

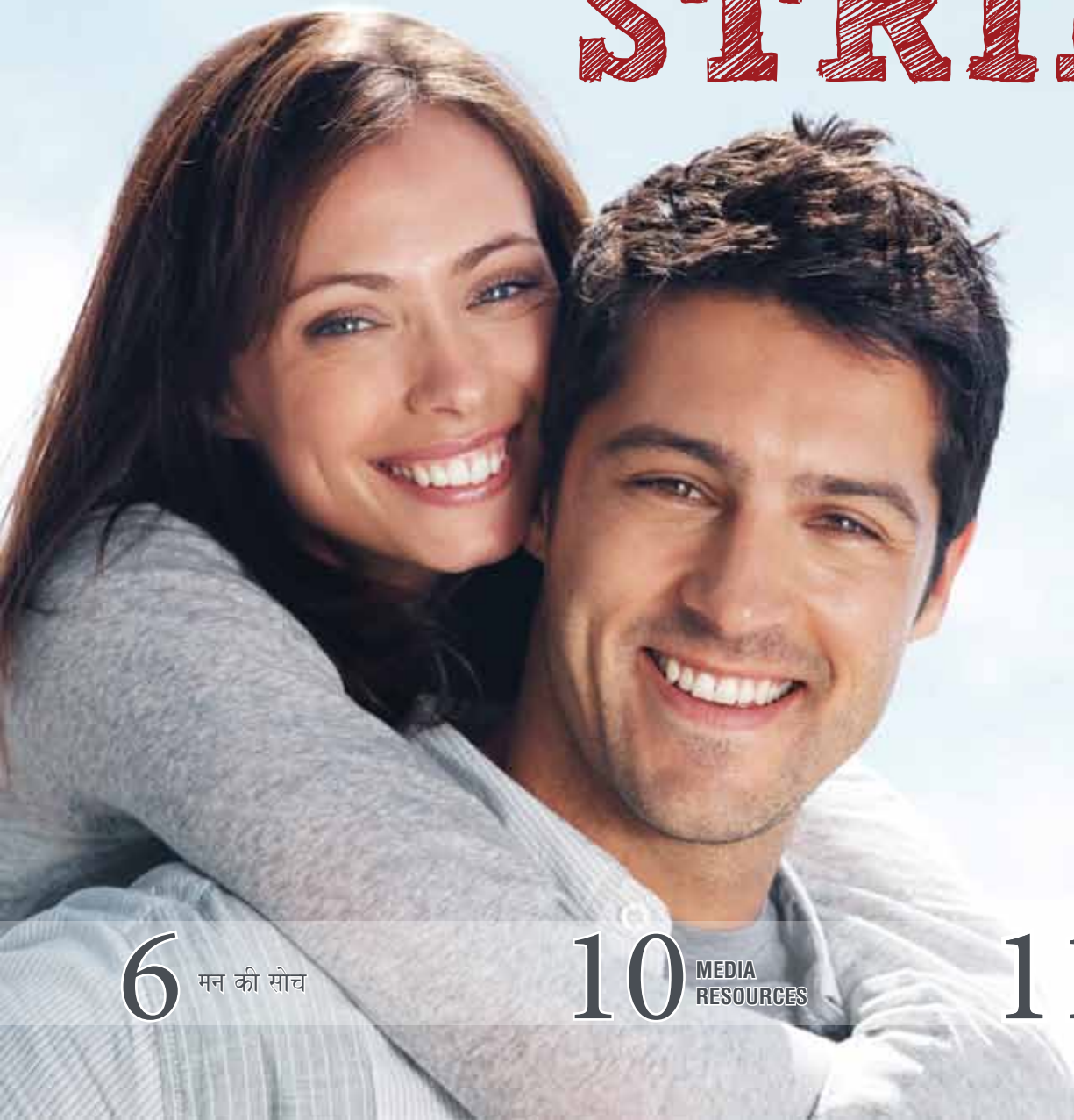


# Faith News

The bi-monthly teaching magazine of Spirit of Faith Church

January/February 2017

## No More STRIFE



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(Radical Generation)

# Prayer for salvation

If you do not know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, pray the following prayer in faith, and Jesus will be your Lord!

