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GRACE & PEACE

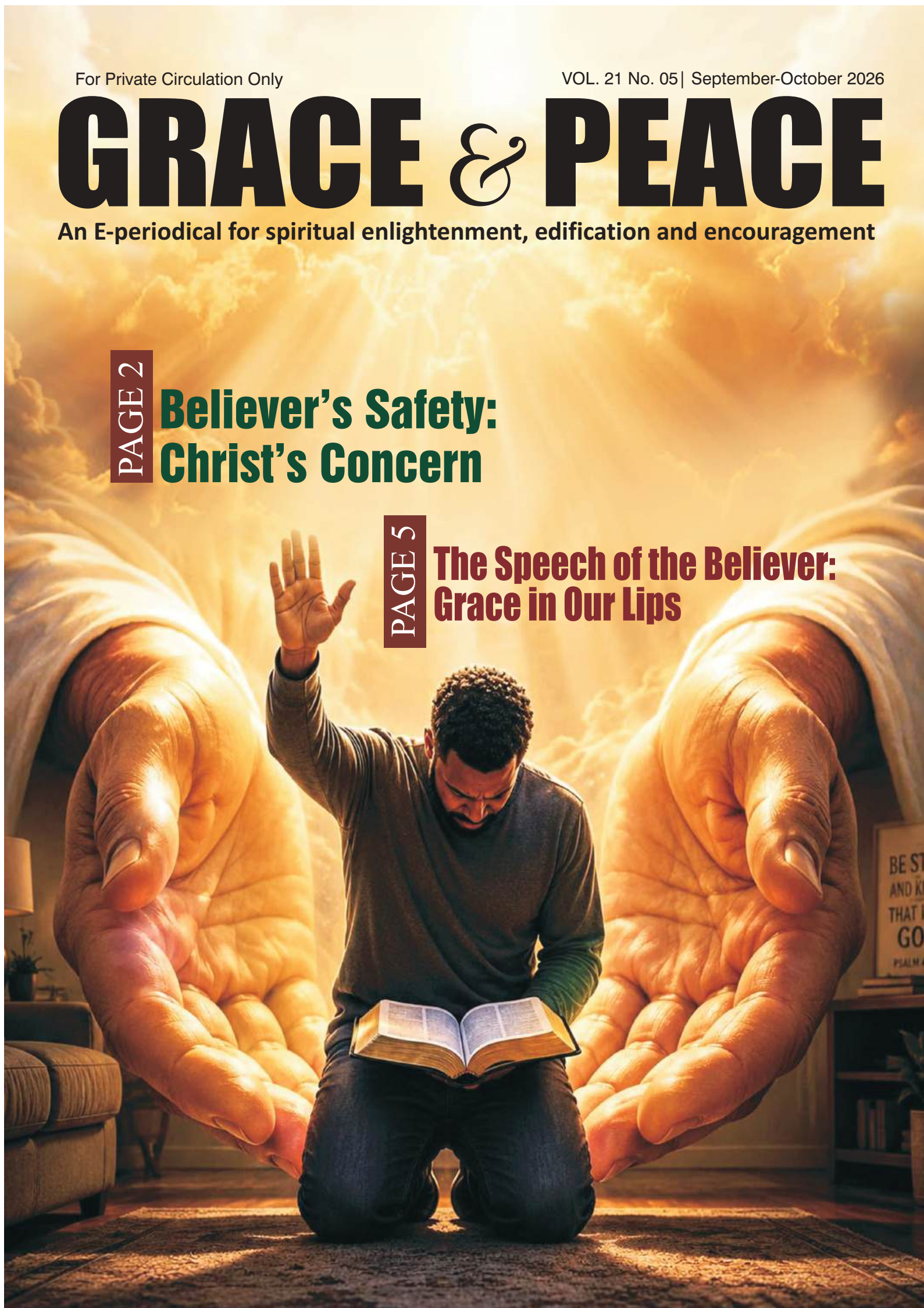
An E-periodical for spiritual enlightenment, edification and encouragement

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The Speech of the Believer: Grace in Our Lips



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Divine Protection

"I the Lord keep it, I water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I keep it night and day,"

Isaiah 27:3

Wonderful is the way that God deals with His people. When they go astray, He disciplines them. Even He allows the enemy to attack them. Yet at the right time, He comes forward to protect and provide for His people. That's what we see in this verse.

