



SHEKINAH

(Heavenly Glory)

RAGE

May 2008

*Thoughts
from
my heart...*

Pastor

Daniel Israel

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But anyone who says, "You fool!" will be in danger of the fire of hell.

(Mathew 5:22-24)

There are so many programs for anger management, and for violent behavior, but not for the in between stage – Rage! Just like in automobile that has first gear, second gear, third gear, and fourth gear, we move from first stage of resentment to bitterness, then anger, and then rage. Uncontrollable rage takes us to the over drive of violence. It is so important to understand this process so that we can stop the motion before we go too far! If our lips quiver or body starts shaking, we are beyond control.

Right before many violent crimes, it was the rage that drove people to kill, or hurt the other person. Cain was very angry (rage!) with his brother Abel, and he never cooled off! Some of us are walking with this kind of fire (anger) in our bosom. How can we ever experience the peace of God in our hearts?

Let us start paying attention to the levels of anger in our life. By how many notches, are we stepping up our anger level? Rage usually comes when some one does not back off, and keeps poking at us relentlessly. We may never show anger outside, and may look

very calm outside, but the volcano may burst out suddenly when we least expect! Let us keep our anger in check. Let us not go to bed with an angry heart.

Mathew 5:23,24 gives us a very practical advice. "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there that your brother has something against you, 5:24 leave your gift there in front of the altar, first go and be reconciled to your brother; then come offer your gift"! Jesus does not want us to live in anger always, because He knows that it will turn out as "rage" some day!

Let us try to resolve the tension of our anger. Let us catch it early, when it is at the resentment level. If the situation cannot be resolved, then let us focus on forgiving. Act of forgiving helps us to disengage the gear of "rage", and brings us back to normalcy. The unforgiving heart will always rage!

It is ok to be angry! The emotion of anger lets us know that there is some injustice in the air. But let us not kindle that anger more and make it an unmanageable fire. Satan is attacking the family through this kind of rage! Spouses tear each other for silly things in life. Parents tear children apart instead of skillfully steering them. Brothers and sisters turn against each other rest of their life due to this rage.

Let us "cap" our anger. We do not have to go to the level of calling our loved one "You Fool or You Dummy!"

It is a good thing that we would like to correct others, and make them walk in the right path. But let us not go over board in engaging in such corrective actions with burning anger and rage. It will only kindle more rage. Instead, let us try soft approach! Virginia Satir, the founder of family therapy, emphasizes gentle approach to relationship, and she brings out this teaching very eloquently in a poem:

I want to love you
Without clutching
(controlling!?)
Appreciate you without
Judging
Join you without invading
Invite you without demanding
ing
Leave you without guilt
Criticize you without blaming
And help you without insulting.
If I can have the same
From you then we can
Truly meet and enrich
One another!

Unconditional, forgiving love is the one that can lead us in the path of peace and tranquility!

Are you thirsty?

John 19:28 says, "Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty".

These words were uttered by our Lord more than two thousand years ago as he was allowing himself to feel the complete undiluted agony of sin, his separation from the Father – the agony that we sinners rightly deserve to suffer. We get a glimpse of this agony in Luke 16:24 where the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to cool his tongue with water because he was in agony in the fire of Hell.

Though so much time has passed, his words still echo throughout the world. He is in His Father's glorious company, but he is still thirsting to this day.

He is thirsting for the souls that are not completely surrendered to Him – **the lukewarm souls**. Many of us have committed our lives to Christ, but not completely. We still have areas that are not surrendered to Him. Christ wants to have a complete relationship with us. He longs for us to completely take him into every aspect of our lives – not just our time of worship in church, not just our personal devotion time during the week, not just when we are at our best or not just when we have nowhere else to turn. He longs to be there in our mundane times as well and even the times when we are too ashamed to go to him. He longs each day, each hour, and each minute to be in constant communion with us.

Do we have that same kind of craving for the Lord? Some of us crave for a cup of coffee/tea first thing in the morning. We are not

able to function without that. Do we have that kind of longing for our Savior that we cannot function without him? Let us thirst after him for he has said in John 4:14, "whoever drinks the water that I give him will never thirst. Indeed the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." He is thirsting to draw us closer to him. He is longing to give us life, an abundant life. We cannot be satisfied with just a sip once in a while. We need to quench our thirst in him only. We have to thirst for the continual presence of God in our lives. Christ says in John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches". As the branches draw the water & nutrients from the vine, we are to draw our complete sustenance from Jesus and Jesus alone – there can be none other.

Christ is thirsting for the **souls that once knew him but have fallen away**. In Luke 15:3-5 Jesus told the parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home'. Jesus does not want to lose even one, he will go out to bring him or her back. He will relentlessly follow the person back to the fold.

