



Faith News

The bi-monthly teaching magazine of Spirit of Faith Church

March/April 2017

JUDGE NOT



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Prayer for salvation

If you do not know the Lord Jesus as your Savior and Lord, pray the following prayer in faith, and God will give you eternal life.

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 the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”** 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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JUDGE NOT

BY PASTOR JOHN ROUGHTON



Matthew 7:1, 2

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

This is one of the most frequently quoted passages of the Bible. Many people invoke these verses whenever they are accused of wrong doing. It is used to deflect criticism. So in other words, many people are quick to say, “Don’t judge me! Jesus said don’t judge.” But actually Jesus didn’t say, “Don’t let anyone judge you.” He said, “If you don’t want others to judge you, then don’t judge them.”

The English word **judge** means to make a determination, to form an opinion. In these verses, is Jesus telling us that we should never evaluate anything, or never have an opinion about anyone? It’s virtually impossible to live that way. That could not be what Jesus meant.

Employers evaluate their employees. You would be a fool to marry someone

without forming an opinion of that person. One definition of wisdom is sound judgment. The Bible encourages us to have wisdom.

And if we are not to form an opinion about anyone, that would include a *favorable* opinion as well as an unfavorable opinion. So, if not judging means not having an opinion, we should not praise anyone for doing well.

In fact, if **Matthew 7:1** means that we never have an opinion about anyone, then Jesus contradicted himself in v.6, when he said, **Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs.** Jesus is not talking about animals here; he is using a derogatory remark to describe people who have no appreciation for the things of God. It sounds like he judged certain people.

Jesus had some harsh words for the scribes and religious teachers of his day. He openly called them hypocrites, whitewashed walls, and blind leaders of

the blind. Evidently, he had formed an opinion of these people.

The Greek word translated **judge** in **Matthew 7:1** is *krino*, and it means, “to sit in the position of a judge, to put others on trial, to condemn.”

Matthew 7:1 (Amp) Do not judge and criticize and condemn [others unfairly with an attitude of self-righteous superiority as though assuming the office of a judge].

**Leveling
accusations at
other people
doesn't
exempt you
from
scrutiny.**



We should not sit in judgment over other people, especially our brothers and sisters in the Lord. So that means I must continually remind myself that God is the judge, not me. **James 4:12 (ERV) God is the one who gave us the law and he is the Judge... So it is not right for you to judge anyone.**

God doesn't want us to be fault-finding, highly critical, harsh and judgmental. Many Christians are quick to point out the shortcomings of other people. They leap at every opportunity to speak badly about others.

But **Matthew 7:2** says, **with the measure**

you use it will be measured to you. In other words, the standard you apply to others will be applied to you. The way you treat others is the way you will be treated. **Matthew 7:1, 2 (Msg) Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults- unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging.**

Our judgments are like a boomerang; they will come back and hit you on the head!

James 4:11

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Judging others for not obeying the Word doesn't mean that you are practicing it. Pointing out the faults of others doesn't erase your own shortcomings. Leveling accusations at other people doesn't exempt you from scrutiny.

Romans 2:1

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you the judge, practice the very same things.

Before you start criticizing others, you better take a look at yourself first. Often our criticism of other people is unfair. We do it to make ourselves look better. You may criticize another brother for being unspiritual, but perhaps that person has been born again for only a short time, whereas you've known the Lord for many years. That's unfair.

You may look down on other Christians, but they may not know what you know; perhaps they haven't heard what you've heard. If they knew what you knew, they might do better than what you're doing.

We have a tendency to be very critical of sinners. But should we expect sinners to act like saints? They can't help act that way because they are lost. They have the wrong nature on the inside. We don't expect them to act like you, and we don't expect you to act like them either.

Romans 14:4

Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One problem is this, that we have a tendency to judge others by their actions and judge ourselves by our intentions. We make the same mistakes as others but say, "I didn't mean for that to happen." We tend to be very lenient on ourselves and very strict towards others.