Isaiah had penned another song earlier – The song of the vineyard - portraying the fruitless life of Israel. There we see the Lord removing the hedge and abandoning His vineyard to be trampled down. Even He commanded the cloud to rain no more, (Isaiah 5:5, 6).

Future yet Present

But see what God says now, He keeps Israel night and day. He will not allow any more hurt to His people. He makes sure that they get sufficient water. He says further in v. 4a, "Fury is not in Me". Of course, Isaiah writes about the future restoration of Israel, but we the New Testament believers are privileged to experience this divine protection and provision today itself spiritually.

This is something that should encourage us so much. Our Lord is a merciful God who has no pleasure in punishing us. Even when

He chastens us to correct and mould us, we are still under His care and protection. He will never abandon His people. He is very much concerned about our safety, joy, and nourishment, (Cf. Eph. 5:25, 26–29).

God's care for His people should not only encourage us to follow and trust Him in all circumstances, but also challenge us to be concerned about other suffering people.

Partner with God

Remember what Christ told Apostle Peter when he repeatedly acknowledged his love for the Lord: "Feed My lambs"; "Tend My sheep", (John 21:15–17). Having a commitment to care for God's people is a proof of our love to Christ.

We need to realize that it is the burden of God to protect and provide for His people. Ministering for the needs of His people is God's concern. He does it night and day. Let us yield to Him, trust Him and be available to be workers together with the Lord in building up the saints for every good work.

What a blessed privilege it is to be protected, provided and directed by the Lord Almighty day and night!

NTK

Believer's Safety: Christ's Concern

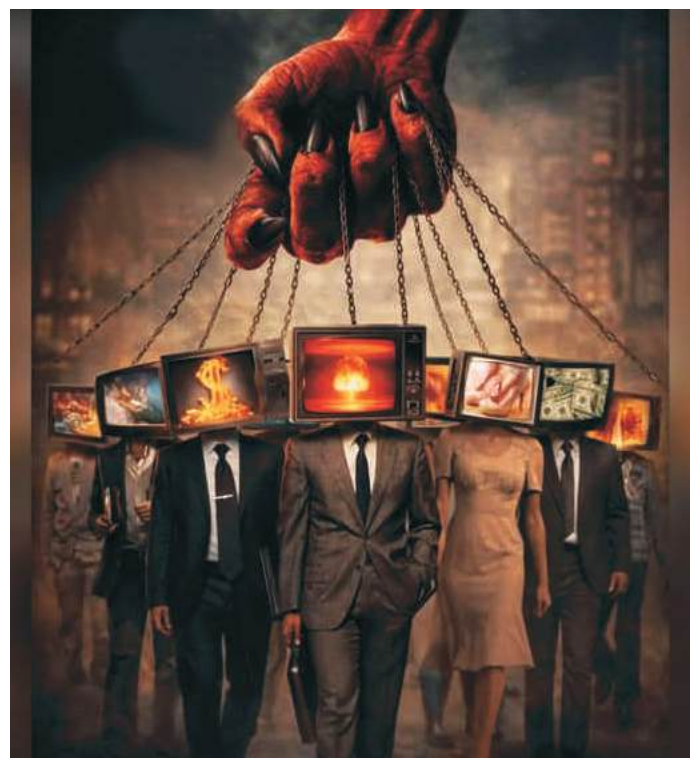
According to reports, one in seven Christians world over face extreme discrimination and violence due to their faith. They are the most persecuted community in the world today. All over the world attacks, detention, and killing of the followers of Christ continue unabated, even with the support of the authorities. In such a dangerous environment it's good to consider our Lord's concern for the safety and security of His followers.