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, **“Whoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21)**. Come into my heart Jesus and be Lord over my life. According to **Romans 10:9-10: “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”**

I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please write and let us know of your decision. We have a free minibook, titled The New Birth that we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus!



## SERVICE TIMINGS

### Sunday

Worship & the Word	10:30	am
Covenant Kids	10:30	am
Nagamese Service	2:30	pm
Prayer & Praise	5:30	pm*

### Wednesday

Pastor's Bible Study	5:30	pm
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### Saturday

RGenX (Radical Generation)	4:30	pm
Surge	6:00	pm

\*as announced

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# No More STRIFE

BY PASTOR JOHN ROUGHTON



**Ephesians 4:14,15**

**So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ**

God wants us to grow up spiritually, to develop and mature inwardly. Spiritual growth is similar in many ways to natural growth. We entered into the Christian life by the new birth. Just as no one is physically born a fully grown adult, so no one is completely mature at the time of his conversion. **1 Peter 2:1** says, **Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.**

Many people assume the longer you've been a Christian, the more mature you are. But this is not true. While maturity takes time, the mere passage of time doesn't make you mature. The church world is full of old babies.

**1 Corinthians 3:1**

**But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.**

The Greek word translated **infants** in this verse is the same word translated **children** in **Ephesians 4:14**. Spiritually immature Christians are fleshy, carnal. In other words, they are body-dominated. The old sinful nature of their flesh has the upper hand over their new spiritual nature. A sinful lifestyle is a clear indication of spiritual immaturity. Paul says that mature believers are **spiritual people**. That doesn't mean they merely go to church and pray. It means their inward man, which has God's nature, influences, holds sway over their mind and body. They think and act like Christ.

The sad truth is, most Christians are not as spiritual as they think they are. Some people think spiritual maturity is simply having the right doctrine. But spiritual maturity is not measured by beliefs but by behavior. Knowledge of the Bible is important, but knowledge itself does not equal development. Most of us have more light than we're walking in.

Again, many people think if you have gifts of the Spirit, that proves you are mature. If a person prophesies and sees visions, that individual must be deeply spiritual. Not true. The Corinthians had gifts of the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 1:7** says, **you are not lacking in any gift.** Yet Paul said they were carnal babies.

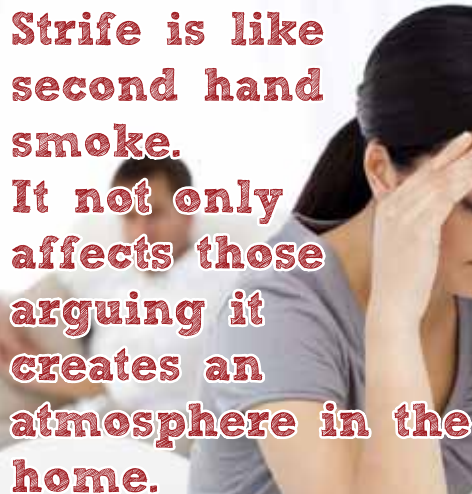


**v.3 For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?** Said another way, “Are you not carnal and acting just like unsaved people?” The way a baby Christian lives is often not much different from the way an unsaved person lives. The world is often not impressed with Christ because the only Christians they see are carnal baby Christians.

**Jealousy** and **strife** are two defining characteristics of immature Christians.

**Jealousy** means rivalry, having a competitive attitude. It means seeing others as opponents you have to beat. It is an inward drive to prove yourself superior to others. It means looking down on those who seem to be inferior to you and to hate those who seem to be better.

**Strife is like second hand smoke. It not only affects those arguing it creates an atmosphere in the home.**



Jealousy is an attitude, strife is the resulting action.

