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# CHURCH OF INDIA



# SHEKINAH

(Heavenly Glory)

You are the light of the world. Matt. 5:14a

November 2007

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## PERMISSIVE WILL vs PERFECT WILL! (Ziklag – part 3)

*Inking my thoughts ...*



Pastor Daniel Israel

***And it came to pass after this that David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the Lord said unto him, go up. And David said, where shall I go up? And He said, Hebron.***

**2 Samuel 2:1**

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**Summary of part 1 and part 2:** David slipped out of God's will and moved to Ziklag (1 Samuel 27). He paid a very heavy price because of it. He almost lost his children and wives, but by God's grace, he recovered them all (1 Samuel 30).

David had become much smarter after the Ziklag experience. He started consulting with God before he took any major decisions! First he asked if he could return to any cities of Judah, and the Lord said, go ahead. Many of us would have packed our bags, and settled wherever we wanted to. I am sure, many of us had the opportunity to come to USA, but how many of us prayed for a specific city in USA? Many of us get job offer from different companies. How many of us asked the Lord to show the right one? The one with the fattest salary, and perks becomes God's will in our life. When God opens many jobs for us, it becomes permissive will. We are given the choice to land where we want. But it is always better to ask for His perfect will. The more we ask, the more the Lord will reveal for us! David did just that. He wanted to know the specific city, and God told him to go to Hebron.

David was immensely blessed because He honored God's decision. As soon as he moved to Hebron, he was crowned by the tribe of Judah as their king! After sometime, the Israelites also came and joined him, and said, "we are your bone and flesh!" (2 Samuel 5:1) What a reconciliation! All things work out for good for those who walk in the perfect will of God! Take a look at the Israelites' strong commitment also! This is the way our church membership should be! We must become bone and flesh of our favorite church, to serve the Lord. It is high time we put away the babyish "spectator" Christianity and become a major organ of the body of Christ.

David learned a very valuable lesson in seeking the perfect will of God. He started dialoguing straight with Him, and got the right strategies for all the wars. He destroyed all his enemies in no time. If the Lord is for us, who can be against us? I am sure, many of us are at the intersection of our life. Some of us may be wondering as to where to go and retire. Some of us are wrestling with right kind of career, the right kind of job, the right time to get married etc. Ask specific question, and God will answer specifically. If we become too general in our asking, the answer also will be a general one. Be specific in your prayers. Let us not beat around the bush anymore. Let us speak to God, instead of speaking to ourselves. trying to resolve everything ourselves. Let us not slide into the land of Ziklag. Now the meaning of Ziklag should become very clear to us. Ziklag means moving out of God's will. Let us not be satisfied with just permissive will of God. Let us press on for His perfect will always!

Walking in God's perfect will may not be easy at all. It can be a narrow, strait path. It will be definitely the way of the cross! That is the way Moses walked, Jesus walked, and all our apostles too! So why not you and me? It does not matter what kind of road we travel, as long as it is in the perfect will of God. He who began our journey will make sure that we complete it according to His perfect will! (Philippians 1:6) So rejoice always! May this be our prayer now onwards :

**"Show me the ways O Lord, teach me your path". (Psalms 25:4)**

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## Pleading in Prayer

The Women's Ministry has started a 12 week Bible Study on Prayer. We meet every second Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. So come and join us!!! We would love to see you.

Last month, we talked about our direct line to heaven. We learned the logistics and what the Bible says about prayer. We also briefly touched upon the significance of kneeling and what it means to pray in the name of Jesus. God is pleased and hears our prayers no matter how we pray. The most important thing or/and the only thing that matters is if you are going to Him with a sincere heart. So check your attitude before you approach His throne.

### Family Prayer

A great place to learn to be a prayer warrior. We may all recall the familiar child's family prayer, "God is great, God is good. And we thank Him for this food". Family prayers extend beyond meals and bedtime. Our needs extend beyond food and fears. For example, by integrating a Bible verse (Ephesians 6:1-3) with prayer, children can be encouraged to ask God to help them obey their parents. Praying together allows children to voice their concerns as they hear their parents' voice their needs to their heavenly Father. Set an example and don't be shy to thank Him openly. I recall my daughter's 3 year old cousin being in a car accident. When she heard she was OK, the first thing that came out of her mouth was "Praise the Lord" and she meant every word. Folks, it is never too early to teach your child to pray and praise. Family prayer is a great time to pour out your heart. Often parents have a tendency to hide issues, needs from their children. In my personal opinion, kids should be exposed (age appropriate) to the problems we face as a family. This is how you teach them to be responsible, caring enough to see the need around them. Are you coming together as a family every day? May be your schedule does not allow you to gather every day, but make an effort. God will make a way. As the saying goes, "a family that prays together, stays together" holds a lot of weight. Make family prayer a privilege and a priority. My parents have been married close to 50 years but not a day goes by without them coming together as a couple in prayer. What an example!!!