Just before going to the cross, we see the Lord Jesus praying for His own, even for all of us (John 17:9, 20). One of the major topics He presents before the Father is our safety here on earth. Notice the word 'keep' repeated in vs. 11, 12, and 15.



He says "While I was with them in the world, I **kept** them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have **kept**; And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the

world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, **keep** them in your name, which you have given me" (John 17:12, 11; cf. 18:9, 8 ESV).



Dangers Believers Face

In His prayer, the Lord Jesus refers to the threats His followers face while on earth:

- a. **The World** (v. 11) that hates, troubles and tempts them (cf. John 16:33; 1 John 2:16). The world system controlled by the evil one is always against God and His people (Eph. 2:2; 1 John 3:1, etc.).
- b. **The flesh** (v. 11), the abiding sin nature that leads to the cravings against the new nature (Gal. 5:17).

For the same reason they face interpersonal issues and divisions, etc.

- c. **The evil one** (v. 15), the devil himself who is waiting for an opportunity to assault the saints (1 Peter 5:8; 1 Thess. 2:18; Eph. 6:11-13).

The Word of God warns that the enemy is able to invent new schemes and strategies to trap the people of God (2 Cor. 2:11). Christ Himself disclosed to Peter that Satan wanted to sift him like wheat (Luke 22:31). If that is what the enemy aims even when the Lord was around them, how much aggressive the enemy will be to implement his diabolic schemes, once Christ leaves the scene physically! It is in this context the Lord Jesus intercedes for them with the Father. What a care and concern for His people!



Praise be to God, our Lord is well aware of our present state in every aspect. He knows our frame, the atrocities and the aggressors as well. Moreover, He has

made provisions for our safety and security in this vulnerable environment.

Christ's Arrangements for our Safety

Notice the number of measures the Lord has taken to support and protect us during our sojourn in this world.

1. **His Word**, John 17:8, 14, to enlighten, edify, and encourage them (cf. Psalms 119:11; 1 Thess. 4:18; 1 John 2:14).



2. **His Spirit** (John 14:16–18), to teach and lead in every truth. And also, to empower and equip for them service, Acts 1:8.
3. **His Angels** (Heb. 1:14), to serve and guard (cf. Psalms 91:11; Job 1:10; Acts 12:15).
4. **His Presence** (Matt. 28:20; Mark 16:20), spiritually, to strengthen and to direct His people. We see the fulfilment of this promise later in the lives of God's people, especially in certain darkest moments of their life (cf. Acts 18:9, 10; 23:11; 27:23; 2 Tim. 4:17). Yes, when He is for us, who can stand against us, and whom shall we fear (Rom. 8:31; Psalm 27:1)?

5. **His Prayer** (Heb. 7:25), continuously and sympathetically upholding us as our perfect High Priest. The prayer we find in John 17 is an example. In Luke 22:30, 32, the Lord revealed to Peter that He prayed for him knowing the tactics of Satan aimed at him.

The Word of God also tells us that the Lord instructs us with His eye, holds us with His right hand, and covers us with His feathers, etc., (Psa. 32:8; 73:23; 91:4). Nothing happens to His children without His permission. Not even the hair of our head falls without God's perfect knowledge (Luke 21:18; 12:7; Acts 27:34). What a blessed privilege! Let us take refuge under His wings, whatever may be the circumstances.



It is possible we may feel forsaken by all. Especially when people whom we trusted as the closest and efficient to support in our crises, fail us. It is in such gloomiest instants in life we really enjoy the presence

of the Lord in a very personal way. Notice what apostle Paul wrote, "At my first defence no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me" (2 Tim. 4:16, 17a).