**Strife** means to quarrel, dispute, debate. Nothing is more ironic than two Christians in a heated religious debate on the subject of love! In any discussion, even if you’re technically correct, if your attitude is wrong, you’re wrong. Some people have clever arguments to prove their point. But peel back the veneer, and you’ll see a heart poisoned with envy and jealousy.

**Proverbs 13:10 (NIV) Where there is strife, there is pride.** Where there is heated arguing, there is pride. Do you have a problem with pride? If you’re ready to verbally attack someone simply because he disagrees with you, that’s pride. If you’re always

right and everyone else is always wrong, that’s pride. If nothing is ever your fault, someone else is always to blame, that’s pride. If you can’t get along with anyone, and every conversation ends in a quarrel, that’s pride.

**Philippians 2:3** says, **Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.** Other translations say, “esteem others better than yourself.” Carnality is selfish, it says, “Me first! What about me?” It thinks, “Is this what I want? How will this affect me?” But the nature of God puts others ahead of self. It thinks, “How will this affect others?” If you put others ahead of yourself, strife and jealousy will cease. That means, preferring your brother or sister instead of your own needs and desires, is an indication of spiritual maturity.

**v.5** says, **Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus.** Jesus was completely selfless. He did nothing out of selfish ambition. He was motivated by love for God. This is the attitude we are to have also.

I have attended minister’s meetings where those present were jockeying for position, vying for prominence, trying to show which one of them was more important. It was horrible, I wanted to leave. I remember one pastor who was so competitive and contentious. But years later when I met him, he had changed. He was gentle and unassuming, there was something sweet in his disposition.

All of us can grow. You may have a low opinion of someone because of something that happened years ago, but perhaps in the meantime, that person has matured. Hopefully, you have too!

Jealousy creates strife and strife creates division. The Corinthian church was divided into factions. Lack of unity is a sign of carnality. Most churches don’t split over doctrine, but over personality conflicts.

**Galatians 5:15** says, **But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed** (or destroyed) **by one another.** Paul is not talking about cannibalism, but strife. Some people want to blame the devil for everything, but this verse says these people were destroying themselves.

By the third century, North Africa was solidly Christian. Some of the early church's finest leaders, like Tertullian, Clement, Origen, and Augustine, came from North Africa. But the churches became divided, arguing over minor doctrinal points. Today North Africa is totally Islamic.

By the year 1,000 A.D. Russia was a Christian country. So how could the Bolsheviks, who were atheists, take over the country in 1917? Because the church was preoccupied with debating more important matters, such as, "Should one cross himself with one finger or three?" and "How many demons can sit on a pin head?" A divided church is an easy target for the devil.

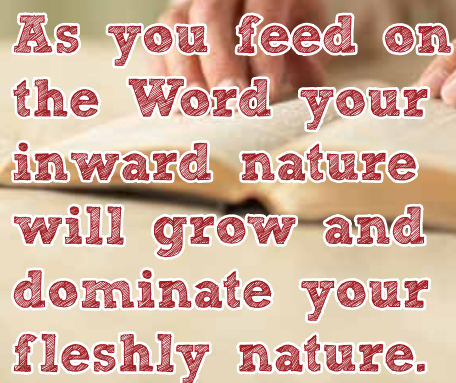
Not only are churches divided because of carnality, but marriages and families are destroyed because of strife. Strife has an adverse effect on children.

According to one study conducted at UCLA, researchers found that children who grew up in homes with high levels of conflict had more physical health problems, emotional problems, and social problems later in life, compared to others. As adults, they were more likely to report vascular and immune problems, depression and other emotional problems, substance dependency, loneliness, and problems with intimacy.

Smoking not only affects the smoker, but second-hand smoke contains hundreds of toxic chemicals, seventy of which are carcinogenic. Children who breathe in second hand smoke are susceptible to numerous health problems.