Last summer, I joined a gym and I noticed, on the wall in large letters a sign that said, "*Judgment Free Zone.*" The gym owners know that many people are apprehensive about joining a gym, thinking that only people with perfectly sculpted bodies hang out and will feel embarrassed to show up. But actually, people go to the gym to get in shape.

Every church should have a large sign inside that says, "*Judgment Free Zone.*" We don't go to church to show off our spiritual biceps but to get the help we

Every church should have a large sign inside that says, "Judgment Free Zone."



need. No one says, "I'm too sick to go to the hospital." This is a spiritual hospital, people come to get well.

James 2:13

For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

If you judge others and show them no mercy then one day when you need some mercy, you're not going to get it either. So forgive others, cut them a lot of slack, and be compassionate. God didn't call us to correct or to sit as a judge over one another. We are commanded to love one another.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

That means you may see things that are not quite right in other people, you may know things that are not quite right but be magnanimous enough to overlook it. **Billy Graham** said, *It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love.* You do your job, God will do his job.



अब और अधिक मनमुटाव नहीं

इफिसियों 4:14, 15

ताकि हम आगे को बालक न रहें जो मनुष्यों की ठग-विद्या और चतुराई से, उन के भ्रम की युक्तियों के और उपदेश के हर एक झोंके से उछाले और इधर-उधर घुमाए जाते हों। वरन् प्रेम में सच्चाई से चलते हुए सब बातों में उसमें जो सिर है, अर्थात् मसीह में बढ़ते जाएँ, परमेश्वर चाहता है कि हम आत्मिक तौर से बढ़ते जाएँ, भीतर से हमारा विकास हो और हम विश्वास में मज़बूत होते जाएँ।

जिस प्रकार से शरीर बढ़ता है, वैसे ही आत्मिक वृद्धि भी होती है। नए-जन्म के द्वारा हम मसीही जीवन में प्रवेश करते हैं। जिस प्रकार पैदा होते ही कोई भी शरीर में पूरी तरह से विकसित नहीं होता है, ठीक उसी तरह से मसीह को ग्रहण करने के तुरंत बाद ही कोई भी मसीही आदमी विश्वास में मज़बूत नहीं होता है।

1पतरस 2:2 कहता है, नये जन्मे बच्चों के जैसे निर्मल आत्मिक दूध की लालसा करो, ताकि उसके द्वारा उद्धार पाने के लिए बढ़ते जाओ। कुछ लोग ऐसा मानते हैं कि नया जन्म पाने के बाद जितना अधिक समय उन्हें हो जाता है, वे विश्वास में उतने ही परिपक्व (मज़बूत) हो जाते हैं। लेकिन यह बात सही नहीं है। जबकि परिपक्वता में समय लगता है, लेकिन समय अधिक होने से कोई विश्वास में परिपक्व नहीं बन जाता है। संसार में बहुत से चर्च बूढ़े बच्चों से भरे पड़े हैं।

1कुरिंथियों 3:1 हे भाइयो, मैं तुम से इस रीति से बातें न कर सका जैसे आत्मिक लोगों से, परन्तु जैसे शारीरिक लोगों से, और उनसे जो मसीह में बालक हैं। इस वचन में जो यूनानी शब्द 'बालक' के लिए इस्तेमाल किया गया है, वही यूनानी शब्द इफिसियों 4:14 में बच्चों के लिए प्रयोग किया गया। आत्मिक तौर से कमज़ोर मसीही लोग अपने शरीर की इच्छाओं के अनुसार जीवन जीते हैं। दूसरे शब्दों में, उनके ऊपर उनका शरीर हावी रहता है। उनका पुराना पाप वाला स्वभाव, उनके नए आत्मिक स्वभाव पर छाया रहता है। पाप में जिए जाने वाला जीवन इस बात का संकेत है कि कोई मनुष्य आत्मिक रूप से मज़बूत (परिपक्व) नहीं है। पौलुस कहता है कि परिपक्व विश्वासी आत्मिक लोग होते हैं। इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि वे केवल चर्च में जाते थे और प्रार्थना करते थे। इसका मतलब है कि उनका भीतरी मनुष्य, जिसमें परमेश्वर का स्वभाव होता है, उन लोगों के स्वभाव और मन पर प्रभाव डालता रहता है। वे मसीह की तरह जीवन जीते हैं व वर्ताव करते हैं।

