

ECHO OF HIS CALL



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Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor : SIS. SAJINI CHERIAN

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No. 11

THE HOLY BIBLE



Please memorize
this portion

Psalm 138:1-8

1. I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.
2. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.
3. In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.
4. All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord, when they hear the words of thy mouth.
5. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord: for great is the glory of the Lord.
6. Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.
7. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.
8. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

RECOGNIZE YOUR BATTLE FIELD!

✿ Rev. Angeline Selvakumari ✿



Recently, I went with my family to visit a friend of mine, whom I hadn't seen in a while. I was super excited about the visit. However, with all the new roads and diversions, I decided to rely on Google Maps for directions. Surprisingly, I ended up getting lost. I must say, with all due respect to Google Maps, it was trying to guide me on the best route, but the actual route itself was not ideal. I found myself going in circles, and as it was getting late, I began to lose patience.

I believe many of you can relate to this experience. While waiting at a traffic light, unsure whether to proceed straight or take a turn as per Google's instructions, I noticed that the road Google suggested was very narrow. I wasn't sure if I would be able to drive through such a narrow road. To ease my confusion, I decided to ask a bike rider in front of me for directions. To my relief, he informed me that he lived at the destination I was heading to and offered to lead the way. What a relief it was! The best

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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



Sis. Sajini Cherian

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to God for His abundant provisions for His ministry, **Echo of His Call**. Furthermore, we are so profoundly thankful to the Almighty God for blessing us with the appointment of our esteemed sister, Sajini Cherian, as our English Associate Editor, and Bro. Willem Jacobus Pretorius as our Afrikaans



Bro. Willem Jacobus Pretorius

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

May the grace of our Lord God Jesus Christ be with you. We sincerely hope that you are doing well. We continue to uphold your needs in our prayers.

Associate Editor.

Please remember them, along with the other 14 Associate Editors and their dedicated assistants, in your prayers as they serve diligently in their respective places.

We are pleased to report that **Echo of His Call Ministries** continues to receive a positive response for all its activities. The Lord is undeniably touching the lives of individuals across the globe, and we are immensely grateful to be instruments in His work in building His Kingdom.

As previously communicated, we find ourselves in the midst of various spiritual battles in these trying times. We humbly beseech you to intercede on our behalf in prayer.

Despite the challenging spiritual circumstances we are facing, we have not wavered in our commitment to pray for your well-being. In an ever-changing system of the world, we, as servants of God from all corners of the globe, require a special touch and divine protection from God Almighty. This is so that we may continue to share the anointing bestowed upon us with the people of this world. We acknowledge that we are at the forefront of the spiritual battlefield, but we are steadfast in our faith that our Lord Jesus Christ is our Captain and Protector. Amen.

May God bless you abundantly.

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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part was that even though I was following the bike rider, my navigation system continued to provide instructions for a different route. However, I decided to completely ignore what my navigation was saying because I had confidence in the person I was following. He knew the way very well and had been there before. It was such a relief to have someone to rely on for guidance.

Have you ever wished that you had someone like this to navigate your life? Someone who could make tough and complex decisions on your behalf, and all you had to do was follow? Believe it or not, we do have someone like that. His name is Jesus Christ. He knows our past, our present, and even our future. He has been to our tomorrows already. He knows everything before it even comes to us. This is because **He chose us before the foundation of the world** (Ephesians 1:4). He has a beautiful plan for each of us. As Jeremiah 29:11 declares, **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”**.

No matter what transpires, our lives will undoubtedly follow the plan that the Almighty has set for us. This encompasses the good, the challenging, and the unfavorable aspects of life.

1. Fight the Good Fight: Be a Warrior, not a Worrier!

It is crucial to recognize that even the situations we perceive as

challenging, confronting, and confusing today, ultimately work for our benefit. God has summoned each one of us to be warriors, not worriers. Frequently, life's trials may lead us to despair and lose sight of our life's purpose. However, let us not forget that Jesus Christ came into this world, died on the cross, and rose again to reveal to us that there is eternal life. Our current life is transient, serving as a training ground for the eternal life to come. **All the things that we experience here are to transform us to His image** (2 Corinthians 3:18). As Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:12, **the purpose of our existence is to enter into eternal life**. Therefore, we are all called to **Fight the Good Fight**.

In the words of Paul, **Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses**.

