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2024 January 14 - 21

THE INDIA PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
CENTENNIAL CONVENTION

Theme:
"Eyes on Jesus"
(Hebrews 12:2)

EYES ON

Jesus

2024
JANUARY
14-21



Bro. Kachanathu Varkey Abraham, IPC General Jt. Secretary greets the audience at the Thanksgiving Service



Pr. Sunny Kurian bring forth the Word of God. Pr. Blesson translates into Hindi



Pr. T. A. Cherian prays and pronounces benediction



Pr. V. J. Thomas President, Goa State ministers at the Hindi Service



Lt. Col. V. I. Luke reads the theme verses-Heb. 12:1-3



Bro. Sibey Mathew Director, Haggai Intl., spoke and challenged our youth at the convention



Pr. P. T. Thomas teaches at the Bible Study



Pr. Binoy Joseph Secretary, IPC Chattisgarh State

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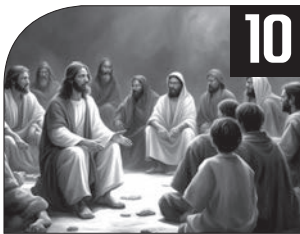
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e-mail : revivemegod@gmail.com

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

JUNE THOMAS

ANN ABRAHAM

PUBLISHER & PRINTER

Lt. Col. V. I. LUKE (Retd.)

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Ph: 93870 73135

beamfine@gmail.com

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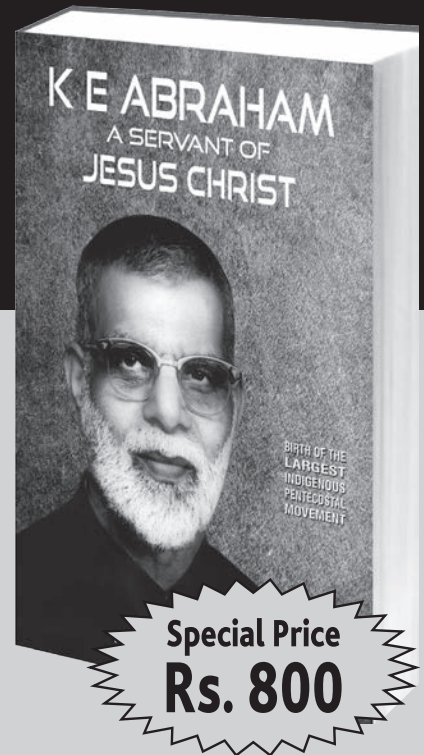
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Pastor Dr. John K. Mathew

LET US LOOK TO JESUS

People handle their issues differently.

When there is a problem some try to cover up it. Some try to deny it, although denial doesn't solve their problem. Some others try to ignore it and many people become get panicky. It all depends upon the nature, beliefs, and personalities of people. However, few others look to the face of God when they have to deal with serious issues.

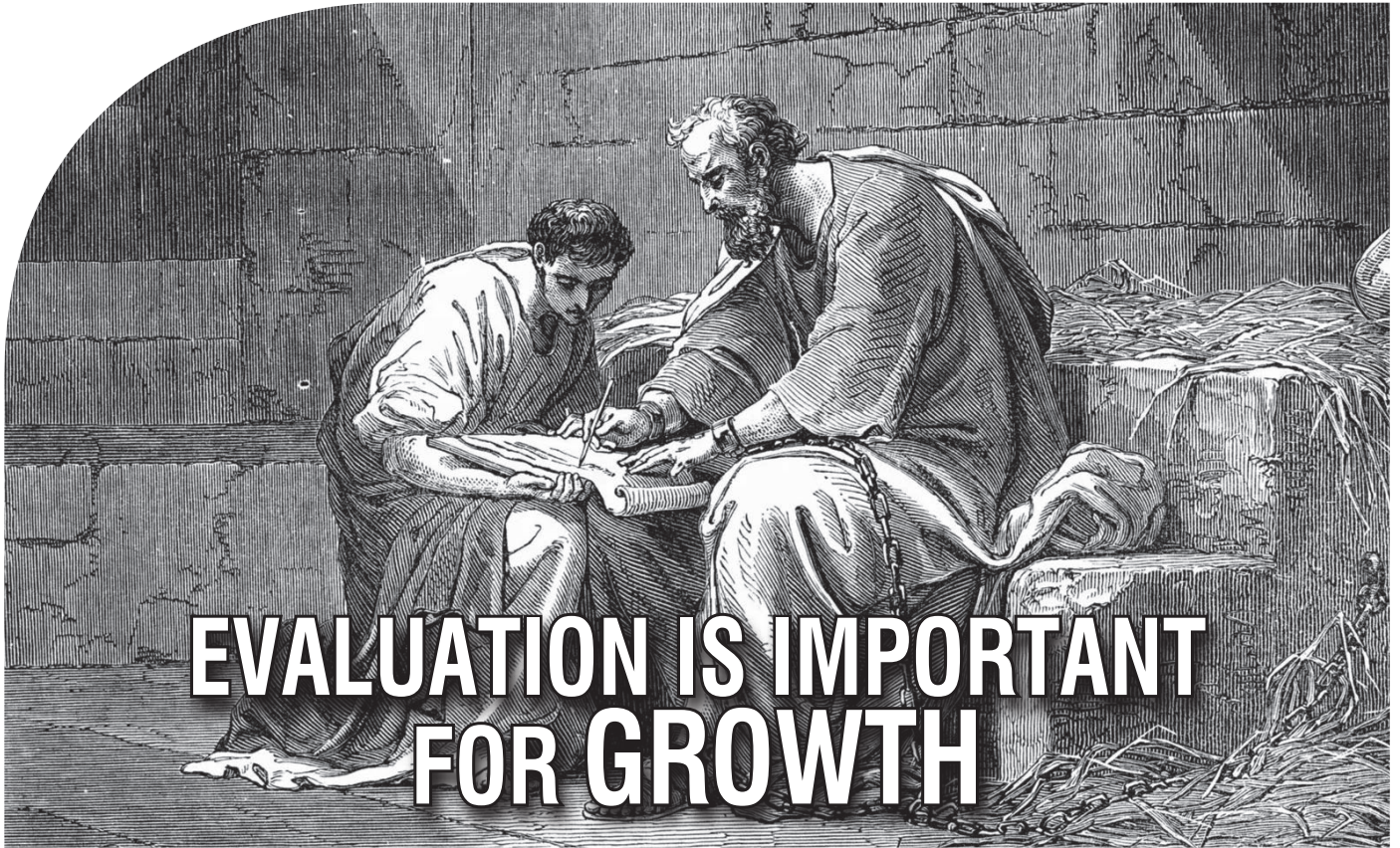
Jehoshaphat's is the best example. Three powerful enemies joined together to fight against Jehoshaphat and his kingdom. They were the Moabites, the Ammonites, and, the Meunites. They appeared quite unexpected and naturally Jehoshaphat was afraid.

In this difficult situation, he decided to look to the face of God. He says, "O, our God will you not render judgment on them? We do not have enough strength to stand before this great army coming against us. And we do not know what we should do, but our eyes are on you." (2 Chro. 20: 12). When he decided to look on the face of God his faith was anchored on three things. First and foremost 'Faith in God'. He has a personal experience with this God, the God of his fathers. In the words of Moses, "Lord you have been our dwelling place in all

generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting You are God" (Psa. 90:1). Secondly, faith in 'God's character.' God doesn't change his character like men or He is not a man who keeps changing His words. Apostle Paul says, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." (2 Timo. 2:13). Thirdly, Jehoshaphat strongly believes in 'God's promises.'