Believer's Responsibility

In view of such an arrangement of security do we have any responsibilities? God's gracious provisions for our triumphant life on earth should not make us complacent and inactive. For unbroken victory over our enemies and a productive life we ought to fulfil our obligations as the scripture tells us. The most important one is to stay close to the Lord to have an intimate relation with Him (John 15:4).



This includes the regular meditation of God's Word and prayer (Josh. 1:8; Phil. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:7). Our Lord is able and faithful to keep us (2 Thess. 3:3), but let us remain in that protecting circle with all diligence. Never go out of that sphere where you are privileged to enjoy divine safety and security. **G&B**

"Our great safety is to stay close to the word of God"

William McDonald

THE SPEECH OF THE BELIEVER: GRACE IN OUR LIPS



The human tongue possesses an extraordinary power, capable of encouraging the weary or even pulling down the strong. When an individual is brought into the glorious light of Christ, every aspect of their life is subjected to a divine transformation. This marvelous regeneration must undoubtedly extend to the very words that fall from our lips. As believers, we are not merely called to silence the angry outbursts of our former lives but rather, we are given a completely new vocabulary of grace.

The scriptures point our gaze constantly toward our Saviour as the ultimate standard. The psalmist prophetically declared of Him, "Grace is poured into thy lips" (Psalm 45:2). Even the hardened officers sent to arrest Christ returned empty-handed, utterly captivated by His discourse, confessing, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" (John 7:46).

In Him, we see no idle chatter, no corrupt communication, and no words spoken in haste. If we are to walk worthy of our calling, our daily speech must increasingly reflect the matchless grace and divine wisdom of the One we follow. The words we choose show us the condition of our hearts, dictating the spiritual atmosphere of our homes and assemblies.

1. The Solemnity of Speech

We must begin our examination of Christian speech exactly where the Lord Jesus Himself began: with the sobering reality of divine accountability. The world treats words very cheaply, but the believer must recognize that every word that comes out of our mouth carries eternal weight and infinite significance.

The Lord Jesus delivered a strong warning when He stated, "*But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the*

day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36). This solemn truth is not intended to paralyze the child of God with a spirit of fear, but rather to awaken a deep, godly reverence in terms of our language.

Our words are the most accurate spiritual barometer of our inner lives. As Christ reminded the multitudes, "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:34). A bitter, polluted stream cannot possibly flow from a sweet, pure source.



When we sincerely seek to tame the unruly tongue, we cannot rely on superficial behavioral modifications or mere willpower. The authentic transformation must occur in the hidden chambers of the heart, forged through deep communion with God and solid submission to His Word. With this realization we ought to pray with David, "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3).



2. The Standard for Saints

Apostle Paul presents a glorious standard for the speech of the saints, "*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers*" (Eph 4:29).

The word "corrupt" carries the vivid, repulsive imagery of rotting fruit that actively spreads decay and causes sickness in those who consume it. Corrupt communication includes gossip, unnecessary criticism, manipulation, flattery, and the sowing of discord among brethren etc. Instead of falling into these destructive habits, our speech must intentionally minister grace to the hearers.

Every single conversation, whether occurring in the quiet confines of our living rooms, marketplace, or the gathering of the saints, presents a divinely appointed opportunity to share God's Grace with others. We are called to meticulously observe the spiritual needs of those around us and offer words that build up the broken, encourage the fainthearted, and strengthen the weary.

3. The Seasoning of Salt

This delicate, beautiful balance of truth and grace is further illuminated in Paul's letter to the Colossians, providing practical instruction for our daily

interactions with both the saved and the unsaved. He writes, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one," (Colo 4:6).

In the ancient world, salt was a vital, precious commodity used primarily to preserve meat from corruption and to add necessary flavour to a meal. Our words, therefore, must act as a powerful preserving agent in a world characterized by moral decay. Christian speech should boldly arrest and cut off the spread of spiritual impurity and introduce a standard of holiness into every environment we enter.

