

FROM THE DEPTH OF MY HEART...

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings in the name of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ!

In this last month of the year, we are thrilled to see that God has faithfully accomplished everything He had promised. Let your heart be filled with gratitude for His love, grace and faithfulness. Make this month a month of praise and worship. Note down everything He has done for you and start to praise Him. He alone is worthy to be praised.

This is the time for you to do something for God and His Kingdom. Increase your hunger and thirst for more of God and His manifestations through you. Don't be satisfied with ankle deep, knee deep, or waist deep levels of anointing. Jump into the swimming level. You will catch great multitudes of fish for the Lord. Greater manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit will draw multitudes to Christ. Keep growing in your faith and in Christian virtues. Don't stay in your present level and get distracted in small issues. Rise up and shine!

The School of the Holy Spirit for Ladies is going on now in our campsite. Among the 165 students, this time we have more North Indian Ladies from different parts of North India. We have students from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Sri Lanka and Germany. The Holy Spirit is moving mightily among them and filling them with His joy and glory. We need your fervent prayers for every individual to show their life transformation and keep living in the Spirit as they are now back in their places of origin.

Our Supernatural Lifestyle Seminar in Mumbai was glorious. We had around 2450 people from all over Maharashtra and many other states. We had mighty deliverances, healings and life transformations. The people were touched and challenged by the Holy Spirit for a supernatural lifestyle. God restored many of them and geared them up

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for supernatural life and ministry. Thank you for all your prayers.

We have Schools of the Holy Spirit for forty days in our campsite and also in Kerala from January 19th to February 26th, 2016. Come and become a different person (1.Sam.10:6). These schools will culminate gloriously with our Apostles and Prophets Conference from February 22nd to 26th, 2016. If you are an apostle or a prophet, these five days are for you to enter into another level of anointing and glory in your ministry. Visit www.ezekiahfrancis.org for more details and apply online.

Get ready for fasting and prayer for our nation from December 1st to 3rd, 2015. When God's people humbled themselves before God for their nations, visible changes happened in the nations all throughout history. Come and join us for this wonderful festival of prayer. Let us experience together the tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a tangible way.

My wife Benita is going to minister in Patiala, Punjab, from 7th to 9th December, 2015. If you are in and around Punjab, come and receive the blessing. These days are going to produce mighty deliverance and breakthrough for your life, family and ministry. See more details in the advertisement in this issue.

Pray for all our programs and also for me and my wife, for our ageing parents, as well as for our leaders and staff. May the Lord Almighty establish your territory and make you a blessing to the nations. Be the head and never again the tail. Lend to nations and never borrow again. Let the blessings run before you and overtake you, in Jesus Name!

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CLASSES ON CHRISTMAS



Dr. Ezekiah Francis



I bring greetings to you in this special Christmas season. May your hearts and homes be filled with abundant joy. There is no news which is good news for everyone. Christmas alone is the good news for all mankind. The greatest good news is the great and awesome God came in human form to unite Himself with mankind. Why was the glorious God, who walked in the golden streets of heaven, born in a poor manger? Is it to make you sad? Is it to let you live in series of struggles? Is it to make you confused with baffling questions and repeated failures? Is it to bear all the arrows of the enemy? No! Not at all.

The Lord of Lords came to this world so that you may inherit all the heavenly blessings. He came to multiply your blessings, not to machinate them. The foolish Herod trembled without realizing this fact. He imagined the king of Jews was born to capture his throne. But the amazing truth is Jesus was born to make you His very throne.

Jesus Himself became your Christmas gift. New clothes, delicious food, mouth watering Christmas cake are not your real gifts. Right from Genesis to Malachi, the blessings of God came as different gift packages. In Christ, all the heavenly blessings reached us as a single, magnificent and marvelous gift parcel. This is why we celebrate Christmas. Jesus, in you, is an embodiment of all the gifts of God.

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for is all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things (Rom. 8:32)?

Christmas life is an abundant life, lacking nothing. It's a life where your depression disappears and your chaos changes.

