



Seed For Living

BRO. MANUEL MINISTRIES MONTHLY BULLETIN MAY 2014

Seek the presence of God

His presents will follow

As humans, we are inherently selfish, constantly thinking, "What about me? What about my needs? What about my feelings?" We strive to find happiness for ourselves, but always end up feeling worn-down, stressed-out, and unhappy.

More often than not, our misery is rooted in insecurity. We are not sure we have enough to meet all our needs. We are unsure about the future. We are uncertain about so many things. Most importantly, we are not sure that God is watching out for us and will take care of us as He has promised. We may say that we trust Him, but our actions betray our words.

Most people derive their sense of security from money—the more money we have, the more secure we feel. Even those who have a lot, want a little more. And while it is easy for God to make a poor man rich,

He may not be inclined to do that for our own good.

Look at the people who have more money than they can handle, especially the youth, and see the direction their lives are headed in. Most of them are more than happy to spend money they haven't earned on things they don't need. They are addicted to drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, partying, fast cars and bikes, etc. In short, they are using the surplus money they have to destroy themselves.

God does not want that.

Just as no parent will gift a ten-year-old a Ferrari, God prefers not to give us certain things until He is sure that we are mature enough to use it sensibly and not get ourselves killed. That's why Jesus said, "*Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" (Matthew 6:33)

Once we have inculcated righteousness, we will always do the right thing no matter what. And, as far as God is concerned, that is good enough.

So, don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. In fact, if we put God first and wait on Him to provide for our needs, in due time He will also take care of our wants. Trust Him. God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what's good for us. After all, He created us.

— Bro. Manuel Mergulhao





With the Lord, our Light and Salvation.
Who then shall we fear?
Life is not about the art of living
But a precious gift so dear.
Since Jesus rose from the dead
We too will rise
Then we too can have a
new glorious body
It is no surprise.
I believe I'll see the goodness,
Of the Lord in the land of the living.
Spending more time in His presence
With praise and thanksgiving.
– Benedict Vivian Fernandez

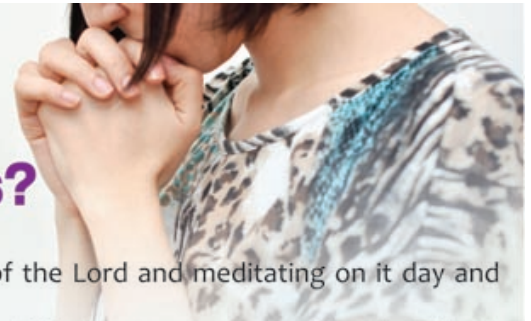


The Bible has a lot to say on the subject of marriage. In fact, all marriages would be saved from disaster if couples simply followed the basic principles of marriage prescribed in the Bible. If you have not done that yet or don't even know what those principles are, this book, 'The Principles of Marriage' will serve as your guide.

The Principles Of Marriage



Why this **Silence** from God towards my **Prayers**?



Let us check on some scriptures, which talk about when and why our fasting does not pay off or our prayers not heard.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." — Psalm 66:18

If you notice the Word does not say 'if I have sinned'. If it was so, God would not have heard any human being. "If I regard iniquity in my heart" is what He says. If I hold any particular sin in my heart and love it, no matter what excuse I have for it or how much I cover it up, it is a cause of controversy for God with me!

Though God hates sin, there is a remedy for it. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (John 1:9). So it is not primarily the fact of sin, but it is a love for sin, a willingness to sin, an excusing of sin that does not allow God to answer our prayers.

If I want to get along with God and keep sweet fellowship and have my prayers answered, then I must judge my sins. I must honestly repent and confess my sins and take sides with God against them. Otherwise, my will is dead set against the will of God. I cannot ask anything in the name of Christ, I cannot pray in the Spirit, I cannot pray according to the Word of God. My own conscience will not allow me to believe that God will bless me while I have set my own will up as an idol, or when some secret sin has my heart's devotion which ought to be given to God alone.

The smallest sin in the world can break my contact with God and can leave me powerless and without results in my prayers.

"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination." (Proverbs 28:9)

Read that again. Contempt for the Word of God is an abomination to God. But a love for the same brings forth a happy fellowship and communion between God and me.

If my heart is turned away from the Bible, if I have a disinclination to read it, if it is not interesting to me, if I do not meditate on it prayerfully, joyfully, then my prayer is an abomination.