However, it must also be perfectly seasoned. There is a sense of limit and balance in that word! Salt applied too heavily ruins the meal, and similarly truth delivered without the warmth of genuine empathy can deeply, unnecessarily wound the hearer. Our speech should be perfectly suited to the occasion.



When believers engage with the unbelieving world, our words should not be marked by pride or superiority, or even intellectual arrogance and arguments. Rather, they should reflect the tender compassion and truth of our Saviour, causing others to marvel, just as the multitudes "wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth" (Luke 4:22).

4. The Song of the Sanctified

The ultimate and highest use of the human tongue is not merely to communicate with our fellow humans, but to offer unceasing praise to our God and our Saviour. A heart that has been thoroughly washed in the precious blood of the Lamb cannot possibly remain silent; it must overflow with joyous thanksgiving, (Eph 5: 19, 20).



A tongue dedicated to thanksgiving leaves absolutely no room for murmuring or complaining. When we actively, intentionally cultivate a vocabulary of gratitude, we build a powerful defense against the deceptive snares of the enemy. Our words become a living, breathing testimony to the absolute sufficiency of Christ and the goodness of God, regardless of the trials, tribulations, and storms we may face in this earthly pilgrimage.

Conclusion

We must humbly and honestly acknowledge that governing the tongue is a lifelong pursuit, a daily, intense spiritual battle. This requires the continual, enabling power of the Holy Spirit. We must consciously and deliberately surrender our lips to the Lord each morning, asking Him to purify our thoughts, sanctify our motives, and carefully guide our words throughout the day.

May the earnest cry of the psalmist become the quiet rhythm of our own spiritual lives: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). As we eagerly wait for the glorious return of our Saviour, let us strive by His enabling grace to speak in a manner that reflects His boundless love and honours His eternal truth. **G&P**

REFLECTIONS

Bro. David Samson, Mumbai

The Roles of Angels towards Christ

Part 2

The Role of Witnessing Christ

In the past Daniel's prayer brought down the angel of the Lord from heaven to this earth. But the birth of the Baby - Lord Jesus Christ - brought down multitudes of angels from heaven on this planet earth, Luke 2:8-14.

The first angel that appeared was Gabriel. He gave the glad announcement to the shepherds in the field, (Luke 2:9-10), and preached the first Gospel concerning Christ's birth, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord", (Luk 2:11)



After witnessing about the Good News - the Message of the birth of the Saviour, a chorus of angels joined him (Gabriel) and gave an anthem of praise, (Luke 2:13-14). Thus, the angels of the Lord witnessed about Christ and opened their mouths and gave praises to Him.

The Role of Ministering Christ:

During the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, you will see angels ministering Him, strengthening Him, witnessing about Him throughout His ministry, except at one event, (cf. Matt 4:11; 28:2; Luk 22:43; Acts 1:10). In future also we will see them serving the Lord, (cf. 1Thess 4:16; Rev 19: 11 – 17).



But there was one very important event in the earthly ministry of Jesus, where you will not see an angel to assist Christ. That was when our Lord Jesus Christ was on the Cross of Calvary.

When Jesus was dying for the sins of the whole world, bearing our sins upon His body on the Cross, angels remained silent.

In fact, they were not permitted to go and help Him out or fight for Him. Remember, He had the power to pray to His Father and call legions of angels for His support, (Matthew 26:53). In the past angels have been sent not only to support, even to attack and destroy, (Exo 12: 29, 30; 2Sam 24: 16, 17; 2Kings 6:17; 19: 35).

This proved Christ's love towards sinners like you and me. Heavenly hosts remained silent when Jesus was on the Cross bearing

the punishment of the sins of the whole world all alone.

All these three roles that angels had in the past, are examples for us. Our Lord Jesus Christ was made little lower than the angels, (Heb 2:9). Today, we are lesser than angels, but a day will come when we will be greater than angels, and angels will minister us.

