

# ECHO OF HIS CALL



India's National Spiritual Newspaper

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Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor : DR. A. RICHARD SAMUEL

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No. 07

## THE HOLY BIBLE



Please memorize  
this portion  
Isaiah 49:1-6

1. Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.
2. And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;
3. And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.
4. Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.
5. And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.
6. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

## CHOICES!

Pr. Angeline Selvakumari



Our daily lives are filled with many choices. Every choice has its consequences. Some are significant and some are not. Some choices can be life-changing such as the choice of spouses, the choice of career path etc. Some are mundane and monotonous like choosing what to wear, what to eat etc. When God created human beings, He created them with Free Will. Humans have the power to make choices, both good and bad. However, God always gives us guidelines, lays down His expectations as well but will never force us to choose what He wants. God wants us to choose by our own Free Will what He has planned for us.

Our God of the universe loves us so much that He has given us the freedom to choose even to love and to know Him. Our Sovereign God does not force us to choose Him in any circumstances. He always wants to have a relationship with mankind, but He does not thrust it on us; rather He waits until we make a choice to get to know Him more.

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



from your dearly beloved brother...



“... who spoke with His mouth ...  
and with His hand has fulfilled it...”

- 1 Kings 8:15



### 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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Echo of His Call

Dearly beloved in Christ!

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

After reading last month's **Echo of His Call** magazine many people have commended our articles. We thank every one of them. We offer our humble gratitude to all the people of God who really love us from the depth of their hearts and who support our **Echo of His Call** magazine and other ministries with their prayers and good suggestions.

We had asked you to send us your E.mail IDs. To those who have sent us your E.mail ID, we will be sending our **Echo of His Call** magazine hereafter to your E.mail ID also. Moreover, as soon as our **Echo of His Call** magazines are released in all 16 different languages, they are uploaded in our website, [www.echoofhiscall.org](http://www.echoofhiscall.org). You can also read from that straight away. If you want, you can download it and take a copy and read. Do not worry. You will surely receive the **Echo of His Call** magazine regularly in all these ways.

The prayers that we all offer every night at 10'o clock, for the international youth and children have been well accepted by our readers and we also receive good answers from God Almighty. Praise the Lord.

We act very fast and briskly. The VBS (Vacation Bible School) classes for the children were conducted during Second week of May. The Graduation Ceremony of our **Nehemiah Bible College** was celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 in a very special way. On 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the academic classes for the year 2023-24 for the **Nehemiah Bible College** and **St. Paul's Matriculation School** commenced. Please pray for the classes to function smoothly and effectively. Please pray for us also.

At 5 a.m. every morning, the 5 minute message in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu is released through our YouTube Channel. Kindly save our mobile number 98410 71858 in your mobile phones. It will be helpful to receive any information regarding this ministry. Kindly also subscribe to our **Echo of His Call YouTube Channel**.

'Time' flees fast and, whether we like it or not, we also have to run along with that. Let the good news of the Gospel reach all the people in any method. Glory be to God. Amen.

*Your servants in Christ Jesus,*

*Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj & Alex Samson Sam.*

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**Our Ministries:** ❖ ECHO OF HIS CALL Monthly Magazines (16 languages) ❖ BIBLECOR - Postal Courses (3 languages) ❖ Media 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

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The Bible says, **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...** in James 4:8. At the same time, the Bible also says, we did not chose him, Jesus Christ chose us - **You didn't choose Me, but I chose you ...** John 15:16. And that He was the one who first loved us - **...because He first loved us.** 1 John 4:19. Nowhere does God force Himself on us to choose Him or love Him. He has always been a gentle God by giving us the Free will. Opportunity is given to all; only a few take up the given chance and make use of it.

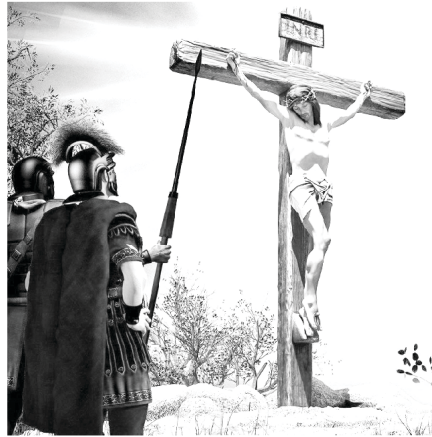
Let us mediate on some of the choices made by some prominent Biblical characters.

