

Lighthouse

Issue 7 | Volume 1

Resurrection - Special 2023



*Happy
Resurrection Day*



The Lighthouse e-Magazine was created especially for teenagers and young adults. You'll discover something unique and fascinating in every issue of our magazine.

We provide inspirational messages from experienced people, young testimonials, and personal stories, as well as fun activities like Bible puzzles, quizzes, and historical facts. You are always welcome to share your stories and experiences with us.



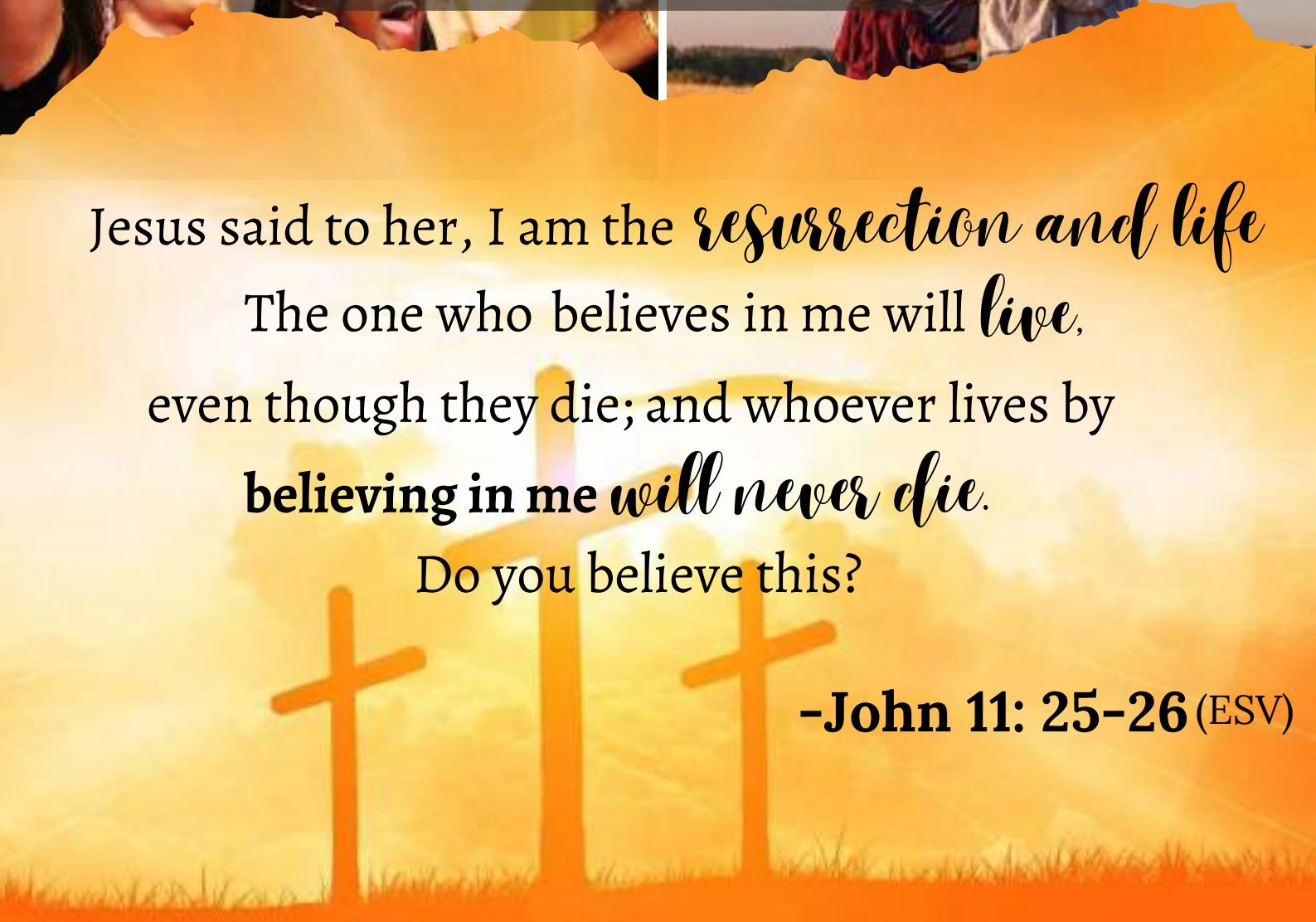
Email us at
lighthousehbi@gmail.com (or)
hbiemagazine@gmail.com
if you'd like to share your experiences or talents with us.

Jesus said to her, I am the *resurrection and life*

The one who believes in me will *live*,
even though they die; and whoever lives by
believing in me *will never die.*

Do you believe this?