Good news for one need not be good news for another. This is the good news for all. It's good news for the old couple Zechariah and Elizabeth and also for the young girl, Mary. It's good news for Saint Simon and also for the simple Shepherds. It's good news for the wise men and also for the 84 year old Anna.

The Christmas news: 1. News about heaven kissing the earth. 2. Closed doors and windows of heaven are wide open and a new relationship is born.

When war is declared between two nations, all the means of transportation will be closed. Once the war ceases, the closed doors will be opened again. Many doors between heaven and earth were closed as a result of Adam's fall. At times, they were slightly opened. But only on Christmas day, the doors were swung open. This is why the saints exclaimed "Oh! Is it heaven or earth? Awesome God became ordinary man"!

The heavenly hosts are descending in large numbers. Transportation between heaven and earth has begun. Heavenly goods are being exported to the earth, and the earthly goods are in turn exported to

heaven. There is no wall of separation any more. The border is no longer a barrier. His abundance of blessings, authority to rule, anointing, recognition, everything has become yours now.

Now, it is up to you to receive these Christmas blessings. Let us delve on five most important Christmas lessons today.

1. Obeying
2. Seeking
3. Giving
4. Praising
5. Greeting

1. Obeying

Just imagine how Virgin Mary would have felt when she heard that she was going to be pregnant. She had no previous track record of such incident in the Bible. She has heard how God miraculously opened the barren wombs of Sarah and Elizabeth. Never in human history has a virgin ever conceived. She very well knew the shame and reproach she had to bear in order to obey God's command. She also knew that she would be stoned to death, or killed according to the Bible law. But she risked her life to obey God. She dared to die for the Savior's birth. She decided to obey the Lord even if she was stoned to death. She understood obeying God was the way for her exaltation. This is not an ordinary but supernatural obedience!

Just think! Many hesitate to obey God due to fear of men. Many set aside God's word for their own reputation and honor. Because of this, they forego a lot of blessings. In this Christmas season, God beckons you for a blessed life. Determine and dare to die in order to obey God.

My friends and relatives made fun of me thinking I was crazy, I was good for nothing. How pathetic would be my state today, if I had obliged to them! How many would have lost their blessings! I stood firm in my faith that Christ in me is greater than my parents, friends and

relatives. The greatest one who is in me, made me great too. The Most High God has called me for the most high work. Heaven observed my audacity of as I dared to live and die for Jesus' sake. That is why His blessings are flowing in and through me.

What happened to Mary who boldly stood for Christ? Her name and fame was not spoiled. Famous men came in search of her and greeted her. They offered gold, myrrh and frankincense. Not only Mary, Joseph also dared to make a big sacrifice.

Put yourself in Joseph's shoes. How bad he would have felt, when he knew that Mary, who was engaged to him, was pregnant. His parents and friends would have been shocked and agitated. Many would have sympathized with him, saying, "You are a righteous man, why should you face such a reproach? The girl has lost her virginity" and so on.

Righteous Joseph had to choose between two options only. One is to publicly expose her sin and have her stoned to death. The other is to divorce her quietly, without public disgrace. Yes! The ways of man are limited. But God knows millions of options. Dearly beloved, when God expects something from you, do not lean on your natural understanding. Do not trust the choices that you know. If you know 2 options, he knows 2000 options. An angel of God appeared in his dream. He revealed the heavenly plan to Joseph, which was entirely different from the 2 options he had in mind.

Joseph immediately took Mary as his wife. He decided to obey the wonder working God even if the whole world accuses him. Had Joseph merely paid heed to his Bible knowledge and his own thoughts, he would have lost the privilege of being the supposed father of the world's Savior.

Dearly beloved, God will restore a million fold all that you have lost, just for obeying Christ. If you were despised for His sake, He will exalt you before everyone. If you accept anyone in obedience to God, they will be a blessing to you. Do not look at your problems and circumstances with natural eyes. Do not decide anything based on your intelligence. The Word of God alone is the truth. Obey His Word alone.

Christmas life is a life totally dedicated for the Word of God. Kick aside all your traditions and stand boldly for Christ. Decide to follow him alone. This obedience will change every single day of your life as days of Christmas celebration.