Strife is like second-hand smoke. It not only affects those arguing, it creates an atmosphere in the home. Most restaurants in America are now no-smoking zones. All airlines are smoke free. Before take off, the stewardess will inform you there are smoke detectors onboard which will sound an alarm if someone tries to smoke.

Our children are strife-detectors. We need to resolve that our homes will be no strife-zones. There will be disagreements, but we can choose to resolve them amicably, because maintaining the well-being of the family is more important than who's right or wrong.



**As you feed on  
the Word your  
inward nature  
will grow and  
dominate your  
fleshly nature.**

Strife creates division in the workplace, in the classroom, in society.

In **Galatians 5:19-21** Paul lists the **works of the flesh**. This is what happens when you let your sinful human nature sit in the driver's seat. Of the 15 things listed, 8 of them are relational problems: **enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissension, divisions, envy**. And these things are just as sinful and wrong as the other items mentioned like, **sexual immorality, idolatry, and drunkenness**.

But the good news is in **Galatians 5:16**, **But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh**. If you follow your inward nature led by the Holy Spirit, you may be tempted to fight, but you won't yield to it.

**v.22,23** says, **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law**.

This describes the character of Christ; this is God's nature on the inside of you. But fruit grows. As we develop spiritually, these things are perfected in us. God wants us to grow in love, overflow with joy, have abundance of peace, increasing patience, more kindness and goodness, strengthened faithfulness, profusion of gentleness, plenty of self-control.

As you feed on the Word your inward nature will grow and dominate your fleshly nature. Eventually, you will come to the place that getting into a heated, ugly verbal argument will be as foreign to you as speaking Chinese!



# मन की सोच

पास्टर जॉन रौटन की कलम से

रोमियों 8:5 क्योंकि शारीरिक व्यक्ति शरीर की बातों पर मन लगाते हैं; परंतु आध्यात्मिक आत्मा की बातों पर मन लगाते हैं।

बहुत से मसीह लोग परमेश्वर के लिए जीवन जीने में इतना अधिक संघर्ष क्यों करते हैं? हम बार-बार परीक्षा में क्यों पड़ जाते हैं? हम अपनी कमज़ोरियों पर कैसे विजय हासिल कर सकते हैं?

हर एक मनुष्य तीन रूपों में जीवित रहता है। उसके तीन हिस्से हैं: आत्मा, प्राण और शरीर। रोमियों 7:22,23

परंतु मुझे अपने अंगों में दूसरे प्रकार की व्यवस्था दिखाई पड़ती है, जो मेरी बुद्धि की व्यवस्था से लड़ती है और मुझे पाप की व्यवस्था के बंधन में डालती है जो मेरे अंगों में है।

भीतर का मनुष्य इनसान की आत्मा होती है। पौलुस जब अपने अंगों की बात करता है, तो वह अपने शरीर की बात कर रहा है। मनुष्य का एक मन होता है जिसे बाइबल प्राण भी कहती है।

पौलुस ने कहा, मैं अपने अंगों में एक दूसरी व्यवस्था को देखता हूँ। यहाँ पर “शब्दों से कुछ खिलवाड़” हुआ है। वह यहाँ पर मूसा के पुराने नियम की बात नहीं कर रहा है। वह कह रहा है कि उसके शरीर में पाप का एक स्वभाव है जो कि परमेश्वर की इच्छा व स्वभाव के विरोध में है। वह भीतर का मनुष्य होता है जो आत्मा से जन्मा होता है और इसी में

