake in an abundant life, greater and richer than where we first began?

But it is up to you and me to make that choice and CHOOSE the path of life in the name of Jesus.

- *Belinda Pereira*

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Oh how good the Lord is, taste his love and you will thirst no more.

These words are indeed true for a young Hindu girl, who longed for a best friend. She wanted a friend, who would only to talk to her and tell her what to do ...what to study and what not. It was during her college days that she was invited for a huge prayer meeting where she met her best friend "Lord Jesus Christ". She was touched and healed. She was baptized in the Holy Spirit. She was so excited, she went home and told her dad "she had met God". Her father did not have any clue which God she was referring to.

The next day onwards, whenever she passed through the church, she saw a hand and heard an inner voice saying "catch my hand ...do not be afraid". This went on for a week. Finally on the 7th day, she said "ok, I give up" and held the Lord's hand. She was very eager to know about Jesus Christ. She would attend a small prayer meeting in her college. That is where she blossomed in Lord's knowledge.

Not a day passed, without spending time talking and listening to Jesus Christ. One day, she saw a vision, She saw the house was pitch dark, except for one lantern inside. She felt the Lord saying "all the members of the house will be saved." This is written in scripture **Acts 16:31:you and your household will be saved.** This gave her confidence to follow Christ. Then, one day she asked the Lord..." why did you pick me up from the rest". He answered **Jn 14: 16: I have sheep from other fold and will bring them and they will listen to my voice.** This girl did not have any knowledge of the Bible; God would speak to her through visions. He showed her the "charcoal of hot burning fire balls". After seeking advice from her mature Christian friend, she understood that it meant she had to choose between Jesus Christ and the other gods. She knew she had to make a choice and a decision. (*That vision was also a warning of what was to come next.*)

She decided to follow Christ without any compromise. She stopped

participating in Hindu rituals and refused having prasads. Her parents did not like it and the situation was very tense. Her parents felt her friends had brain-washed her. They even accused her of having a Christian boyfriend. She said she did not have any boyfriend “She loved only Jesus”. But, they failed to understand.

Finally, after her family members told her on several occasions to leave Christianity or her family, she left home with one dress and Rs. 100 in her bank account. Her friends sheltered her. The next day, her friends received a pile of clothes, which mostly fitted her, as though it was tailor-made for her size. This is providence. She took up a job and started living on her own as a PG. She decided to get baptized in the Catholic Church. The Lord prepared her heart to change her birth name. He changed her name from Laxmi to Sarah. And on Valentine’s Day, she signed the document for a change of name. After waiting for 10 years (i.e. from her first encounter of Lord Jesus) she got officially baptized in the Catholic Church. Then she returned home, this time she went home with two huge suitcases with a six figure bank balance.

After reaching home, her parents forced her to return to Hinduism. The marriage issue came up, but she refused. She wanted to get married to a Christian disciple. After a few years, God blessed her with a life partner who also loved the Lord. The Lord blessed them with a baby, Shalome, and this brought reconciliation in the family.

This is my story of 20 years walk with the Lord with several trials, 365 days for several years. But I am proud, because He handpicked me to be his jewel for his crown of glory.

I fell in love with Jesus my Lord, so much that living for Him became a passion, I was chased and tested for Him. I am proud to be Catholic. The only words I can describe my love relationship with Christ - that I still cannot stop falling in love with him...falling in love with him over and over again! Amen!

- *Sarah Sachin Paul*

TESTIMONY

PEACE OF CHRIST!

I want to begin by thanking and praising Our Lord Jesus Christ for all that He has done for me.

I was an acidity patient since the last four years and have been to various doctors and tests. The acidity was getting better when last September I developed a burning sensation in my stomach. Whatever I ate or drank, the burning would be there. It started worrying me. I saw a couple of doctors who gave me various antibiotics and antacids which gave temporary relief but the medication could not be missed even for a day.

With physical stress, mental stress also started developing. All day, thoughts like – what kind of burning this could be, do I have cancer, and all sorts of negative thoughts would fill me. I prayed but my heart confessed fear..and the battle went on...I was quite fed up of the struggle within me when one day I knelt and cried to the Lord with all my heart to help me. I was guided to attend the MIPC prayer meeting on 19th February after a break of two years, and two points in the prayer meeting struck me, one was when the preacher preached on complete faith, trust and surrender in the Lord and Ann’s testimony where Our Lord placed the adaptor for the piano on an important occasion, which could not be found by human searching.

My faith was restored a 100 fold and I told the Lord “If You could do it for Ann, You can definitely do it for me.” I also told the Lord “I too will give my testimony soon” and here I am...my burning sensation has gone..and I don’t get any more acidity attacks.....

SEE WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE....ALL PRAISE AND GLORY
AND THANKSGIVING TO OUR MIGHTY LORD
ALWAYS.....AMEN.

- *Reshma Desousa*

LET THE RIVER FLOW

One day, driving back home from office. I suddenly realized I had not drunk water the whole evening and my lips had grown dry and I was very thirsty. While thinking of water, one scripture came to my mind ***Jn 7:38*** “From the innermost being (belly) will flow rivers of living water”.

It made me think I am thirsty physically but what about my spiritual life - is the river of living water flowing in my life? A flowing river has force, power, it is life giving. It transforms those things that are around it, what about me, is there power in my life? Am I being transformed daily or there is stagnancy; do the people around me get transformed, if not why? Jesus said “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Holy Spirit. (***Jn 7:38-39***).

Is it because I am not going to Jesus everyday and drinking of him that rivers of living water are not flowing through me, or is it because I have kept my talents, my gifts under the lamp stand, hidden, rather than using it. What could I do so that, from my innermost being shall flow rivers of living water, maybe I need to repent for my failure to pray, for my failure to study the Word, for my failure to give time for his kingdom, maybe I need to cry out for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost, “Lord I don’t want my life to go on like this, I want to become a flowing river which gives life to those around it.”

“Lord, let this Pentecost bring in me a new fire, a new zeal and new love for You, for Your Word and your people, Let the river flow as never before” in Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

- *Louis Ryan*

QUIZ ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

As we are celebrating the feast of Pentecost on May 24th, let us meditate on some of the names or titles of the Holy Spirit.

Please list them from the following versus:

1. Matthew : 3:16
2. 2 Cor : 3:17
3. Rom : 8:9
4. 1 Peter : 4:14
5. 2 Cor: 3:3
6. John: 14:17
7. Rom :8:15
8. 2 Cor : 4: 13
9. Heb: 10:29
10. Gal : 3:14

eg: Rom 8:15 calls the Holy Spirit the " Spirit of adoption "

On a lighter note, below is a quiz question along with its answer that all our youth would love to quote...

Q. What Bible verse have children used as an excuse for not going to school?

A. "For in much wisdom is much vexation, and those who increase knowledge increase sorrow." (Ecclesiastes 1:18)

ALWAYS TRUST THE LORD

HE KNOWS YOU BY NAME

Isaiah 43:1

HE THINKS ABOUT YOU

Psalms 139:17

HE WILL FIGHT FOR YOU

Exodus 14:14

HE IS YOUR REFUGE

Psalms 62:6-8

HE HAS A PLAN FOR YOU

Jeremiah 29:11

HE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU

Matthew 28:20

PRAY THE 6.30 AM CALL



*MIPC Prayer Meeting: Every Thursday at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.
General Intercessory Meeting: Last Monday of every month at 8:00 pm.*