-John 11: 25-26 (ESV)





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The theme that has been prayerfully chosen for the year 2023 is **"Faith Makes Things Possible"**. On the other side of the coin,

"Without faith, it is impossible to please God."

- Hebrews 11:6

The theme is a caption taken from the verse **Romans 12:12** that requires us to **"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer"**. Being patient in tribulation requires tremendous faith. This we see in Hebrews chapter 11—the hall of great men and women of faith.

As we approach Easter or Resurrection Sunday, I urge you to take time to reflect on the Cross of Christ, the universal symbol of the Christian faith. John Stott is quoted as saying,

“*The essential background to the Cross of Christ, is a balanced understanding of the gravity of sin and the majesty of God. If we diminish either, we thereby diminish the cross.*”

In John 12:23–28, 13:31; and 17:5, the cross is often equated with glory. At the cross, God demonstrated His Agape love by giving His life as a propitiation for the sins of the whole of humanity. He made a victorious cry, saying "It is finished". He defeated all His enemies, having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross (Col 2:13–15).

Herein lies the greatest love story:

“*This is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.*”
-John 3:16

And God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

-Romans 5:8

Any love we see shared for decades by a man and a woman pales compared to the amazing love God extends to us for eternity.

Paul gloried in the message of the cross, for he said that its message may appear to be foolishness to the world, but to those who are being saved, it is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18). Today, the cross is also our glory. The Cross gives our lives meaning and contentment. We find purpose, direction, and a goal in the Cross. The Cross compels us to not only know Him but also make Him known through the toughest of situations. The cross is my glory and the lifter of my head. All my riches I gain, I count but a loss before that wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died.

Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross and the great resurrection power that God exerted to raise to LIFE our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ! Let us cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us—a crucified God must become our wisdom and our power, and our only boast in our resurrected Christ.

My prayer is that you will experience this great love anew as you walk with God through all the threats and pestilences that plague you, and that the e-magazine will be a blessing to you and will encourage and spur you on in a closer walk with God.

I sign off with verse 2 of Psalm 91

“*I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust.*”

Stand firm in your faith as you trust in our God, the Almighty, and our resurrected Saviour—our refuge and fortress!

-Mr. Dev Daniel
Editor-in-Chief

The Bhills

The "Bhills" are a tribe that has been in India for a very long period of time. "Billu" means bow. These people are excellent archers with deep knowledge of their local geography. Their hierarchical positions were spread out throughout the regions of Malwa, Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, and they were valued as fighters against the Mughals, Britishers, and Marathas.



The Bhills met the demands of the Princess of Mewar by providing them with tools, bowmen, and guardians for their families and children. Bhills belong to the Dravidian race of people and speak a Dravidian language. This tribe immigrated to Tripura from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and depends on brickfields, tea gardens, and agriculture. They appease forest deities and malevolent spirits and are worshippers of Shiva and Durga. Christianity is not widely practiced.

The Bhills like dancing to the beat of the drums and the flute. The males are dressed in long frocks and pyjamas, while the women wear traditional sarees with heavy ornaments made of brass and silver with beads and silver coins. Their primary income sources are labour and farming. They are also excellent sculptors. Let us include the people of Bhill in our prayers for their protection, life, and salvation.

Positive Affirmations

- No matter what happens, my faith is unshakeable.
- God is always by my side.
- Everything is possible with God by my side.
- I am fully accepted by God.
- I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.
- When I am overwhelmed, God alone knows the way I should turn.
- My mourning will be turned into dancing.



PonyKivella

Bible Quiz

Participants can register by visiting:

[joinmyquiz.com](https://www.joinmyquiz.com)

Enter this code:

5018 0623

Deadline: April 16, 2023

Easter

-Mr. J. Alfred Rethinasamy



“

13. But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14. And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

- I Corinthians 15: 13,14

”

Therefore, we Christians certainly believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has risen and is alive even today. That's the reason we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection as "Easter". Easter means "**Passover**".

Easter was a pagan festival, observed long before Christ. It is not a Christian name, but is derived from "Ishtar", one of the Babylonian titles of an idol goddess, the "queen of heaven". It was the worship of this woman by Israel that was such an abomination to God. (1 Samuel 7:3).

Round cakes, imprinted with the sign of the cross, were made at this festival, the sign being, in the Babylonian mysteries, a sign of life. Easter eggs, which play a great part in this day's celebration, were common in all the heathen nations. The Fable of the Egg declares, "An egg of wondrous size fell from heaven into the right Euphrates;"

The fish rolled it to the bank, when doves settled upon it and hatched it, and out came "Astarte", or "Eshtar", the goddess of Easter. Easter, Christmas, Lady Day, Lent, and other Babylonian festivals were all borrowed from this religion and were all observed centuries before Christ. None of them have any relationship to Christ or Christianity.