2. Seeking

Another important lesson Christmas teaches us is to seek Him. Once they heard about his birth, many came in search of the baby Jesus. Shepherds sought him. Simeon longed to see him. The Wise men journeyed from the east, but the religious leaders did not seek him. They lost the unique and incomparable blessings of Christmas. Jerusalem was 5 Km away from Bethlehem. The temple was there. Priests, worship, everyday sacrifice still existed. But they neither took any effort to seek Christ, nor desired to see Him. The wise men traveled thousands of miles seeking Christ. They did not come to get something from Him. Instead they worshipped Him and offered Him the best gifts they ever had.

Christmas life is a life of seeking Christ. Those who seek Him with all their heart will see Him. Their hearts will prosper. They shall lack nothing. Make up your mind to seek Him. When you seek Him alone, all His blessings will be added unto you.

All those who are used by God today, have the habit of seeking God. It thrills me when I think of how I sought the Lord in my young days. I spent many nights on mountain tops. The very thought thrills me now. I repeatedly sang, "Lord! You are enough" with tears. I sought him and found him. That is why God enabled many to come in search of me, now.

Dearly beloved, let seeking God be the main goal of your life. Don't forsake His wonderful blessings while searching for worldly things. Greedy people, who hunt for money, finally lose everything. Those who long for man's love are disappointed and break down. If you seek Him, riches, wealth and honor will seek after you.

When you decide to seek Him, entire heaven

will back you up. Heavenly angelic hosts will lead you to Christ just as they lead the Shepherds. The Star of wonder will lead you just as it led the wise men. The same Holy Spirit who brought Simeon to Christ at the right time will guide you too. It is enough if you long to seek Him. When you desire to seek the Lord, the Holy Spirit, heavenly angels, nature, and your own circumstances will lead you to Him. Learn this special lesson of Christmas.

3. Giving

We saw how the wise men traveled so long only to give. Yes! Multitudes followed him after he started his miracle ministry. But they expected something else from him. They came seeking for their healing, miracles, food, blessings, fame, recognition and the like. All these things are necessary. Instead, we should come to him to give to him. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

I believe those who brought precious gifts of gold, Myrrh and Frankincense to baby Jesus, would have become very rich. When you give to God, you will lack nothing. I have experienced that the best way to receive is to give. I can boldly say that the one who gives is wise. He knows the tactics of catching a big fish by hooking a small worm. Give and you will see the reward.

If you give your tithes regularly, all your needs shall be met. You will live a satisfied life without debt. If you add your offerings to your tithe, you will witness plenty in your life. In short, tithe meets all your needs, whereas your offerings added to the tithe will make you rich. Woe unto the one who does not pay his tithe. He will continue to live in lack, though millions pray for him.

Try giving to God whatever you have. Learn to give generously to the poor. Pinch yourself and give to others. The heavenly Father will reward you in a manifold way. The joy of Christmas is attained by giving to others. Give to the poor. Give to the orphans and widows. Buy new clothes for the poor and needy. Honor the servants of God. Send gifts to each other. Christian life is a life of generous giving. What a blessed life!

4. Praising

Christmas time was filled with praise. Mary recognized the greatness of the One who was in her. That is why she sang,

“He has seen the humble state of His servant

Now all generations will call me blessed.”
(Lk. 1:46)

Yes beloved, Christmas is to be mindful of the lowly. You are no longer an orphan, nor a slave. You are more blessed among all generations. Do you know how you will respond if you have this revelation? You will join Mary and sing,

“My soul glorifies the Lord,

My Spirit rejoices in God my Savior”

The Shepherds worshipped Him. Wise men worshipped Him. Simeon and Anna worshipped Him. Angels sang praises. Elizabeth and Zachariah sang praises. No one cried. They came

to worship Him. In this Christmas season, let the waves of praise flow abundantly from you. Almighty God is born in me to make me a blessed one. The very knowledge that you lack nothing, will fan the flame of praise within you. You will sing on and on. If you receive the revelation of this Christmas message, many of your prayers will be turned into praises. Your worries will be changed to worship. Your complaints will become celebrations. Wiles of the enemy will be your worship points. Come on! Start praising God.

