



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



GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH

**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.
II CORINTHIANS 12:9.**

MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

By A.Johnson (Catechist)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings to you in the name of almighty God. This month I am sharing about witnessing life.

As Gods chosen children we should lead a witnessing life in the world and by that we can show God in our life.

"Word and deed are the two sides of the coin-witnessing life."

Our word and action should reflect Gods love in our day to day life.

Where we should lead a witnessing life?

In our personal life, society, school/work place and home.

Witness in Personal Life:

Careful living - 1 Corinthians 10:12

End to earthly desires - Colossians 3:5

Stand firm - Philippians 1:27

Witness in home:

Good Character - Proverb 31:10 - 31

Caring life - 1 Timothy 5:7, 8

Doing Duties Properly - Ephesians 6: 1 - 3

Witness in School / Work place:

Self Controlled action - Titus 2:12

Worthful Speech - Titus 3:9

Obeying rules - Romans 13:1 - 2

Wiseful life - 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22

Witness in Society:

Shining life - Mathew 5:16

Perfect example - 1 Timothy 4:12

Life in Jesus - 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Can I lead a witnessing life? - Act 1:8

May God bless you abundantly with his heavenly riches. Amen.

STORY FOR THE MONTH

Dear children, now I want to narrate a story which may be helpful in your daily life.

Long back a girl. Citizen of America wrote a letter to the American President. This happened in the year 1895 during the period of American President Cleveland. They have kept this letter safely in American President's palace. This was really a heart touching letter.

She has written like this in that letter. My heart felt greetings to the respectful President of America. I don't have peace in my mind. I feel, I should say why I don't have peace in my mind to you to reduce my restlessness in my heart. Before two years, I stucked

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two stamps in a greeting cover which was already used but not visible properly and cheated the American government. I accepted Jesus Christ in a meeting and learnt that this is also theft. From that day onwards I am unhappy and don't have peace in my mind. Respected President of America, I request you to forgive me for my theft which I have done before two years. I have kept the money for those two stamps also along with this letter. Please accept this and send me a letter stating that you have forgiven me for that theft, then only I will be in peace. Your's citizen, Clara.

Clara was 13 year old girl. Children used to do mistake but when they feel it's wrong they fear to accept it for they think that they will get punishment for it.

Children, it's written in Bible that, those who hide the sin will not lead a happy life but if he accept it he will be forgiven. Jesus Christ in Calvary also accepted the thief who surrender himself to Him, Jesus said that thou shalt be with me in paradise.

Let God give you this type of courage and help you to be free from small sins which make you unhappy, restlessness. Be a god's child and lead a peaceful life. May God bless you all.

ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WHAT DOES HE DO?

Jesus said that after he would leave this world, God would send the Holy Spirit that would help, guide, and teach Christians. In other words, Jesus said that he would not leave us on our own, but that even after he was gone, the Holy Spirit would be there to help us. The Holy Spirit is part of the trinity of God. He was first sent to earth on the day of Pentecost where the disciples had a real life changing experience that empowered them for God's service. More will be written about the Holy Spirit on the Holy Spirit Baptism page.

John 14:26

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Here Jesus is promising his disciples that they will not be left on their own. But that God will send the Holy Spirit whom he calls the Counselor because that is one of the things he does. He will help, teach, and guide them (and us).

John 15:26

When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

John 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth comes he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own, he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

What Jesus is saying here is that we can trust the Holy Spirit because he will come from God and is the Spirit of truth, that he will speak what he hears from God, and that he will even tell us of things to come. The Holy Spirit does not "speak" audibly as God does not "speak" to us audibly. But you can "hear" him with your spirit. It is something difficult to explain, you have to experience it, but when you are reconnected to God by accepting Jesus as your Saviour and are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will then be able to "hear" the voice of the Holy Spirit with your spirit. This does take some discernment, but you will definitely know it when it happens to you.