Easter is a Christian festival celebrated in Christianity. The resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, His promise of eternal life, and to remember the great sacrifice of our Lord.

According to the gospels, we can see the pathetic condition of our Lord's disciples between the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

- **John 20: 19 - Fear**

Except Judas, the rest of the disciples assembled for fear of the Jews, thinking they may also kill them.

- **Mark 16: 9-11 - Unbelief**

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples after seeing the risen Lord, but they did not believe. The disciples completely forgot the teachings of Jesus about His crucifixion and resurrection.

- **Luke 24: 37-40 - Terrified and Doubted**

When Jesus appeared before the disciples, they were terrified, doubted, and couldn't accept Jesus as the risen Lord, and Jesus condemned them.

- **John 20: 19 - Peace**

Jesus gave the disciples peace, which made them come out of their fear, unbelief, and doubt.

- **John 20: 20 - Joy**

After recognizing Jesus, the disciples felt joy.

- **John 20: 21, 22 and Matthew 28: 18-20 - The Great Commission**

Jesus commanded His disciples to go in peace, and after anointing them with the Holy Spirit, he gave them the Great Commission.

Beloved Christians, according to **Acts 11: 26**, we are also His disciples; are we obeying His Great Commission? Easter will be meaningless if it is not celebrated.

With Easter Greetings,
Mr. J. Alfred Rethinasamy
Former General Secretary of
Church Growth Missionary Movement,
Madurai

Did you know?



- **The Dogwood Tree** is the tree from which the cross was made. The total weight of the **cross** is estimated to be around **300 pounds** (136 kg), with the **crossbar** weighing between **70 and 90 pounds** (32 and 41 kg).

- **Two rusted Roman-era iron nails** - The '**nails**' were tapering iron spikes **5 to 7 inches** (13 to 18 cm) long with a **3/8 inch** (10 mm) square shaft.



- The **Crown** had thorns about **74 cm** long.

HBI Ministries - Celebrating 40 years of God's Faithfulness



Dr. Paul R. Gupta's Family



Ribbon cutting for the Core Ideology stone by Dr. Paul R. Gupta and his wife, Mrs. Linnette Gupta



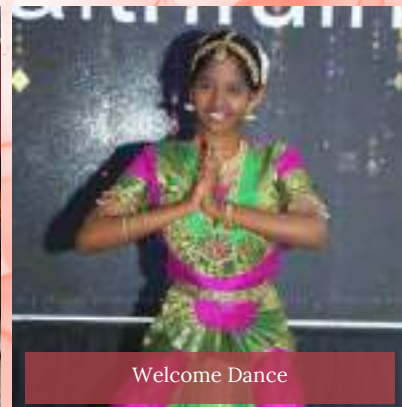
Welcome - Mrs. Malini Asirvatham



A walk with HBI family



Worship led by Lum and Team



Welcome Dance



Opening Prayer - Rev. Jeevan Chelladurai



Greetings from Dr. Chandwick Samuel



Greetings from Dr. Samuel Meshak



Greetings from Dr. Mano Daniel



Greetings from Dr. Shanthi



Greetings from the Principal of Gurukul



Special dance by Dr. Gupta School

*Congratulations to Our New President
Mrs. Mailini Asirvatham*



From left: Mrs. Shalini | Mrs. Malini | Dr. Paul R. Gupta
Dr. Paul R. Gupta ordained Mrs. Mailini Asirvatham as the President of the Hindustan Bible Institute and College. Dr. Paul R. Gupta will be the New Chairman of HBI Ministries and College.



Greetings from Mr. Sam George and Mr. Christopher, Asian Needs

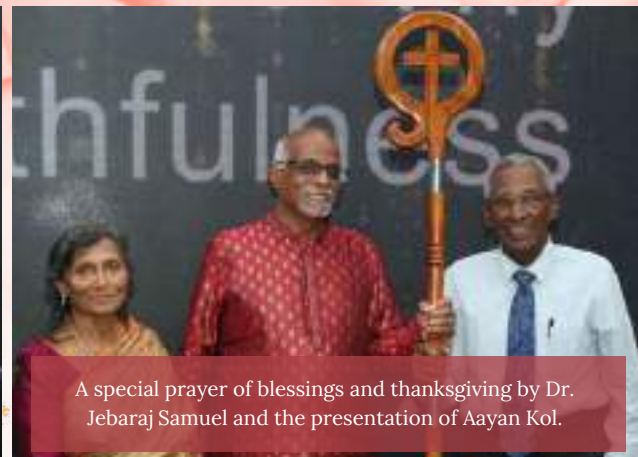
Prayer and Dedication of the New President of HBI & College

Special song by Rev. Paul Anbu and his wife Mrs. Beulah

*Congratulations to Our New Principal
Mr. Johnson*



Dr. Paul R. Gupta ordained Mr. Johnson as the Principal of the Hindustan Bible Institute and College.
From left: Mr. Johnson and his wife, Mrs. Esther, are honoured with a shawl by Dr. Paul R. Gupta.