5. Greeting

One of the most important lessons that we learn from Christmas is greeting each other. The Biblical principles such as, “honor one another, regard others higher than you” were practically fulfilled on the Christmas Day. Mary obeyed God. She surrendered herself completely to God’s will. Do you what was the thought that first went across her mind? She wanted to greet Elizabeth. She hurried to greet her. Christmas teaches us to hurry to greet others. Have you seen

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anyone hurrying to encourage others? Mary is a good example for us.

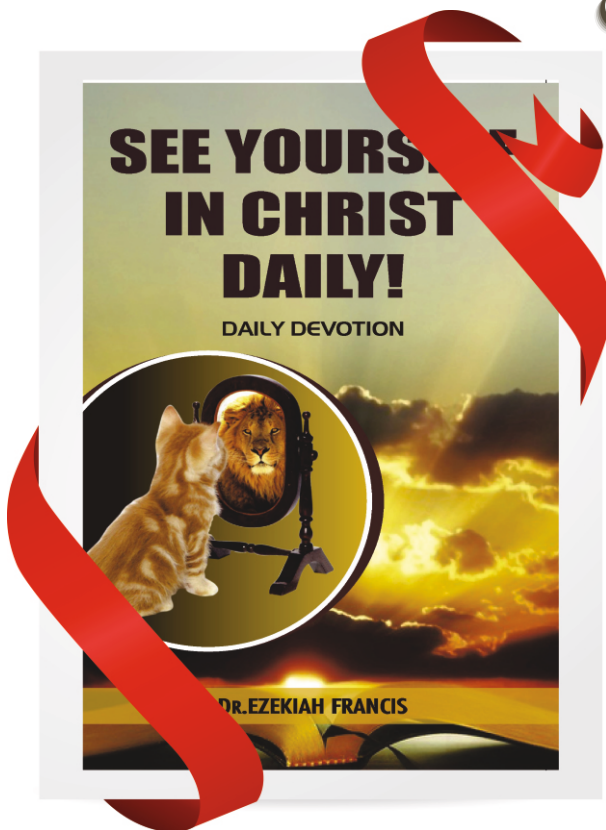
Elizabeth whole heartedly greeted Mary who came to greet her. Send Christmas greetings to as many as possible. Greet your family. Encourage everyone enthusiastically. Bestow the blessing promises of God upon your beloved ones.

Pay attention to the order of greetings during Christmas. The angel, Gabriel greeted Mary. Mary, meditated upon this greetings and greeted Elizabeth. Elizabeth was excited on hearing Mary's greetings and in turn greeted her. Yes! Greetings should unite the hearts like a never ending chain.

Start greeting everyone from now on. Say aloud, "Beloved, I wish that you prosper in all things just as your soul prospers." (III Jn 2) Tell others about the blessings of the Bible.

Now look to Jesus and say, "Lord! I lack nothing because you are in me. I will no longer be anxious about me, my family or my future. I live for others alone. I will begin to greet and bless others whole heartedly."

I, the servant of the Most High God extend my special Christmas greetings to you. May the Lord exalt you from the lowly and humble state! May your territories be expanded! Let your life of slavery change into a reigning life. May the Lord change your captivity! May God's glorious light shine in the dark areas of your life! May nations come to the light that is in you! May the Lord exalt your head! May the Lord exalt you and honor you more than what you think or imagine! May the Lord transform you into an obedient disciple, ardent searcher, generous giver, persistent praising man, gracious greeting man. My heartfelt Christmas and New Year wishes.



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**Christmas!!! God's very own Son coming into this world!!!
Darkness defeated!!! Light has come!!! JOY to the world, the
Savior is born!!!**

Rev. Benita Francis



As we celebrate Christmas this year, I would like you to consider some truths we normally don't connect with Christmas. As we celebrate God Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I would like you to make this Christmas also a special time for that special couple who was hand-picked by your God to bring you into this world. Let us think...

