



SPRIT OF FAITH
INTERNATIONAL

Faith News

The bi-monthly teaching magazine of Spirit of Faith Church



FAVOR

Mar / Apr 2018



SERVICE TIMINGS

Sunday

Worship & the Word	10:30 am
Covenant Kids	10:30 am
Nagamese Service	02:30 pm
Prayer & Praise	05:30 pm*

Wednesday

Pastor's Bible Study	05:30 pm
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Saturday

RGenX (Radical Generation)	04:30 pm
Surge (Singles)	04:00 pm*

*as announced

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Tel. : (03862) 231 588
Email : church@sofi.life
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Design & Layout SFC Publication Team

Some of the views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of this ministry.

Upcoming events at Spirit of Faith Church



SPECIAL MEETING

Rev. Tokunbo Adejuwon

14th & 15th April

Attention!

Graduates of Spirit of Faith Bible School

ALUMNI MEETING

26th MAY

FAVOR



By Pastor John Roughton

2 Corinthians 6:2

For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

The **day of salvation** is the dispensation, or the period of time, we’re living in now. It is the church age. It is also called the Gentile age when Gentiles as well as Jews can be saved. **Acts 2:21** says, **everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** If this is the day of salvation, it is also the time of favor, when God will hear us and help us.

The Bible tells us that at the beginning of his ministry, Jesus entered the synagogue in Nazareth and read from Isaiah, **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...(Luke 4:18).** He went on to say in **v.19** **to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.**

The **year of the Lord’s favor** is the new covenant which Jesus ratified with his own blood. It is the day of salvation.

Here’s something very interesting: Jesus read from **Isaiah 61:1, 2.** If you turn to this passage in your Bible you’ll notice **v.2** says: **to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God.** But in the synagogue Jesus omitted that last phrase. The **day of vengeance** is the final judgment which

will occur after this age. Jesus didn’t read that part because that day hasn’t yet come. Will Christians go through the great tribulation? I don’t believe so, for **1 Thessalonians 1:10** says Jesus **delivers us from the wrath to come.**

Jesus didn’t come to announce judgment, he came to proclaim the **year of the Lord’s favor.** In the Old Testament this phrase refers to the year of jubilee.

Leviticus 25:10

And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.

Every 50 years the nation of Israel experienced a reset of sorts. In the year of jubilee everyone’s debts were instantly cancelled. Every prisoner and slave was set free. If a man had sold his ancestral land to pay off debts, that land was returned to him. During the year of jubilee no one labored in the fields. The land and the workers had a rest and God supernaturally provided for them.

The year of jubilee actually began on the day of atonement —the one day in the calendar when the high priest entered into the holy of holies. Every 50 years, after the high priest sprinkled blood on the ark of the covenant to make atonement for Israel’s sins,

a trumpet was sounded throughout the land. The trumpet blast announced the beginning of the year of jubilee, the year of the Lord's favor.

Hebrews 9:12

he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Jesus, our high priest, did not enter a building made with human hands. He went into heaven itself! And there he offered not the blood of animals, but his own blood to purchase our redemption —our salvation.

Our year of jubilee began after Jesus sat down at the Father's right hand. That means, every debt has been canceled and every prisoner has been pardoned. All that the devil had stolen from you has been recovered by the blood of Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:19** says God has reconciled the world to himself and is **not counting their trespasses against them.** Legally, every sinner's debt has already been paid.

But the gospel is the trumpet blast!

THIS IS THE TIME OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

Can you imagine a man laboring in the fields, trying to earn enough to pay off his debts. And then in the distance he hears something. "What is that?" he asks himself. Then it dawns on him. It is the sound of a trumpet signaling the year of jubilee. Then he suddenly realizes, "My debts are cancelled, I'm free!"

Jesus had paid it all! But many today have not yet heard the trumpet sound, so they continue to labor, hoping to earn God's favor with their good works. And often the church has made an uncertain sound. The message has become muddled and confused.

Remember Jesus read from **Isaiah 61:1**. One translation says, **to tell the captives they are free, and to tell the prisoners they are released.** Notice,

not to tell them they are going to be free someday in the distant future. No, tell them they are free now!