Worship Him

Angels are not just messengers. They are also warriors, protectors, and worshipers of God. In the book of Revelation, we see angels waging war against the forces of evil, (Rev 12:7). In Psalms, we hear of angels protecting God's people, (Psalm 91:11). And throughout the Bible, we see angels worshiping God, singing praises to His name (Rev 5:11-12).

So as believers we need to Worship Him. Not just on Sunday, but every day is a day to worship Him for what He has done.

Watch Him

We need to watch Him every day. Let our focus be on Christ alone and not the world. When Peter's eyes were focused on the Lord, he was able to walk on the sea. When he lost that focus, he began to drown in to the sea.

Witness Him

As believers we need to witness Christ every day. This is an important responsibility which the Lord has given to His church. C. H. Spurgeon said, ***"It is the whole business of the whole church to preach the whole gospel to the whole world."*** He also said, ***"Ho, that my memorial might be, "He preached Christ Crucified."*** Glory to God the Father for His sacrificial gift of His Beloved Son Lord Jesus Christ. **G&P** ■



When Words Become Weapons

Part 2

Gossip Separates People

One of the most destructive consequences of gossip is division. Proverbs 16:28 says: “A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.” Notice the progression. A whisper may seem insignificant, but it can become strife. Strife can become conflict. Conflict can destroy relationships.

Many friendships do not collapse because of one dramatic event. Sometimes they deteriorate because of repeated whispers. Someone says something about a friend. The friend hears about it. Trust decreases. Another comment is made. Suspicion increases. Eventually the friendship is broken. The whisperer may move on to another conversation, but the people affected may carry the consequences for years.

‘People Are Saying...’

One of the most common ways gossip travels is through the phrase, ‘People are

saying...’. Who are these people? Often, nobody knows. The statement has no accountable source, yet it creates an impression of widespread agreement.

If the matter is serious enough to discuss, it should be serious enough to identify the source and deal with the matter truthfully. Instead of spreading anonymous reports, we should ask whether the person making the accusation is willing to speak directly and honestly.

Slandering Sanballat

Nehemiah 6 provides an excellent example of how to respond when false accusations are brought against us. Sanballat sent a message accusing Nehemiah of rebellion and claiming that Nehemiah wanted to make himself king. The accusation was designed to create fear and damage Nehemiah's reputation. Nehemiah did not allow the accusation to control him, or fear to determine his response.

This is an important principle for believers. When we hear a negative report about someone, we should not immediately assume that it is true. We should not become eager consumers of damaging information.

Does This Mean We Should Never Give a Negative Report?

Absolutely not. The Bible does not teach us to hide serious wrongdoing or protect dangerous people from accountability. There are times when information must be communicated. But Scripture gives us a proper framework. James 3 asks us to examine the wisdom behind our actions. Is there bitter jealousy or selfish ambition in our hearts? Are we using information to elevate ourselves or to put another person down? What is our motive? Are we trying to protect or restore someone? The same information can be communicated from radically different motives.

The Biblical Alternative to Gossip

Jesus gave His followers a clear process for dealing with interpersonal issues in Matthew 18. If a brother sins, Lord says to go to him privately and show him his fault. Instead of telling fifteen people about someone's sin, go to the person. Instead of discussing the person behind his back, speak to him directly. If he listens, Jesus says, "you have gained your brother." The goal is not humiliation, but restoration. If the person does not listen, the process continues with one or two others, and ultimately, if necessary, the matter is brought before the local



assembly. This is fundamentally different from gossip. Gossip spreads information. Biblical confrontation seeks restoration. Gossip involves people who are not part of the problem. Biblical confrontation involves the people who are responsible for resolving it.

Love Covers Rather Than Exposes

The Christian response to another person's weakness should be governed by love, (Rom 12:10). This does not mean pretending that sin does not exist. It means refusing to turn another person's failure into an opportunity for public humiliation. Galatians 6:1 calls believers to restore someone caught in sin with a spirit of gentleness.



