



DIOCESE OF TIRUNELVELI
BETHESDA C.S.I. TAMIL CHURCH
PUNE



GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

By JJ Christdoss (Bishop in Tirunelveli)

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, May grace and peace be multiplied to you by God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps" Psalm 85:10-13.

God promise from His word for this month:

"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted" Job 42:2

God is faithful and righteous and He rules over the entire universe. His kingdom abounds with truth and righteousness. Prophet Isaiah realized the kingship of God in the Temple (Is.6:1-3). This Year's promise is from the Book of Job and it is spoken by Job who is convinced of God's sovereignty and righteousness. The Lord has blessed us. The Sovereign Lord is in action in our own Diocese and He is giving us what is good and noble. Nothing that He wanted to do could be prevented. Likewise, nothing that He likes to perform in our own life, family, church and Diocese will be prevented. Let us hold on to our Lord with new hope, prayer and fellowship. May the almighty God make our lives prosperous!

New Life and Joy :

(Luke 19) Zacchaeus was hated by his own people. He lived without joy and peace. He climbed up a sycamore-fig tree curious to see Jesus. Jesus, who was passing by, stopped and asked him to come down because He wanted to stay in Zacchaeus' house. Zacchaeus obeyed and took Jesus to his house. The joy of Zacchaeus knew no bounds. Jesus wants to stay in our home during this New Year. Let us also invite Jesus like Zacchaeus and receive His joy. The words of others accusing him as a sinner led him to a new realization. He was craving for Jesus to come to his home. Hence he made a public confession saying he

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would give back four times the worth of anything received illegally. Jesus gave Zacchaeus a new life and joy filled his heart and home.

Jesus gave not only living water but also new life and joy to the Samaritan woman who came to fetch water. It became a perennial fountain within her (John 4).

Saul, educated at the feet of Gamaliel was running around to threaten and kill the disciples of the Lord. When he had an encounter with Jesus, it resulted in the end of his former life and joy and peace overflowed his heart. He was able to joyfully accept and bear agony, persecution and sufferings for the sake of Jesus (Acts 9)

Whether a rich or sinful or educated, the Lord grants joy and peace to all those who surrender their lives to Jesus. All that we long for in life is peace and joy. In this New Year, when we surrender our lives and our family to God's will and purpose, miracles will happen. Peace and joy will fill our hearts.

Any time, any day
Is praising time;
Sing Songs of Zion
From your heart and soul!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Let's sing aloud;
No more sorrow, no more tears,
Sing with joy!

May the Lord bless us!
In the Lord's ministry,

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STORY FOR THE MONTH

One boy who liked Christianity used to read the Bible and go to church to listen to the sermons. This was not liked by his parents. So his parents put him in a military school and later he joined military.

In military he came to a big position soon. Though he becomes a big officer he never left the servant who was with him from the beginning. They used to eat together and even he used to help him in his works also because that servant used to say that he should live a life like Jesus. The other officers used to laugh at this.

One day when he went out on a horse in the evening, he saw a beggar shivering on the way. He didn't have any blanket or bed sheet with him. So he removed his over coat and gave it to the beggar. The other friend who was with him laughed at him for his mercy.

At night while sleeping he saw a dream. In that dream he saw Jesus Christ was wearing that coat which he gave it to the beggar and sitting along with His angels in Heaven. He was surprised to see Jesus wearing his coat donated to the beggar. That time Jesus was telling His angels that, this coat was given to me by a military officer.

The military officer was astonished by that scene and got up and said everyone that Jesus accepted his coat which he did unknowingly. He told his parents who were against him to become a Christian about this incident and now he told them very boldly that he will become a Christian. He went to the near by church, took baptism and lived a true life of a Christian soldier till his end.

Dear children, read Mathews chapter 25. Though we may be born Christians but we should now and then analyze ourselves, whether we are really following the foot prints of our Lord Jesus Christ to be a good soldier for Christ Jesus.

MEMORY WORDS FOR THE MONTH

06/11/2011 I SAMUEL 17:45.

13/11/2011 PSALMS 41:1.

20/11/2011 MARK 13 : 35 .

27/11/2011 MALACHI 3 : 1(B).

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ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

What exactly is Faith?