Imagine the governor of the state pardons a prisoner. He is officially forgiven of his crime. The governor entrusts the jail authorities to inform the inmate. But what if the jailer says to the man, "The governor has sent me to inform you that you are now in prison"? The prisoner will say, "I knew that already. I didn't need the governor to tell me that."

No, if the man is pardoned, the jailer should say, "The governor has released you, you can go home now." The gospel is not telling the world how horrible they are — probably many people already know that. No, God wants us to tell them, "Jesus paid the price for your freedom. You don't have to stay in the prison house of sin any longer, get up and walk out!"

The sound of the jubilee trumpet told every Israelite that they were released. It was not a future promise but a present fact. **1 Peter 2:24** says **by whose stripes you have been healed.** Instead of hoping that God will heal you, you need to believe it has been done.

Years ago my sister had a dog named Sandy. He was a bit naughty so she tied him to a long rope behind the house. I came home one day and saw him tethered to a cord attached to a stake in the ground. He looked so depressed, so I tossed him a tennis ball. He perked up, caught it between his teeth, and then dropped it at my feet. I threw the ball further and he ran as far the rope would allow and returned it.

I felt sorry for him being tied up, so I decided to turn him loose. I expected him to immediately run off, but to my surprise, he stayed in place. I motioned for him to go, but he remained stationary. I tossed the ball a short distance and he quickly fetched it. But when I threw the ball a longer distance, he just looked at me. He thought he was still attached to the rope and so didn't even bother chasing it. But then it suddenly occurred to him that he was no longer bound by that rope! He smiled at me for just a moment, and then, "Wham!" he was gone! Later I thought, "My sister's dog is smarter than most Christians." Jesus has set them free, yet they still act like they are tethered to their old sins.

You have been pardoned. The prison door is open, why are you still sitting inside your jail cell?

This is a time of great favor, and we're also in a place of special favor.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word **justified** means to be made righteous. Righteousness is right standing with God.

v.2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The first verse talks about right standing with God. Verse two says **this grace in which we stand**. That means if we are saved we are standing in a place of God's favor.

The Old Testament *emphasizes* how men found favor with God because of the way they lived. The New Testament *emphasizes* how men found favor with God because of the way Christ died. Under the old covenant righteousness led to favor. Under the new covenant favor led to righteousness.

We have new life by faith in Christ and we live this new life in Christ by faith. We're justified by faith and we access favor by faith.

Romans 5:2(NLT) Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand.

A privilege is a special right, advantage, or benefit. It is something that puts you in a better position than others. That means you have something that other people don't have. God, through his Son, has put you in a place of advantage.

When you have a pity-party, feeling sorry for yourself, you're telling God that what Jesus did for you doesn't matter. When you complain about how unfair life is, you're acting like you're at a disadvantage. But that's not true! You are in a place of **undeserved privilege**.

We are in a place of favor with God through Christ. We have the same standing with the Father that Jesus has. Does God the Father look on Jesus with favor? Of course! That's how he looks on us.

John 16:26, 27

In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

We don't pray, "Jesus, can you ask your Father if he'd do me a favor?" No, we directly ask the Father in the name of Jesus. And the Father will answer us just as if it was Jesus praying.

YOU ARE IN A PLACE OF UNDESERVED PRIVILEGE

Many religious people make pilgrimages to holy sites because they think it is a place of special favor, and a place where God will hear and help them. I remember a couple of years ago I visited Budapest, Hungary. My ministry friend told me there was a church there that supposedly had the bones of Stephen, the church's first martyr. Actually, they only had his toe. And people from all over Europe visited that church. Pilgrims patiently waited in line for their turn to touch the blessed toe!

They believed that this church was a special place where God's favor would come to them. In other words, they thought, "If I can touch Stephen's toe, then God will hear my prayer and heal me."

But you don't have to make a pilgrimage to a supposed holy site. If you are in Christ, you're in a place of special favor! You got there by faith, now you access that favor by faith.

