



THE LOINS OF TRUTH

Issue No. 1

December. 2018

“WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM”

Dajied Lyngdoh

If the one God of the Christians is God the Father (1 Corinthians 8:6), so who is Jesus? Christians know that Jesus is the Saviour, the way, the truth and the life. They also know and have heard that Jesus is “the Son of God.” Even non-Christians have also heard about these things, notwithstanding their rejection or acceptance of the same. But it is a sad thing to observe that many acquire the truth that is at the surface only, the truth that dwells in the mind but not in the heart.

We also find that there were misconceptions concerning Jesus’ identity among the people while He was here on earth as a man. And perhaps, in order to serve as a point of discussion for us living today, Jesus took the opportunity to ask His disciples what they had heard other people thought He really was. They told Him that they had heard some say that He was Elijah, and others took Him to be Jeremiah and so on. But when He asked them what they took Him to be, Peter said that Jesus was the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16:13-17 “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? (14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”

According to Christ, it was not “flesh and blood” that had revealed Peter that He was the Son of God, but the Father in heaven. When Jesus said this, He not only referred to man but also to man’s wisdom and

interpretations. We cannot come to the knowledge of Jesus because it is impossible for man to know Him without the light that comes from God the Father (Matthew 11:27). Is Peter’s answer your answer too? Any answer that is, in any degree, lesser than the answer that Peter gave is proof that we do not know Christ the way that He wants us to know Him. And for those of you who believe that Jesus is “the Son of God,” do you receive understanding from the living God? Are you sure that the source from which you have come to know about Christ is truly the light of God the Father? Is it in line with the Bible? The reason that I am persuaded to ask these questions is because, in my observation, the phrase, “the Son of God” to most Christians is but a “title” but not a “literal” thing. The saying that Jesus is the Son of God is the truth but their understanding on this issue is a false one.

The Bible is the light of God. This we read in Psalms 119:105 and 2 Timothy 3:16. The answer of Peter that Jesus is “the Son of the living God” is the light that comes from the heavenly Father. So, what does the Bible say about this? Let us take a look by first asking the question: Who else is called “the son of God” in the Bible?

Luke 3:38 “Which was the son of Enos, which was the son Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.”

1 John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”

Adam is the son of God by creation (Genesis 5:1) and so are the angels (job38:7). The sinners that have received forgiveness are the sons of God by adoption. (Rom 8:15). What about Christ? How is He the Son of God? There are many answers to this

**Christ In You Ministries
Dongpyngrope, Nongrah,
Shillong – 793006**

The Loins of Truth is one of the ministry’s endeavour to restore the truths that have been lost and trampled to the ground. We hope that by this avenue, we can motivate our readers to search for truth as for hidden treasures.

The Loins of Truth is published on a monthly basis and it is free of cost for anyone who desires to acquire it.

Contact no.

+91 87942 62391

+91 82588 77230

+91 94369 45866

+91 70056 73218

Email:

ciyministries04@gmail.com

Other articles in this issue:

1. **Who Is The Holy Spirit?** Pg. 3
2. **Hide From God or In God?** Pg. 4
3. **Bless the Lord, O My Soul** Pg. 6

question among the Christians. There are those who say that Jesus was created. Then there are those who say that He is a Son in name only or He simply plays the role of a Son. Still some say that He is both the Father and the Son at the same time and so on. Which one of these is in line with the Bible? Are their explanations or their understanding according to the teachings of the Bible? We can find the answer in the most popular verse in the Bible, and this is John 3:16

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

Jesus is “the only begotten Son.” He is neither a Son by creation, as Adam, nor a Son by adoption, as we are, but a Son by birth. Jesus is not God the Father and the Son of God at the same time. If we believe this, we turn God into a false god who tells us a lie by saying that he has a son to give for our sake when he does not really have one. This verse is not metaphorical in nature, otherwise God’s love should also be metaphorical. And one more thing, as per this verse, it is clear that God had a Son before He could send Him to this world. Jesus does not simply play the role of a son but He is the literal Son of the Father, in truth. (2 John 1:3). Jesus was ‘*begotten*’ of the Father. In other words, He ‘*came out*’ from God. God had, from Himself, brought forth or given birth to His Son, in a similar manner as we came out from our parents. It is in this way that Jesus is the Son of God in truth.

When Jesus was in the flesh, did He teach that He came out of God?

