

# ECHO OF HIS CALL



India's National Spiritual Newspaper

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Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor : SIS. SAJINI CHERIAN

Vol. XXXII

YEAR OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2025 JULY

No.07

## THE HOLY BIBLE



Please memorize  
this portion  
PSALM 8:1-9

1. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.
2. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
3. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
4. What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
5. For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
6. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:
7. All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
8. The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.
9. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

## YOU ARE CHOSEN TO BEAR FRUIT!

Sis. Angel



Greetings to you in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

I thank and praise God for graciously allowing us to step into the second half of 2025. Great is His faithfulness!

As we move forward this year, I wonder how many of us are still holding on to our New Year resolutions. What we are today is the result of the decisions and choices we made yesterday. Similarly, where we will be tomorrow depends on the choices we make today. Every choice carries consequences.

Each day, we are confronted with countless decisions - what to eat, what to wear, whether to go to work, and so on. We often make hundreds of choices without even realizing it.

Amidst all these decisions, hear the voice of Jesus Christ saying: "I choose you!"

....Contd. to page 3



## Echo of His Call

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## ECHO OF HIS CALL - (1969-2019 GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR)

*from your dearly beloved brother...*



**For the LORD will be your confidence,  
and will keep your foot from being caught.**

**- Proverbs 3:26**



### OUR MISSION POLICY

We should expound and teach the contemporary generation the undiluted teachings of the ancient and early Apostles. It is the need of the hour.

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#### YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Echo of His Call

Dearly Beloved Friends in Christ Jesus,

Warm greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

By the sovereign grace of God, we have come through a very special month of June. It was a season filled with intense activity across various areas of our ministry: **Echo of His Call** magazine, Gospel Printing Press, the Main Church and Branch Churches, **BIBLECOR** - Bible Correspondence Course (Basic), **Theological Correspondence Course**, **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**, **St. Paul's Matriculation Christian English High School**, Vacation Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Hospital Ministry, Men's and Women's Ministries, Mission Centres, YouTube Ministry, and many others including our administrative teams and families.

Hundreds of committed individuals have faithfully laboured in these diverse areas. Our key leaders continue to gather monthly for



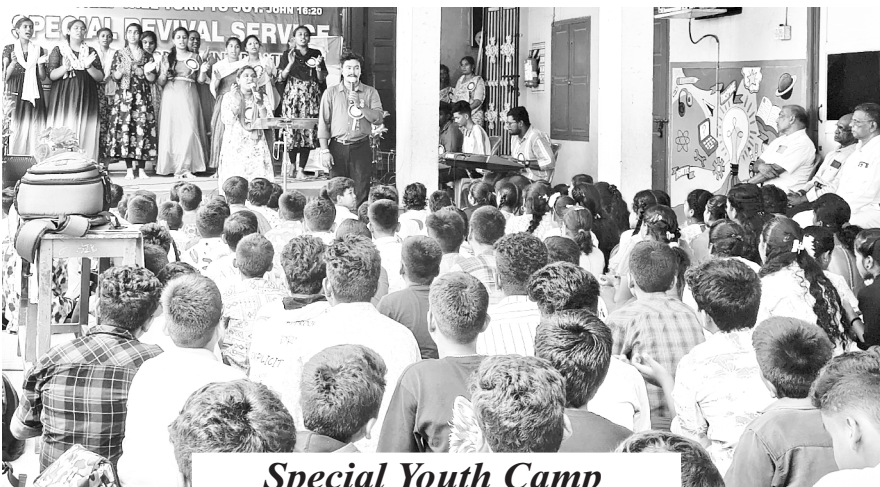
*Key Leaders gathered for monthly prayer in Church*

prayer, strategic planning, and to review feedback from the field. We are grateful to the Lord for His abundant grace.

Our Special Youth Camp was held on June 7, 2025, at the **St. Paul's Matriculation School** campus, with over 200 young boys and girls in attendance. It was a powerful time of anointing, as the youth received divine vision for their future and their calling. We have already begun to see genuine spiritual transformation in their lives, and remarkably, their renewed lives are also inspiring positive change in their families - especially among their parents. We give all glory to God for this great move of His Spirit!