ज्योति में हमारी मीरास



इफिसियों 1:11-

उसी में जिसमें हम उसी की मनसा से जो अपनी इच्छा के मत के अनुसार सब कुछ करता है, पहले से ही ठहराए जाकर मीरास बनें।

मसीह में हमारे पास मीरास है, क्योंकि हम उसके साथ जोड़े गए हैं, हम उसके साथ एक हो गए हैं। एक अंग्रेजी अनुवाद में लिखा है “मसीह ने जो कुछ भी किया उसकी मीरास के वारिस हम हैं। मसीह ने अपने मरने, गाड़े जाने और जीवित हो जाने तथा स्वर्ग में ऊँचे स्थान पर बैठ जाने के द्वारा जो कुछ भी हमारे लिए खरीदा वह हमारी मीरास है।

रोमियों 8:17 कहता है- यदि संतान हैं तो वारिस भी, वरन् परमेश्वर के वारिस और मसीह के संगी वारिस हैं, कि जब हम उसके साथ दुःख उठाएँ तो उसके साथ महिमा भी पाएँ। दूसरे एक अनुवाद में लिखा है, संयुक्त (जुड़े हुए) वारिस। मेरा और मेरी पत्नी का संयुक्त बैंक खाता है, हम दोनों के नाम इस खाते में हैं। इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि आधा पैसा मेरा है और आधा मेरी पत्नी का है। इसका मतलब यह है कि हम दोनों बैंक खाते के उस पैसे के बराबर हकदार हैं। हम सब मसीह के साथ बराबर के वारिस हैं। यीशु को जो कुछ भी पिता परमेश्वर से मिला है, वह सब कुछ अब हमारा

भी है- क्योंकि हम अब मसीह के साथ जुड़ चुके हैं। आप यह भी कह सकते हैं कि पिता परमेश्वर के साथ आपका विवाह हो चुका है।

यीशु ने यूहन्ना 16:14 में पवित्रआत्मा के विषय में कहा है- वह मेरी महिमा करेगा, क्योंकि वह मेरी बातों में से लेकर तुम्हें बताएगा या “वह इसे तुम्हें दिखाएगा।” पवित्रआत्मा यीशु की बातों को हमें क्यों दिखाएगा? कारण यह है कि हम संयुक्त वारिस हैं इसलिए, जो कुछ भी यीशु का है वह हमारा भी है। मेरे कुछ दोस्त हैं जो मुझे अपना नया घर दिखाना चाहते थे। मैं उनके साथ आनंदित था लेकिन मेरे आनंद में भंग पड़ गया।

**मीरास में भागीदार होने के लिए
परमेश्वर ने हमें योग्य बना दिया है।**

मुझे घर के हर एक कमरे में जाकर देखने और हर एक छोटी जानकारी लेने की ज़रूरत नहीं थी। लेकिन पिछली गरमियों में मैं और मेरी पत्नी अपने खुद के लिए घर खोज रहे थे। जिस घर को हम खरीदने वाले थे उसकी जाँच पड़ताल करने के लिए हमें जाँच करने वाले पारखी को खासी रकम देनी पड़ी।

यह महँगा काम था (लगभग 33,000 रूपए)। जाँच करने वाले ने उस घर के कोने-कोने में जाकर उसका निरीक्षण किया। तो आप मुझे यह बताइए कि इस घर की जाँच करने में मैंने इतना अधिक पैसा खर्च क्यों किया, जबकि दूसरे घर का मुफ्त दौरा भी मैंने नहीं किया। इसका कारण यह है कि पहला घर किसी दूसरे आदमी का था और दूसरे घर में मैं रहने वाला हूँ।

ज्योति होना व ज्योति को प्राप्त करना एक बात है, और उस प्राप्त प्रकाश में चलना अलग बात है।

इस बात को याद रखिए कि पवित्रआत्मा घर की जाँच परख करने वाला है। 1कुरिंथियों 2:10 कहता है- आत्मा सब बातें, वरन् परमेश्वर की गूढ़ बातें भी जाँचता है। समस्या यह है कि मसीह लोग “अपने घर की जाँच की रिपोर्ट ‘देखने में दिलचस्पी नहीं लेते हैं क्योंकि वे सोचते हैं कि इससे उनको कोई फ़र्क नहीं पड़ता है। वे कहते हैं “मैं यीशु के लिए खुश हूँ कि वह स्वर्ग में रहता है, लेकिन इससे मुझको कोई फ़र्क नहीं पड़ता है, क्योंकि मैं तो यहाँ इस धरती पर हूँ।” हम मसीह के साथ संयुक्त वारिस हैं। यह केवल उसका ही घर नहीं है, यह हमारा घर भी है। जो कुछ भी मसीह को मीरास में मिला है, वह हमारा भी है।