When King Solomon dedicated the Temple, he offered a long lamenting prayer to God Almighty. After the dedication of the Temple, God appeared to him a second time and said, "I have heard your prayer and supplication, which you made before me" (1 Kings 9:3). Jehoshaphat believed in God and His promises and he acted according to the instructions of God. The Scripture says that he won the battle. The battle belongs to the Lord. In our Christian walk, we all deal with issues and problems.

The best way to face it is to look to the face of God. One of the best lessons we learned from our founding fathers is that they had no place to look at other than the face of God. Our church came this far, because of our dependence on God. Let us continue to look to His face. •



EVALUATION IS IMPORTANT FOR GROWTH



REV. DR. T. VALSON ABRAHAM

Founder/President
India Gospel Outreach
President
India Bible College and Seminary
President
India Pentecostal Church of God

(Inaugural address of at the Centennial Convention of India Pentecostal Church of God on January 14, 2024)

Paul says that he has not arrived yet. That's a remarkable statement. If anybody had the right to claim he had arrived, it would be Paul. He wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament. He helped spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire and made an incredible impact on the world. Yet Paul, at the end of his life, says, "I have NOT arrived. I'm not perfect. I'm still growing."

Paul first visited the city of Philippi in about 52 AD. He was thrown in jail for the first time in his life. But he organized a church there and moved on to other cities. In the next ten years he visited Philippi several times and was generously supported by the Philippian people. Philippi was his favourite church and people.

But now it is 12 years later, about 64 AD and Paul has been thrown in prison again, this time in Rome. He is getting old. His health is not good. He is facing hardship. He desperately wants to be released so that he can fulfil his last ambition - to preach the gospel in Spain. But months pass and he remains in jail. One day he writes a letter to the Philippians.

God has done wonderful things through the IPC church in the last 100 years. There are many things to be recorded. Like Paul records the faithful service of Timothy and Epaphroditus, there have been those who have been faithful in their service to Christ in IPC churches.

Part of the celebration is evaluation. Anniversaries are great moments to look back, but we need to be careful with nostalgia. We must remember the hardships, sufferings and people who laboured. We must remember the blessings. Paul could



have taken great pride in what he had already been able to accomplish. Instead, we see that he was not content and was still striving for more. It is important to remember that. We have been blessed as a church in the last 100 years, but all of us still have a long way to go. God is not done with us yet. We have not arrived. We are still growing.

Then Paul goes on to say, THIS ONE THING I DO. He is declaring his FOCUS. His CONCENTRATION - his DETERMINATION. He says his consuming focus in life - first and foremost priority -- FOCUS is - JESUS CHRIST. KNOW CHRIST and MAKE CHRIST KNOWN.

Paul says, I have realized I am going to focus on ONE TASK than try to do multiple tasks - so he says he is going to ELIMINATE a few things.

You must decide what instrument in the orchestra you are going to play and become an expert at it. I had the privilege to see and hear to Dr. E Stanley Jones preach on multiple occasions - "too many Christians dabble in 40 different things and hence

Do not look back in an unproductive way. Forget everything that hinders your spiritual progress in the present. I remember watching the Sydney Olympics (Sep 2000)- the United States runner who was favored to win, lost because he looked back for a split second, and he lost the race.

they do not accomplish much."

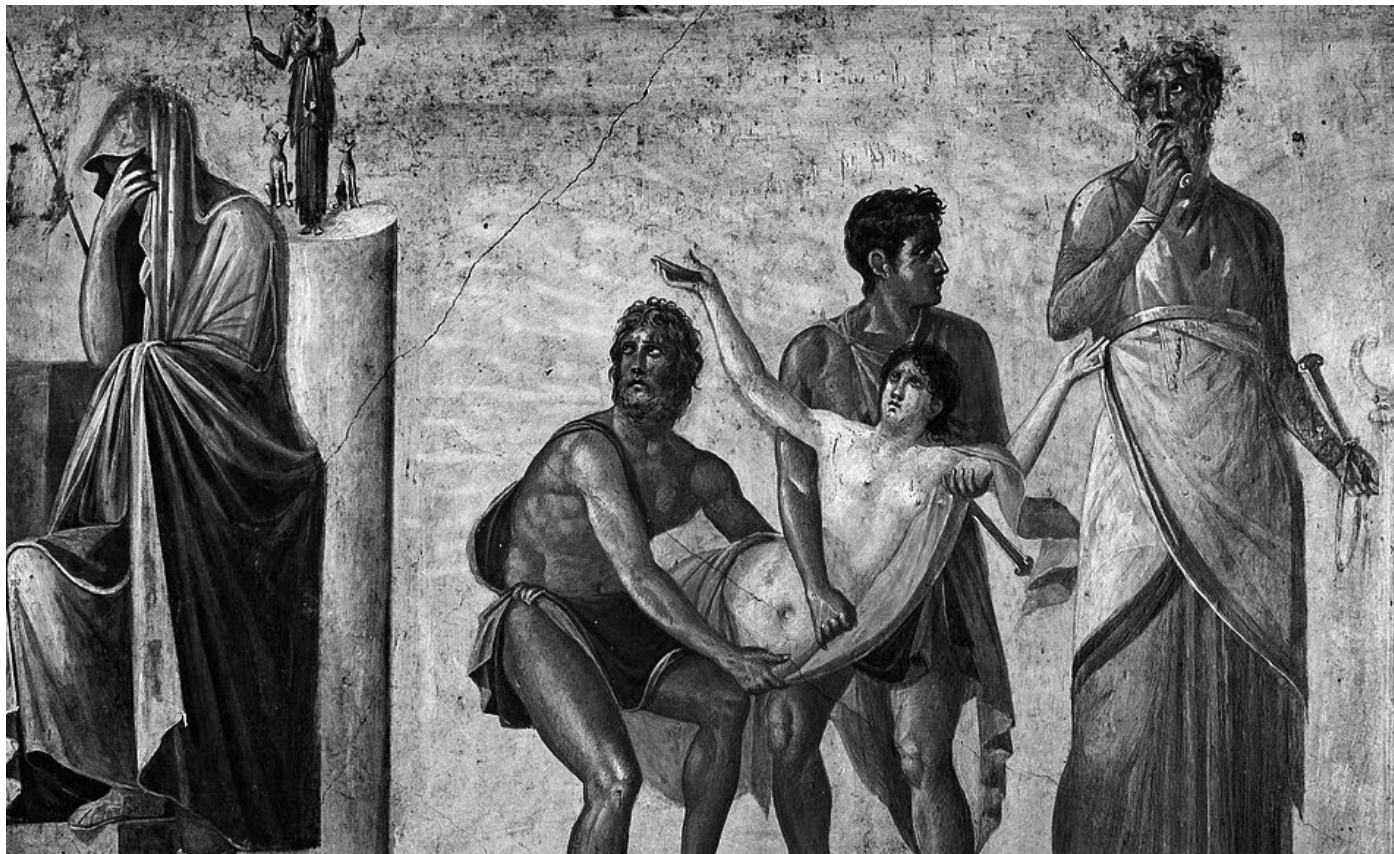
The problem is not the lack of desire or ability - but the lack of FOCUS. (vs. 13b) -PAUL SAID, "THIS ONE thing I do: forgetting what is behind." PAUL learned to FOCUS. One of the great violinists said, "Success came to me when I decided to concentrate." Focus precede success. We need to eliminate, so we can concentrate and focus on the most important person - JESUS CHRIST.