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Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Sometimes when we pray, we don't always know what to pray for. This is where the Holy Spirit helps us because he knows exactly what we should pray for, so he "tells" us by communicating with our spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:13-14

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Before I became a Christian, I was an atheist. Therefore, I could not understand the things of God, because they made no sense to me. Once I became a Christian, the Bible and God's Word became very easy for me to understand because just like this scripture says, the Holy Spirit helped me to understand the things of God. Before that I was not connected to God, so how could I understand the things of God. When I read my Bible before I became a Christian, it was just another book, but after I became a Christian the words came alive to me. This is one of the things the Holy Spirit does for us.

Galatians 5:16:17

So I say live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

This is so true in all of us. It seems that there are these two opposing forces that each try to pull us in opposite directions. Many times we know what we should do, but we don't do it. And then we regret it. What this scripture is saying is that if we learn to hear and follow the Spirit of God, he will lead us into all good things. It's when we don't listen or obey that we run into trouble. The fruit of the Spirit is what the Holy Spirit wants to lead us into. Love, joy, peace, etc. When we let the Holy Spirit have his way with us, he will lead us out of the things that don't make our life better, and into the things that do.

The Holy Spirit is God's communicator to us here on earth. He is here to guide, teach, help, comfort, counsel, and lead us into all good things. The Holy Spirit will also convict us. I know when I do something I shouldn't because the Holy Spirit lets me know right away. It's like my "conscience" speaking to me. That is the closest way I can describe how the Holy Spirit communicates with us. He does not judge or condemn, he just lets me know that this will not make my life better and shows me what will. God loves us so much that he is constantly reaching out to us to help us have a better life. The Holy Spirit is one of those ways. If we learn to listen to him, he can do his work in us. If we don't we will have to accept the consequences of our own actions.

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Question: "Does the Bible record the death of the apostles? How did each of the apostles die?"

Answer: The only apostle's death the Bible records is James (Acts 12:2). The most commonly accepted church tradition in regards to the death of an apostle is that the Apostle Peter was crucified, in fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy to Peter (John 21:18). There are traditions for the other apostles as well, but we have no way of verifying if they are accurate. Following are the most popular "traditions" in regards to the deaths of the apostles.

Matthew suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound. John faced martyrdom when he was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on Patmos. The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully. Peter was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross, according to church tradition because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

James the Just (the brother of Jesus, not officially an apostle), the leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club. This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the temptation. James the Greater, a son of Zebedee, was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was ultimately beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

Bartholomew, also known as Nathanael, was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed to our Lord in present-day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia when he was flayed to death by a whip. Andrew was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers, they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it." He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired. The apostle Thomas was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the subcontinent. Matthias, the apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded. The apostle Paul was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67.

ANSWERS OF THE FIRST, FIRST FROM THE BIBLE:

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|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. GENESIS 3:6. | 3. GENESIS 9:11-14. | 5. GENESIS 29: 17,18. | 7. I SAMUEL 9:15,16. |
| 2. GENESIS 3:14. | 4. GENESIS 28:12. | 6. JUDGES 3:9. | 8. MATHEWS 4:3. |
| | | | 9. ACTS 11:26. |
| | | | 10. ACTS 20:9. |

MEMORY VERSES FOR THIS MONTH

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ➤ 02/10/2011 ROMANS 5 : 8. | ➤ 16/10/2011 MARK 1 41. | ➤ 23/10/2011 JOHN 2 : 16. |
| ➤ 09/10/2011 MARK 10 : 9. | | ➤ 30/10/2011 I TIMOTHY 2 : 8. |

BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH

FIND THE TWO, TWO FROM THE BIBLE:

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Name the two cities which was destroyed by God? | 7. Name the first two disciples of Jesus Christ who were brothers. |
| 2. In whose womb, were two nations said the Lord. | 8. Who gave two coins for offering? |
| 3. Name the two sons of Jacob through Rachel. | 9. Name the two sisters who were close to Jesus. |
| 4. To which place did the two spies of Israel went? | 10. How many days the two witnesses in Revolution did prophesy? |
| 5. Which king, before anointed as king asked advice from two (both) the side people? | |
| 6. Who asked for the twice (double) the portion of spirit of Elijah? | |

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