God Father had to take the painful decision to allow His only begotten Son, the Apple of His eye, the Living Word that had been with Him for all eternity, to be squeezed into a small human body and be born as a mere human (Jn. 1:1-3, 14, 18). He had to take the pain of watching His Son being slandered, betrayed, beaten and crucified. And yet, He took that agonizing decision to buy salvation for you and me (Jn. 3:16)!!! THANK HIM! BLESS HIM!!! CELEBRATE HIM!!!

Now think about your earthly daddy. He also had to take many painful decisions to give you life. How many things he would have sacrificed - first of all the loving attention of his dear wife which would have definitely shifted from him to you, the baby. Then the time and company of his wife as she had to stay home because of you. Then the money he could have spent on himself instead of having to work extra hours to pay for your toys, your studies, your medical bills, your big and small fancies. So... Will you make this Christmas special both for your heavenly and for your earthly Daddy???

Think about it... God could have easily

dropped His Son onto this earth as an adult, some kind of alien, as they show us in science fiction movies. Why did He choose to make His Son Jesus to be born through a woman? Well, there are many reasons - but one main reason is to show to the world the importance of FAMILY! Father and mother together bringing up a child, protecting, nurturing, training, correcting and perfecting that new life into his or her divine calling is God's beautiful pattern which satan is trying to destroy all over the earth. In the Christmas story, God shows His loving, caring heart toward humanity by introducing even His own Son into the world through one woman and putting one man at her side to ensure a perfect upbringing for His Holy Child Jesus.

Actually, Joseph was not at all necessary since Mary's YES to God's Word allowed God's Holy Spirit to plant the God's Seed Jesus, the Living Word, into her womb (Jn. 1:1; Lk. 1:26-38). Why then did God not allow Joseph to silently reject Mary, as he wanted to do when he found out she was pregnant (Mt. 1:18-25)? He did so to make a strong statement to the world that both a father and a mother are needed for a child. In today's world with its sperm banks and online catalogues, surrogate mothers and in-vitro-fertilization, many get tricked into thinking they can raise a child as a single parent or as a same-sex "couple". This is nothing but another lie of satan, created to destroy humanity. If you find yourself in a single-parent-situation without your fault, don't despair but cry out to your heavenly Father. God gives grace to the humble. He will help you raise your child

by bringing people into your life to provide that missing element; but if your pride and stubbornness makes a healthy marriage and family life impossible, please repent. God resists the proud (Js.4:6; .Pe.5:5)! For your child's sake, provide both father and mother as per the Creator's wise, eternal design. Let me say it one more time: If even the holy, righteous, perfect Son of God needed both a father and a mother, what on earth makes you think you alone can do the job?!?!?

Please study your Bible and see the different roles Joseph and Mary fulfilled in the life of our Lord Jesus. Joseph protected the baby Jesus, traveled with the entire family even to different nations to ensure His safety and educated the growing up son Jesus (Lk.2:4-51). Mary kept and pondered the prophecies concerning Him in her heart, accompanied the adult Jesus from the beginning of His ministry all the way to the cross and even beyond, waiting with the disciples for the promise of the Holy Spirit her Son Jesus had announced (Lk.2:19,34-35; Jn.2; 19:26-27; Ac.1:14). How much she sacrificed even her very own life to be with her Son! She bore the pain of watching Him die on that cruel cross and always remained faithful to His vision and mission. Wow!

Think about your own earthly mother. She had to carry you in her womb for nine months, bearing the discomfort of pregnancy and the horrible pain of delivery. She had to feed, cleanse, educate and correct you for so many years. Still today, she is your fiercest defender against anyone who would want to harm you. This is her God-given task and responsibility. Take the time to thank her and bless her for fulfilling this task, no matter how imperfect she may have been at it. So... Will you make this Christmas special for your earthly mom???