This is our 100th anniversary. While it is essential to learn from the past, you cannot live there. To move forward involves two things.

PAUL learned to Forget his Failures. You should FORGET certain things.

Don't rehearse things in your heart that God has long ago forgiven and forgotten. Satan's favorite desire is to paralyze us with the past, to manipulate us with bad memories.

Paul says, "I learn to forget the



past." Do not sit around beating yourself up for mistakes. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. I am sure there are things that you are not proud of and you have regrets.

Paul had many regrets that could have haunted him. He was a persecutor of the church. He hounded people who were believers and had them locked up and stoned. Nothing you ever do will change your past. It is gone, over, dead. Since you can't change it, let it go. Learn from it, but then let it go.

Forget your successes. Forget your accomplishments. You can learn from success, but you can't live in them. It is easy to rest on your laurels. Sometimes we try to live in the past and base our security on past performance. Thank God for the "good old days." But they are gone. Success tends to make

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Timanthes ran to his teacher, and the teacher admitted he had destroyed the painting. 'I did it for your good. That painting was hindering your progress. Start again and see if you can do better.'
Timanthes took his teacher's advice and produced "Sacrifice of Iphigenia" It is regarded as one of the finest paintings of antiquity.

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you complacent and satisfied and fill you with pride. Then you stop growing and learning and then you're going to fail.

Over 2,000 years ago, a young Greek artist named Timanthes studied under a respected teacher and great artist. After several years the teacher's efforts seemed to have paid off when Timanthes painted a beautiful work of art. Unfortunately, he became so engrossed with the painting that he spent weeks gazing at it. One day, when he arrived to admire his art, he was shocked to find it blotted out, covered with paint. Angry, Timanthes ran to his teacher, and the teacher admitted he had destroyed the painting. 'I did it for your good. That painting was hindering your progress. Start again and see if you can do better.' Timanthes took his teacher's advice and produced "Sacrifice of Iphigenia" It is regarded as one of the finest paintings of antiquity.

Today, we celebrate our past, but we cannot live in the past. You can't run a

race looking backwards. You've got to focus ahead. You need to forget your accomplishments. You need to forget the hurts of the past. You need to forget your failures of the past. Is all your conversation in the past tense or the present tense?

Remember past blessings and express thanks to God. When you remember past failures ask God to help you to be careful in the future. Do not look back in an unproductive way. Forget everything that hinders your spiritual progress in the present. I remember watching the Sydney Olympics (Sep 2000)- the United States runner who was favored to win, lost because he looked back for a split second, and he lost the race. Forgetting keeps you from defeat, despair, and difficulty. Paul says he is pressing FORWARD-- shows us his DETERMINATION (vs. 13c) – "straining towards what is ahead, I press on." The word PRESS ON is the Greek word DIOKO which means to run

swiftly. It is the same word as persecution. Before Jesus appeared to Paul, Paul would persecute or DIOKO the church – chase after them with all his might. Now Paul is chasing after Christ. The intensity was the same; the direction was different. As we look to the future, I pray that we will have the same determination that those who went before us had.

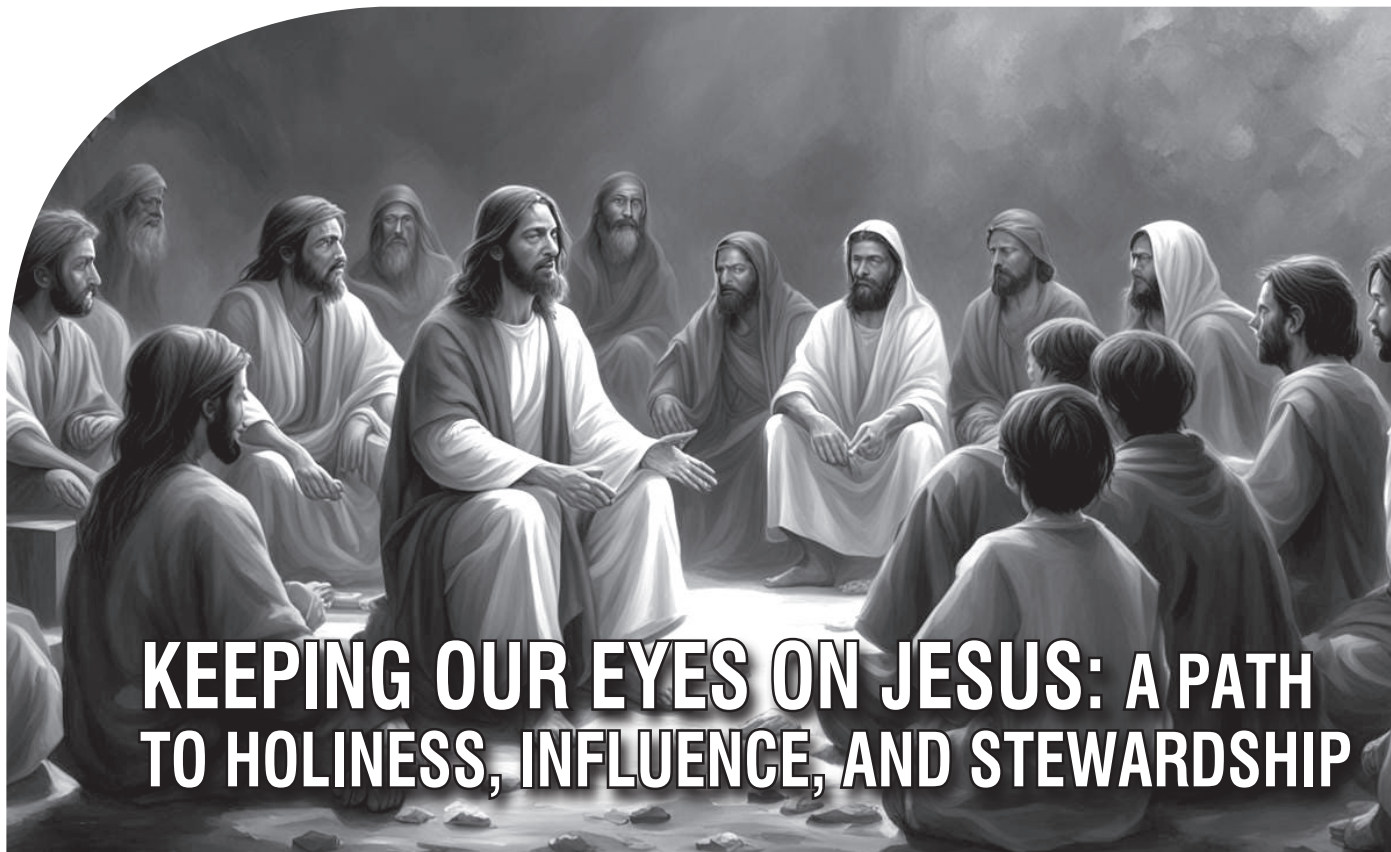
Paul said, I press toward the mark. The Christian race is a marathon, not a 100-yard dash. The Marathon race is over 26 miles. Paul conquered cities, established churches, and wrote books. He did not retire, he continued in the ministry, moved to higher heights.