How can we wage this noble battle? It's exclusively through faith. Without faith, we are unable to fight this righteous fight, and without it, we cannot secure Eternal Life. This implies that we are missing out on the very purpose of our existence. Psalm 144:1 beautifully states, **Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle**. God is our trainer and the



God trains my fingers for battle

commander of our heavenly army, preparing us for war. He is the Lord of hosts, empowering us to confront life's challenges. As Exodus 15:3 declares, **The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is His Name**. He wants us to be a Warrior just like Him and not a Worrier. Rest assured, we are under the guidance of an "all-knowing commander". Therefore, do not give up! Remember, we are fighting a battle, already won by our commander, the Lord, on the cross of Calvary.

2. Weapons to Fight!

In order to fight the battle, God has given us powerful weapons. In 2 Corinthians 10:4, we read about these weapons: **“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”**

These weapons are so powerful that they can destroy strongholds, whether they be sin, bondage, or generational curses that make us feel like failures. If you see a repeated pattern of sickness or brokenness in your family, it is time to use these weapons. Claim victory using the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for us on the cross of Calvary. Let us start using the weapon - God, to fight against the battles of our lives.

NOT ALL BATTLES NEED TO BE FOUGHT!

However, we need to realize that not all battles need to be fought. Some battles or challenges come to distract us from the main one. We need to learn to choose our

battles wisely. Don't waste your energy, time, and strength in fighting unwanted battles. If we engage in every battle that comes against our lives, we will become exhausted and worn out. We will miss out on the actual battle that God has called us to fight.

GREATER THE CALLING, GREATER THE CHALLENGES!

When God calls you for a great commission, there will be challenges that try to stop you from fulfilling it. However, if we focus too much on the challenges, we will miss the blessings that lie behind them.

The story of David and Goliath, as portrayed in I Samuel, illustrates this beautifully - a very familiar story to most of us.

Here we witness Goliath challenging the Army of Israel to engage in a one-on-one fight. He relentlessly shouts and curses them for 40 days, causing great fear among the Israelites. **Whenever the Israelites caught sight of Goliath, they all fled in terror.** (I Samuel 17:24)

However, let's examine David's response in I Samuel 17:26: **... Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?** David could not tolerate the words of the Philistine. If we closely analyze his reaction, we can observe David's war strategy.

He connects his problem with his God, refusing to let anyone speak against Him. In David's eyes, this battle is no longer his, but God's.

Often, we try to take our battles into our own hands and fight

them. Dear friends, I urge you to surrender your battles to the Lord, who is a mighty Warrior. He will fight on your behalf. Unfortunately, we often exhaust ourselves by attempting to handle everything independently, which can lead to weariness and sometimes even walk away from our faith.

3. All things work for Good!

Dear brothers and sisters, God had a specific plan in bringing David to the battlefield. Although David initially believed he was merely delivering food to his brothers, God had a divine plan. This was the first step towards making David the King of Israel. David did not have a clue at that time. God had an incredible plan and blessing in store for him, but he first had to face a challenge, a battle. This parallels our own lives



David fought with Goliath

in many ways. Most often we get carried away by the battles instead of focusing on the blessings that lie ahead.

God wanted David to confront Goliath in the battle. It was part of God's divine plan. However, satan always seeks to disrupt God's plan in our lives.

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PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From 2023 November 19 To December 18

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



✠ PRAISE GOD FOR...

- November 19** ⇒ Blessing us to successfully complete the first semester of 2023-2024 at **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**.
- November 20** ⇒ Enabling us to print and publish our magazine in 16 languages using our printing press and distributing them to mission fields.
- November 21** ⇒ The miracles of God in our Hospital Ministry.
- November 22** ⇒ Our Sunday Services, both at our Main Church and its branches, to spread the gospel to the unreached groups.
- November 23** ⇒ Our Senior Pastor for his unwavering commitment to propagate the gospel through multifarious ministries.
- November 24** ⇒ We are blessed to have dedicated Associate Editors supporting our **Echo of His Call** magazine ministry.
- November 25** ⇒ His mercy extends towards our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners, Great Commission Partners, and their families.
- November 26** ⇒ Praise the Lord for our regular supporters and their active involvement in our ministry.
- November 27** ⇒ Our dedicated office and printing staff, for their unwavering commitment towards our **Echo of His Call Ministries**.
- November 28** ⇒ Blessing us with our new English Associate Editor Sis. Sajini Cherian and Afrikaans Associate Editor Bro. Willem Jacobus Pretorius.
- November 29** ⇒ The Lord has aided us in spreading the gospel to unreached areas through our YouTube Media ministry.
- November 30** ⇒ Blessing us with more children for Sunday School at our main Church and its branches.
- December 01** ⇒ Blessing us with divine protection for students and teachers of our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** and **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**.