## TWO THIEVES!

Taking the example of two thieves who were hanging on the cross on either side of Jesus Christ, one said, **"... Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom"** Luke 23:42. Jesus Christ replied **"...Today, you will be with me in Paradise"**. Luke 23:43; whereas the other, decided to mock Jesus Christ even at the last minute of his life. When one thief repented and asked God to remember him, the other missed the opportunity and continued to accuse Jesus Christ and find fault. It is a choice that both of them had made. No one forced either of them, but it became a life-changing choice/moment, not only for the thief who wanted to be remembered, but for all of us. That is why we are talking about it in 2023.

## CENTURION!

They were many centurions on duty on the day of Christ's



crucifixion, witnessing the gruesome death of the Lamb of God. They were able to see that He was different, but no one was willing to confess or accept Him for who He was, except one man. There was one centurion at the foot of Jesus Christ, while He was nailed on the cross on Calvary. He said **"...Truly this was the son of God"** Mathew 27:54. He confessed openly who Christ was. It takes a lot of courage and boldness to make that statement. Even today we have our brothers and sisters who are persecuted just for their faith-humiliated, imprisoned, stripped naked, put to shame by their own people, burnt, having their elderly parents tortured etc. But, enduring all this they have withstood the test of faith. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?** Romans 8:35 (NIV). No one forced Paul to say what he said, but it was a choice he made.

## PILATE!

Pilate was another man who had great power to make a life changing decision for Jesus Christ, but in order to favour the people, gain good reputation and to be in

the good books of the Jews, he failed to do what he had to. The Bible says, **Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in our power to do it** (Proverb 3:27) and **Therefore whenever we have the opportunity we should do good to everyone** (Galatians 6:10). Again it is a choice given to us and the Bible instructs to make a conscious decision to do good. A deliberate choice to make.

If God has kept you in a position or in a place where you can help the broken, the needy, the helpless, the powerless, the homeless, even the physically and mentally challenged, make a choice to help them. We need champions to fight for the right cause. Mother Teresa was such a wonderful woman who sold out her entire life to help and support the weak and sick. Amy Carmichael was a champion who fought for the rights of young girls. They did what they could do to help the weaker section of the society. On the other hand it is sad to see, people being so self-centred that they have no time for their fellow brothers and sisters. What is even more disappointing is that we see that in Churches too. May God give us the grace to change this and let us be the change.

Pilate knew Jesus Christ was blameless, and he had the choice to release him. I think he really wanted to release Jesus Christ. However, he did not want to do it publicly. Pilate, very tactfully planned for the people to make the choice, to release either Barabbas or Jesus Christ, with the anticipation that the people would ask to release Jesus Christ. But, alas, they asked for Barabbas! Again, it was an opportunity





## PETER!

Peter was one of the earliest disciples of Jesus Christ. Among the three who formed the inner circle of disciples of Jesus Christ, Peter was one of them. Peter was with Jesus Christ in the most significant event of His life, he even witnessed who Christ was on the Mount of Transfiguration.

I love the character of Peter! A man who had a great deal of passion and zeal. He wanted to build a tent for Jesus Christ, Moses and Elijah on the mount of Transfiguration. When Jesus Christ spoke about His gruesome death, Peter was the first to speak emotionally and said “**Lord I am ready to go with You to prison and to death**” (Luke 22:33). He was over protective and an angry man too. When soldiers came to arrest Jesus Christ, he cut the

soldier's ears in anger. In every way, Peter was a very emotional man that we can all relate to. He was always proactive.

Peter was a people-centred person. He must have had a close relationship with his brother Andrew and that is why when Andrew called him to meet Jesus Christ, he obliged. I am sure they must have had their share of sibling rivalry too. We also read about Peter's mother-in-law that shows he is a very close family man. Peter was also a purpose-driven man. He knew who Jesus Christ exactly was, identifying that Jesus Christ was the expected Messiah. We see these characteristics later on in his ministry too.

How did this dedicated, loving, passionate, people-loving person, who held Jesus Christ in such high regard suddenly deny Jesus Christ? Not only once but three times, that too in spite of

...Contd. to page 6

missed by Pilate but well used by the Jews for a wrong cause. Missed opportunities!!

How many of us have missed opportunities because we fail to make a choice when he had to! But graciously, we have a God of second chances. Even when we miss it, God always comes with another divine plan. Such is the Love of God. May be you are sitting and thinking I could have done this, I could have done that, but I am aged, I am weak, I have wasted my life!