1 यहून्ना 3:21 कहता है- हे प्रियो, यदि हमारा मन हमें दोष न दे, तो हमें परमेश्वर के सामने हियाव होता है। इस बात को नोट करें कि यह वचन नहीं कहता “यदि शैतान हम पर दोष नहीं लगाता है,”- शैतान हमेशा आपको यह कहने कि कोशिश करता है कि आप बहुत बेकार और निकम्मे किस्म के इंसान हैं। नहीं, यह वचन कहता है कि यदि हमारा मन हम पर दोष न लगाए। यहाँ पर ‘दोष’ शब्दका मतलब है- “किसी के विरोध में कुछ जान लेना, या किसी में दोष ढूँढ़ना।” यदि आप का मन साफ़ है, तो दूसरे आप के बारे में क्या कहते हैं इस बात की चिंता मत

कीजिए। लेकिन पाप के कारण यदि आप का हृदय दुःखी है तो आपको मन फिराना चाहिए।

जब आप बिल्कुल सही होंगे शैतान कहेगा कि आपके साथ कुछ गड़बड़ है। जब आप गलत हैं तो वह कहेगा कि आप बिल्कुल सही हैं। बेचैन हुए मन को केवल मीठी-मीठी बातें बोलकर सहलाया नहीं जा सकता है। “परमेश्वर भला है और वह मुझसे प्रेम करता है।” सच बात है! इसलिए वह आपको बुला रहा है और चाहता है कि आप हर तरह के गलत काम से दूर रहें और परमेश्वर से क्षमा प्राप्त करें।

यशायाह 58:8 कहता है यदि हम पाप और अपराध के कामों से दूर रहेंगे, तब तेरा प्रकाश पौ फटने के समान चमकेगा, और तू शीघ्र चंगा हो जाएगा; तेरा धर्म तेरे आगे आगे चलेगा, यहोवा का ताज तेज तेरे पीछे रक्षा करते चलेगा।

ये सब आशिष क्या हम अच्छे काम करके खरीदते हैं? नहीं, यह सब परमेश्वर की महिमा से हमें मिली हैं। लेकिन आप की मीरास ज्योति में ही मिलती हैं। इसलिए ज्योति यानि परमेश्वर के प्रकाश में जीवन जीएँ और प्रभु के वचन से ज्योति प्राप्त करें। भजन 119: 130 कहता है- तेरी बातों के खुलने से प्रकाश होता है; उससे भोले लोग समझ प्राप्त करते हैं। प्रकाश बन जाना और प्रकाश प्राप्त करना अलग-अलग बात है, और फिर उस प्रकाश में चलना अलग बात है।

विश्वास सूरज की ऊर्जा प्राप्त करने वाले सौर यंत्र के जैसा होता है। दोपहर को सूर्य से प्रकाश लेकर यह शक्ति का प्रवाह पैदा करता है। छाया में यह बिल्कुल कम क्षमता वाला हो जाता है। रात को तो यह पूरी तरह से ही काम नहीं करता है। विश्वास भी सांसारिकता की छाया में रुक-रुक कर काम करता है और पाप के अंधेरे में काम करना बंद कर देता है। परमेश्वर का वचन हमें जीवन जीना सीखाता है। बहुत से प्रभु के लोग मीरास में भागीदारी नहीं करते हैं क्योंकि इस विषय में उन्हें प्रकाश यानि ज्ञान नहीं होता है।

SPIRIT OF FAITH BIBLE SCHOOL

STUDENTS' TESTIMONIES



Renbi Odyuo

I was a drug addict who met with a critical car accident 5 years back. God in his mercy miraculously saved me even when the doctors had given up hope on me. But due to the accident, I was disabled and disfigured so badly that I was filled with despair. I even cut up my Bible thinking it was all so unfair.