Thirdly, He is thirsting for **the souls that have not known him** as yet. Christ wants every person in the world to hear of his redemptive love for him or her. He longs for people to know that he has taken the shame and pain of their sin to the cross, thereby making them one with Him, if they just trust in him.

Jesus said, "I am thirsty". He is the

head of the church, we are the body. What the head experiences, every member of the body experiences too. As the body of Christ, we too should have that same kind of longing – longing for a closer relationship with the Father, longing for more of Him in our lives, longing to count everything loss and Him only gain, longing to be His hands and feet, longing for the perishing souls that He has, so they too may taste and see that the Lord is good. As elements of the body directed by Christ let us be willing to sacrifice our all, to bring glory to the Father and to the Son.

Are we thirsting for fellowship with the Lord? Are we thirsting for fellowship with other believers, so that we may draw strength from one another and also be a source of strength to them? Are we thirsting for the lives of our friends and family to be surrendered to our Lord? As we see millions perishing around us, are we thirsting to pour the balm of the Gospel in their lives? If the answer is yes, what are we doing about it? Christ did something about it. He gave up His favored position and emptied Himself at the cross. We need to follow suit.

Let Christ's words, 'I am thirsty' echo in our hearts continually. Let our prayer be, 'I am thirsty too Lord, thirsty for more of you in my life'. Also let us seek to quench his thirst by drawing others to Him through the Gospel.

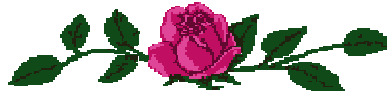
History of Mother's Day

The earliest known celebration of Mother's day was the spring festival in ancient Greece for Rhea, 'the mother of Gods'. During the 1600s, the early Christians celebrated a day in honor of Mary, the mother of Jesus. They later expanded it to include all mothers and was called Mothering Sunday. The practice however died down after some years. In America, the social activist who wrote the words to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", Julia Ward Howe, began a peace movement and called all womanhood to rise against war. She promoted the idea of 'Mother's day for Peace' on June

to celebrate 'womanhood, motherhood and peace'. Though her efforts died down, her idea was the precursor to the modern 'Mothers day' and was influenced by Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis 'Mother's Friendship day' which was started to improve sanitation after the Civil war.

It was Jarvis' daughter, Anna, who succeeded in introducing the Mother's day holiday as we know it today. She wanted it to be a day to honor parents and strengthen family bonds. The first mother's day was observed on May 10, 1908 as a church service to honor her departed

mother. The Mother's Day International Association came into existence to promote meaningful observances of the event. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially announced Mothers Day as a national holiday to be held on the 2nd Sunday in May. He asked Americans to give public reverence to their mothers and invited people to display the national flag as a public expression of love and reverence for the mothers in the country.

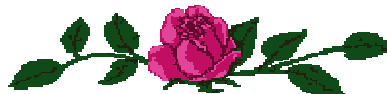


A Godly Mother.....

Her children arise and call her blessed. Prov. 31:28

She is one who keeps herself pure and self controlled. She is filled with love and compassion. A mother's love is nurturing and loving. A mother instructs her child in the way he/she should go and trains the child in the way of the Lord. She teaches her child to walk in the fear of the Lord. A mother models the life she wants her children to live.

Motherhood is not a burden to be borne but an honor bestowed upon women, a responsibility to be taken seriously.



Youth & Kids Corner

Lesser known mothers of the Bible ...

Do you know who the mother was?

1. Jonathan (King Saul's son)
2. Manasseh & Ephraim
3. King Jehoshaphat
4. King Josiah
5. King Manasseh, son of King Hezekiah
6. John Mark, author of the Gospel of Mark
7. Boaz
8. James & John, sons of Zebedee



1. Ahinoam, 2. Asemath,
3. Azubah, 4. Jedidah,
5. Hephzibah, 6. Mary,
7. Rahab, 8. Salome

Answers:

Schedule for the month

Sunday Worship Service

Communion - 10:30 a.m. followed by worship @ 11 am

Children's Sunday School - During the service

Prayer Session every Friday @ 7:30 p.m.

Women's Fellowship - May 17 @ 2:30pm

Kidz Club - May 17 @ 4:30 p.m.

VBS 2008

Dates : July 14—July 18, 2008

Time : 8:30am—4:00 pm

Place : Church of India, 3229 Corporate Ct., Ellicott City, MD

Ages : 4 – 12 years (call 410 418 4500 for registration info)

Closing Program : July 18, 6:00pm, followed by dinner.

Parents & Friends welcome

Dates to remember

Church Anniversary - June 8 @ 10:30 am

Church Picnic - July 25

EASTERN CONFERENCE 2008

When : August 22– 24

Where : Mensch Mill Conference and Retreat Center, PA

Rooms : 16, 4 persons / room

Deposit: \$50

Guest Speaker : Bro. John Jeyaseelan

More details to follow soon.

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.

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