Guarding Our Own Tongue

We should regularly ask God to expose our own tendency toward gossip and slander. Pray with the psalmist, “Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips”, (Psa 141:3). Perhaps we feel important when people tell us secrets. Perhaps we use criticism to make ourselves feel superior. The solution is not merely stronger self-control. We need the transforming work of the Holy Spirit and a renewed mind shaped by Scripture.



When Someone Brings Gossip to You

What should you do when someone begins telling you something negative about another person?

- a. Do not encourage them to continue.
- b. Ask whether the matter is something that genuinely needs to be addressed.
- c. If it is serious, encourage the person to follow the biblical process.
- d. Refuse to become an unnecessary audience.

These responses may feel uncomfortable, but they are acts of love. By refusing to listen, we help stop the fire before it spreads.

When We Are Falsely Accused

The story of Henry Suso (1295–1366) teaches how God works when His people suffer unjust accusations. Suso was falsely accused of fathering a child. The accusation damaged his reputation, but



instead of defending himself, he brought the matter before God. He sensed the Lord saying, in effect, “Suffer for the sins of others and say nothing.” He cared for the child and entrusted his reputation to God. Years later, the woman admitted publicly that her accusation was false.

The important lesson is not merely that God eventually vindicated Suso, but what God did in Suso while he waited. God used the injustice to conform him more deeply to the character of Christ. His suffering became a means of spiritual transformation.

Joseph experienced something similar. He was falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife, yet he committed himself to God.

What does God do when we are falsely accused

- He knows the truth, even when people do not.
- He sustains us when our reputation is damaged.
- He uses suffering to conform us to Christ.
- He teaches us to entrust our vindication to Him.
- In His time, He may expose falsehood and vindicate His people.

We often say, “Time will tell.” But ultimately, eternity will tell. Our responsibility is not always to prove ourselves right before people; it is to remain faithful before God.



The cross gives us the supreme example: Christ was falsely accused, rejected, and condemned, yet God turned the greatest injustice into the greatest victory.

Let Our Words Reflect Christ



Gossip and slander can wound individuals and divide the people of God, but Scripture calls us to a better way—truth, love, wisdom, and restoration. When we are falsely accused, we do not need to live in fear or constantly defend ourselves. God knows the truth and sustains His people.

Therefore, let us guard our tongues, examine our hearts, speak what builds others up, and entrust our reputation to God. People may misunderstand us, but God never does. And while we wait for His vindication, He may be doing His deepest work in us—conforming us to the image of Christ. **G&P**



***“The shepherd brings the sheep into the flock,
but the sheep must follow the shepherd
in order to have protection and provision.”***

Warren W. Wiersbe

PREPARATION TO FIGHT

Josh 4 & 5

PART 2

Review:

We have so far seen the significance of the two memorials erected soon after crossing river Jordan. One speaks of our death with Christ and the other speaks of our new life in Christ. Even though forty thousand men were ready to go for war, yet before they could fight and conquer the land, they had to fulfil few more requirements.

Remember, God is never in a hurry. So, never be more zealous than God; doing His will is more important. Let's consider the second out of the five requirements the Israelites had to fulfil, teaching us how to prepare for our spiritual fight.

2. Circumcise the new generation, Josh. 5:2-9

What is circumcision? It involved cutting off of the foreskin of every male Israelite. Such a surgery before facing the enemies is not only painful, but even weakening them in the enemy territory, and thus dangerous indeed. (*The Gen. 34:22-25 story of the killing of males of Shechem by Jacob's sons proves the risk involved.*)

Why did God insist circumcision at this juncture? If it was so important why did the Lord not talk about it earlier? Three possible reasons are there:

a. To renew the relationship, Gen. 17:6-14 (v. 7, 10)

Circumcision was a surgical sign of the Abrahamic covenant, v.11. Without this sign no claim can be made on the Promised Land which is based on the Abrahamic covenant, v.8, 14.

The Lord had already taught this truth to Moses earlier. Before he could work under the Abrahamic covenant – to deliver Israel – he had to observe it (Exo. 4:24-26). Yet he ignored it for the past many years.