**Our Ministries:** ✨ ECHO OF HIS CALL Monthly Magazines (16 languages) ✨ BIBLECOR - Postal Courses (3 languages) ✨ YouTube Ministry ✨ Online Courses ✨ Theological Correspondence Courses (2 languages) ✨ Church Planting ✨ Nehemiah Bible Colleges ✨ Gospel Printing Press ✨ Great Commission Partners ✨ St. Paul's Matriculation School ✨ Crusades ✨ Community Development





*Special Youth Camp*

We thank God for the Family Blessing Camps held from June 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> at both our **Main Church in Chepauk** and the **Branch Church in Santhoshapuram**. The Lord graciously poured out His blessings, and we witnessed a bountiful spiritual harvest. Thank you for your faithful prayers!

We humbly request your continued prayers for all our ministers and the multifaceted ministries we are engaged in. As we stand on the frontlines of spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness, we face many challenges and obstacles. Your prayers and support mean more than words can express.

May God bless you richly.

**ECHO OF HIS CALL  
PUBLICATION TEAM**

E.mail : [sam@echoofhiscall.org](mailto:sam@echoofhiscall.org)

....Contd. from page 1

John 15:16 (NIV) says, **You did not choose Me, but I chose you...**

This verse challenges our modern notion of self-determination. We often take pride in our choices, especially in our spiritual walk. But Jesus Christ turns that perspective upside down. From the beginning, God has been drawing us to Himself.

In ancient Jewish tradition, it was the disciples who sought out their rabbis. But Jesus Christ reverses this paradigm - He is the one who chooses us.

### 1. Understanding the Context!

To grasp the depth of this verse, it is important to consider the context in which Jesus Christ spoke



**Our address:**

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### PRAYER REQUEST:

Kindly uphold our 3-Day Family Camp, scheduled for August 8 to 10, 2025, in your prayers.

it - the historical setting and the emotional state of His disciples at that moment.

## 2. Historical Context!

John 15:16 was spoken by Jesus Christ during His final Passover meal - a moment rich with significance for the Jewish people, as it commemorated their identity and deliverance as a nation. In this sacred gathering, Jesus Christ redefines what it means to be the people of God.

He is seated in a borrowed upper room, most likely in Jerusalem, with His twelve disciples. It is here that He institutes the Lord's Supper. In this same setting, He delivers His final teachings - His Farewell Discourse. These are not casual remarks; they are crucial truths intended to prepare and sustain the disciples after His departure.

This highlights the urgency and weight of Jesus Christ's words in His final hours. They are words of deep purpose, spoken in love and with divine foresight.

## 3. The Emotional State of the Disciples!

Imagine the mental and emotional state of the disciples. They had been with Jesus Christ for over three years - walking with Him, eating with Him, ministering alongside Him, and spending their days and nights learning from Him. Most importantly, they had left everything they owned to follow Him willingly and wholeheartedly.

Now, suddenly, they are hearing distressing words from their Master: that He is going to die, that one among them will betray Him, and that another will deny Him. Can you imagine the turmoil they must have felt? Their entire

world was shaking beneath their feet.

Perhaps some of you reading this are in a similar place - where your world, your hopes, and your trust seem to be unraveling. You may be asking, What can I hold on to? If that's you, know this: God has a special message for you.

Pivotal teachings often emerge in the most unexpected moments - especially during seasons of crisis. It was in such a moment that Jesus Christ spoke these words to His disciples: to bear fruit. But how can anyone produce fruit during such a challenging time?

This article will be presented in two parts. This month, we'll reflect on the first part of John 15:16: God's choice in choosing us. Next month, we will explore the purpose behind that choice - to bear lasting fruit.

### I. DIVINE ELECTION:

#### GOD'S CHOICE HAS FOUR ASPECTS!

##### (a) God Initiates the Relationship!

Scripture consistently reveals that it is God who initiates the relationship. Jesus Christ said, "But I chose you." The Greek word used here for "chose" is *eklegomai*, meaning to select or pick out for oneself. This same truth is echoed in Ephesians 1:4. ... **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world ...**

This challenges our human tendency to believe we found God, when in fact, it is He who has been seeking us all along. Consider the parable of the lost sheep: the

shepherd goes after the one that is lost. In the same way, our loving Good Shepherd comes searching for you and me - to seek and to restore us to the Father.

This divine selection is neither arbitrary nor random - it is intentional and deeply personal. Out of all the people in the world, God chose you. What an incredible privilege!

Let us remember this foundational truth: our existence is intentional. You and I were created with purpose. We are not random products of creation - we are God's chosen ones, crafted by design.

