



SPIRIT OF FAITH  
INTERNATIONAL

# Faith News

The bi-monthly teaching magazine of Spirit of Faith Church

October 2017



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# Prayer for *Salvation*



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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, **“Whosoever 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 mini-book, 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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# THREE TRUTHS



By Pastor John Roughton

**2 Corinthians 5:14-16**

**For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;**

**15 And he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.**

**16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.**

I want to give you three important truths that you should always keep in mind. You must be mindful of these three things in order to live a victorious Christian life.

Notice again v.15, **one has died for all, therefore all have died. Here's the first truth you must remember:**

**I died with him.**

Most people know that Jesus died on a cross. And every true Christian knows that he died there for us, for our sins. But more than that, because he died as your official substitute, his death is your death. In the mind of God you died with him.

In the days of Napoleon, French officials scoured the country side looking for young men to enlist in the army. When they attempted to draft one young man, he protested and said, "I've already served in the army. In fact, I died on the battle field and

was awarded a medal for bravery." At first they thought that the man was out of his mind. But when they checked the records they saw that he was right. "But how can that be?" they asked. The young man explained, "When my name was called, a friend of mine took my place. He said, 'You're married and have a family. I'm single and have no one. I'll go in your name.' And he went and died in the battle field in my name."

There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother! He went where you could not go and he did what you could not do. And everything Jesus did has been credited to your account. In the register of heaven it is recorded that you died two thousand years ago at Calvary.

**In Galatians 2:20 Paul said, I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.**

The world does not see the relevance of the cross. They know Jesus died for them, but they can't see what difference that makes in their lives. What they don't understand is that the cross is not just the place where Christ died; it is the place where I died with him, because he took my place. The cross is not just an event in human history, it is my personal testimony.

The gospel is not an invitation for sinners to be repaired. Nor is it an opportunity for God to improve their lives. The gospel is a call to die! That's because unless you die with him, you can't live with him.

**Galatians 6:14 says, But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.** One translation of this verse says, **I am dead to this world and this world is dead to me.**

A victorious Christian considers himself dead to this world. But what does that mean? Does it mean we are barely in contact with the world around us? That we stumble through life like a zombie? No. That's not being spiritual, that's being strange!

**The cross is not just an event in human history, it is my personal testimony.**

What does it mean to be dead to this world? Does it mean we never have any nice things? No. Abraham had much silver and gold, yet he was called the friend of God. Does it mean we never wear nice clothes? Jesus had good clothes. The Roman soldiers gambled for his clothing. Wearing good looking clothes doesn't make you worldly anymore than wearing ugly clothes make you spiritual.

#### **1John 2:16**

**For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.**

Being dead to this world means, that we are not influenced by carnal desires and that we live humbly before God. There are some Christians who wear drab clothing who are full of pride and resentment.

**Romans 6:11 says, So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

You must consider yourself dead to sin because you died with Christ.

An evangelist stepped into the elevator of the hotel where he was staying. A woman in the lift smiled at him and said, "Would you like to fool around?" He said, "I can't." She replied, "Why not?" He answered, "I'm dead." She said, "Oh, I'm sorry." She thought he had some physical condition that prevented him from participating in that sensual activity. But he meant,

"I have a spiritual condition which prevents me from participating in sin."

You can't tempt a dead man. You can't insult a corpse. A cadaver will never be offended. This is the type of attitude you have to maintain.

Now notice **2 Corinthians 5:15 He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him.** Here's the second Biblical fact you must keep mind at all times:

**I live for him.**

He died for me so that I might live for him. Most people, even in the church, are living for themselves. They spend their entire life pursuing their dreams, endeavoring to fulfill their desires. Most people think the ultimate aim in life is to make yourself happy. But the Christian life is not a self-centered life. Because he died for me, I now live for him.

Does that mean every Christian has to be an evangelist or missionary? No. Serving God is not a career choice; it is a lifestyle of doing his will.

I have a friend in America who is a school teacher. Over the years, he has shared the good news with many of his students. He leads a Bible study on campus for his fellow teachers. He is involved in a ministry for Christian athletes at his school. He works hard and does his job with excellence. He is not a pastor or prophet. He is salt and light in a dark and needy place. I believe God called him to be a school teacher.