IPC - the word for us is DIOKO – PRESS ON. There are more mountains to climb, more people to help share the good news, more churches to build, and more victories to win. Paul refused to live on the glory of yesterday's victories. IPC - I pray that we will realize that our best days are ahead of us, not behind you. So, let us

press on, chase, move FORWARD, proclaim Christ, win souls, plant churches, and help people know Jesus Christ. Focus on Christ-Forget past failures, Move Forward.

"If God is your partner, make your plans BIG!" – Said D.L. Moody. Let us lift our Hands to God. Turn our EYES UPON JESUS. Let's gaze on his wonderful face. The things of this world will grow strangely dim. In the light of His glory and grace. To Christ and Christ alone be all the glory. ●





KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS: A PATH TO HOLINESS, INFLUENCE, AND STEWARDSHIP



SIBEY MATHEW

Sibey Mathew is the Director of Sessions at Haggai International Institute, and he trains and equips strategically positioned leaders to share the gospel to people in their spheres of influence.

Before joining Haggai, he worked in Information Technology, specializing in Product Development, International Business, and Advanced Strategy Management.

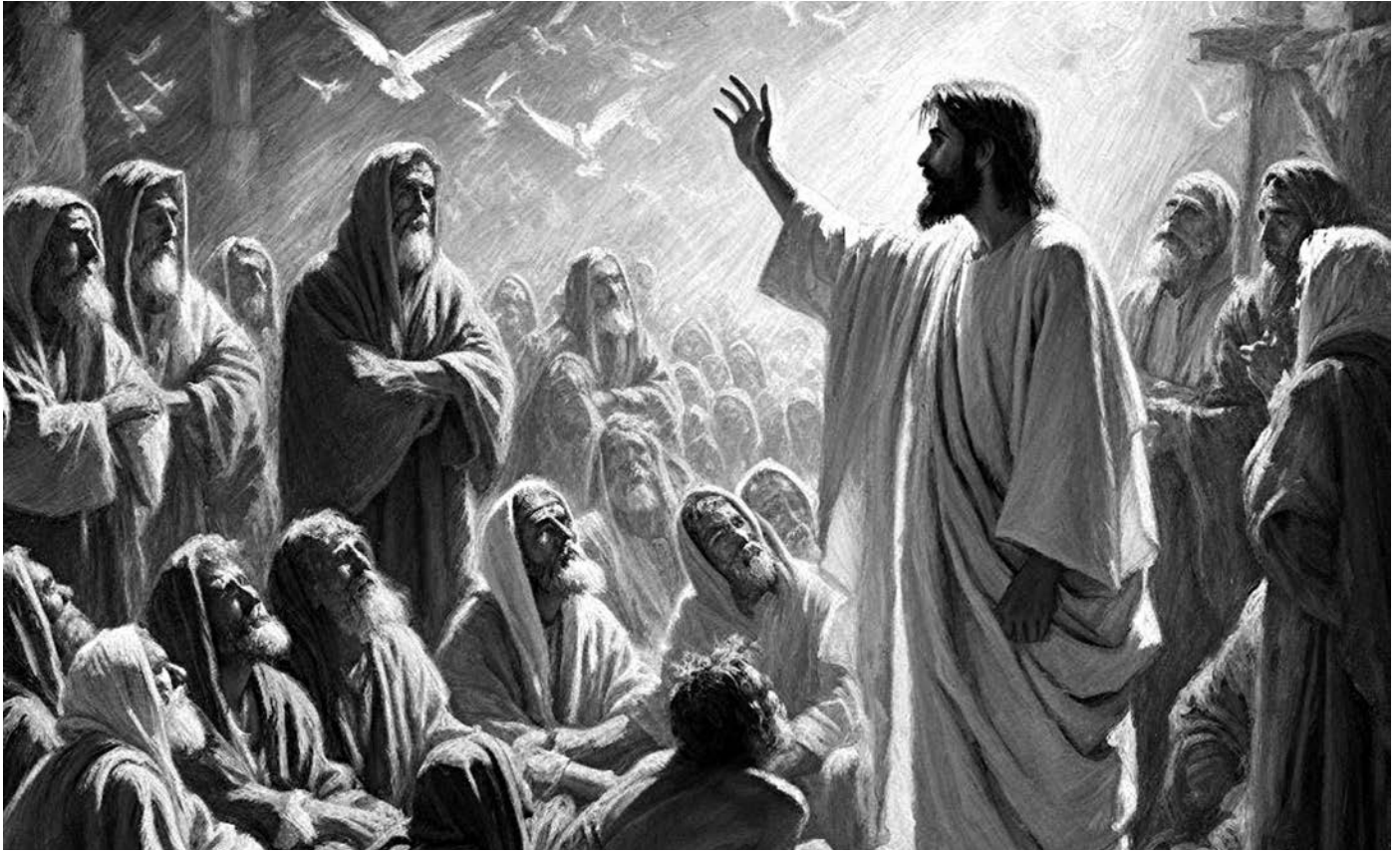
He is a member of the WCC, Whitefield City Church in Bangalore.

In the intricate world of a symphony orchestra, each musician brings their unique talent and skill to the ensemble. With years of experience and dedication, they are capable of producing beautiful music on their own. Yet, amidst this sea of individual expertise, there exists a unifying force without which the performance would lack cohesion and harmony – the conductor.

The conductor stands at the helm, guiding the musicians through every note and nuance of the score. With poised gestures and nuanced expressions, they shape the music, ensuring that each section blends seamlessly with the next. Their leadership is not merely technical but interpretive, breathing life and emotion into the music.

In many ways, our lives mirror the dynamics of a symphony orchestra. We are surrounded by a cacophony of choices, responsibilities, and influences, each vying for our attention and allegiance. Like skilled musicians, we may possess talents, experience, and knowledge to navigate life's complexities. Yet, without a guiding force to unify and direct our efforts, we risk discord and dissonance.

Just as the orchestra's eyes are fixed on the conductor, so too should ours be fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). His life and teachings serve as our score, providing the framework and guidance for living a purposeful and harmonious existence. When we attentively watch and listen to Him, we become attuned to His gentle nudges and promptings, guiding our decisions and actions. With Him as our conductor, even the most dissonant circumstances can be transformed into a symphony of grace and redemption. Jesus empowers us to live lives worthy of His kingdom. His love and grace enable us to overcome obstacles, fulfil our calling, and impact the world around us in meaningful ways.



In a world filled with distractions, challenges, and temptations, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus is not just a religious platitude but a profound principle that can transform our lives. Three key aspects of how keeping our eyes on Jesus can impact our lives:

Living a Holy and Righteous Life

Holiness and righteousness are at the heart of a life centred on Jesus. The God of the Bible is often described as holy, and He calls His followers to reflect His character. The command "Be holy for I am holy" resonates throughout Scripture (1 Peter 1:16), reminding us of the standard we are called to uphold. When our eyes are fixed on Jesus, we are continually reminded of His example of purity, love, and obedience to God. This focus inspires us to strive for holiness in our thoughts, actions, and relationships.