But I started attending Spirit of Faith Church and then I decided to apply for this Bible school. Now I feel that my life is revolutionizing! The Word that is taught in the class is working in me and the more I hear it, the hungrier I become for the Word! I also feel normal - all the emotional scars, inferiority complex, doubts and fears is vanishing. I thank God for never giving up on me even when I was so unreasonable and ungrateful.

Flora Lee

God is so good to me! I was a champion at worrying. But I have learned that the less I worry and leave things to the Lord, the smoother and faster the work gets done! Being able to come to this school in itself is a testimony of how my heavenly Father provided for my every need. He made the way so smooth for me to come, despite all the obstacles.

Since I come from a mixed religious background based on occult traditions, I had many questions. (I am originally a Chinese born and brought up in India). I never fully acknowledged the Lord. But now I am finally able to acknowledge the fullness of the love which our Father has poured out in my heart by the Holy Ghost!



OUR BRANCH CHURCHES

Location: Near Bharat gas agency. Ward 3, Medziphema

Call for more information:

+91 8415823549

Pastor Lambert Odyuo



MEDZIPHEMA



WOKHA

Location: Post Box - 64, Police Point Junction, Tsumang Colony, Wokha, Nagaland

Call for more information:

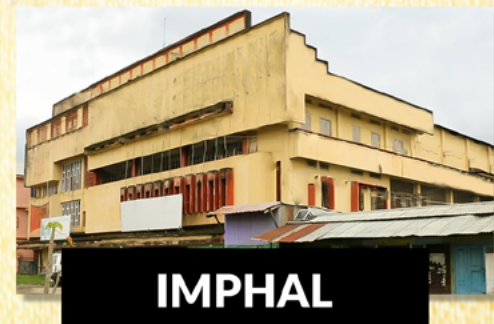
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Pastor Thungbemo Lotha

Location: Mini Shankar cinema hall, Lamphel, Super Market, Imphal East, Manipur
Call for more information:

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Pastor Premjit Yumnam



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R A D I C A L R G E N X G E N E R A T I O N

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!

RELATIONSHIP GOALS

In today's current culture, "relationship goals" have become very famous and have taken center stage on social media platforms. Sometimes it's impossible to scroll through Instagram and Facebook without seeing something captioned "relationship goals." Urban Dictionary defines "relationship goals" as "when two people are in a relationship and girls envy them, usually a celebrity couple or popular couple in high school."

As a believer, we should have different "relationship goals" ideas than what we are seeing on the internet.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.

Everything has its time. Just look at Adam in the book of Genesis. Long before a woman came along, his fulfillment simply came from an intimate fellowship with the divine companion. There was no woman before Adam's time, so how could he have known he wanted or needed one? Adam did not know that he was missing someone and was faithfully naming the animals until God brought it up!

I want to encourage our young people to stop wasting your time by looking for someone on your own. God knows your likes and dislikes. God will speak to your hearts not only about relationship but also about your education, friendships, and other areas that are important to you. Keep your focus on the Lord in this season of your life.

You don't have to buy the lie that media sends that if you don't have a boyfriend or girlfriend, you're going have a boring life. No, there are a lot of great things to do - get involved in a ministry, develop yourself and your skills, build kingdom friendships in the house of God, feed on God's Word, etc...

When your right time comes to pursue a serious romantic relationship, here are some basic things that you should consider :

1. Is the person a believer? Being unequally yoked is more dangerous than you think. Waiting for someone with whom you share the same spiritual heritage is far more rewarding than many believe. It is a command designed for protection and honor.
2. Are you really ready to love? Realize that love is an action, not just a feeling. Are you prepared to act in love toward your future spouse, even at times when you don't like his or her behavior? Some of the ways you'll need to show your love include listening, protecting, providing, and serving each other, no matter what.
3. How does the person relate to other members of his or her family? Is there harmony at home (because that's how the person will relate to others in your household!)?
4. What is the person called to do, and is that gift and calling compatible with my gift? Just because you love someone doesn't mean that person is a good match for you. Evaluate which personality traits and personal habits you can live with in a future marriage.



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