Serving God is a lifestyle. This world needs to see businessmen who are honest for the sake of Christ. People are tired of fake Christians, they desperately need to see Christians, who may not be perfect, but are sincere in their walk. Living for him means dying to your own ways. It's not a big decision you make once in your life, it's the many little decisions you make every day.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:10**

**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.**

One day you yourself are going to stand before the man from Galilee. He's not going to ask you, "Did you enjoy your time on the earth? Did all your dreams come true?" No. He's going to say, "Did you follow my plan for your life?"

They say just before a man dies, he sees his whole life pass before him like a movie. Make sure your movie is worth watching. When you take your last breath on this earth, you don't want to say, "I lived for myself." **You should be able to say, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** This life is very short. Live for Jesus, that's what matters.

Lastly, look at **2 Corinthians 5:16, From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.** Here is the third point I want you to remember:

### **I see others by him.**

The Greek word translated **regard** in this verse literally means, "to see." It means to understand, value, and appreciate. If we don't see people according to the flesh, how do we see them? According to the spirit.

The spirit of man is the *real* man. I don't rate others by who they are naturally in the flesh. I'm not interested in the color of the outward man. I discern the condition of the inward man, because that's the real man. I don't properly value people when I judge them by the flesh, evaluating them by their ethnicity, nationality, or tribal background.

When I meet someone for the first time, the first question in my mind should not be, "Where is he from? What community does he belong to?" But rather, "Does he know the Lord?" I know no man after the flesh because God doesn't know any man after the flesh, either.

### **1 Corinthians 2:15**

**The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.**

Another translation says, **But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.**

To **appraise** means to correctly assess the value of a thing. That requires discernment. What some people think is treasure, is actually trash. The spiritually mature man correctly understands the value of all things. When you honor the things that God does not honor it proves that you are not very spiritual. Some Christians give honor to the wrong people, because they don't see people the way God sees them.

God sent Samuel to Jesse's house to anoint a king. All of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, yet each time the Lord said to him,

"That's not the one I have chosen." After all sons had failed the test, Samuel asked, "Do you have any more sons?" Jesse replied, "Only the youngest, but he's keeping the sheep." David was so lightly esteemed by his father and brothers, that they didn't even invite him to attend the anointing meeting!

God said, "That's the one I have chosen."

**1 Corinthians 1:27-28** tells us that God has chosen the weak things of this world to confound the strong. And he has chosen the foolish things to confound the wise. In other words, God doesn't see people the way you do. And he will choose people that you would reject. God doesn't see the outward appearance, but the heart.

If you begin to see people as Jesus sees them, you might have to make some changes in who you consider your friends. If you'll notice, in his earthly ministry, Jesus didn't spend a lot of time socializing with the rich and powerful people of his day. He didn't hang out with Herod. He didn't visit Pilate's place every day. He was with people who needed God.

**Serving God is not a career choice; it is a lifestyle of doing his will.**

You may be lightly esteeming some real gems in your life - people who are genuine and sincere, who thirst for God's presence. It is possible that the Lord has brought people into your life that can really bless you and help you fulfill your destiny, but you may not recognize them because you see them through the eyes of the flesh. You may be running with the Eliab's and overlooking the David's.

I see others by him. The man who is born again is my brother, even if he comes from a different background than me. Who you are in the spirit is more important to me than who you are in the flesh. I'm not impressed with your tribe or caste. I am impressed with the life and nature of God manifested through you.

I died with him. I live for him. I see others by him. This is how God wants you to live.

# आदर



## 1 शमूएल 2:30

...जो मेरा आदर करें मैं उनका आदर करूँगा,  
और जो मुझे तुच्छ जानें वे छोटे समझे जाएँगे।

परमेश्वर अपने सारे बच्चों को एक जैसा और बिना किसी शर्त के प्रेम करता है। वह हमें इसलिए प्रेम नहीं करता क्योंकि हम अच्छे बने रहे हैं, बल्कि इसलिए कि वह भला है। उसने हम लोगों से हमेशा प्रेम करने का इरादा कर रखा है और उसके मन को बदलने के लिए हम कुछ भी नहीं कर सकते हैं!