There is a close connection between the Word of God and spiritual prosperity. Psalm 1 compares it to a "tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper."

Day-by-day blessing from God, spiritual prosperity, and Christian fruit bearing all depend upon delighting

in the law of the Lord and meditating on it day and night.

Knowing the Bible is not enough; reading the Bible is not enough; blessing depends on delighting in it and meditating on it.

I cannot please God in prayer if I am disinterested in the Bible, I shun it and have my heart turned away from it.

In John 15:7 Jesus promised, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

If Christ's Word does not abide in me, I am not really abiding in Christ in the sense of surrender to the will of Christ.

The God Who answers prayer is the God of the Bible. He is not only the God Who wrote the Bible, but the God Who yet today reveals Himself in the Bible and gives His blessings to those who love the Bible.

I Corinthians 2:14 says, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." If I show indifference to the Word of God, then I must know that I am living after the carnal, fleshly mind.

People who are full of the Spirit are also full of the Word of God. The natural mind is a stranger from God and is not interested in the Bible. And the carnal and unspiritual Christian is likely to have no taste for the Word of God.

A mother wrote in the flyleaf of her son's Bible "This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book."

Set apart a time early in the day, and meditate over God's Word prayerfully, longing to find the mind of God, willingly surrendering yourself to all that you find in God's Word. If you surrender yourself, and do not rush, but meditate on the Word of God, you will find prayer forming in your heart. It is a prayer inspired by the Holy Spirit, a prayer that God will be pleased to hear.

Find a new ease and joy in prayer, which must begin out of what the Spirit whispers in your heart as you read the Word of God. A daily quiet time of reading the Word of God, memorizing it, subjecting oneself to the searching, probing, judging, purifying action of God's Word, will mean rich prosperity in your prayer life.

Friend, God wants you to be blessed and prosper. He wants to answer every prayer, so let us make the way clear for Him by removing all hindrances to answered prayer.

— Sis. Lynette Mergulhao

To be continued...

Shut Up!



We've all heard the proverb: Silence is golden. In other words, when you are stressed out or agitated, it is best to remain silent because you may only exacerbate your woes by speaking. But if you choose to open your mouth anyways, think before you speak.

The Bible says the tongue has the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21). For instance, if a doctor visiting someone in intensive care looks down pitifully at the patient, shakes his head and says: "He looks bad. I wonder if he'll ever make it out of here," the doctor is speaking death. By voicing his pessimism, the doctor is denying the patient the most important determinant of survival – HOPE!

On the other hand, if the doctor chooses to encourage the patient saying "Oh, I've seen this happen to a dozen people and they all walked out just fine," he is speaking life. Words like that instantly revive the spirit and act as a catalyst to quick healing. That's why they say "a happy heart is good medicine."

The Good Book says the lips of the righteous nourish many and brings healing (Proverbs 10:21; 12:18). And Book of Psalms warns that we must keep our tongues from evil and our lips from speaking lies lest God turns our own tongues against us and brings us to ruin (Psalms 34:13 & 64:8).

Remember the Israelites? It took them 40 years to reach the Promised Land because they kept murmuring and grumbling and making a nuisance of themselves. When you speak rubbish and call down curses on yourself and your family saying things like "I wish I was never born" or "I wish I die" or "go to hell," you are not acting very differently.

The Israelites tested God repeatedly saying, "We should have never left Egypt. We are all going to die in the desert." And one day God said "Amen!"

That is why Proverbs 10:19 says "he who holds his tongue is wise." So watch what you say. Better still, watch what you think because your thoughts have the power to influence your words, and your words have the power to influence your destiny.

So next time a person or a situation instigates and angers you, remember that you have the God-given right to remain silent. But if you lose your cool and choose to voice your frustration, anything you say can and will be used against you.

Therefore, [Hush!] Be silent before the Lord God, for the day [of the vengeance] of the Lord is near. (Zephaniah 1:7)