Dear brothers and sisters, if you are thinking that you have wasted your time and it is too late to make good the lost time, it is never too late in the Kingdom of God. God's timing is perfect. God chose Moses as a leader to deliver the Israelites from captivity when he was 80 years old and not when he was 40. . Caleb had the strength to fight and conquer the land in his 80s. Give your wasted years to Jesus Christ and He will make something beautiful. I am reminded of an old song.

“Give them all to Jesus. Shattered dreams, wounded hearts broken toys. Give them all to Jesus. For He will turn your sorrows into joy”. Let us learn to give them all to Jesus.

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# GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS

TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2)

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (II Timothy 1:6)

**PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From 2023 July 19 To August 18**

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



## † PRAISE GOD FOR...

- July 19** ⇒ All the activities of our **St. Paul's Matriculation School, Nehemiah Bible College** and **Theological Correspondence Course**.
- July 20** ⇒ Blessing all our Associate Editors and their family members.
- July 21** ⇒ Graciously helping us to get new students for our Residential and Evening **Nehemiah Bible College** courses.
- July 22** ⇒ The great commitment from the Mission workers.
- July 23** ⇒ His mercy towards our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners and Great Commission Partners and their families.
- July 24** ⇒ Blessing our Pastors and Senior Members of the Main Church and Branch Churches.
- July 25** ⇒ Our Gospel Printing Press and its continuous functioning with efficient workers.
- July 26** ⇒ His abundant blessings on our commitment to Magazine Ministry since 1969.
- July 27** ⇒ Blessing our Main Church with more new believers.
- July 28** ⇒ The new believers in our Sunday services at Balaji Nagar, Santhoshapuram and Velachery.
- July 29** ⇒ Blessing the admissions of **Nehemiah Bible College** and **St. Paul's Matriculation School** for the Academic year 2023-2024.
- July 30** ⇒ Blessing our Global vision for Youth and Kid Care ministry.
- July 31** ⇒ Blessing our **YouTube ministry's** 5 minute messages to reach unreached people.
- August 01** ⇒ Blessing us to spread the gospel into the unreached areas.

**August 02** ⇒ Blessing our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** to have more dedicated Christian Teachers and Principal.

**August 03** ⇒ The Pastors and the officials of our Churches.

## † PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

**August 04** ⇒ God's grace be showered once again upon the people.

**August 05** ⇒ The hundreds of children touched by the love of Jesus Christ in the **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** to sustain in the Lord and to attend our Church regularly.

**August 06** ⇒ The violence against missionaries and servants of God to be stopped.

**August 07** ⇒ The eradication of CORONA fever from the world.

**August 08** ⇒ The evil works of Satan to be destroyed, in separating the families.

**August 09** ⇒ Spiritual and worldly blessings on God's Children.

**August 10** ⇒ Our **Echo of His Call Ministries** for stepping into its 55th year today.

**August 11** ⇒ Economic recession prevailing in the world to come to an end.

**August 12** ⇒ The financial needs of our ministry to be met.

**August 13** ⇒ The needs of all people of the world.

**August 14** ⇒ The speedy recovery of Bro. Indrajith Roy, who supports us in publishing our monthly Bengali Magazine.

**August 15** ⇒ The good health of our employees and their family members.

**August 16** ⇒ The **Media Ministry** telecasting in YouTube every morning at 5.00 A.M. for 5 minutes.

**August 17** ⇒ Safety of our Senior Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and his family members from all sorts of evil forces.

**August 18** ⇒ Updating of **Nehemiah Bible College** Library books in KOHA software.

....Contd. from page 4

having been warned by the Lord. He not only betrayed he started to curse as well. When we read this, we might begin to judge Peter and condemn him for being such a horrible man. But let us think how many times as dedicated, committed followers of Christ we have betrayed Jesus Christ through our action, words and thoughts. I have heard people saying, "I slipped, it was in the spur of the moment". How many really think what Peter did was a 'spur of the moment' act? Not to be mistaken as a critic of this great apostle of God, I would like all of us to learn from his life.

Do you think it is something that happened just at that time, or was it a process?

I believe, to betray Jesus Christ is not an easy thing for a man who was so committed, loving, passionate, and purpose-driven. When do you think it all started? It is when Peter started to follow Jesus Christ at a 'distance' according to Matthew 26:58

The Bible beautifully says, Peter followed Jesus Christ at a distance. Many of us love Jesus Christ, enjoy His blessings. It is great that we know Him as our provider and protector but we are hesitant to follow Him closely and are comfortable to follow Him 'at a distance'. When we follow Him at a distance, some of us feel, it is safe, as He will not demand more from us. People will not know us as a keen follower of Christ and that we can taste the best of both, God and the world. A very interesting compromise.