लेकिन फिर भी परमेश्वर सब लोगों का एक जैसा आदर नहीं करता है। कुछ लोगों का वह अधिक व कुछ का कम आदर करता है। परमेश्वर का आदर-सम्मान पाने के लिए कुछ शर्तें हैं। परमेश्वर उनका आदर करता है जो उसका आदर करते हैं।

‘आदर’ शब्द का मतलब है सम्मान करना, किसी की कीमत समझना, किसी से बहुत अधिक इज्जत के साथ पेश आना। इस वचन में अनुवाद किए गए इब्रानी शब्द ‘कवाद’ का मतलब है, “वजनी”। यदि कोई वस्तु महत्त्वपूर्ण होती है, तो वह वजनी होती है, वह छोटे किस्म की चीज़ नहीं होती।

यह वचन यह भी कहता है, ‘जो मुझे तुच्छ जानें वे छोटे समझे जाएँगे।’ असली मसीह लोग परमेश्वर को तुच्छ नहीं समझते हैं, कहने का मतलब है कि वे परमेश्वर से नफ़रत नहीं करते हैं। लेकिन इस वचन में ‘तुच्छ’ शब्द का मतलब छोटा करते आंकना, या गंभीरता से न लेना है। इसलिए अगर आप चाहते हैं कि परमेश्वर आपका आदर करे, तो यह बहुत ज़रूरी हो जाता है कि आप परमेश्वर को गंभीरता से लें।

नीतिवचन 28:9 जो लोग परमेश्वर के वचन की शिक्षा से मुँह मोड़ लेते हैं, परमेश्वर उनकी प्रार्थना को नहीं सुनता है।

यदि आप परमेश्वर द्वारा आपसे कही गई बात को छोटा करके मानेंगे, तो जो कुछ आप परमेश्वर को कहते हैं वह भी उसे छोटी बात ही मानेगा, मतलब परमेश्वर भी आपकी बात पर ध्यान नहीं देगा। आजकल हम आदर के बारे में अधिक शिक्षा को नहीं सुनते हैं। कुछ मसीह लोग सोचते हैं कि आदर-सम्मान करना अब पुराने ज़माने की बातें हो चुकी हैं। कुछ लोग तो यहाँ तक भी कह देते हैं, “यह मरा हुआ धर्म है, परमेश्वर मेरा पिता है!” लेकिन यहोवा ने मलाकी 1:6 में कहा है, यदि मैं पिता हूँ, तो मेरा आदर कहाँ है? आपको ऐसा लगता है

कि आदर बेकार की बात है, लेकिन परमेश्वर आपके विचार से सहमत नहीं है। आदर किए बिना हम परमेश्वर के साथ गहरा रिस्ता कभी भी कायम नहीं कर सकते हैं। हमारे परमेश्वर पिता के साथ हमारा रिस्ता उतना ही गहरा है जितना कि इस संसार में रहते हुए यीशु का पिता के साथ था। क्या यीशु ने कभी अपने पिता का निरादर किया था? क्या यीशु ने परमेश्वर के वचन को कभी छोटा या तुच्छ करके समझा था? उसने कभी भी ऐसा नहीं किया।

आज हम लोग ऐसे समय में जी रहे हैं जिसमें किसी भी बात को गंभीरता से नहीं लिया जाता है। कुछ लोग जीवन के बारे में भी गंभीरता से नहीं सोचते हैं। विरोधी होना व किसी की बात न मानना शान की बात माना जाता है। लेकिन हमें संसार के लोगों के जैसा नहीं बनना चाहिए, क्योंकि यदि हम परमेश्वर की बातों को छोटा करके मानेंगे, तो हम प्रभु की महिमा को कभी भी नहीं देख पाएँगे। हम परमेश्वर का आदर कैसे करते हैं?

हम अपने शब्दों से परमेश्वर का आदर करते हैं।

जब हम परमेश्वर की आराधना करते हैं, तो हम उसे बताते हैं कि वह हमारे लिए क्या है। लेकिन हमारे वे शब्द ईमानदारी और सच्चाई से भरे होने चाहिए।

मत्ती 15:8 कहता है, ये लोग होठों से तो मेरा आदर करते हैं, लेकिन इनके हृदय मुझसे बहुत दूर हैं।

जीवन में अच्छे व्यवहार से हम परमेश्वर का आदर करते हैं।

रोमियों 2:23 कहता है, तू जो व्यवस्था के बारे में घमंड करता है, व्यवस्था को तोड़कर परमेश्वर का अनादर करता है। सही जीवन जीने से परमेश्वर को आदर मिलता है। हम लोग पुराने नियम के अधीन नहीं हैं, लेकिन मसीह के नियम यानि कि प्रेम के अधीन हैं। 1कुरिंथियों 6:20 कहता है, हमें दाम देकर खरीदा गया है। इसलिए अपनी देह के द्वारा परमेश्वर की महिमा करो। दूसरे शब्दों में, आत्मनियंत्रण का प्रयोग करके परमेश्वर का सम्मान करो, आप का शरीर जो कुछ भी करना चाहता है वह सब उसे मत करने दो।