– Editorial Desk

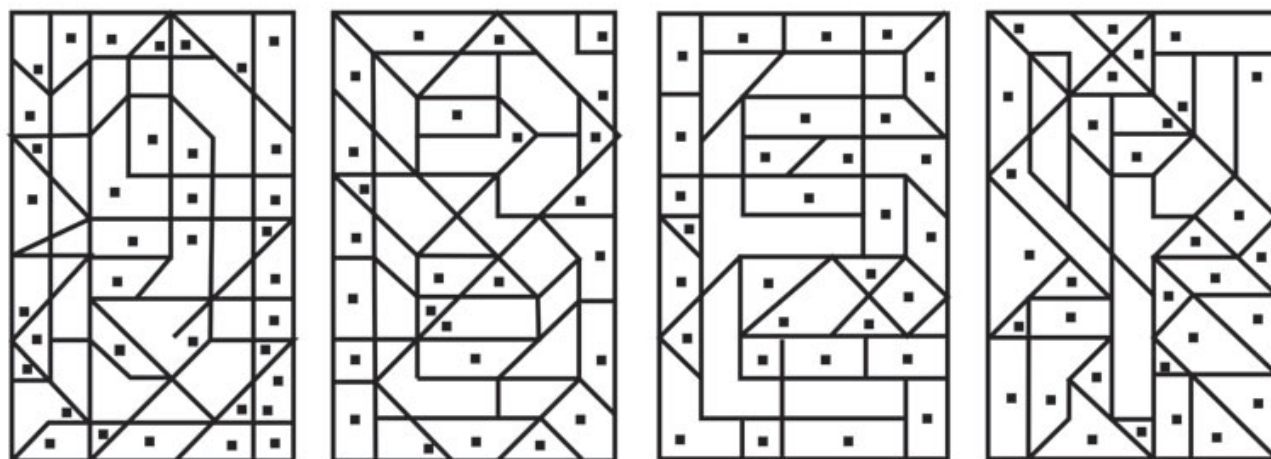


What Did Jesus Do?

Jesus Went to Jerusalem with His parents when He was 12 years old. On their way home, Mary and Joseph could not find Him. They were very worried. They looked for three days and finally found Jesus back in Jerusalem. He was with the teachers in the temple. What did Jesus do when His parents found Him?

Color all the spaces not containing a dot to make the answer appear.

Jesus Chose to



His parents

Friend's Forever



When David was serving King Saul, he became good friends with Saul's son Jonathan. David and Jonathan were such good friends that when Saul decided to kill David, Jonathan warned David so he could get away.

To find out what Jonathan said to David, go around the path twice. First, Put every letter in a circle on the lines below. Then go back and use every letter in a box.

Testimonies



I was raised in a Christian family and used to go to church all the time, but I was never in the Lord. I did receive Confirmation and all the other sacraments, but I did not really care. My dad got a new job and I got into an international school. I was doing very well so I did not care for God. When I was at the highest point in my life, Satan started attacking me. I noticed a small patch under my arm. I started taking medicines, steroids, etc. and reduced my food intake because I was scared that some food might aggravate the symptoms. Nevertheless, I contracted tuberculosis and lost a lot of weight. I was also suffering from gastric pain and malaria at the same time. With nowhere else to go, I turned to God. And from that moment on everything changed for the better. My weight has increased and my health has improved. I would like to thank all the people here for praying for me. It is not my faith in God that has saved me, but the prayers of my parents, Bro. Manuel and the ministry. I thank God for healing me and look forward for great things to come.

— Shawn Paperwala



I have been married for the last 17 years; however, my wife was not able to conceive. My wife had four miscarriages—the last one in 2010. After the miscarriage, we had a counselling session with Bro. Manuel. He said, “God is more important than the baby. Pray hard and God will do the best.” During Bro. Manuel’s birthday last year, he told my wife, “If you want to conceive, eat this cake.” Soon thereafter, we confirmed that my wife was pregnant. In the third month, we did a genetic test, which was positive. However, I was advised later that such tests are against the faith because even if the report says the baby is abnormal our faith does not permit abortion. My wife had several problems such as stomach pain, high sugar and pressure during the pregnancy. Nevertheless, our baby was born completely normal and Bro. Manuel named him Isaiah. I would like to thank everyone in Bro. Manuel Ministries for praying for us. God has blessed us and we are very thankful.

— Harman Mendonca



My mother was not keeping well and the doctors said she would need to undergo a surgery. However, they also said there could be complications. We spoke to Bro. Manuel and after a lot of prayer and intercession, went ahead with the operation. My mother came out of surgery with absolutely no complications. She is doing quite well now. I want to thank God for seeing us through this difficult time.

— Daniel D'Souza

RETREAT & OUTREACHES

Mumbai Retreat

May 31 - June 1, 2014

Goa Outreach

June 7 - 8, 2014

Mangalore Outreach

June 14 - 15, 2014

Wednesday

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Live in the Spirit
BRO. MANUEL MINISTRIES