Dear Friends, the Bible teaches us that we cannot be friends of the world and God at the same

time in James 4:4 (NLT) - **You adulterers! Don't you realise that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?** There is no mid-way. It is either the side of the world or the side of God. If we are not on the side of God, it means we have already become the enemy of God by default. Therefore, no matter how spiritual and pious a person can be, if one decides to follow Jesus Christ at a distance, it is a dangerous place to be.

How is your walk with Christ today? Are you walking with Jesus Christ at a distance or are you walking closely with Jesus Christ? It is a choice that all of us have to make. As mentioned earlier, Jesus Christ loves us so much that He will never force us to do anything but has given us a Free Will. However, He has also expressed His desire **If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you** (John 15:7). This teaches us the importance of having a closer walk with God.

Dear Friends, the world that we live in is so complicated and demanding. To juggle our work, our family and personal life is a challenge by itself. Sometimes the things that we face in our lives such as disappointments, hurt, betrayal, separation, death, back stabbing, can cause mental exhaustion. I don't know how many of you are in similar situation; may be you are saying "I am living a life as a consequence of decision made by someone else, I don't deserve this". This might have caused you to stop following Jesus Christ like Judas or following Jesus Christ at a distance like Peter. But the point is, both are dangerous.

Peter's denial of Jesus Christ did not happen all of a sudden, it was a slow process. The moment Jesus Christ was arrested, fear gripped everyone, as to what is going to happen to their future. At the same time, Peter wanted to know what is happening to his Master so he decided to follow him at a distance.

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The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad – Psalm 126:3.



## ECHO OF HIS CALL Ministries

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Place: (1969 - 2023)

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**Pastor ANGELINE SELVAKUMARI**

🌸 Please Pray! 🌸

Contact: Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj, (+91) 98410 71852

**Special Programmes on**  
**11.08.2023, Friday**  
**12.08.2023, Saturday**  
**13.08.2023, Sunday**



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MINISTRIES AT THE HEAD QUARTERS

1. Prayer Service : 24 hours
2. **BIBLECOR** - Bible Correspondence Courses :  
English, Tamil & Hindi
3. **ECHO OF HIS CALL** - Monthly Magazines :  
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Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Odiya, Nepali, Assamese,  
Punjabi, Urdu, Sinhala & Afrikan.
4. Nehemiah Bible Colleges (Two Centres) (Evening / Residential)
5. Theological Correspondence Courses: English & Tamil
6. Great Commission Partners (Network of Pastors)
7. Training Programmes
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 : 8.30 a.m. & 4.00 p.m. Sunday
13. **Tamil Services : 8.00 a.m. & 10.00 a.m. Sunday**
14. **Hindi Service : 4.00 p.m. Sunday**
15. **Telugu Service : 5.00 p.m. Sunday**
16. **English & Tamil Service : 6.00 p.m. Sunday**
17. Pastors' Counselling : 4.00 p.m. Sunday
18. Women's Prayer : 5.30 p.m. Wednesday
19. Mid-week Bible study : 6.30 p.m. Wednesday
20. Men's Prayer : 7.00 p.m. Friday
21. Discipleship Meeting : 6.00 p.m. Saturday
22. House Meetings : 6.30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
23. Special Holy Communion : 6.00 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month
24. Ministers Review Meeting: 5.30 p.m. First Saturday
25. Parents' Prayer : 4.00 p.m. First Sunday
26. Night Prayer : 9.30 p.m. Second Friday
27. Fasting Prayer : 9:30 a.m. Third Saturday
28. Holy Communion : Second Sunday Services
29. Youth / Kid Prayer : 10.00 p.m. daily
30. Staff Devotion : 9.00 a.m. daily
31. Office : 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.  
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# PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

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



## HIS GUIDANCE AND PROVIDENCE IN MY LIFE!

**He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him - Psalm 145:19**

The Lord Jesus Christ was so gracious towards me by enabling me to start Church Ministry in the place called Chepauk, Chennai (Madras) in the year 1982. From its inception, the Church had been experiencing the problem of shifting from one place to another, due to financial inadequacy as well as the opposition and jealousy from anti-Christian friends of the area.

Finally, we were conducting our Sunday Worship Services in a small room inside a house where there was no ventilation. This house was owned by a dear brother, Mr. George.