दुःख की बात यह है कि अधिकतर मसीही लोग जितना अपने आप को आत्मिक समझते हैं, उतने आत्मिक वे असल में होते नहीं हैं। कुछ लोग सोचते हैं कि सही वचनों व शिक्षा में बने रहना ही आत्मिकता है। लेकिन असली आत्मिकता को सही सिद्धांतों से नहीं, बल्कि व्यवहार से नापा जा सकता है। बाइबल का ज्ञान होना बहुत आवश्यक है, लेकिन ज्ञान अकेले ही विकास की बराबरी नहीं कर सकता है। हम में

से ज्यादातर लोग जितने प्रकाश में जी रहे हैं, असल में उससे अधिक प्रकाश हमारे अंदर है।

और फिर कुछ लोग ऐसा सोचते हैं कि यदि हमारे जीवन में आत्मा के वरदान काम कर रहे हों, तो यह इस बात का सबूत है कि हम आत्मिक हैं। अगर कोई आदमी भविष्यवाणी करता है और दर्शन देखता है, वह व्यक्ति सच में बहुत ही आत्मिक होता है। यह बात सच नहीं है। कुरिंथ के लोगों में आत्मा के वरदान काम कर रहे थे। **1कुरिंथियों 1:7** कहता है, **तुम लोगों में किसी भी वरदान की कोई कमी या घटी नहीं है।** लेकिन पौलुस ने कहा कि वे सांसारिक और आत्मिक रूप से बालकों के समान हैं। वचन **3-इसलिए कि तुम में डाह और झगड़ा है, तो क्या तुम शरीरिक नहीं? और तुम मनुष्य की रीति पर नहीं चलते हो? अगर इस बात को इस तरह से कहा जाए तो, “क्या तुम सांसारिक नहीं जो उद्धार न पाए हुए आदमी की तरह व्यवहार कर रहे हो?”** आत्मा में बालक मसीह लोग, संसार के उद्धार न पाए हुए लोगों से कुछ अलग तरह का जीवन नहीं जीते हैं। संसार के लोग, मसीह में इसलिए नहीं आना चाहते हैं क्योंकि जिन मसीही लोगों को वे देखते हैं वे सांसारिक व बालक के जैसे मसीही होते हैं। डाह (जलन, ईर्ष्या) और मनमुटाव (झगड़ा) विश्वास में कमजोर विश्वासी के दो सबसे बड़े लक्षण होते हैं।

जलन का मतलब है विरोध की भावना होना, प्रतिस्पर्धा (मुकाबले) की सोच होना। इसका मतलब है कि दूसरों लोगों को ऐसे विरोधियों के रूप में देखना, जिन्हें आप हराना चाहते हैं। यह आपके अंदर की एक ऐसी आदत होती है कि आप स्वयं को दूसरों से बेहतर साबित करने की कोशिश में लगे रहते हैं। इसका मतलब है कि जो आप से कम दर्जे (स्तर) के हैं उन्हें छोटा करके आंकना व जो आपसे ऊपर हैं या आगे हैं उनसे नफरत करना।

जलन एक तरह की सोच है, मनमुटाव इसका परिणाम होता है। मनमुटाव का मतलब है- झगड़ा, बहस या वाद-विवाद करना। अगर दो विश्वासी इकट्ठे होकर प्रेम के विषय को लेकर बहस या झगड़ा करने लगें, तो इससे बढ़कर मज़ाक की बात और भला क्या हो सकती है? किसी बात को लेकर बातचीत या वार्तालाप के समय हो सकता है कि आप तकनीकी रूप से सही भी हों, लेकिन अगर आप का व्यवहार व सोच सही न हो, तो