Mr. Thuthi presented Dr. Paul R. Gupta with "70 Greetings from the HBI Family".

A special prayer of blessings and thanksgiving by Dr. Jebaraj Samuel and the presentation of Aayan Kol.

Mr. Johnson presented Dr. Paul R. Gupta with a book titled "70 Favorite Quotes from Dr. Paul R. Gupta".

God Chooses Imperfect People

-Bro. Phillip Ruben Seth



God uses imperfect people for His glory. God can use the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary, the natural to accomplish the supernatural. Let us explore a historical incident recorded in the Bible in **2 Kings**, which says,

Leprosy is a sign of divine punishment. In Israel, if a person has leprosy, he must go to the priest and ask him to pray and intercede for his sins. The priest will dip Hyssop, a perennial herb, in water after praying over it and sprinkle it on the leper. Faith is the primary means of receiving healing, and only God's healing touch can heal. If the leper is not healed, he must condemn himself, as does society, and he must dwell beyond the city walls.

In this historical incident, we can see that Samaria is in Israel, ruled by King Joram, and is the residence of the prophet Elisha. The Syrians besieged Samaria with 70,000 chariots and a massive army. Food was not accessible since the people of Samaria or the King could not leave their gates. One day, while the King was walking along the palace balcony, looking out at the Syrian army and wondering how he would bring in food for his people, a lady approached him in tears, pleading for justice.

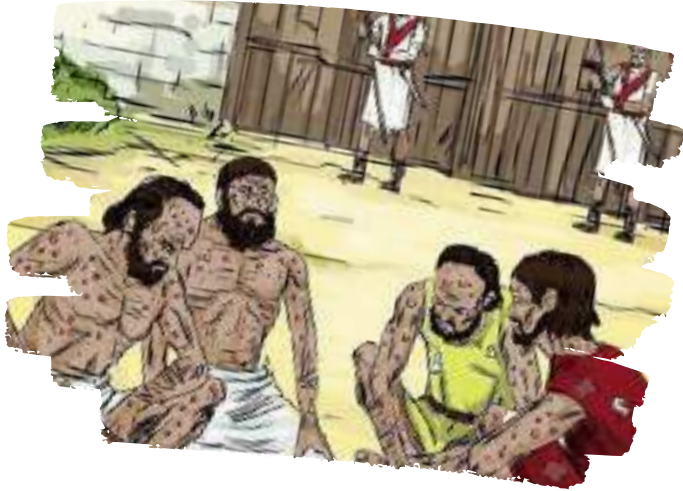
The lady claims that due to a lack of food, she and her friend chose to eat their own sons. This lady killed her son, and they ate him for a few days. It is now her friend's turn to kill her son so that they can eat, but she refuses and protects him. As he heard this, the king became frustrated and tore his clothes in despair. The king was angry with the prophet Elisha because he had yet to receive God's revelation for his kingdom. The king summons his messenger and orders him to kill Prophet Elisha since Elisha did not pray for Samaria. The messenger went to the prophet Elisha as instructed, and the king went behind him.

The king's officer did not believe this and told Elisha, "Even if God cuts open a window in heaven and forces out grain, this can't happen. That's the amount of poverty here." So, Elisa said, "Tomorrow, you will see it, but you won't eat it, you will die."

“And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?
- 2 Kings 7:3 ”

“Elisha told the King, Hear ye the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord, Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.”
- 2 Kings 7:1

The king threatened prophet Elisha with beheading if his prophecy did not actually happen. Prophet Elisha began to pray fervently, pleading with God to do a miracle in order to save his life. God is a God of miracles. Here we see God using imperfect people to save the people of Samaria. Elisha's prayers were heard and answered by God.



If we read 2 Kings 7 from verse 3, we see four leprous men at the gate of Samaria who decide to go to the Syrian camp to ask for food. They were prepared to die by the Syrian's sword, as they were dying of leprosy and starvation. When the leprous men approached the Syrian camp, the Syrian army began to hear the sounds of chariots and horses, as well as a large army advancing towards them. They assumed Samaria had gained the support of the neighbouring king's troops. The Syrian army retreated immediately, leaving behind all of their supplies and goods. As the lepers arrived at the camp, they discovered that it was deserted but that all of the food supplies were still there.