### Power of Prayer

James 5:16-18 declares, "...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. **Do not underestimate the power of prayer.**

Jesus taught, "...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

The answer is not based on the eloquence or the language. We don't have to use certain phrases to get His attention. In fact, Jesus rebukes those who pray using repetitions, read Matthew 6:7-8. Prayer is communicating with God. Psalm 107:28-30 reminds us, "Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. There is power in prayer!

Power of prayer is available for all kinds of requests and issues. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, **present your requests to God.** The Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 is only an example of how to pray, use it as a sample but pray from your heart. Yes, my friends, prayer is just like talking to a friend who loves you unconditionally.

We can see this power of prayer displayed in many instances in the Bible: has overcome enemies (Psalm 6:9-10), conquered death (2 Kings 4:3-36), brought healing (James 5:14-15), Defeated demons (Mark 9:29). etc. etc.

**Our first study was based on the life of Abraham.** Wow. what an amazing man of God. Read Gen 18: 16-31

Through Abraham's life, the women learned the power of prayer. Abraham trusted in God and God had much confidence in Abraham. They shared a beautiful relationship. Abraham knew God is faithful and will fulfill his promises.

Every man who loves God loves his neighbor also; and he who loves his neighbor will do everything in his power to promote the well-being both of his soul and his body. The sin of Sodom and the cities of the plain were grievous; Abraham could not prevent the men of Sodom from sinning against God; but he **pleaded** for the people of Sodom. How burdened are you for your loved ones????

Well friends – now that you've read the article, I would like you to meditate on the word **plead**. Are you **pleading** for the lost soul...or are you praying for them once in a while. **Pleading** is much more than asking. **Pleading** is begging, a desperate cry, beseeching, asking for mercy, etc. Let that prayer for that lost friend, relative be more than praying.

*Lord, we thank you for redeeming us. We consider it a great privilege to be called your children. Now we seek the same privilege for all those who do not have that relationship with you. Father, we not only ask but plead for their souls. Hear us, Oh God, for we ask believing that you will hear our prayer. We plead in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Plead...Plead...Plead**

Few things are more incredible than listening to a teenager who's just returned from an international missions trip. You might not recognize him. He'll regale you with such outlandish statements as, "I worked 16 hours every day and loved it!" He'll marvel at the fact he never missed his iPod, X-Box, laptop and cell phone while he was gone. And he just may tell you something like he wants to spend the rest of his life in huts working with people who have nothing. It will be clear to you the whole experience has changed him.

Of course the feeling wears off after a while. The trip back to self-centeredness is a pretty short one. Not owning the right pair of sneakers becomes a crisis again. And before long, he'll declare he's starving because he hasn't eaten in three hours.

But if that young man is given the chance to tap into his compassion regularly, he would be able to keep some of the thrill of his missions trip. Obviously, a middle or high schooler can't spend two weeks every month in a South American rain-forest. But he can do something closer to home. A world of poverty and hopelessness lies a short car ride from his front door. He can connect with opportunities to make real differences in his hometown. The church can, and should, help him identify such opportunities. *It was he [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)*

Those two verses are, in short, the job description of church leadership: to prepare God's people for works of service, or as some versions say, to equip the saints for works of ministry. The body of Christ is built up when church members become ministers. So here goes. Here's how the people can be prepared for works of service. It takes two steps. First, leaders prepare the people. If you've been in the church experience for at least a year, consider yourself prepared enough to proceed to Step 2.

Step 2 is to get out there and do something. Look to church leadership for guidance. We'll provide it. But remember, the job of church leadership is to equip you for service, not to do all the serving. If I was a betting man (I'm not), I would wager that even a small church could come up with all sorts of creative ideas to serve the community. And that's why I'm issuing the first of three challenges.

### **Challenge #1: Brainstorm for how to reach the community in ways it is not currently being reached.**

Think of your interests. What would you enjoy doing for others? Do you enjoy reading? Do you like fixing things around the house? How about playing basketball? All these things and so many more can be turned into ways to make differences for others. If you can't think of an interest you have that would benefit others, adopt Jesus' big interest: caring for the poor. You can't lose going that way.