John 8:42 *“And Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from the Father: neither came I of myself, but he sent me.” (also read John 16:27)*

The phrase, “proceeded forth,” in this verse is not pointing to the coming out of Christ from heaven to come to the world, but it refers to the coming out that is similar to the coming out of the evil spirit from the man who was demon possessed. (Read Luke 8:27-33). And speaking of the

coming out of Christ from God, it points to His birth from the Father. Yes, we do not know or understand how God gave birth to the Son, but it is imperative that we believe for Jesus has spoken a vital truth. This is what makes Jesus divine, who is worthy of praise and worship. (John 10:33, Colossians 2:9).

As a means to solidify the divinity of Christ, I wish that you ponder on the truth concerning the nature of inheritance in this manner: My humanity is not based on my behaviour as a man but it is based on the human nature that I possess inside of me, and I can possess this only through inheritance made possible only by birth. I cannot be a human if I was born of an animal species. A father gives birth to a child who possesses the same nature as himself, an animal gives birth to an animal, a human gives birth to a human. The Bible has a lot of evidence to prove this fact. God has ordained it to be so in order to serve as a teaching tool that illustrates the relationship that He has with His beloved Son. God gives birth to a Son who possesses the same divine nature that He possesses. The works and life of Jesus, here on earth, testify that He is God in the flesh even before He performs miracles. He performs a great miracle because He possesses divine nature. And this great miracle is His victory over sin in fallen flesh. Jesus is God because He comes out from God, the only true God.

It is this sonship that makes Jesus equal to the Father in all respects, with exception to rank and age. As an example, my father is superior than I because he is senior to me. But even though I am inferior to him with respect to age and rank, my humanness is equal to that of my father’s. I do not possess, let’s say, 70% of the 100% of my father’s humanity. This is contrary to the law of nature. Through this illustration, link this fact with the relation that exists between the Father and His Son. Jesus says, “My Father is greater than I.” (John 14:28). And the apostle Paul says that Jesus is “equal with God.” (Philippians 2:6).

Then what happens to His divinity after He becomes a man? Does it undergo any change? Does it

decrease because of this reason? The divinity of Christ does not decrease or change as a result of Him becoming a man. It remains the same, and He still is the only begotten Son of God.

John 1:14 *“And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld the glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*

The Word that became flesh is Christ. The only begotten of the Father became man. The Son of God now becomes the Son of man. Just because He is the Son of man, it does not mean that He is no longer the Son of God. From this time onwards, Jesus now receives the title of the Son of God in a new sense, for He is both the Son of God and the Son of man at the same time. The divine nature that is without compromise is mixed with the uncompromised human nature within Him. But what makes him “Wonderful”, special and peculiar; our Saviour, Comforter, Advocate and Counsellor is because of the fact that He possesses the title and the nature as ‘the Son of the living God.’ The apostle John does not consider Jesus only as a man or someone who is inferior to the angels, though he does not deny this fact, but he elevates Jesus higher than man. He says that the disciples have seen the glory that can only be found in the only in the Son of God the Father. What the apostle wants to say is that, the glory of the Son of God cannot be found in any other being except in the only begotten Son of God. Here, John the beloved displays his joy that the seeds of Abraham can now prove to others that they have seen the One whom they have waited for so long, who “shall save his people from their sins.” Mathew 1:21.

Do you receive Him as the Son of the living God? Have you invited Him to dwell in your hearts? Do you believe that when you have Him, you have eternal life? I implore you, take the word of God as it reads, for it has power if you only believe. My brothers and sisters, if you know who He really is and from where He came and how much He has sacrificed to show you that God is love, you would certainly seek to know Him better, and to deny everything in order to

know Him, who is blessed forever and ever. Amen.

1 John 5:10,11 “He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in

himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (11) And this is the

record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? *Reuben Warjri*

A correct understanding concerning the truth about God's identity opens up the door to understanding other truths outlined in the Bible. An understanding of who or what the Holy Spirit is, is also an integral part of the truth about God. In this study, I intend to clear up some doubts and misconceptions that one might have concerning the issues pertaining to the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of Man

One of the key doctrines of Adventism is the mortality of the soul, which means that once a person is dead, he is truly dead and no part of his being continues to exist in a conscious state in heaven or on earth. Once a person dies he ceases to know anything. He does not see, feel, walk, talk and the like. In fact, the Bible supports this teaching.

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6 “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they anymore a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. (6) Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun.”