ही मनुष्य को अनंत जीवन, परमेश्वर का जीवन व स्वभाव मिलता है। नए जन्म में शरीर पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता है। यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि पवित्र आत्मा के सामर्थ्य की सहायता से मनुष्य के शरीर के स्वभाव को नियंत्रण में कर लिया जाए। इस बात को नोट करें पौलुस कहता है कि उसके शरीर का स्वभाव उसके मन की व्यवस्था के विरुद्ध संघर्ष करता है। दोबारा से यहाँ पर इस बात में शब्दों से खेला गया है। मन की व्यवस्था आपके सोच-विचार करने की योग्यता होती है, जो आपके मन पर हावी रहती है। इसलिए बाहरी स्वभाव विरोध में रहता है। एक मसीही आदमी की आत्मा सही काम करना चाहती है, लेकिन उसके शरीर की आदत हमेशा गलत काम करने की रहती है। हमारा मन ही युद्ध का मैदान है; यह ही वह जगह है जहाँ पर हार या जीत का फैसला होता है।

एक विश्वासी होकर भी आप शरीर के अनुसार जीवन जी सकते हैं; आप चाहें तो ऐसा होने दे सकते हैं कि आपके शरीर के अंग आप पर हावी हो जाएँ और फिर वे आपके स्वभाव को नियंत्रण में कर सकते हैं। या फिर आप आत्मा के अनुसार जीवन जी कर, अनंत जीवन के स्वभाव को अपने ऊपर हावी होने दे सकते हैं। आत्मा के अनुसार जीवन जीने के लिए, अपने नया जन्म पाए हुए स्वभाव को अपने ऊपर हावी होने देने के लिए सबसे आवश्यक बात यह है कि आपके मन की सोच सही हो। जो लोग संसार की बातों पर

मन लगाते हैं वे लोग शरीर के अनुसार जीवन जीने वाले होते हैं। जो लोग आत्मा की बातों पर मन लगाते हैं, वे वो लोग होते हैं जिनमें मसीह का नया स्वभाव रहता है। वे परमेश्वर व परमेश्वर की आत्मा के अनुसार जीवन जीते हैं।

आपके मन की सोच आपकी मंज़िल को सुनिश्चित कर देती है। जहाँ पर इनसान का मन लगा रहता है, वह उसी तरफ जाता है। पाप के ऊपर व शैतान के ऊपर विजेता का जीवन जीने के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि आपके मन की सोच सही हो। आप के मन की सोच आपके सोचने का तरीका होता है। धर्मी व्यक्ति में सही सोच उसे सही रास्ते पर लेकर जाती है। अगर मसीह लोग नया जन्म पाए हुए हैं तथा परमेश्वर का आत्मा व स्वभाव उनमें होता है, तो फिर वे पाप क्यों करते हैं? इसका कारण यह है कि वे गलत बातों पर मन लगाकर रखते हैं। उनके मन की सोच गलत होती है। किसी एक गलत विचार से ही एक आदमी के जीवन दिशा निर्धारित नहीं होती है, यह उस इनसान के मन की सोच होती है। यह उसके लगातार सोचने का तरीका होता है।

6 वचन में लिखा है- शरीर पर मन लगाना तो मृत्यु है, परंतु आत्मा पर मन लगाना जीवन और शांति है। हमारे मन पर बाहरी मनुष्य या आंतरिक मनुष्य का प्रभाव पड़ सकता है। इनमें से एक हमें मृत्यु व दूसरा जीवन व शांति दे सकता है। इस वचन में यह ज़रूरी नहीं कि मृत्यु का मतलब शारीरिक मृत्यु हो। (सांसारिक विचार आने मात्र से ही अगर कोई मसीह आदमी मरने लगता तो इसका मतलब है कि इस दुनिया में कोई भी प्रभु का आदमी बचता ही नहीं) नहीं, यहाँ पर इस संदर्भ में मृत्यु का मतलब है -पराजय, सूत्रापन, बहुतायत के जीवन की कमी।

रोमियों 8:6 में पौलुस मसीह अनुभव के बारे में बता रहा है। लेकिन, हर एक नया जन्म पाए हुए मसीह आदमी में पहले से ही अनंत जीवन पाया जाता है। पहले से ही परमेश्वर के साथ उसकी शांति होती है। आत्मा की बातों पर मन लगाने से एक मसीह व्यक्ति अधिक शांति व अधिक जीवन का अनुभव करता है।