आप ही इसमें गलत होंगे। कुछ लोग अपनी बात को सही साबित करने के लिए बड़ी चालाकी से बहस करते हैं। लेकिन, अगर आप उसके ऊपर से नकाब उतार कर ध्यान से देखें, तो आपको जलन व ईर्ष्या से भरा हुआ हृदय दिखाई देगा।

लेकिन अच्छी ख़बर **गलातियों 5:16** में यह है, **आत्मा के अनुसार चलो तो तुम शरीर की लालसा को किसी रीति से पूरी नहीं करोगे।** यदि आप पवित्रआत्मा की अगुवाई में होकर अपने भीतर की आत्मा की आवाज़ को सुनेंगे, तो हो सकता है कि आपको लड़ाई करने का मन करे, लेकिन आप उस परीक्षा में नहीं पड़ेंगे। वचन **22, 23** कहता है- **पर आत्मा का फल प्रेम, आनंद, शांति, धीरज, कृपा, भलाई, विश्वास, नम्रता, और संयम है; ऐसे कामों के विरोध में कोई भी व्यवस्था नहीं।**

यह मसीह के स्वभाव को दर्शाता है; यह आपके अंदर परमेश्वर का स्वभाव है। लेकिन फल बढ़ता जाता है। जब हम आत्मिक तौर से विकसित होते जाते हैं, ये सारी बातें हम में सिद्ध होती जाती हैं। परमेश्वर चाहता है हम प्रेम में बढ़ते जाएँ, आनंद से भरपूर हो जाएँ, धीरज में बढ़ें, बहुतायत में हमारे अंदर शांति हो, और अधिक दया व भलाई हो, विश्वासयोग्यता हममें मज़बूत हो, और बहुत अधिक आत्म-नियंत्रण हो।

जैसे-जैसे आप परमेश्वर के वचन को अपने अंदर लेते जाते हैं, आप के अंदर का स्वभाव बढ़कर आपके शरीर के स्वभाव पर हावी हो जाएगा।

जब आप प्रभु के
वचन पर चलते
जाते हैं, तो
आपकी आत्मा
का स्वभाव
आपके शरीर
पर हावी हो
जाता है।



NEED PRAYER?

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prayer request
directly to us:*

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

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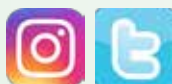
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RGENX (Radical Generation)

Is dedicated to impact young people with the love of Jesus, disciple them in the **Word**, help them to stand **victoriously** in life and **influence** the people around them! We worship with **high-energy music**!



KEEP
CALM
AND
BE
YOURSELF

There is no one like you in the world! Your DNA and fingerprints are exclusively yours. God gave each of us a specific combination of gifts, skills and qualities to distinguish us from everyone else.

Instead of celebrating our individuality, however, sometimes many of us strive to be someone we are not. The enemy tempts us to compare ourselves to others and convinces us that we are somehow inferior or inadequate.

You may not think that insecurity is a big deal, but it can steal our peace, spoil our relationships and prevent us from fulfilling the will of God for our lives.

Thank God for His Word. **Romans 8:30** says, “...whom he did **predestinate**, **them he also called**; and **whom he called**, **them he also justified**; and **whom he justified**, **them he also glorified**.”

Oftentimes, we conform to the world so that people will accept us. This is a trick of the enemy to rob us of our identity. You may not realize it, **but you have already been accepted (Eph. 1:6).**

Satan knows that God has a plan that is tailor-made for you. Don't frustrate yourself by trying to be someone else! Thank God for the gifts and abilities that He has given you. Celebrate who you are in Christ and watch your insecurities diminish away!



→ BE ← yourself



WARNING



RGenX (Radical Generation)
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