In their efforts to try and remain consistent with this teaching, Adventists ignore and reject the teaching that man is both body and spirit. These include the physical and the spiritual aspects of man. They say that man's spirit is simply air that is breathed into the nostrils of Adam when he was created by God. By doing this, they try to explain their way around the teaching of the Bible that says that when a man dies his body returns to the ground from where it came, and the spirit goes to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

However, majority of Christians agree that man is both body and

spirit. But at the same time, they say that when a man dies, the body returns to the dust whereas, the spirit continues to exist in a conscious state. As per this understanding, the dead are not really dead but they still take part in the affairs of this world. We have seen that this is not biblical.

Both these ideas are not cent per cent accurate. The Bible clearly teaches us that man is both body and spirit. When these two meet, or are tied one to another, man becomes a living soul.

Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, (physical/body) and breathed into his nostrils the breadth of life (spirit); and man became a living soul. (living being).”

Here are three more verses in the Bible that confirm that man has a spirit.

Job 32:8 “But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding.”

Zechariah 12:1 “The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.”

1 Corinthians 2:11 “For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? ...”

The above passages confirm that man has a spirit within him. It is not referring to air that is breathed into Adam's nostrils. If it was simply air that was breathed, man would have simply been a breathing dust. Besides, all the air in the world cannot bring a dead person back to life. Man's spirit is not the air that he breathes, it is an energy that God had put in him. It also includes man's

identity, wisdom, memories, character, thoughts and anything that is non-physical and non-tangible aspect of his being. As long as the body and the spirit remain intact, man continues to be a living being. To sum up the matter, this body is just a vessel designed to accommodate the spirit. What makes me, me and you, you is not this body but the spirit which is in you and I. When the spirit ceases to dwell in this body, we cease to be living beings and both the body and the spirit die.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return to God who gave it.”

James also declared, “For the body without the spirit is dead..” (James 2:26). The opposite is also true. In passing, Christ also has His own spirit, and so do the angels. The animals also have their own spirits.

The Spirit of God

Now that we have understood what the spirit of man is, we shall take a look at the Spirit of God. There is a grave misunderstanding within Christendom that the Holy Spirit, which is sometimes referred to as the Spirit of God, is a separate entity from the Father and the Son. The reason for this misunderstanding comes from the fact that the Bible tells us that the Spirit can be grieved, be made to feel happy, it can speak, admonish, listen and so on. But at the same time, it may come as a surprise that the Bible teaches that the spirit of man can also be like this. When king Nebuchadnezzar lost all memory of the dream he had, he was troubled and sleep left him. The Bible tells us that that it was his spirit that was troubled.

Daniel 2:1 “... Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his

spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.”

It is illogical to conclude that it is another person, other than Nebuchadnezzar, who was troubled and who caused this Babylonian monarch to lose sleep.

Maybe you might argue that the same cannot be true with God. But then again, the Bible draws a parallelism between the spirit of man and the Holy Spirit. Notice what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:11: “*For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*” Here Paul uses the phrase “even so” which means “in the same way”. What I know, perceive or think remains with me as long as I do not choose to reveal it to others. In the same way, what lies in the mind of God, are kept secret until He reveals them to His people.

Paul continues to say in verses 12 and 13, “*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. (13) Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*” (1 **Corinthians 2:12,13**)

Believers receive the Holy Spirit so that they could know and understand the things that are of God which are spiritual in nature. And Paul also tells us in verses 14 and 15 that it is only those who have a spiritual mind can discern these things that are of God which are spiritual.

How can one receive this spiritual mind? What is Paul trying to tell here? To understand this, we shall take a look at two verses in the Bible. The first one is Isaiah 40:13

“*Who hath directed **the Spirit of the LORD**, or being his counsellor hath taught him?*” (**Isaiah 40:13**)

Now let us take a look at what the Holy Spirit led Paul to understand this verse in Isaiah. Paul quoted this verse in his letter to the Romans.

“*For who hath known **the mind of the Lord**? Or who hath been his counsellor?*” (**Romans 11:34**)

What is the Spirit of the Lord, according to the understanding of Paul? It is the mind of God. What resides in the mind of God are His thoughts, perceptions, knowledge, wisdom and the like. This pretty much explains what it means when the Bible says that the Holy Spirit can be grieved, be happy etc. This also explains how no one knows the secret things of God. It is until man receives the Spirit that he has the spiritual mind that can discern the things that are of God.

The mind or the Spirit of God is part of God’s inner being. So, the Spirit of God or the Holy Spirit is primarily and essentially God the Father. Christ confirms it for us when He says “*Even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father.*” (**John 15:26**). It is therefore, safe to say that when we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive the Father’s wisdom, knowledge, character etc. In fact, we receive God Himself. What we do not receive is the power to overcome sin. This will be thoroughly explained in the article *The Spirit That Was Not Yet Given*, which will be printed in the next issue of *The Loins of Truth*.