Becoming Peer Influencers

Peer pressure is a pervasive force in society,

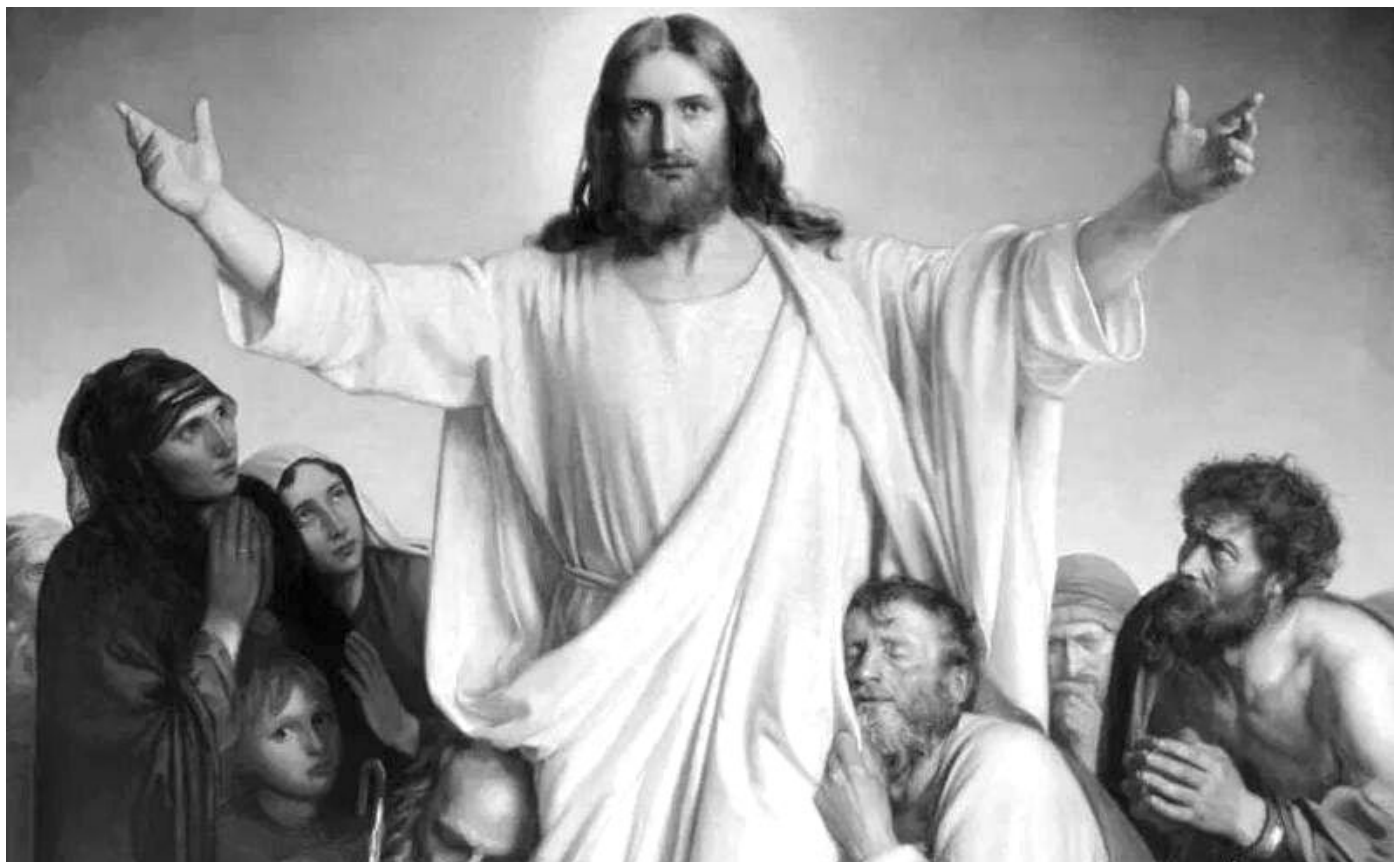
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When our eyes are fixed on Jesus, we are continually reminded of His example of purity, love, and obedience to God. This focus inspires us to strive for holiness in our thoughts, actions, and relationships.
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often leading people astray from their values and beliefs. However, when we keep our eyes on Jesus, we become influencers rather than followers. Jesus described His followers as "the light of the world" and "the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13-16), highlighting their role in

influencing and preserving society. By embodying the principles and teachings of Jesus, we have the power to positively impact those around us, guiding them toward truth, love, and righteousness. Our lives become a testimony to the transformative power of faith, inspiring others to seek a deeper relationship with God.

Embracing Stewardship and Service

Stewardship is a central theme in Christianity, emphasizing our



responsibility to manage and utilize the resources entrusted to us by God. When our focus is on Jesus, we recognize that faith without action is incomplete (James 2:17). We are compelled to actively engage with the world around us, seeking opportunities to serve, empower, and meet the needs of others. Whether it's through acts of charity, advocacy for justice, or simply offering a listening ear, our lives become a reflection of Christ's compassion and love.

Moreover, keeping our eyes on Jesus reminds us that our ultimate battle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12). As spiritual warriors, we are called to stand firm in faith, wielding the weapons of prayer, love, and truth to combat darkness and bring about transformation in our communities and beyond.

It's important to remember that even

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Jesus Himself warns against lukewarmness, declaring that those who are neither hot nor cold will be spit out of His mouth. Without a fervent focus on Jesus, we lose the fire and enthusiasm needed to advance God's kingdom and make a meaningful impact in the world.
”

when we're involved in Christian activities, we can lose sight of Christ. Sometimes we are deceived into believing that activity is spirituality. It is deception, Satan's lie. When we turn our attention away from Jesus, we expose ourselves to dangers and pitfalls that could lead us astray.

Consequences of losing sight of Jesus:

Attraction to the World

The world has a powerful allure, tempting us with its pleasures, pursuits, and distractions. However, the Bible warns us that as followers of Christ, we are called to be in the world but not of the world (John 17:14-16). When we lose sight of Jesus, we become susceptible to the world's enticements, risking our spiritual well-being, and compromising our values. The apostle James cautions that friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4), reminding us of the importance of remaining steadfast in our faith and convictions amidst worldly pressures.

Lack of Love and Unity

When our focus shifts away from Jesus, we lose sight of the commandment to love one another as He loved us (John 13:34). Instead of cultivating love and unity within the body of Christ, we may find ourselves harbouring resentment, envy, and bitterness toward our brethren. The call to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44) is replaced by schemes and divisions fuelled by selfish ambition and pride. Without Jesus as our guiding light, we risk becoming agents of discord rather than instruments of reconciliation and peace.

Compromise of Truth

One of the most significant dangers of losing sight of Jesus is the compromise of truth. Just as Daniel remained steadfast in his faith despite facing immense pressure to conform to the king's decrees (Daniel 6), we are called to stand firm in our convictions, even in the face of opposition.

However, when Jesus is not the focal point of our lives, we may prioritize worldly acceptance and approval over allegiance to God's truth. We become susceptible to watering down the Gospel message and compromising our beliefs to fit in with societal norms, ultimately diluting the power of God's Word and undermining our witness.