##### (b) Unmerited Grace!

God's choice is not based on our merits or accomplishments. Romans 9:11-12 highlights that Jacob and Esau were chosen before they had done anything good or bad. This clearly shows that God's grace is not earned by what we do - or fail to do - but is given freely. It is the very nature of grace: an undeserved gift. This truth liberates us from performance-based religion.

So, if any of you are feeling discouraged because you haven't read your Bible or prayed consistently, don't think you're a lost cause. Our qualification does not come from our actions, but from the grace of God!

However, engaging in prayer, reading the Word, and spending time with Him helps us grow in our relationship with Him, understand His will, and live a life that pleases Him. Our journey with the Lord is not about checking

....Contd. to page 6



# GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS

TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2)

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (II Timothy 1:6)

PRAISE &amp; PRAYER POINTS - From July 19, 2025 To August 18, 2025

(Please take this sheet out, fold it and keep it in your Bible and pray continuously)



## †PRAISE GOD FOR...

- July 19** ⇒ His blessings upon the new admissions at **Nehemiah Bible Colleges** and **St. Paul's Matriculation School** for the 2025–2026 academic year.
- July 20** ⇒ His favor upon all our Associate Editors and their families.
- July 21** ⇒ The Pastors and volunteers serving in our Churches.
- July 22** ⇒ His blessing upon our **Global Vision for Youth and Kid Care Ministry**.
- July 23** ⇒ Adding new believers to our Main Church.
- July 24** ⇒ Enabling us to spread the Gospel to unreached areas.
- July 25** ⇒ The unwavering commitment of our mission workers.
- July 26** ⇒ His protection over our nations.
- July 27** ⇒ Anointing the newly saved and bringing them into our Church fellowship.
- July 28** ⇒ The leadership and unity of our State Co-ordinators and their fellowships.
- July 29** ⇒ Our faithful supporters for their constant prayers and generous support.
- July 30** ⇒ His mercy upon our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners, and Great Commission Partners - and their families.
- July 31** ⇒ The continued operation of our Gospel Printing Press and the efficiency of its workers.
- August 01** ⇒ Appointing dedicated and professional teachers to **St. Paul's Matriculation School (Village High School)**.

- August 02** ⇒ Abundant blessings upon Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and his family.
- August 03** ⇒ His continued blessing on our commitment to the Magazine Ministry since 1969.

## †PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

- August 04** ⇒ The Grace to reach unreached places with the Gospel.
- August 05** ⇒ Unity and harmony among all religions.
- August 06** ⇒ Peace to prevail throughout the world.
- August 07** ⇒ The eradication of violence against women and children.
- August 08** ⇒ Good health and strength for our Associate Editors and their families.
- August 09** ⇒ Integrity and righteousness among all nations.
- August 10** ⇒ God's continued guidance as **Echo of His Call Ministries** enters its 57<sup>th</sup> year today.
- August 11** ⇒ God's blessing upon the plans of our Senior Pastor, Rev. S. Sam Selva Raj.
- August 12** ⇒ Unity and holistic progress for all nations in every area of planning and development.
- August 13** ⇒ Provision for the needs of people across the world.
- August 14** ⇒ An end to the global economic recession.
- August 15** ⇒ The children touched by the love of Jesus Christ during **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** to grow in the Lord and attend Church faithfully.
- August 16** ⇒ An end to violence against missionaries and servants of God.
- August 17** ⇒ The destruction of Satan's works aimed at dividing families.
- August 18** ⇒ Spiritual and material blessings upon God's children.



....Contd. from page 4

boxes or meeting performance goals; it is about living by faith - faith in His unmerited grace.

This is why Jesus Christ came into the world: He died on the cross, was buried, and rose again on the third day. He is an awesome, sovereign God. It's not because of who we are - it's because of who He is!

### (c) Chosen in Love!

Thirdly, the motivation behind God's choice is love. Deuteronomy 7:7-8 reveals that **God did not choose Israel because they were numerous or impressive, but simply because He loved them.** His election stems from His loving nature, not our worthiness.

God loves us - regardless of our past. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. If you have never experienced His love, or if you have but are hesitant to carry His cross, this message is for you. God can work through anyone, regardless of how small or insignificant the group may seem - what matters is that they love Him.

### (d) Personal Selection!

God's choice is deeply personal. Isaiah 43:1 says, ... I

**have called you by name; you are Mine.** Jesus Christ personally selected each of His disciples, fully aware of their personalities, strengths, and weaknesses.

This personal aspect of God's calling brings both comfort and significance. We are not random picks - we are individually chosen, known, and loved by God.