One more aspect about the Holy Spirit is that, it is the presence of God. God is in every place present by His Spirit. He is not confined only to the throne in which He sits. In the dedication of the first temple in Jerusalem, king Solomon declares this truth in his prayer:

“*But will God of indeed dwell on the earth? Behold the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?*” (**1 Kings 8:27**)

The words of Solomon clearly indicate that there is much more to God than His physical part, in so much that heaven itself cannot fully accommodate Him. This points to the fact that He is everywhere present in the universe simultaneously. There are more verses in the Bible that speaks of this truth. Here are two of them:

Psalms 139:7 “*Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*”

Psalms 51:11 “*Cast me not away from thy presence O LORD; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.*”

In both these Psalms, the presence of God is equated to His Spirit. The writers of the Old Testament have this style of writing in which they say the same thing twice but in different words. This is also true in both these cases. One more example of this style of writing in the Old Testament is found in Psalm 51:10 where the Psalmist equates his heart to his spirit.

In conclusion, the Spirit of God or the Holy Spirit is essentially the presence, wisdom, knowledge, thoughts, mind and any non-physical or non-tangible aspects of Him. When we understand the Holy Spirit from the biblical point of view, we cannot conclude that it is a separate entity from the Father.

HIDE FROM GOD OR IN GOD?

John Fischer N. Dohling

The church leaders of a congregation I used to attend had appointed me to deliver a sermon on the 24th of October, 2017. But in the beginning of that same week, I rang up one of

our deacons requesting him to take my place as the speaker of the divine service that was scheduled to be held on that day. However, on the 5th of November, I heard the voice of God

saying to me, “Why do hide from Me?” It is based on this question that I wish to share my thoughts through this article.

Why We Hide From God?

“Why do we hide from God?” I believe that all of us should be asking this question. It is a wonderful thing that the Bible gives the answer to this question. Let us look at two verses to see what the real reason for this kind of behaviour is.

Genesis 3:8-10 “And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. (9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? (10) And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

Revelation 6:15 “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains.”

The above verses from the word of God tell us that the real reason that we hide from God is sin. Sin has separated man from the close and intimate relationship that he once had with his Creator. Sin has marred our lives; and it has also led the Lord Jesus Christ, sinless that He is, to die for our sins. Sin has also led us to lose that spiritual peace and the consequences of sin are numerous.

Returning to God

After we have fallen or committed sin, is it possible to hide from our Creator? The answer is no, because God is omnipresent and omniscient.

Psalms 139:7-12 “Whither shall I go from thy spirit or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (8) If I ascend up onto heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. (9) If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; (10) Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. (11) If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. (12) Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: and the

darkness and the light are both alike unto thee.”

So then, when we sin, is it advisable that we hide from God as did Adam and Eve? Is it advisable to tell the mountains and the rocks to fall on us? Our sole duty is to confess our sins to God for He is ever ready to forgive us.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Yes, once we commit sin, our duty is to humble ourselves before God and confess our sins and ask for forgiveness and be cleansed by the blood that was shed on Calvary.

The Unpardonable Sin

But there is another side to the story that I wish to depict, and that is the sin against the Holy Spirit or, as it is sometimes known as, the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. We find this recorded in Matthew 12:32.

Matthew 12:32 “And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

From my personal walk and experiences, I believe that God has given each one of us His Spirit to show us what is permissible and what is not, what is righteousness and what is sin. As long as we heed the warnings of the Spirit, He remains in us. But it is our persistent efforts to reject the voice that speaks and whispers, and that convicts us of sin and righteousness that causes God to withdraw His spirit from us. Once this happens, it will cause man to have a heart of stone like the one that Pharaoh possessed. Just as Pharaoh rebelled against God, so shall it be with those who reject the admonishments of His Spirit. This is what Christ meant when He talked about the sin that is unpardonable in this world and the world to come.

I would also like to share with you, concerning this issue, the writings of God's servant, Ellen G. White, from her book the Desire of Ages.

“Christ told them plainly that in attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan, they were cutting themselves off from the fountain of blessing. Those who had spoken against Jesus Himself, not discerning His divine character, might receive forgiveness; for through the Holy Spirit they may be brought to see their error and repent. Whatever sin, if the soul repents and believes, the guilt is washed away in the blood of Christ; but he who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him. It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart; when men will fully reject the Spirit, and declare it to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. When the Spirit is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul.” (**The Desire of Ages, Chapter 33, page 321.**)

“It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He sends them light to correct their errors, and to lead them to safe paths; it is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened. Often the process is gradual, and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God's word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul.” (**The Desire of Ages, Chapter 33, page 322.**)

The Promise When We Hide In God.