Lukewarmness and Spiritual Apathy

Finally, losing sight of Jesus can lead to spiritual lukewarmness and apathy. God desires His followers to be passionate and zealous for His kingdom (Revelation 3:15-16). Yet, when we become complacent and indifferent in our faith, neither fully committed nor wholly disinterested, we risk evoking God's displeasure. Jesus Himself warns against lukewarmness, declaring that those who are neither hot nor cold will be spit out of His mouth. Without a fervent focus on Jesus, we lose the fire and enthusiasm needed to

advance God's kingdom and make a meaningful impact in the world.

The consequences of losing sight of Jesus are profound and far-reaching. From succumbing to worldly temptations and fostering division to compromising truth and embracing spiritual apathy, the dangers are clear. Therefore, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, drawing strength, wisdom, and guidance from His example as we navigate the challenges of life.

Let us embrace the role of the conductor in our lives – fixing our eyes on Jesus, listening attentively to His voice, and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our steps. As we surrender to His leadership, we will discover the beauty and richness of a life lived in harmony with God's purposes, bringing glory to His name and blessing to those around us. ●

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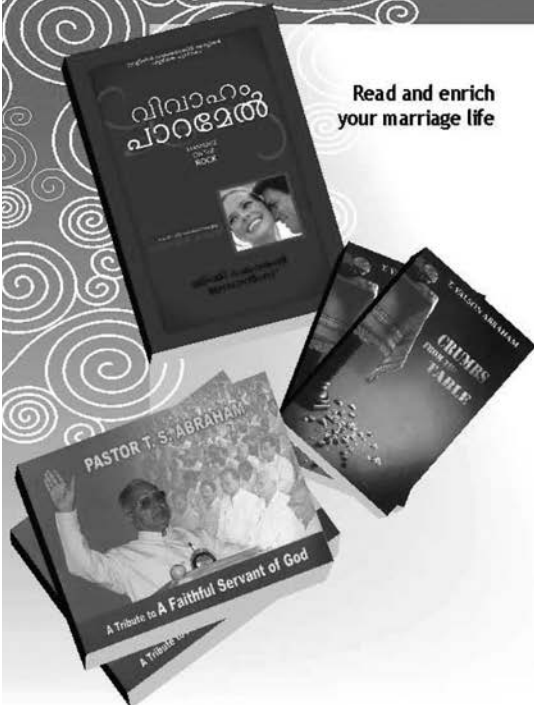
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Crumbs From The Table

Rev. Dr. T. Valson Abraham

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KINGDOM KEYS, WHAT ARE THEY?



LARRY TITUS

President Emeritus,
Kingdom Global Ministries
Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.

Have you ever had a question come into your mind you couldn't get rid of? It hung around for hours, maybe days. A couple of years ago I was sitting in my office in Dallas, Texas, when a nagging question came to my mind. It wouldn't go away. Even though for decades I had preached on the importance of the kingdom of God, including the fact Jesus alluded to it in the Gospels over a hundred times, I had never asked myself the question, what are the keys? I have them, the church has them, but no one ever identifies them, at least I didn't. Hum. What are they? Because I didn't know, I began to research all references to the word, key, or keys, and the words for binding and loosing.

Jesus made it clear in Matthew 16:19, that the church has been given the keys to the kingdom of God, including the explanation that we could open and shut, loosen and bind certain things, but he didn't tell us the purpose of the keys. What are we allowing or forbidding, opening or closing, binding or loosing?

Do you realize Jesus never gave you the keys of the Church? In fact, He said that it was His church, and He would build it. For me that was great news. In the first few years of my ministry, I struggled in my own feeble strength to build the church that Jesus said He would build. Pure futility. It never occurred to me I was trying to build the wrong thing. My goal was to build the Church, which Jesus said He would build, and for Him to build the kingdom, which He said I was to build. I was attempting to use keys I didn't possess and neglect the ones I did.

Keys are powerful. Keys are mentioned only 5 times in the Bible, with only one of them, Matthew 16:19, mentioned in the Gospels. The other four references are all in the Book of Revelation, Revelation 1:18; 3:7; 9:1 and 20:1. In three of the

four references to keys in the Book of Revelation, only one key is utilized. In Revelation 3:7, Jesus has the key of the Davidic monarchy; In Revelation 9:1, a fallen angel has the key that opens up the shaft of the Abyss; in Revelation 20:1-4, an angelic being binds Satan with chains for a thousand years, then frees him for a short time. A short time in Revelation is three and a half years.

The purpose in pointing out that three of the references in Revelation refer to only one key, is to show you the power of just one key. In Revelation 3:7, with one key Jesus opens up the David monarchy, the throne from which He will reign; In Revelation 9:1, a fallen angel, with just one key, has the power to open the shaft of the abyss and release hordes of destroying demons; the third reference to the power of a single key is found in Revelation 20:1-4, where one angel has the power to arrest and chain the accuser himself for a thousand years, followed by unlocking the chains for a short period of 42 months.

If one key, under the power of God's representative, can be that powerful, what would it be like to possess multiple keys, such as those given to Jesus in Revelation 1:17-18, and by Jesus to His church in Matthew 16:18-19?

The power of multiple keys is demonstrated in Revelation 1:17-18, where Jesus arises from the dead in possession of the keys to life and death. In my vivid imagination, I can see Jesus say to the devil, just before he exited Hades on resurrection morning, "Oh, one more thing, devil, hand over the keys to death and Hades, you're no longer in charge." That is what I call power. To quote Hebrews 2:14, "...that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil." Jesus was able to open the doors to Hades by the keys given to Him by the Father. Matthew 28:18.

This brings me to the point of this article. What did Jesus mean when He gave the keys of the kingdom to the church? What are they? In modern vernacular, keys are necessary to open doors, lock doors, drive

cars, open bank vaults, etc. In Jesus's days, when keys weren't common, the words of Jesus to bind and loose had a more spiritual meaning. Matthew 18:18 and Revelation 20:1-3 shed light on what binding and loosing, or allowing and forbidding means, including how our decisions on earth are affected and reflected in heaven, and vice-versa. What are the actual keys?

I'm convinced, according to Revelation 20:1-3 and Luke 13:10-17, some of the keys relate to how we are to bind satanic powers on this earth and see people released from their

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by Jesus to His
church in
Matthew
16:18-19?**

grasp. There is an example of this in Luke 13:10-17 where Jesus looses (Greek: apoluo) a woman from a spirit of infirmity whom Satan had bound (Greek: deo). Another illustration is in Revelation 20:1-3, where an angel first binds Satan for a thousand years, then subsequently looses him.

These are the keys Jesus was exercising, in Luke 13:10-17, when he loosed the woman from the spirit of infirmity, after having had been paralyzed for eighteen years.

He bound the enemy, who had chained the woman with paralysis, and released, or loosed her from bondage.

The same words are used in Revelation 20:1-3, when an angel descends from heaven and binds Satan (deo) for a thousand years, then releases (duo) him for forty-two months. Kingdom keys.

These two examples alone are sufficient to firmly establish the power of kingdom keys in the hands of the believer. Though not as dramatic, Matthew 18:18 illustrates, in a smaller way, because it relates to the discipline meted out in the local church because of a moral infraction, the authority of the believer, or church, to establish God's will on earth, as it has been decreed in heaven.