यशायाह 26:3 कहता है-जिसका मन यहोवा पर लगा रहता है, उसे वह सिद्ध शांति में बनाए रखता है। इब्रानी भाषा

में यह वचन सच में कहता है “दुगुनी शांति में”। सही सोच का मतलब है- परमेश्वर की बातों पर अपने मन को लगाए रखना। यदि हम परमेश्वर को प्रसन्न रखने वाला जीवन जीना चाहते हैं, अगर हम उसकी शांति का अनुभव करना चाहते हैं, तो यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि हम आत्मिक जीवन जीएँ। हमें अपने मनों पर ध्यान लगाकर रखना चाहिए। हमें मन की लड़ाई को अवश्य ही जीतना चाहिए। हमें अपने विचारों के विषय में सावधान रहना चाहिए। बाइबल हमारे मन के विषय में बहुत अधिक कहती है। यह एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जिसमें सच्चे विश्वासी भी संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।

आपके मन की सोच आपकी मंज़िल को निश्चित कर देती है। जहाँ पर मनुष्य का मन होता है, वहीं पर वह भी रहता है।



अगर आप आत्मा की अगुवाई में जीवन जीना चाहते हैं, अगर आप अपने शरीर के अंगों में पाप की व्यवस्था के ऊपर जीत हासिल करना चाहते हैं, तो सावधान रहिए कि आप किस तरह की किताबें पढ़ते हैं, किस तरह की फिल्में देखते हैं, और किस प्रकार का संगीत हम सुनते हैं। कोई जैसा भी बोता है, वैसा ही वह काटता है। अगर आप अपने मन में पाप के विचारों को बाँटेंगे, तो फिर आप गलत कामों की ही कटनी करेंगे। लेकिन अगर आप अपने मन को परमेश्वर के विचारों से भर देंगे, तो आप के अंदर से भली और अच्छी चीज़ें ही निकलेंगी, और आपके अंदर का स्वभाव फिर से आपके शरीर की कमज़ोरियों पर राज्य करेगा।



# NEED PRAYER?

**You** may send your prayer request directly to us:

Call during office hours or  
e-mail at [church@spirit-faith.org](mailto:church@spirit-faith.org)  
**Tuesday-Friday (9:00 am - 4:00 p.m)**  
at (03862) 231558

ask for  
Bro. Kent

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So then  
faith  
comes by  
hearing  
and  
hearing by  
the Word  
of **God**.  
- Romans 10:17

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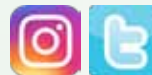
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*Spirit of Faith Church Family  
wishes our readers a blessed New Year 2017!  
May you walk closer with the Lord and enjoy all  
of His goodness this year!*



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## IF YOU DON'T QUIT YOU WIN!

**Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)**

Well, here we are! 2016 is now history; it's over, finished, another year has gone by and a new one is here. The slate is clean and it's time for a fresh start.

I love this text from Joshua. It's a charge from God, to be strong and of good courage as we look ahead. But in the same breath He also reminds us not to be afraid, nor dismayed at our future, because He promises that He's never going to leave us alone.

What would be impossible in 2017 if God was helping you every day, to fulfill His vision and His purpose in your life? Just imagine what you could accomplish if everything you put your hand to prospered this year. What's stopping you from thinking BIG, from thinking POSSIBLE, from thinking YES rather than NO, from thinking JUMP rather than STAY? Who said you can't change? Who said you can't accomplish great things?

You can do it. Your life can be different; you can reach those goals of yours. Stop putting it off for another day, another month, another year. It's time to think bigger than you've ever thought before; it's time to dream beyond where you've ever dreamed before. You've got all it takes when you've got God on your side. He is more than able to help, more than able to supply what you need, if you'll believe it and receive it.

So, be strong and of good courage, don't quit on yourself or on God. Push forward beyond the restraints of fear. You can make it, if you don't quit—you win!



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