So, when we hide in God, what are the promises that His word guarantees us? Let us now look at Psalms 91.

Psalms 91 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, he is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with

his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall by thy side, and ten thousand by thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thy dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him, and honour him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation."

Through these verses, we see clearly the promise of God to those who hide under His care and keeping. I believe that the words in above passage are plain and simple, easy to grasp and understand; and I do not think that I should expound on them.

Rock Of Ages

But I only wish to end with a story about a young preacher who lived in the eighteenth century. His name was Augustus Toplady. As Augustus was taking a walk along the shores of the English coast, suddenly there was a storm that began to blow. He then saw a cave nestled in a huge rock. As he was hiding there, he pondered upon the relation that his hiding place had with the God's help when the storms of life are raging. He did not have a piece of paper with him on which to write. But he noticed a gambling card on the floor of the rocky shelter and began to pen the words of that beautiful hymn, "The Rock of Ages."

This event took place in the year 1775 and this hymn has been a source of strength to many a Christian to this very day.

*Rock of ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
Through Thy riven side which
flowed;
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and
power.*

Think of the struggles and the hardships that you face. Do you need a hiding place? Do you need someone to shelter you from the battles in your life? Do you need the assurance that your sins have been forgiven? Like Augustus Toplady, we can also find a resting place and a promise from God.

Seek God; let Him be your refuge. Come closer to the Rock of ages for He is our shelter. When everything around you crumble, God is the Rock on whom you can stand. Amen.

BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL ***Pynhunlang Bareh***

As I observe the human nature from the childhood stage, it is plain to see that each of us have a unique character. But there is one nature which we all commonly possess and that is the fallen nature. I somehow realise this as I observe how my child and my nephew cling to me when I have something nice to give them. The opposite happens when they know that I have nothing interesting to offer them. They are least bothered to come to me and shower me with attention. This may not be the case with all children. But generally speaking, children possess this selfish nature.

We adults, too, possess this same nature. But it manifests itself in different ways. We tend to give preference to those who do us great good and from whom we gain a ton of benefits. But we mostly fail to consider those who are a blessing to us spiritually. There are people who

cannot help us materialistically, but they are helping us by praying and fasting, and the like. There are people out there who are truly concerned about our spiritual well-being and they truly want us to be saved and inherit the Kingdom of God.

There are people who thank their parents, family and friends when they receive materialistic benefits from them. This is the selfish side of man. Even though we forget the good and spiritual things our parents or family and friends bless us with and we base our love towards them solely to the things we can only see with our eyes and touch with our hands, there are parents who would never give up on their children. This is also true of our God. Do we give thanks to God only when He showers us with His blessing, or because of the miracles that happen in our lives? While He was on earth as a man, Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44-45, "But I say unto

you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust".

How beautiful are the words of the Saviour! We can see how loving God is even though men are selfish and carnal. God does not withhold Himself from sending us the bread of Heaven, His only begotten Son. (John 6:35, John 3:16,1 John 4:10). This is the true love of God for mankind.

But we who profess to be Christians, the followers of the Way, we fail to thank God daily for the most wonderful gift He has ever given to mankind. Most of the time we acknowledge God when we are

blessed with a good job, a house, a good life, a family etc. But we fail to do likewise when we are in challenging situations. We need to wake up, not only to thank God for the physical blessings we receive but also for the spiritual ones as well. Christ said "Thomas, thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

Truly, faith is believing in things which we have not seen but still keep on believing and hoping. Therefore, let us surrender our lives to Christ so He can live in us by His Spirit

(Galatians4:6), so that we can cry out to God with true thankfulness to the Father! Let us thank God Almighty for giving us Christ, His Son, not only to redeem us but also to make us His Sons and Daughters (John 1:12). If birds can sing praises to God and flowers bloom and show the splendour of the Almighty Creator, then how much more we humans who are created in His image? (Genesis 1:27). Let the Spirit of Christ lead us so we can be submissive to the will of God and let us thank God for giving us the victory over sin in Christ. Let us thank God for all the blessings that flow; God deserves to

be glorified and praised and He deserves our thankfulness each moment of our lives.

Let the words of David be in our mouth with joy and gladness saying, ***"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul and forget not his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." Psalm103:1-3.***