There could be no greater illustration of kingdom keys, and their power to disrupt, paralyze and destroy satanic powers, than is found in Luke 10:17-20. In this passage Jesus commissions the 70 (or 72) to gospel of the kingdom and to dislodge Satan from heaven and release those who were bound. Though not specifically using the words, "bind" and "loose," the end result was the same; demon possessed people were set free and Satan fell like lightning from heaven.

The powerful truth in these verses, however, was much greater than the deliverance the disciples had just witnessed. While they saw demons fleeing from the possessed, Jesus saw Satan fall from heaven. Likewise, as believers with earthly vision, it is impossible to fully detect with earthly eyes the damage done to the satanic world when we exercise the kingdom keys of binding and loosing. This was akin to what Daniel experienced in Daniel 9:23. While Daniel was praying for forgiveness for his sins and the sins of his people, the heavenly messenger was watching



the demonic Prince of Persia being bound in the heavens by Michael, the archangel. Daniel 10:12. Heaven and earth work together to establish God's kingdom. What accomplishes this task are the keys of spiritual authority that have been given to you.

When preaching this message a few months ago, I described the call I received early Sunday morning, many years ago, from a woman who called to ask if I would come and pray for her husband. She informed me, "He's full of the devil." I knew exactly who she was talking about. Her husband, Rick, stood 6 foot 3 or 4, was solid muscle and terrorized our small town on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

When I walked into the front door, he was sitting directly in front of me, shirt off with muscles rippling. His first words were, "I could kill you." Looking at his flexing muscles convinced me he was telling the truth. "No, you can't," was my response. "The God in me is bigger than the devil in you. Come out of him, Satan, in the name of Jesus."

Prayer is another major key to the kingdom, found often in the life of Jesus. Though the Gospels find Jesus continually in prayer, the disciples' prayer life is conspicuously absent from the Synoptics or John.

With my bold declaration, he responded again, "I'm going to kill you." I reminded Satan again that he had to vacate. The demons, sensing they were losing their grip on Rick, shot back, "I'm coming in you." "No, there is no room," I replied. "I'm full of the Holy Spirit and there is no room for you." With that brief exchange, not more than a few minutes, I left the home.

The next day, in the middle of my Sunday evening message, I saw Rick running down the center aisle toward me. "I want to get saved," he said as he leaped onto the platform, grabbed me and hugged me with his bone-crushing grip. As you can visualize, Rick was much stronger than me, but I had the keys. That is the power of the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Totally bound on one evening and totally delivered on the next. Rick became a great evangelist in our town. My keys were stronger than the devil's because they were backed with the authority of Jesus.

You have the keys. Say it out loud, "I have the keys." Jesus no longer has the keys. He gave them to you. My question is, are you using them?

Jesus has the keys to the Church, but He has given you, His body, the keys to the kingdom. There is nothing more powerful than the name of Jesus to bind hell's powers and to release its inhabitants. Jesus is counting on you to do on earth what has already been accomplished in heaven.

Prayer is another major key to the kingdom, found often in the life of Jesus. Though the Gospels find Jesus continually in prayer, the disciples' prayer life is conspicuously absent from the Synoptics or John. When queried about why Jesus could cast out demons and they couldn't, His cryptic reply was, "I pray, and you don't." Mark 9:29. Fortunately, the powerless disciples mended their ways, and the Book of Acts finds them continually seeking God in prayer, armed with the authority of the name of Jesus. Acts, chapters 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 and 16, all attest to a strong prayer life among the early church leaders. With prayer comes the miraculous, and with the miraculous comes deliverance.

Though I could mention many other kingdom keys, these should suffice to allow you to begin exercising kingdom authority over the powers of darkness. Don't forget, you have the keys to total victory. Can I hear an, Amen! ●



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The IBC extension program is designed for those who have the desire to study the Bible systematically but have no opportunity to go to a Bible College. The aim of this program is to equip the believers with sound theological teaching so they may partner in world missions. The course will enable the students to grow scripturally and prepare for Spirit empowered Christian Ministry.

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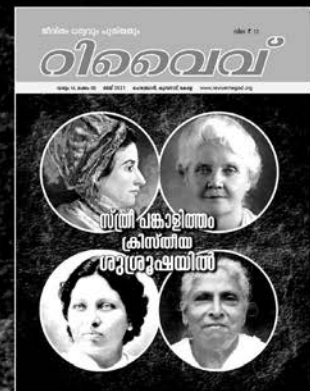
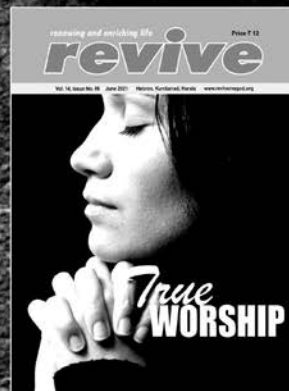
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DR. THOMSON K. MATHEW

Professor Emeritus and
Former Dean
College of Theology and Ministry
Oral Roberts University

*Message preached at the
100th Convention of the
India Pentecostal Church of
God, Kumbanad
in 2024 January*

Text: Rev. 1:10, 17. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.... And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.'"

We have gathered here to celebrate God's faithfulness to the India Pentecostal Church for a hundred years. There is much to celebrate on this centennial as God has brought us a long way from our humble beginnings. Our story is a story of vision and faith. It is a story of suffering and sacrifices. Our pioneers experienced hunger, thirst, and rejection. They suffered beatings, exclusion, and isolation. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifices.

It is easy to congratulate ourselves for our growth and strength in our globalized world, but what we really need is a new vision of Jesus, and a new encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Globalization came and we were living in an optimistic world of affluence. We were anticipating more wealth and other benefits globally. World leaders were bragging about the open-border businesses and universal progress. Continents and nations were celebrating globalization. It looked like we were beginning a very stable and prosperous period of human history. We were planning to enjoy the new world order of globalization.

Then suddenly came the COVID pandemic and it shook our world. Supply chains collapsed and nations began to shake. Environmental crises followed to shake the world. From Gaza to Ukraine, and from South America to East Africa, mega conflicts are now shaking the world. The world systems are shaking, and mighty nations are shaking.



History teaches us that all man-made empires shake and fall. The Babylonian empire shook and fell. The Mido-Persian empire, the Greek empire, the mighty Roman Empire, Byzantine empire, the Ottoman Empire, the British empire, and the Soviet empire, all shook and fell.

Human kingdoms perish because kings and leaders are mortals; they die. But the kingdom of God has an ever-living King whose name is Jesus. In the fullness of time, God sent his son Jesus into our world to inaugurate His kingdom.

Even His disciples misunderstood Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of God. They expected a kingdom like the Roman Empire. When Jesus was crucified, these disciples were depressed and disillusioned. They thought it was all over. But death was not His end or the end of His kingdom. Jesus was raised from the dead! It was only Friday, but Sunday was coming!

Something amazing was happening at Calvary on Friday. It was a battle between good and evil, and good won. It was a

The resurrected Jesus went up to heaven. Before He went up to the Father, Jesus had said these words: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

battle between darkness and light, and light won. Through His death, Jesus was destroying the power of the kingdom of darkness. Calvary destroyed Satan's ultimate evil plan for mankind.

The resurrected Jesus went up to heaven. Before He went up to the Father, Jesus had said these words: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3). This is good news; This is our hope.