हम हमारी धन-संपत्ति के द्वारा परमेश्वर का आदर करते हैं।

नीतिवचन 3:9 कहता है, अपनी संपत्ति के द्वारा, और अपनी भूमि की सारी पहली उपज दे देकर यहोवा का आदर करना।

कुछ लोग देते तो हैं, लेकिन गलत सोच के साथ देते हैं। वे सोचते हैं कि भेंट-दान देना प्रभु की सभा के दौरान एक तरह का व्यवधान पैदा करना या दखलअंदाज़ी है। कुछ लोग ऐसा करते हैं कि मानो वे कोई विल या उनकी चर्च की सदस्यता की फीस भर रहे हैं। यह परमेश्वर का आदर करना नहीं है। और उनके जीवन में हमेशा पैसे की कमी होने का एक कारण यह भी हो सकता है जबकि वे दशवांश भी देते हों। कई बार समस्या जो हमारे हाथ में है उसमें नहीं होती, बल्कि जो हमारे मन में है उसमें होती है।

जो मेरा आदर करते हैं, मैं उनका आदर करूँगा। परमेश्वर हमारा आदर कैसे करता है?

गिनती 27:20 और अपनी महिमा में से कुछ उसे दे, जिससे इस्रालियों की सारी मंडली उसकी माना करे।

परमेश्वर ने मूसा को यह आदेश दिया कि वह यहोशू को अपना उत्तराधिकारी नियुक्त कर दे। अग्रेज़ी के एक अनुवाद में ऐसा लिखा है, तू अपने आदर में से कुछ आदर उसे प्रदान कर। असल में तो वह यहां पर अभिषेक के हस्तांतरण यानि दिए जाने की बात कर रहा है। पवित्रआत्मा का अभिषेक हमारे ऊपर होना आदर की बात होती है। परमेश्वर आपको अभिषेक देकर आपको ऊँचा स्थान दे सकता है। आपके जीवन पर जो अभिषेक और अनुग्रह है परमेश्वर उसे और अधिक कर सकता है। वह आपकी बुलाहट में आपको ले जा सकता है।

परमेश्वर आपका इस तरह से आदर कर सकता है जैसा कि कोई दूसरा इनसान नहीं कर सकता। लेकिन यह सब, तब शुरू होता है जब हम अपनी बातों से, हमारी आराधना में, हमारे धन और हमारे कामों के द्वारा परमेश्वर का आदर करते हैं।

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## It Is Better To Be Alone Than In The Wrong Company

Proverbs 13:20 (ERV)

Be friends with those who are wise, and you will become wise. Choose fools to be your friends, and you will have trouble.

Tell me who your best friends are, and I will tell you who you are. If you run with wolves, you will learn how to howl. But, if you associate with eagles, you will learn how to soar to great heights.

The book of Proverbs says, "A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses." The simple but true fact of life is that you become like those with whom you closely associate - for the good and the bad.

The less you associate with some friends, the more your life will improve. Any time you tolerate mediocrity in others it increases your mediocrity.

Someone said, "If you find yourself taking two steps forward and one step backwards, invariably it's because you have mixed associations in your life."

A true friend is one who is there to care. They remain your friend even if you don't deserve to have a friend. They will see you through when others think you're through.

If you were to list your greatest benefits, resources or strengths, you would find that money is one of the least important ones while some of your greatest resources are the people you know. A true friend sees beyond you to what you can be.

Invest in good relationships. The way to make a true friend is to be one. Your wealth is where your friends are. Francesco Guicciardini said: "Since there is nothing so well worth having as friends, never lose a chance to make the right ones."

As you grow, your associates will change. Some of your friends will not want you to go on. They will want you to stay where they are. Friends that don't help you climb, will want you to crawl. Your friends will stretch your vision or choke your dream. Those that don't increase you will eventually decrease you.

Consider this: never receive counsel from unproductive people. Never discuss your problems with someone incapable of contributing to the solution, because those who never succeed themselves are always first to tell you how. Not everyone has a right to speak into your life. You are certain to get the worst of the bargain when you exchange ideas with the wrong person.

Don't follow anyone who's not going anywhere. With some people you spend an evening; with others you invest it. Be careful where you stop to inquire for directions along the road of life. Wise is the person who fortifies his life with the right friendships.



# Sow a Seed



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