(Repeat after me):

"I am not a random selection - I am God's specific choice. Not the second, but the best."

In 1 Peter 2:9, we read:

**But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.**

God is affirming that we are His chosen generation. Remember, we are not just selected - we are God's personal, intentional choice.

Think about how we shop at the vegetable market: we don't take everything at random. We pick what is best and most desirable. In the same way, God handpicked us - deliberately and lovingly - to be His own. What an incredible privilege and joy to know that the King of kings, the Lord of the universe, has chosen me to be part of His chosen generation!

## II. GOD'S PATTERN OF SELECTION!

Throughout Scripture, we see a consistent pattern in God's choosing: He often selects unlikely candidates. His choices are unpredictable, unassuming, and unconditional.

### (a) Abraham!

In Genesis 12:1-3, God calls Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldeans and follow Him into the unknown - a journey of faith. Abraham was 75 years old and childless, yet God promised to make him the father of many nations.



### Abraham lied about his wife Sarah

Was he flawless? Certainly not. He lied about his wife Sarah, calling her his sister to protect himself from King Abimelech. (Genesis 20). He took Hagar and

....Contd. to page 8



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2. **ECHO OF HIS CALL** - Monthly Magazines :English, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Odiya, Nepali, Assamese, Punjabi, Urdu, Sinhala & Afrikan.
3. **BIBLECOR** - Basic Bible Courses (English, Tamil & Hindi)
4. Theological Correspondence Courses: English & Tamil
5. Nehemiah Bible Colleges (Chepauk, Santhoshapuram & Velachery)
6. Great Commission Partners (Network of Pastors)
7. Training Programmes – Seminars & Retreats
8. Crusades
9. Literature Distribution and Follow Up
10. Gospel Printing Press - Publications
11. St. Paul's Matriculation School - Village English High School
12. Sunday Schools (Chepauk) : 10.30 a.m. Sunday & (Velachery, Balaji Nagar & Santhoshapuram) 3.00 p.m. Sunday
13. **Early Morning Service** : **5.30 a.m. Sunday**
14. **Preliminary Service** : **8.00 a.m. Sunday**
15. **Tamil Service** : **8.30 a.m. Sunday**
16. **Youth Meeting** : **11.00 a.m. Sunday**
17. **Fellowship Lunch** : **1.00 p.m. Sunday**
18. **Telugu Service** : **4.00 p.m. Sunday**
19. **Hindi Service** : **5.00 p.m. Sunday**
20. **Tamil & English Service** : **6.00 p.m. Sunday**
21. Feedback Time : 7.30 p.m. Sunday
22. Women's Prayer : 5.30 p.m. Wednesday
23. Men's Prayer : 7.30 p.m. Friday
24. Discipleship Meeting : 6.00 p.m. Saturday
25. House Meetings : 6.30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
26. Special Holy Communion : 6.00 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month
27. Ministers' Meeting : 6.00 p.m. First Saturday
28. Parents' Prayer : 4.00 p.m. First Sunday
29. Night Prayer : 9.30 p.m. Third Friday
30. Fasting Prayer : 9:30 a.m. Second Saturday
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- Editor

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# PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

*“Whoever reads, let him understand” (Matthew 24:15)*

## Wonderful Ministers On The Hands Of Awesome God!

When we look back the history of the lives of various ministers of the gospel, our God the Father has been faithful in taking care of and meeting all the needs of His servants in all circumstances. All His servants may not be without need but He has been faithful in making them successful. He never leaves them comfortless.

During the year 1982, I was invited to preach the gospel in a village near Chennai (Madras). The programme was for the whole day. I had to go there by catching a train. Few of my co-workers went there on the previous day to carry out the preliminary arrangements. On the particular day early morning, I prepared myself for the programme and went to the railway station, after much prayer. But in spite of sincere efforts, I was not able to arrange the required money for my travel. I did not have any money in my wallet to get the train ticket etc.

When I arrived the railway station, I found that there was a long queue for purchasing ticket to catch the particular train. Since my presence was very much needed for the programme in the village, I found no other alternative than going there. So I also stood in the queue, as if I also had enough money in my wallet just like others, to get the train ticket. In my spirit, I believed God for a miracle.

The queue moved little by little. People standing in front of me were actively opening their wallets and getting ticket by tendering currency

notes and getting the balance. But, myself being an ordinary servant of God whose wallet was empty, did not know what I would do when my turn came to pay money and get the ticket. My heart was beating fast.