The lepers ate the meals and returned to inform their king. The next day, early in the morning, just as the prophet had said, a measure of fine flour and two measures of barley were sold for a shekel at Samaria's gate. The people of Samaria hurried with everything they could bring for food exchange, and in the midst of the commotion, the king's officer was run over and killed, even though he could see the food but could not consume it, exactly as the prophet Elisha said. In this true historical incident, we see Elisha pleading to God to save the people of Samaria.

God hears his prayers and chooses condemned lepers to chase the Syrian armies rather than young men in Samaria or the Samaritan army. God sent His angels to walk with the lepers so that the Syrians would be chased out of their camps.

When we are ready to confront our challenges, angels are sent to fight for our cause. We are not alone in our battles. Isaiah 45:2 says,

“ I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: ”

If God can use four lepers to save the people of Samaria, He can also use you. You may not be perfect, but God sees the heart, and if you repent of your sinful ways, you will be made righteous through Christ.

The four important things that we need to do for God to use us are:

1) Purify Yourself – If God wants to use you, purify your mind

We can learn how we should purify ourselves in order for God to use us if we read **Job 11: 13-19**. God has great plans for our lives, and we must learn to align our hearts' desires with God's desires. Remove all negative thoughts, forget about your past sinful life, and focus purely on God.

2) Purify Your Actions

Romans 6:13 says,
“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

Rehabitate, reject a careless lifestyle, repent, and renew your body according to the scriptural pattern for God's use. You can know your identity in Christ and be God's child when you confess your sins and accept God.

3) Prioritize - The way you handle your time, talent and treasure

Remember the three C's

a) Clarify – Analyze our lives and seek God to reveal the true purpose of our calling.

b) Calculate – Determine how we will use our talents, time, and money.

c) Calendar – A plan without action is just a dream. Create a calendar and start putting your plans into action.

4) Glorify God in Everything

We must learn to glorify God in every circumstance. Whatever the situation, whether sickness or financial crisis, we must put our trust in Him and glorify His name for the miracle that is on the way, even if we cannot see it. The Bible says,

“ I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

-John 17:4

Christ faithfully finished his mission here on earth and glorified God in all of his ways. Your talents should be used to glorify God, and whatever you accomplish should bring glory to God's name.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, if we choose to purify our hearts and minds, our actions, prioritize our time for God, and start glorifying God's name in everything, we are allowing God to work through us. God will begin to use us to bring about transformation in our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and wherever we go.

“ We may think we are imperfect, yet there is nothing God cannot do through our lives. ”

Easter is derived from "Eostre," a fertility and birth Anglo-Saxon goddess of the ancient pagans. Easter eggs are a pagan symbol of life and death, while Easter bunnies are a pagan symbol of fertility. So does the Bible mention the word "Easter"?

Yes! The word Easter is mentioned only once in the entire Bible, in **Acts 12:4**,

“
And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

- Acts 12:4

Is the term "Easter" from the Bible?

What significance does Easter have in relation to Jesus' resurrection? What about Easter bunnies and eggs? Do you know whether Easter is biblical?

In this context, "Easter" is a translation of the Hebrew word "Pesach," which means "Passover." We are well aware that one of the Israelites' festivals is Passover. According to the Bible, an angel was sent to kill the firstborn of every Egyptian household during the tenth plague. God instructed the Israelites through Moses to smear lamb's blood on their doorposts and promised that the firstborn of the households covered in the lamb's blood would be spared. Jesus Christ is the Passover lamb of the New Testament.

In the 15th century, Easter bunnies and eggs were incorporated into the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and they have been used traditionally ever since. Yet the truth is that Christ became the Passover lamb to atone for our sins and reconcile us back to God, and He rose from the dead to defeat the powers of darkness, giving us eternal life through Him. There can be no other reason for celebrating Christ's resurrection.

Happy Resurrection Day!

Are you wondering who you are? What characteristics define you? Do you know what your identity is?

CHRIST IS YOUR IDENTITY

Today's world encourages you to find your identity in external things. Being a youngster, you can be tempted to search for your identity at your school, college, workplace, and relationships. Sometimes you tend to accept what others think or say about you and your destiny. You fail to believe and understand that Christ is your identity. Your identity comes from God.

You are God's masterpiece, and He created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

For those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29

We cannot follow Christ in our own ways. Christ has given us clear instructions on how to follow Him. We must deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him.

Our lives and minds have to be transformed. We cannot follow our sinful lifestyle.

When we are transformed according to what God wants, we will see for ourselves that God's will is perfect. It will be a far richer life than the world could ever offer.