Then think about your Lord Jesus. We celebrate His birth at Christmas, but for how many years did He simply live a normal life as an obedient Son to His earthly parents? The Bible even says He was subject to them (Lk.2:51)! No rebellion! No disobedience! Just obedient submission, waiting for His time to come to fulfill His heavenly mission. What an example! Can you be like this? Maybe you brought much pain to your earthly parents by your stubborn rebellion and self-will. This is much more serious than you could ever imagine. Both the Old and the New Testament warn us severely against cursing our parents. Did you know that even despising their counsel and belittling them in other people's eyes is actually a form of cursing? I tremble at Pr.20:20:

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“Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.” If your life seems like deep darkness, now you know why. So repent. Ask their forgiveness. Let Jesus, the Light of the world, dispel all darkness from your heart and attitudes this Christmas (Jn.8:12). Make your Christmas a real festival of light. Tell me... Will you make this Christmas special for your earthly parents???

Next question. Are your children obeying you like this? If not, use this Christmas to teach them about more than just the birth of our Savior, but also His life until His baptism and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Remind them that Jesus came with only one purpose: To fulfill the plan of His heavenly Father! See this Scripture and challenge your children with it: “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of Me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within My heart” (Ps.40:7-8). Remind them that their days are also already written in God’s book, and that His laws, plans and purposes are not grievous but good, acceptable and perfect. Tell them that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light (Ps.139:16; Ro.12:2; Mt.11:30). Explain to them that you train them in the fear and admonition of the Lord so they can shine in life and fulfill their God-given task and potential to the fullest. If you have angered, discouraged and disheartened them by harsh discipline, ask their forgiveness and assure them of your deep love and concern for them (Eph.6:4). So... Will you make this Christmas special for your children also???

In my spirit, I can see some of you in tears and deep pain right now. You say, “What can I do? It is too late. Already my loved one is dead and gone, or has left and deserted me long before.” Maybe your parents or children failed miserably in their God-given tasks, and you are deeply wounded and find no grip in life. Please don’t despair! I can very well understand what you are going through. In our work-minded, perfectionist society of Germany, I was also deeply wounded by what I perceived as a lack of love from my parents. For years, I used to dread Christmas and mother’s day because they would bring up tremendous pain and

tears. The more I delved into God’s Word, however, and the more I chose to forgive and bless my parents, the more healing I could receive from my real Father, the one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all those who made Jesus their personal Savior (Eph.4:6).

This Christmas, make it a point to forgive all those who wronged you. Even if they are already dead or out of your reach, forgive them. Speak it out loud. This act of forgiving is a very powerful spiritual weapon that works far beyond our human understanding. Just this week, a sin-hardened father went to church for the first time in his home town after his daughter had released him from her judgment and forgiven him here in our School of the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!!! Forgiveness has no boundaries. It releases both the offender and the offended (Mt.18:21-35; Lk.6:37; Jn.20:23). You may be spiritually bound even to a person who already died, just because you never really forgave that person. Do it now! Don’t stay bound to death and the grave! You can! Your Jesus forgave His cruel murderers (Lk.23:34). You can!

Don’t forget to forgive even yourself for any blunders, sins and mistakes that make you hate and despise yourself. The Blood of your Lord Jesus is powerful enough to cleanse you of any sin and iniquity if you dare confess it to Him (1.Jn.1:7,9). In fact, He came into this world for this one and only purpose: To give His Blood for your redemption and to carry away the sins of the whole world (Eph.1:7; Col.1:14; Heb.9:12; Jn.1:29,36; Rev.6:6; 7:9)! So... Will you honor the purpose of His coming and avail His sacrifice? Will you make this Christmas special for your Savior Jesus???

In case you are angry at God, let me tell you, you fell headlong into satan's best trap. If satan could convince you that God is to blame for your misery, he won a world war against you and is on his way to completely destroy you. Never forget, satan is the master deceiver, more cunning than any beast of the fields (Rev.20:3,8; Ge.3:1). God is never the Source of your problems. Your disobedience to God and His Word, or your forefathers’ sins and resulting curses, have opened the door to satan. Of course, being the master thief he is, he immediately comes in and does

his job, which is to kill, steal and destroy (Jn.10:10). Please, in this Christmas, turn your wrath into the right direction - away from your God who is your Helper, and towards satan who is your accuser and destroyer (Ps.10:14; Heb.13:6; Rev.12:10; Ex.12:23).