During the course of the Worship Service on a particular Sunday, the Lord un-expectedly and suddenly prompted me in the Spirit to believe Him for a spacious building of our own to conduct our Church Services in the same area. The Lord also prompted me to share this with the congregation seeking their prayer support. I obeyed the Lord and shared this in the Church Service.

- The people who were in the Church listened to me and started mocking at me through their sarcastic look.
- They questioned “Is it really possible to buy a property based on our poor financial status?”
- Some people tried to give me spiritual pressure asking, “Even if we have the money, where could we find a property available for sale in this thickly populated area?”
- Few friends came forward with a critical and doubtful question, “Is it fair for a decent man of God to tell to the people such an impracticable message, even in the name of God?”

By these means, I was severely pushed into various confusing situations. I was unable to find out a single person who was able to stand with me accepting my challenge of faith. The common public

finally ended up with the conclusion that the Christian preachers have no other job other than keep on uttering such unacceptable and impracticable stories. They did not recognize vision too.

But I was not disheartened. On the contrary, the Lord comforted me and granted me His grace to lean strongly on Him, the One Who is the **author and finisher of our faith** (Hebrews 12:1). The Lord entered into my heart with His Word “**Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you,**” says the Lord and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. “**Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shall make the hills like chaff**” Isaiah 41: 14,15.

The days went by. God blessed me in front of all the people around me and graciously blessed us with a wonderful place for His ministry in the same place where God gave me the vision.

But after getting hold of the place, I did not have money to buy the property, as expected by the people of my area. I tried to obtain help from my known sources, but no one came forward to help me as I was financially very poor. In this situation, the Government came forward to grant me a personal building advance buying the property, as I was working for the Government during that time. In order to achieve this, God used a non-Christian friend Mr. Kannan and another Christian friend Mr. M.P. Jeyakumar. Jesus Christ is faithful. Jesus Christ is good all the time. All the time Jesus Christ is good. What a wonderful God we have! **Oh! taste and see that the Lord is good...** Psalm 34:8.

Even today, when I write this message also, I can tell you that my life is rugged and full of challenges. I am crushed by so many difficulties and untold miseries in my daily life for carrying out the



God-given ministries, **Echo of His Call** monthly magazines in 16 languages, **Biblecor** Bible Correspondence and Training Courses in 3 languages, **Nehemiah Bible College**, Main Church with 7 worship Services on each Sunday, **St. Paul's Matriculation School** (Village High School), Gospel Printing Press and also the over all administrative offices etc. I face different kinds of unspeakable and personal difficulties, challenges and failures in my ministerial and administrative life.

I have the experience of sleepless nights, and nights in which I do not wish to sleep. I have learned that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only One who is faithful and worthy to be counted upon, as a True Friend in this world which is covered with darkness, evil pressures and hopelessness. Because, I am able to experience His guidance and providence in my life. The following lines of a famous hymn is my experience:

*Lead, kindly Light, amidst the encircling gloom, lead Thou me on!*

*The night is dark, and I am far from home; lead Thou me on!*

*Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene; one step enough for me.*

I know that my daily life is full of trials and difficulties. But I have the assurance that when I finish my work in this world, I will enter and inherit my Heavenly Home and meet my Master Jesus Christ face to face and hug His golden face and share my experiences in this world. I am eagerly waiting for that wonderful day. That day will be the great day! That day will be the most blessed day!!

**Dear friend, do you have such a hope and longing?**

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....Contd. from page 6

Are you like Peter, following Jesus Christ at a distance? May be you feel, 'when I walk close to God, the expectations are high, and therefore I might as well stay away'. Some of us go to Church but don't want to get involved in the Church, some of us don't even want to go to Church, and some would rather stay at home and pray. Some of us talk to Jesus Christ only in need, otherwise we have no time for Him.

I encourage you today not follow Jesus Christ at a distance; get close to Him. He came into this world, to unite man with God. For that very purpose, He died on the cross, and rose again on the third day. To give us hope in a hopeless situation. To give us peace in the midst of the storm. To give us love, even when we feel we don't deserve to be loved. In Romans 8: 32 (NLT) we read **Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?** Ask Him, He is willing to give you all the good things.

Talk to Him every day, read His Word. If you have not had the experience of hearing His voice, ask him today. Say a prayer "Lord I want to follow you closely, not at a distance; speak to me Lord. Let me hear your voice. Help me, Lord, to not just hear but to do as you say. Amen".

May the Lord help you to walk closely and Not at a Distance!

\*\*\*\*\*

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