Our shaking world reminds us that we are at the dawn of an unshakable and everlasting kingdom. As we anticipate that kingdom, we have three duties here on earth:

Be a sign of the kingdom of God, like a highway sign to heaven.



Be an Instrument of the kingdom of God, doing kingdom work in our communities like Jesus did.

Give the world a foretaste of the coming kingdom.

To give a foretaste of the kingdom, we need to have a taste of the kingdom of God now. One gets a taste of God's kingdom when one has an encounter with the Holy Spirit.

John the Apostle had an encounter with the Holy Spirit in Patmos decades after the day of Pentecost. In our text we receive John's testimony of this encounter in Patmos:

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. I heard a heavenly voice on that day, and I saw Jesus, the one who

A hundred years ago, our pioneers not only had a fuller revelation of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, but they also had an overwhelming encounter with the Holy Spirit. They realized that the Holy Spirit is active in the world now. They also learned the many biblical truths about the life and work of the Holy Spirit.

is Alpha and Omega.

It is one thing to claim to be a Pentecostal, it is another thing to experience the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the presence of God with the people of God. Pentecost is the power of God that empowers us. Pentecost is the glory of God that sanctifies us.

Modern Pentecostals are people who had a fuller revelation of the Holy Spirit. A hundred years ago, our pioneers not only had a fuller revelation of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, but they also had an overwhelming encounter with the Holy Spirit. They realized that the Holy Spirit is active in the world now. They also learned the many biblical truths about the life and work of the Holy Spirit.

Our pioneers paid a high price for this biblical revelation. On this anniversary, we must pledge to be faithful to what God revealed to them from the Word and they passed on to us. We must embrace it, experience it, and pass it on to a new generation.

When one has a true encounter with the Holy Spirit, like John, one will

hear the voice of the Master and see His face. When John saw Jesus in His glory, he fell at His feet. Jesus touched him with his wounded hands and told him, "Don't be afraid, I am the first and the last." In that encounter, he received a glimpse of the eternal city whose builder and maker is God.

And John heard that voice again: "Behold, I come quickly; my reward is with me" (Rev)

The King is coming back!

The King is coming soon!

His kingdom is forever!

It is an unshakable kingdom!

As we anticipate the coming of the Lord, let us be a sign and an instrument of the kingdom of God!

And let us give a foretaste of that kingdom to our shaking world! ●

"Celebrating 100 years
of memories.
Forward with the Holy Spirit"



LOGO Release of the Centennial Convention of the India Pentecostal Church of God,
"Celebrating 100 years of memories; Forward with the Holy Spirit."





"Celebrating 100 years
of memories.
Forward with the Holy Spirit"



THE INDIA PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD



Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Barnabas Bishop of the Malankara MarThoma Church extends greetings to the IPC fraternity on its 100th Annual Convention



Rt. Rev. Thomas Samuel Bishop Emeritus of the Church of South India spoke words of blessing over the IPC and its workers



Pr. Kris Jackson brings encouragement at the Thanksgiving Service of the 100th IPC Convention

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE



CENTENNIAL CONVENTION

2024
JANUARY
14-21



Pastor Amos Dodge from the US declares the Living Word.
Translation: Evang. Ajeesh George, IBC



Pastor Larry Titus preached with passion and encouraged leaders and lay people alike



Dr. Shashi Tharoor M.P., shares a light moment with Pr. Dr. T. Valson Abraham



Pr. Dr. T. Valson Abraham inaugurates the 100th IPC General Convention



Pr. Saju Joseph teaches on 'Changeless Christ'



Pr. D. Samkutty leads Bible Study



Rev. M. A. Sunil Secretary, IPC Chattisgarh



Pr. Mhontsen, IPC Darjeeling



Pr. K. Koshy President, IPC Punjab



Pr. Thomas George General Joint Secretary



Vijay Benedict, Popular Christian Singer enthralled the audience with his melodious voice



Pr. Wilson George blesses the congregation with his singing



Bro. Stanly John leads the 2024 IPC Centennial Convention Choir



Pr. Dr. John K. Mathew speaks on the opening night



Bro. James George, Vengoor
Jt. Secretary, IPC Kerala
State reads Scripture



Pr. Kingsly Chellan
IPC, Marthandam led the
Youth Session



Pr. Joy Philip
District Pastor, IPC Kottayam
South Centre



Pr. James George, USA



Pr. George Monis, USA
preaches



Pr. K. C. John, Florida, USA
leads a session



Pr. K. C. Thomas, IPC Kerala
State President preaches



Choir members lead day time singing



Church leaders and Pastors on the opening night of the 100th IPC Convention



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Mrs. Laly Abraham leads the Women's Fellowship Meeting



Mrs. Valsamma Kachanam prays



Dr. Shobha James, UK



Mrs. Sheila Wilson George exhorted the sisters



Mrs. Annie Thomas President, Women's Fellowship, Kerala



Mrs. Susie Baby Varghese Dallas



Mrs. Susan Koshy IPC Punjab



Mrs. Bindu Babu IPC Odisha



Reflections of yesteryears by Mrs. Annie Stephen, Dallas



Dr. John Joseph, Treasurer, makes announcements



Pr. Raju Anikkad, Jt. Secretary, IPC Kerala State and Pr. K.J. Thomas bring forth the Word powerfully



Believers and Pastors from various North Indian States attended the Hindi Sessions



Regional Song



Dr. Aby P. Mathew
Bihar Mission



Pastor P. A. Mathew, District Pastor, IPC Puthuppally
and Pastor C. T. Abraham, IPC UK/Ireland Region
minister at the Centennial Convention



Pastor Joshin Joy, Houston
shares at the PYPA meeting



Senior IPC minister, Pastor M. V. Varghese who is almost
100 years old blessed the Centennial Convention with his
gracious presence



Pastor Benjamin Varghese, 94, former Joint Secretary, IPC
closes with prayer





Pr. K. P. Kurian prays and dedicates along with the IPC Kerala State Sunday School Assn. Office Bearers



IPC Gujarat State represent by new 100 pastors and believers sing



IBC Sisters Singing at the Women's Fellowship



Pr. Dr. T. Valson Abraham presents a plaque to Mrs. Annamma Mathew, on behalf of IPC Women's Fellowship, Kerala State



Pr. Dayanidhi Rao, Gospel Singer captivated the congregation with his anointed singing



Release of the IPC CENTENNIAL Souvenir by Dr. Thomson K. Mathew



Bro. Joy Thumpamon expresses felicitations on behalf of HARVEST TV



Lifting hands and hearts in praises!



Release of the Sunday School text book by Sunday School officials and Pastor Varghese Mathai



Thiruvalla Medical Mission Hospital provided a free medical counter for the Convention participants



More than words can say



The traffic outside the convention grounds

IPC Centennial Convention-Thanksgiving Service





Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan addresses the Centennial Convention



Projects of IPC presented to the Hon'ble Chief Minister by the General Executives



IPC President Pastor Dr. T. Valson Abraham presents a memento to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan and Opposition Leader Shri. V.D. Satheesan



Dr. Baby Varghese, General Secretary presents a Bible to Mrs. Veena George, Minister for Health



100 Member Centennial Convention Choir



Friends of Tripura who attended the 100th IPC Convention



Pr. Niyamat Masih from Punjab, was speaker at the Hindi Service



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