If you have actively rebelled and accused God of all your troubles, you may even need a deliverance. In my experience, many people find freedom as they “forgive God” - of course, a silly and unnecessary thing to do since God cannot sin and never harms you. Somehow, however, it helps them release their bottled-up emotions of anger, revenge, hatred, guilt and self-condemnation and step out of satan’s trap. Try it! This Christmas, will you “forgive God” and ask His forgiveness for

blaming Him unjustly? Will you decide to fulfill His heart desire? Do you know what His heart longs for? King David prayed it out loud in a song:

“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You” (Ps.22:27).

Will you turn to Him and worship Him? Will you make this Christmas special for your Heavenly Daddy???

Enjoy your blessed, happy, special Christmas!!!



THE GREAT REFUGE IN CHRIST



Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, that the slayer who kills a person accidentally or unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood’.

...that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us (Jos.20:2-3; Heb.6:18).

Under the Old Covenant, God in His great

mercy designated cities of refuge for every tribe. The innocent manslayer who kills someone accidentally will flee to that city. The city will give him refuge against the avenger of blood. If the avenger follows him, the people of the city must not hand him over to him. He will be there till his public trial or until the death of the high priest. Then he can go back to his hometown (Jos.20:1-6). This again I see as a picture of life in Christ.

Your refuge: The city of refuge was the safest place for innocent sinners. The entire city and its leadership gave him full protection from his enemies. Living in Christ is living in the heavenly city of refuge. Your God Himself became your great refuge

from the storms of life and from floods of rain (Isa.4:6). What a privilege and great protection for you to have God Himself as your great Refuge, your Fortress, your Hiding Place, your Stronghold and your Shield! Your life is built on the Rock Jesus. No rain, floods or winds can shake your life a bit (Mt.7:24-25).

For all sinners: The cities of refuge were built to protect those who murder accidentally or unintentionally (Jos.20:3). If a man used a weapon of iron, stone or wood to kill someone, he was guilty of murder and was to be put to death. The city of refuge could not protect such an intentionally cruel murderer.

In Christ, even the worst intentional murderers could find refuge and salvation. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us". Your Father God demonstrated His great love by reconciling you to Himself even when you were His enemy. Now you are fully saved and protected by God's very life (Ro.5:8-10). Imagine, if God's salvation were limited only for those who sin unintentional! Who could be saved! In Christ, even fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers and extortioners are washed, sanctified and justified by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the great refuge (1.Co.6:9-11).

Eternally: The innocent murderer will not be allowed inside the city of refuge after the death of the high priest or once he is proved guilty. As God's new creation, your High Priest never dies nor makes you guilty. He is able to save you to the uttermost, since He ever lives to make intercession for you (Heb.7:25). He is your eternal Refuge and Strong Tower.

For all trouble: The city of refuge gave protection only to murderers from the avenger.

Your refuge, however, not only gives you protection from satan and his hosts but from all the diseases, distresses and afflictions of the enemy. He is your Refuge from all oppression and from all troubles (Ps.9:9). He is your Refuge from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence (Ps.91:3). You are dwelling in the secret place of the Most High. You are under the shadow of the Almighty. You have taken your refuge under His mighty wings. He is totally covering you with His feathers. Why should you be ever afraid of terror by night, arrow by day, or destruction and disease (Ps. 91:1,4-6)?

Beloved, God's heart is desperate to protect His creation from the enemy. He makes nests, homes and refuges for birds and animals (Ps.106:16-18). He thoughtfully made cities of refuge for innocent murderers. How much more will He be a refuge for you, His new creation. Your life is hidden with Christ in God. You are seated in the very throne room of God, far above all your enemies. You are eternally guilt-free and safe. Rejoice in your refuge TODAY!

Thank You, Lord, I will sing of Your power, yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning For You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. You will be my tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, my place of refuge and my shelter from storm and rain, because I am in Christ.

Ps.59:16; Isa.4:6

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