The concept of being transformed is a very important and precise one. It is literally the process of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. "Our minds play an exceedingly large role in our Christian lives. It is in our minds that some of our fiercest spiritual warfare takes place. Even the stalwart reformer Martin Luther experienced victories and defeats in his thought life. We are not the first to wrestle with spiritual conflicts." But, the challenge of bringing every thought into the captivity of Christ is an especially difficult one today.

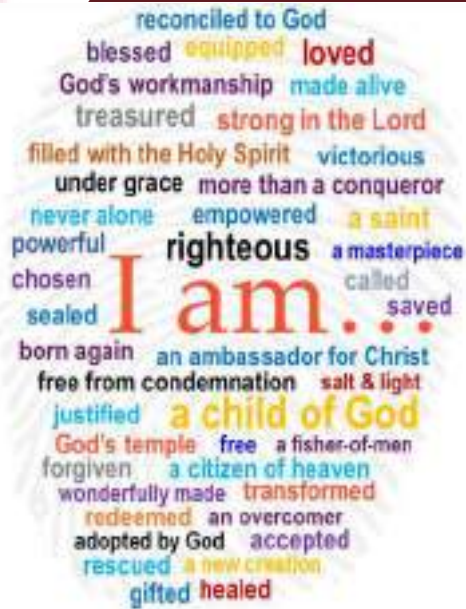
Our minds are bombarded by conflicting messages coming to us through diverse media: television, radio, records, films, print, and the plastic arts. A collage of impressions and ideas streams through our minds each day, leaving traces in our memories. Sometimes the messages we receive complement and reinforce our Christian convictions. On other occasions, the messages attack our moral standards and sap our spiritual vitality. Sometimes we notice their subtle but devastating effect upon our minds only after months and years have passed.

"Today, the need for Christians to renew their minds through prayer, confession, meditation upon God's Word, and participation in the local church is paramount. The apostle Paul put the matter as a command:

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"

-Romans 12:2

When our minds are renewed, our identity will change, which will lead to our eternal destiny.



Mrs. Diana Joel

Paul Vankateswami Gupta (20 February 1920 to 13 November 1977) was an influential Indian evangelist and founder of the Hindustan Bible Institute and College (HBI), which has its headquarters in Chennai, South India. HBI has trained and graduated over 13,000 students and equipped over 150,000 pastors and leaders who are serving across the globe and among the diasporas.



Thanking God for His faithfulness





A MIRACLE EVERY TIME YOU WONDER 'HOW?'

- Blessty Sweetline

“ There are a million ways God can work, yet He chooses to work according to His Word to show us He is a trustworthy God. There are a million ways to live our lives, yet when we choose to walk by His Word, we show Him how much we trust Him. ”

Miracles are God's way of doing what we think can never be done. Every time we come to a dead end, wondering if there is a way, and suddenly things take a turn for the better, it is a miracle from God. When we want something to happen but know it is impossible, we begin to hope for a miracle.

Miracles are what God does. They cannot be described as magical because it doesn't work on some meaningless spell, but it works when God speaks. Magic is usually associated with something that already exists. But miracles are the things that come into existence from nowhere.

Every time God performed a miracle, the question people usually encountered was “how?”. You may have a need now, but you are sure it cannot be met. But the Lord wants you to know that He will do a miracle.

Let us see a few examples where people asked the question 'how' when they wanted a solution. The first miracle in the New Testament was the birth of Jesus. Jesus was born miraculously. When the angel told Mary that she would give birth to a son while she was still a virgin, Mary raised the question of “how?”. We see Mary's question in **Luke 1: 34** "How will this be?" Mary asked the angel, "Since I am a virgin, how will this be?" The impossibility is God's soil, where God's word, the seed, works miracles. If the ground doesn't look impossible, what comes forth is usually fruit, not a miracle. What can naturally happen happens according to some law at work. But when something happens supernaturally beyond the laws of nature, we can see the Hand of God fulfilling the word of God.

In **Luke 1: 35,37**, the angel answered, "*The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. For no word from God will ever fail*". The answer to each "how" is 'No word of God will ever fail'. Mary's question was not a question of doubt. Rather, she asked it to know how the Lord would do it. So, the angel made her understand that when God's word has been sent forth, it will surely accomplish the purpose for which it was sent (**Isaiah 55: 11**). God wants to assure you that if He has given you the word, He will fulfill it no matter what stands in the way.

Similar to Mary was Gideon in the Old Testament. Gideon wanted to know how to save Israel when he was the weakest in society. But God strengthened him too, with His word and His sign. Our God is a God with whom we can have a relationship so that He is sure to answer us when we have a question. You may wonder "how," but take heart, for God only says what stands complete in His eyes. Before Him, time makes way to bring what is already done into reality. As often as the question runs through our minds, the answer we need to rely on is that God will do a miracle.