- December 02** ⇒ We are grateful for the Lord's blessing as we commence the second semester of Residential and Evening **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**, with more students and greater enthusiasm.
- December 03** ⇒ His guidance and blessings upon all the activities of **Echo of His Call Ministries**.

✠ PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

- December 04** ⇒ The safety of our Senior Pastor, S. Sam Selva Raj, and his family members, from all sorts of evil forces.
- December 05** ⇒ The success of our Senior Pastor in writing his autobiography.
- December 06** ⇒ Divine protection for pastors and missionaries worldwide.
- December 07** ⇒ The end of war and return of unity and peace between Israel and Palestine.
- December 08** ⇒ Our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** and **Nehemiah Bible College** staff members and students.
- December 09** ⇒ The removal of the suicidal spirit among adolescents and youth worldwide.
- December 10** ⇒ The prevention of natural calamities like cyclones and earthquakes worldwide.
- December 11** ⇒ Unity among all religions.
- December 12** ⇒ Our ministerial expansions and the worldwide propagation of the gospel.
- December 13** ⇒ The safety of our Senior Pastor, S. Sam Selva Raj, and his family members from all evil forces.
- December 14** ⇒ A great revival in all Christian ministries worldwide.
- December 15** ⇒ Peace and harmony to return to the state of Manipur, India.
- December 16** ⇒ Divine protection and good health of the believers in our Main Church and its branches.
- December 17** ⇒ The salvation of numerous souls through our YouTube Media Ministry.
- December 18** ⇒ More people to enroll in our **Global Vision for Youth and Kid Care** ministry to pray for youth and kids of this generation.

....Contd. from page 4

4. Learn To Turn Away!

While David was speaking with great passion and zeal, he heard a voice. In I Samuel 17:28, it is mentioned that "When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger. He asked David - **Why have you come down here and with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert?** Eliab accused David of being conceited and having a wicked heart, suggesting that David had come only to watch the battle. This accusation on David was sharp and hurtful.

David, unable to comprehend why he was being treated this way or accused in such a manner, asked what he had done wrong. He questioned why he couldn't even speak. Eventually, he decided to **turn away from the situation**, as mentioned in I Samuel 17:29 and 30. This verse resonates with me because sometimes we need to learn to **turn away** or **walk away**. We don't always need to engage in every battle that comes our way.

David had the option to stand there and argue with his brother, defending himself against false accusations. He had every right to do so, considering that he was blamed and humiliated in front of so many people. However, David chose not to fight. Instead, he decided to walk away.

5. Don't waste your Battle Field!

Dear friends, may God grant us the wisdom to walk away from certain situations. You are all

called for a greater purpose, and let not the 'words of Eliab' distract you from what you were called to do. Instead of fighting against the "Eliabs" in our lives, we should focus our efforts on facing the "Goliaths". It is common for us to encounter obstacles and opposition when we make significant decisions to live for the Lord. These obstacles can come in the form of people like Eliab. However, if we let their accusations and negativity consume us, our enthusiasm, dedication, and zeal may sizzle out.

Let's take a look at the accusations made by Eliab:

"Why have you come down here?"

"With whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness?"

"I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is."

"You came down only to watch the battle."



Eliab asked questions to David

If David begins answering all these accusing questions, he would be fighting with Eliab rather than Goliath. His purpose in coming to the battlefield would not have been fulfilled. When God calls you to fight against Goliath, do not waste your time with Eliabs. Choose your battles wisely. Our battle is not to fight with the Eliabs of the world, but against the 'Goliaths'. Learn to WALK AWAY!!

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7. Training Programmes
8. Crusades
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15. **Telugu Service : 5.00 p.m. Sunday**
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PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

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



NO PURPOSE OF HIS CAN BE WITHHELD FROM HIM!

In the year 1969, when I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, I joined the ministry of Pastor S. Devadasan, the Editor of 'Herald of His Coming.' He provided me with spiritual training to serve the Lord, and I remained under his guidance for a duration of three years.



Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj & Rev. S. Devadasan

One night, I was engaged in a lengthy prayer session with him. Suddenly, he began to speak to me about the future state of the world and the divine plan that the Lord had in store for me. He spoke of great things. At that moment, I couldn't even fathom undertaking such tasks. I lacked the necessary educational qualifications, financial resources, and human support to embark on the grand ministries he prophesied I would undertake in the future. I earnestly expressed my inadequacies to him, saying, "Pastor, it would suffice for me to remain the humblest servant in the Lord's ministry." He responded, "Two essential elements are required to elevate an ordinary individual to the highest pinnacles: (a) **faith** and (b) a **good conscience**, as mentioned in I Timothy 1:19. If you safeguard these principles as diligently as you guard your own vision, you will undoubtedly attain the spiritual advancements I have just foretold." Over the years, the Lord enabled me to diligently uphold these principles to the best of my ability.