No matter what you believe in, you will have to believe it by faith. Whether you believe there is a God or if you believe in the Big Bang, you will have to believe in it by faith because you cannot prove or disprove it; all you can do is accept it or deny it. And both arguments are just as valid. But, just because you don't believe something does not mean it does not exist.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Let's take God for example. If you have had a born again experience with God, and your spirit has connected with the Holy Spirit, you KNOW that God is real. That is why so many martyrs have died for their belief. That is faith. You have not seen God, you cannot prove that he exists, but by faith, you know that he does. This is what this scripture means.

Romans 10:17

Consequently faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Before I heard about Jesus I was an atheist. Then I read about Jesus. I could not believe it right away, but as I heard and read more, faith came and I believed. This is how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. The more we read the Word of God, the more he helps us understand it.

James 1:2-3

Consider it pure joy my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Many times when things just don't go right, our confidence sinks and so does our faith. We might pray, but not really expect to get an answer, we might be so focused on the problem that we can't see the solution, and the longer it drags on, the more disillusioned we get. It's hard to stay "up" when you are down, but then when the breakthrough comes, we rejoice. James says that is the testing of our faith. And the next time it is not as bad, because you know from experience that God will come through for you, he always has and always will.

Hebrews 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...

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Jesus first taught us about faith. Faith in him. If we believe in Jesus, we do so by faith. That is why he is the author of faith. As he works in our life and leads us through the trials and temptations of life, our faith grows. At first we are not so confident, but as our faith is tested and Jesus comes through for us over and over again, our faith grows more and more. He is indeed the perfecter of our faith. I remember when I was a new Christian and heard some of the things that other Christians believed God for, I couldn't believe it. That's because my faith was new, they had many experiences with God and could trust him for bigger things than I could at the time.

Matthew 17:20

...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain "Move from here to there" and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

I must admit I still have trouble with this scripture. I still don't have that kind of faith. It's not that I don't believe Jesus; it's just that I can't get it in my head. Yes, God has moved some "mountains" for me in my time, but I still need his help to do it.

James 2:14-17 & 26

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Faith cannot work if you just think about it. You also have to do something to show that you really do believe it is going to happen. Let me give you an example. I wanted to go into a trade show once, but when I called them they had no space available. I asked them to put me on the waiting list. Reluctantly they did but said it was very unlikely I could get in. I prayed about it, and told God that I really wanted to get into that trade show. Then I started making my booth and getting my displays ready. A few hours before the show opened, they called me and said they had found a place for me. If I had not been ready, I could not have done it, but by faith in God, I was and I Praised the Lord for what he did for me.

John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

If we read the accounts of what Jesus' disciples did after he was resurrected, they did what he was doing by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and teaching the people about

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God. Jesus says, it's not that you will be doing it, I will do whatever you ask me for, just ask in my name and I will do it for you.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

In Hebrews Chapter 11 we see the faith of Abraham, Noah, Issac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and other men of God. These examples show us how much they put their faith in God. If we don't have faith how can we please God. It's like saying, I don't really trust you. Faith is all we have. We cannot command God to do anything. We have to trust that God is who he said he is and that he will do what he said he will do. The test of faith is time. The more we experience God, the more we will have the confidence, or faith, to trust in him.

BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH

ANSWERS OF THE TWO, TWO FROM THE BIBLE:

1. GENESIS 19:24 .
2. GENESIS 25:28 .
3. GENESIS30:24,35:18 .
4. JOSHUA 2 : 1.
5. I KINGS 12 : 8.
6. II KINGS 2:9.
7. MATHEWS 5:18
8. LUKE 21:2 .
9. JOHN 11:1 .
10. REVOLUTION 11: 3 .

FIND THE PETTY THINGS USED FOR GREATER FROM THE BIBLE:

1. The Lord said to him "you shall strike the rock with **this** and water shall come out."
2. He found **this** and reached out and slew 1000 men.
3. He took **this** slung & struck him, he fell on his face to the earth.
4. Who despises **this** for the eyes of the lord run to and fro through out the earth?
5. The kingdom of heaven is like **this** which a man took & sowed in his field.
6. About 5000 had enough with **this** which was with a little boy.
7. God selected **this** and put the wise to shame and this to put strong to shame.
8. **This** shall as a man's hand is arising out and a sound of great rain.
9. **This** & this which had touched his skin were carried away and put upon the sick and their diseases left them.
10. He said to the servants to fill **this** with water and serve.

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