One thing we should be careful not to do is raise a doubtful question. In the Old Testament, we can see a scenario where the people of Israel faced a severe famine (**2 Kings 6: 25-30**). The famine was so intense that the people started feeding on their children, a situation worse than the pandemic! The king of Israel approached the prophet Elisha for help, and Elisha said that the very next day, they would find food so surplus that 7 kg of flour a dollar! When an officer who worked for the king this, raised the question "how?", his question was a question of doubt, and a negative affirmation: "*Even if God opens the floodgates of heaven, would such a thing happen?*" (**2 Kings 7: 2**). Elisha cursed him for his doubt, and according to the curse, he died without seeing the prophecy fulfilled.

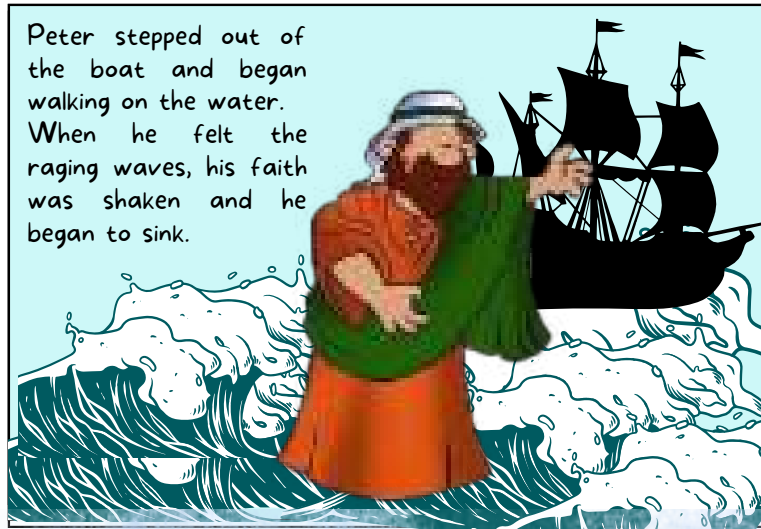


So, we learn two things from these:

A. God is a God who reads the thoughts of our minds. He knows the reason behind our question. Suppose you are trusting Him though you do not know "how?" His word will come to pass; just believe, and it will happen as He said.

B. Do not doubt His word or have disbelief just because God's promise is beyond your comprehension. If God says something, you can be sure that He will even delay His coming in order to fulfill the word He has given. That's how much He values His word, for He is the King of Kings who abides by His word. He has exalted His name and His word above everything (**Psalms 138: 2**). Next time God speaks to you and you happen to wonder "how?", remember that God will do a miracle. When He fulfills His word, you will not just find out "how?" but also find yourself in awe.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH



Lesson to Learn:

This story is in **Mark 14: 24-33**.

This story reminds us that as we venture out in faith to face our life challenges, we often encounter storms and huge waves that rock our world, and fear takes control. Let us learn to focus solely on God through our trials and sufferings. God will calm the storms in our life.

Faithful and Fruitful

Grace of Acceptance: Living as God's Child

-Mr. Issac Newton

We hope this session will help you live as a child of God! **As you begin:**

1. Read **Galatians 4:4-7**.

- What has God done for you?
- Think of a good father or mother interacting with their children. Describe how they would treat their children.

2. Read **Romans 8:14-16**.

- Why might God call us children?
- How does a child relate to a good and loving father?

Some Christians may not approach God like a child approaches their loving father. Some may see God as **distant** and feel like they have to rely on their own strength or wisdom. Some may see God as someone who disowns anyone who does not **please Him**. Only if they do enough will they get his approval or his gifts. Some may see God as an **employer** - someone they work for or who gives them rules to obey. Have to prove their love. Some may think that God wants them to **suffer** to show gratitude or prove their dedication.

God wants us to remember the truth that we are loved children of God and to celebrate it.

Some have been **hurt** by other Christians. Some have suffered discrimination because of race, social status, gifts for ministry, titles, or roles. Those who are hurt may feel that God acts the same way. Father All of these hurt God's heart. God has accepted you in his Son, Jesus Christ. He has drawn near to you. He is Father. He calls you his own child.

In **Ephesians 1**, Paul prays that we may understand the riches of God's grace! Let us understand how completely we are loved by Jesus! How we are adopted as dear children! That it is God's power at work in each and every believer! God's acceptance affects our daily actions.

Consider the following examples:

1) Pastor John doubts God's acceptance of him. He is **not rooted** in God's love. He is criticized by a church member. How might the criticism impact John without that assurance of God's acceptance?