Just before I commenced writing this article, the Lord communicated with me. His gentle whisper

left me speechless and wholly attentive. He conveyed, "My dear son, take a moment to contemplate the edifice in which you presently stand. How did you come into possession of it? Ponder the various ministries currently taking place within these walls. Observe the cutting-edge gospel printing press situated on the ground floor. Have you ever considered my Church on the first floor, where the 24 Hour Prayer Service is conducted? Have you thought about the **Nehemiah Bible College Ministries** and the Youth Ministries, both flourishing on the other side of the first floor? Have you ever contemplated the administrative office of **Echo of His Call** operating on the second floor?"

"In order to carry out ministries that surpass your personal capacity," the Lord continued, "I have bestowed upon you numerous individuals akin to Aarons and Joshuas—more efficient and wiser than yourself—to assist you intermittently. Despite your failure to acknowledge these blessings, I perpetually hold you in my thoughts.

When I called you, how were you? And now, how are you? I intend to expand your ministries further. As my devoted servant, Pastor S. Devadasan, has taught you, maintain unwavering **faith and a clear conscience**. Do not be disheartened when you traverse challenging and arduous paths in your life. Is it not I who called you? What I have conveyed through my mouth, I shall fulfill with my own hands. Be of good courage and do not become weary of anything"

Sometimes, I find it difficult to fully grasp the wonderful and remarkable works that the Lord accomplishes through me. Dear brothers and sisters, obey the leaders whom God has placed above you. Do not conform to worldly ways; instead, be submissive under their guidance while maintaining your faith and a clear conscience. If you remain true before God and your leadership, He will perform great deeds through you. Nothing can obstruct God from utilizing you to accomplish mighty acts. All glory and honor belong to God alone.

....Contd. from page 6

6. Learn to Run Towards!



We need to learn when to walk away and when to run towards. In Verse 48, we see David run towards the battle line to fight against Goliath. When everyone was running away from Goliath, David ran towards him. Learn to choose your battles. Learn to ignore words of discouragement, accusation, lies, humiliation, and focus on your calling. Know the purpose of your life and run towards it. Don't give up!

David knew how to choose his battles at a very early age. David had to fight battles continuously throughout his life, not only on the battlefield with his enemies, but also with his close family members.

7. Direct your battles to the Lord!

In 2 Samuel 16, we see an older, mature, exhausted David. He is now running away from his son Absalom, who has taken over his kingdom. At a time when he thought he could rest, relax, and rely on his children, he had to run to save his life! David was physically, mentally, and emotionally worn out. At this time, he meets Shimei, a family member of Saul, who uses very strong words to shout and curse David.



Shimei cursed David

... Get out, get out, you man of blood, you scoundrel! **The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The Lord has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood.** 2 Samuel 16:7, 8.

Can you imagine how David would have felt after doing all this for the people of Israel and for the family of Saul? He was still accused of being a murderer and a traitor! I cannot imagine the pain and agony David was going through. Maybe as you are reading this, you are saying, "This sounds so much like my life! After I have done all this, all I get is a mouthful of abuse and accusation. I surely don't deserve this!"

Anyone in David's place would normally have started to yell or fight back at Shimei, justifying themselves. In fact, one of David's men says, ...**Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head** I Samuel 16:9. But look at the response of David. Again, we see David connecting his problems and challenges to God. He says, let him speak/curse, **It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery**

and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today (I Samuel 16:12). Basically, he is declaring that the Lord will repay me for the pain I am going through. In verse 11, **David says the Lord has told him to do this. In other words, he says, God has allowed this to happen.** We need to have this assurance: "nothing will happen in my life unless the Lord allows it, and if he has allowed it, it will have a blessing at the end".

Dear friends, even our Lord had to choose His battles. When He was questioned, the Bible says Jesus Christ remained 'silent' except one time. Likewise, we need to learn to be silent and let God fight our battles. May the Lord give us the grace to choose our battles. Let God be God!

URGENT

We require approximately 1000 Hindi Christian books for **our Nehemiah Bible Colleges**. Kindly inform us about the possibility of obtaining theological Hindi books.

- Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj, Editor
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