Think of your abilities. What are you good at? Are you a techno-whiz? Are you a good listener? Have you ever poured concrete or planted rose bushes? Think outside the box. Build a list of ideas as you ponder what you can offer, and as you take greater notice of the physical, emotional, material and spiritual needs around you. And then take your list, with all its crazy ideas, to the church leadership.

### **Challenge #2: Work with church leadership to develop a database of specific ministry opportunities.**

You will discover that some of your ideas require only one person to carry out a selfless, loving act of service. That's great! Share your ideas in case others want to do what you're doing, and then get out there! Let the church family know what you're doing so the prayer intercessors can lift you up, and everyone can be blessed by how God is using you.

Some ideas will necessitate people working together in groups, planning coordinated efforts, or linking up with established organizations. That's great too! While my dream is to see every local church create its own cadre of service opportunities, it is even more important that every Christ follower finds a place to serve. Now for the big challenge.

### **Challenge #3: Prayerfully consider, then commit to a specific plan for serving others.**

Decide what to do and how often you're going to do it. It's a Biblical approach. *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)*

If you study the above passage in context, you see that it's about more than just money. It covers all three of what we call the three "T"s: time, talent, and treasure. It also makes clear that how much to give is a choice, but whether to give is not. My favorite part of the passage is that God loves a cheerful giver. He wants us to give in ways that glorify Him and change the situations of others, but also excite us! Giving is not reluctant or under compulsion when we're doing what we love, and seeing firsthand how our giving makes real differences.

I would like to see every believer, starting with everyone at COI, prayerfully consider serving others *at least* 4 days per year above what we're currently doing. It might sound like next to nothing, but it's a start. For those who fear they may have no time, think of it this way: If we can spend more than 2 hours at church 52 Sundays a year benefiting primarily ourselves, helping others 4 days a year is not unreasonable. If 4 days is far too little for you, consider helping others monthly or weekly.

But before you commit, prayerfully consider. Better to start slow and expand than to quit because you've overcommitted yourself. Remember, Jesus wants your burden to be light, and your experience blessing others to be thrilling. As with the teenager after the missions trip, Jesus wants us all changed for the better. Now let's generate some ideas! If you already have some, pass them along. Let's brainstorm together. Email me at [pastoroday@gmail.com](mailto:pastoroday@gmail.com).

Pastor Andrew O'Day



## Church of India

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### Vision of our Church

- ✠ To reach out to all people for Christ .
- ✠ To reach out to all children and lead them to CHRIST.
- ✠ To help out the mission work in the Indian subcontinent.
- ✠ To be a light to this country and be a blessing to the needy people in the USA.

## Youth & Kids Corner

October's Kids Club was held on the 13th. The kids had a time of singing, Bible lesson and then went out for a fun filled time of bowling. The little ones learned about Prayer and the youth are learning about the various aspects of Jesus. This month they learned about Jesus—the man, how He did not exercise His authority just because He could, but instead was in submission to the Father's will.

Later we asked the kids what they thought of Thanksgiving holiday. Here's what they had to say.

### **Why do we need to be thankful?**

- .We need to be thankful to God because without Him, none of us would be here writing. WE should always be thankful with what we have because its better than nothing. Be thankful for having a house, parents, education.
- .God gives us many things we appreciate but if we don't thank him, He may feel that we do not appreciate what He has done. So we should be thankful because He gives us all we need.
- .We need to be thankful because we have been given everything and others don't have anything
- .We need to be thankful because if someone gives us something we need to appreciate them in some way.



### **WORD for the month....**

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on

### **Directions From Route 29**

Merge onto Baltimore National Pike (US 40) West  
At the 5th traffic light, turn Right onto Pine Orchard Lane (0.1 miles)  
Turn Right onto Corporate Ct (<0.1 miles)

### **Schedule for the month**

**Sunday Worship Service - NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**  
Reflection through Holy Communion—10:30 a.m.  
Worship - 11 a.m. followed by love feast

Thanksgiving Service - Nov. 22nd @ 11 a.m.

Children's Sunday School - During the service

Prayer Session every Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Women's Fellowship - November 10 at 2:30pm

Kidz Bible Club - November 10 at 4:30pm

### **What are you thankful for?**

- .I thank God for making me have a brother
- .I thank God for the food
- .I thank God for my cousins



### **Do you think it is necessary to have a separate holiday for Thanksgiving?**

- .Yes, because we don't have another holiday to give thanks, this is the only one.
- .No, because as long as we have a thankful heart and a good attitude, we really don't need a special day because we will be thankful all year round.
- .Thanksgiving is necessary because it is a time to thank God, parents and our friends. It is a day to remember how they helped us.

## **Let us reflect the Light of our Lord Jesus Christ**