Finally, my turn came to pay the money and get the ticket. I did not know what to do. The man, in the ticket counter, asked me, “Where do you want to go?” When I opened my mouth and said, “I want to go to.....”, Immediately I heard a voice from my back, asking the counter clerk, “Sir, please do not receive money from that man; I am also travelling with him. I will pay money for his ticket also; please do not get money from him....” The clerk at the ticket counter requested me not to pay money, as the other person was his friend!

My heart broke into pieces. I could not control myself. I left the place and cried like a child realizing the concern of my Master toward His little servant, Whom I was serving. Then that brother paid for my ticket also and got the ticket. We travelled together and I shared my predicament and the Lord's intervention on that day. He also shed tears and thanked God. God blessed the programme of the day richly!

Dear reader, the Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient for you also for all your needs. If the Lord calls you for His ministry, do not hesitate or delay.

**He will not leave you comfortless ...**

John 14:18.

\*\*\*\*\*

....Contd. from page 6

later abandoned her and their son. Yet God remained faithful to His choice.

God will be faithful - no matter who you are!

### (b) Moses!

God called Moses when he had lost all self-confidence and ambition. He no longer saw himself as capable of leadership. Content with life as a shepherd, Moses

encountered God at the burning bush and responded with excuse after excuse (Exodus 3 & 4).

How many of us are doing the same - offering “excusable excuses” instead of embracing God's purpose for our lives?



Notice the sharp contrast between Moses' self-perception and God's perception of him:

Exodus 3:11: ... **Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?**

Exodus 4:1: ... **What if they do not believe me or listen to me? ...**

Exodus 4:10: ... **I have never been eloquent ...**

(Exodus 4:13): **Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.** This reflects Moses' self-perception - hesitant, insecure, and unworthy.

But now consider God's perspective.

Exodus 3:10: **So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.**

God saw Moses as a savior, leader, protector, and deliverer of His people. While Moses doubted himself, God entrusted him with a divine mission. Perhaps, as you read this, God is confronting some of your own limiting self-perceptions. It's time to begin viewing yourself through God's perspective.

Don't limit God. Moses was 80 years old when God called him. God's timing rarely aligns with human expectations. Moses' perceived inadequacies became the very platform upon which God's

power was displayed. The key was surrender - laying it all at His feet.

### (c) David!



#### *God chose David for his heart*

David was not from a notable family. He had no prestigious background and was overlooked even by his own family. Despite being anointed, he was the overlooked youngest son, often forgotten - yet he became Israel's greatest king.

**God didn't choose David for his appearance or status; He chose him for his heart.**

(1 Samuel 16:7).

Even when David sinned grievously, though God disciplined him by taking his son, He still extended mercy and remained faithful when David repented. God did not withdraw His love. He chose David!

### (d) The Disciples!

The twelve disciples came from diverse and often unimpressive backgrounds -

Matthew, a tax collector; Simon, a zealot; several uneducated fishermen. These were ordinary men, flawed and often failing, as the Gospels show.

Yet, Jesus Christ never withdrew His calling. In the book of Acts, we witness a radical transformation after The Pentecost, revealing God's power at work through everyday people.

Dear friends,

We are not chosen because of our qualifications, but because of God's sovereign will and unfailing love. His choices transcend human logic.

He chooses the weak to display His strength. He uses the foolish to shame the wise. He calls things into existence that do not yet exist. He can do exceedingly more than we could ever ask or imagine.

That is the power of our God.

He can use anyone for His glory - His choices are intentional!

Remember: You are chosen by God.

Hand-picked. Intentionally selected for a divine purpose - to bear fruit. God is expecting a life that produces fruit.

I pray that God will empower each of us to live fruit-bearing lives for His glory, because when He returns, He will look for fruit.

\*\*\*\*\*

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- Editor

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- Editor

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A/C No. : 1023 2934 679  
IFSC : SBIN 00 00 249  
SWIFT CODE : SBI NIN BB 455

#### 2. Bank : ICICI Bank

Branch : Anna Salai, Chennai-6  
Name : Echo of His Call  
A/C No. : 6038 0502 2319  
IFSC : ICIC 000 6038

#### 3. Bank : State Bank of India

(This Account is for Tax Exemption for Indians only)

Branch : Triplicane, Chennai-5  
Name : Echo of His Call Educational Trust  
A/C No. : 1023 2923 805  
IFSC : SBIN 00 00 249

Google Pay: 98410 71858  
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