Notice two things here:

- i. Godly leaders like Moses also could make mistakes. So, never follow any man blindly.
- ii. God's miraculous works are not necessarily a proof of our godliness.

The Lord protected and provided for them; even He divided Jordan for them. All these mighty works of God took place even as they were disobedient in this vital area. Some often say, 'God did this and that for me, that means He is pleased in my life'! Not necessarily.

Now the time has come for the Lord to say to us, 'stop, enough; no more going forward, unless you correct this mistake'. Make a knife and cut off the foreskin, renew the relationship.

God will allow us to continue for some time even if our relation with Him is not clear, but there will be a time, when He will stop us. We become unworthy for further progress. Because, more than activity - fight - the Lord values relationship (cf. Rev. 2:2–5).

Let's pause and consider how our relation with Christ is? Do we simply assume that everything is alright because of the normal activities? Remember, activity is not spirituality. Let's make sure there is no disobedience in any area of life.

b. To remove reproach, Josh. 5:9

When they were in Egypt, the Israelites used to see the uncircumcised Egyptians as impure and abominable. Now they have become like the uncircumcised Egyptians. They were adopting the style, fashion, attitude, taste, practices, etc., of Egyptians now. The foreskin represents the remains of Egypt, that which should have been thrown away by now, they were still keeping with them. This reproach/shame should be removed before they can go forward to fight and conquer the land.

We too often cling on to the lifestyle of the world and desire to move forward in Christian life. Many of the present generation whose forefathers were strict on spiritual separation, prefer to follow the style of the world. However total separation is necessary before God can bless and use us fully.

He may allow us to continue for some time, even experience mighty things, but to fight successfully, possess the inheritance, and enjoy spiritual prosperity a higher level of holiness will be required. Examine and forsake what is against God's word (cf. 2 Cor. 6:17, 18; 2 Tim. 2:4, 20–22; Heb. 12:1).



c. To remove self-confidence, Josh. 5:8c

Another possible reason for the Lord to insist circumcision at this stage is to render them weak enough to trust in the Lord alone for victory. After circumcision, they will be weak unable to move at the least for three days. If the enemy attacks at this moment, there is no other way but to simply trust God for protection.

So, this could be a means to destroy their self-trust; because self-confidence could be a hindrance for spiritual fight. We need to acknowledge always that there is no good in us (Rom. 7:18, 19). The moment we trust our self; there begins our failure. Remember, it's in our weakness the strength of the Lord is manifested, (2 Cor. 12:9, 10). **G&P**

▶ OUTLINE: 1

Our Protectors

1. Kept by the power of God, 1Pet 1:5
2. Kept by the peace of God, Phil 4:7
3. Kept by the presence of God, Psa 31:20



▶ OUTLINE: 2



HEAVENLY PROVISION

1. Divine Love, Deut 23:5
2. Eternal security, John 10: 28, 29
3. True Discipleship, Luke 10:39
4. Soul Enrichment, John 17: 8

▶ ANECDOTE

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonged to him and the other to the Lord.

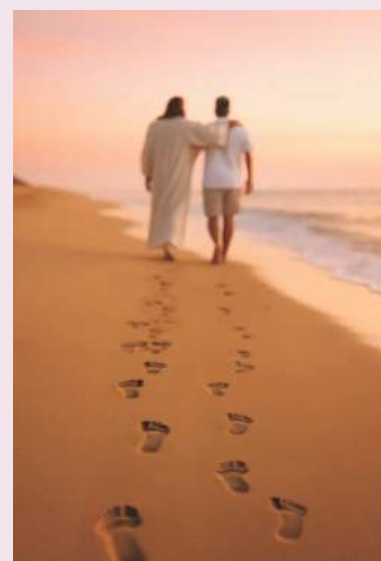
When the last of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you during your times of trial and suffering, when you see one set of footprints it was then that I carried you."

Author: Unknown



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