2) Pastor Robert is **rooted** in God's love and acceptance. He celebrates that he is a beloved child of God. He is also criticized by a church member. How might the criticism impact him since he knows he is accepted by God through grace?

3) Keep Pastor John and Pastor Robert as examples. What differences might you see between someone who is **NOT rooted** in God's grace, and someone who is **rooted** in God's grace:

- i. When do we feel unloved?
- ii. When are we criticized?
- iii. When do we doubt our call to serve in ministry?

3) Read **Galatians 3:26-28**:

- a) How can we remind each other regularly that we are beloved children of God?
- b) How can we use baptism as a reminder that we are all children of God?

Planting Seeds of Practice

Before the next session, find time with God to reflect on your acceptance as a beloved child of God. a. When will you do this? Where? If you are doing this individually, ask someone to pray for you. During your time with God:

- a) How do I experience being accepted as a beloved child of God?
- b) What does God want me to know about him as my Father?
- c) If I had the experience of being God's child, how would I feel? Act? Think?
- d) Ask God, "Father, help me identify one way I can grow in knowing I am your child."
- e) You may also reflect on the "Who I am in Christ" statements below this lesson.

Blessing

May the Holy Spirit testify to your spirit that you are God's child. May you grow in the delight of God and his delight in you! May this be your strength for ministry. Rooted in the gospel. The Son of God became the son of a woman so that you could become a child of God. The Father, Son, and Spirit all want you to know you are a beloved child of God! **John 1:12-13**.

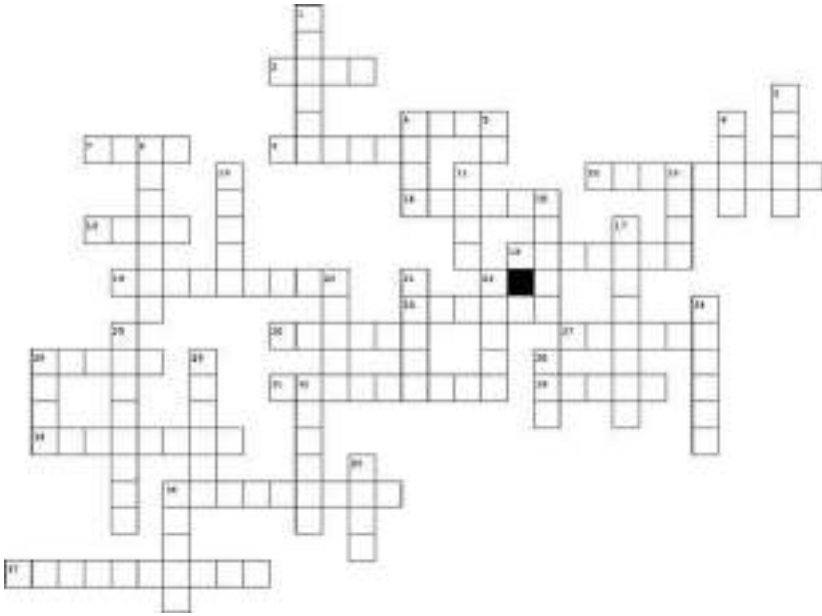
WHO I AM IN CHRIST

- **Ephesians 2:5** – God made me alive with Christ.
- **Romans 8:2** – Through Christ Jesus, I am free from the law of sin and death.
- **Galatians 4:5-7** – God made me his child and gave us the Spirit of his Son.
- **1 Corinthians 2:16** – God gives me the mind of Christ through the Spirit.
- **John 14:27** – Christ gives me his peace.
- **Ephesians 1:17-18** – God gives me the Spirit of wisdom and understanding.
- **Colossians 3:9,10** – God is renewing me in knowledge in the image of my Creator.
- **Philippians 4:19** – God can supply all of my needs.
- **1 Peter 2:9** – God calls me out of darkness into his light, and I declare his praises.
- **Colossians 1:13-14** – God has put me in the kingdom of the Beloved Son!
- **2 Corinthians 5:20** – I am an ambassador for Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19** – I am the temple of the Holy Spirit; I am not my own.
- **1 John 3:1** – God lavishes me with his great love!
- **1 Corinthians 1:30** – Christ is my righteousness, holiness, and redemption.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:5** – God directs my heart into his own love, and Christ gives me his perseverance.

Source: This material is a section of the Timothy Leadership Training video and pdf course; if you are interested in studying this material as a group, please contact Mr. Isaac at (+91) 8438534525 or isaacbsf@gmail.com



THE CRUCIFIXION, DEATH AND BURIAL OF JESUS



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- Complete the Crossword Puzzle
- Take a screenshot and mail to lighthousebi@gmail.com | hbiemagazine@gmail.com

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January Issue - Bible Puzzle Answers

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6. Prodigal son

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