For Those Seeking The Truth & Dynamic Living

Christ is Victor

January/February, 2019 VOL. 32, NO. 1

"How great is our God!"

"Much people of the Jews therefore knew that He [Jesus] was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom He had raised from the dead" (John 12:9).

They came to see Lazarus! He was a concrete evidence of Christ's power to restore life to a dead person. People wanted to see Jesus with the fruit of His labours. They knew that Lazarus had been in the grave. They might have been present at his funeral. Where Jesus is, there is no death. He is resurrection and life. If you allow Him to stay in your heart, you will be rejuvenated; your life will be renewed as an eagle's. He is Life. They came to see the fruit of resurrection operating in a house.

Many people came to see Lazarus. Do people come to see and hear you? Do they see your spirit dead in the body or do they see you at the feet of Jesus? If you have risen from the grave with the life of Jesus, you would sit at the feet of Jesus. You would long to be like Jesus. When Jesus came, Lazarus sat with Him at the table. He was a dead man and not among the living a few days ago. But now he sat with Him and ate good things and heard the living Word. Even his sisters did not want his grave opened. But Jesus wanted the grave opened. John 5:25: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." The voice of the Son of God! The

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I was dead in sins. I was useless for the kingdom of God. I had pride in my heart. The fallen angel injected that pride into us. I never humbled myself. I was in the grave thinking I was good. I was a negative force among young men around me. Poison was coming out of my eyes. I was causing grief to my parents. I was a whited sepulchre. I knew I was in the grave. No voice could raise me. My father prayed to God for me so that my dead ears might hear the voice of the Son of God. Will you not hear that voice? Lazarus heard it. Now he was at the table with the Master eating and hearing Him. People came to see Lazarus. Do people come to see you because you have risen? Did they come to see the change? There should not be any wicked words anymore. Jesus is ready to raise us. Before Jesus came, Mary and Martha might have quarrelled often. These two sisters were born of the same parents and brought up in the same atmosphere, but they began to quarrel. Where there is sin, there is quarrelling and pride. You can guarrel in the heart or openly in words. An unconverted heart cannot achieve anything like unity. Quarrels and leaving a trail of unkind words are poisonous. A husband who talks unkind words to his wife drives her fast into the grave.

God's word purifies your heart. It is full of love. This strengthens your mind. It straitens your conscience. Your personality unites with that of the angels. If you speak God's word, you will be a blessing to the world. Do you have Christ in your heart?

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). What do we sow—worldliness? Sin? Or a desire

to be rich or if possible to get a girl with a large dowry? We do not sow a desire for Christian character or faith. The devil has arrested the progress of the church through the snare of dowry. The love of money is the root of all evil. Christians do not want Christ in their homes. The habit of going to church is just hypocrisy. They do not want to hear Christ. They want Christ if someone is ill. I prayed a few times for healing a doctor's family when one sister in that house was dying. God told me, "No more healing unless this house repents."

Do you know there is much evil in your heart which can destroy you? Instead of being St. Paul, you are like Saul destroying the Church. Saul heard God's voice once. After that what great potentialities came out of him! He has written great things in this Book. We do not know what great things are in each of us for the glory of God. If you hear the voice of God, glorious things will happen. 1 Corinthians 2:9: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God had prepared for them that love Him."

Lazarus is risen and is sitting at the table with Jesus. He is hearing the words of Jesus and eating with the Lord. The sisters were filled with Christ-consciousness. So the resurrection took place in their house. The Word of God in you is faith. Faith is God-consciousness.

In Bishop Heber College, at Trichy, being a third-year student, I preached to the first-year Hindu students. Even Hindu Professors came and listened, though they were my professors. I demonstrated the truth. For the glory of God I say this. I was the youngest boy in the Christian Hostel attached to Noble College in Machilipatnam. I spent two hours at the feet of God every day. At a student conference, I

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The Lord Delivers Us from bondage"

"I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King. Thus saith the LORD, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters" (Isaiah 43:15,16).

This is how the Lord describes Himself. To be the redeemer of the people of Israel, the Lord had a way for them right through the sea. He showed that Pharaoh was no longer their king. When Pharaoh was their king, they had to bear a great burden. They were under hard task-masters. They wanted deliverance.

The devil knows the areas in which he can oppress us with the maximum pain. He does not normally inflict pain which is easy to bear. He creates pain and oppression in that area where you are most pained, thereby inflicting huge loss and damage.

Who is a redeemer? One who delivers you in that area where you are a captive. Certain thoughts are very strong. Oh, you put them out of your mind but they come back again. They chase you. They persist in pursuing you. You cannot run away from them. You may cross the oceans but the thoughts are still there. The devil oppresses many people with wrong thoughts. They are weakened. So there is no rest for them. That is not the work of God. God's thoughts are strengthening, ennobling and freeing.

Very often we do not see the difference between our thoughts and God's thoughts because of the spirit of perversity. That is why the Bible says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man" (Proverbs 14:12). You say, "My thought is right!", "My plan is right!", "My ways are right!" No! No! You must know how to go to God, who searcheth your heart, and weigheth your spirit, to know whether this is a perverse spirit or the spirit of God. This perverse spirit can be a very strong spirit. It can afflict the whole family. It seems to afflict father,

mother, sons and daughters. It makes it impossible to see what is right and what is wrong. The spirit of perversity is always to be found wherever there is idolatry. This perverse spirit is also found where Christians make an idol of something. I can detect this spirit very well.

"The Lord delivered them from all their oppressions," says the Word of God. But their nature of grumbling was still persisting for forty years. There remained in Israel the spirit of unbelief in the face of daily miracles

for forty long years.

But the Lord was trying to make a way for them. Right from the start, it was a way in the wilderness. When they came out of Egypt, they came against the sea. When you come against a forest, you ask somebody, "Is there a path through this?" But when you stand by the shore of a mighty sea, you never ask such a question. But God says, "I am the God, who maketh a path in the mighty waters". When you see the mighty waters before you, you tend to get fearful. I do not think in the Christian life there is ever a person who does not confront mighty waters some time or other.

I look to the one who alone can make this path. To many of you in your personal lives there may be the desire for sanctification. But somehow, it is slipping away. Somehow you seem to fail. Some evil thoughts still prevail. Some anger, some wicked and covetous desire, some bitterness or some lust is lurking somewhere in the heart. The mighty waters are before you. But what does God say to you? "I am the Lord, who maketh a path through the mighty waters." Maybe you are despairing about your condition. No, these mighty waters are going to divide by a clear path of victory.

—Joshua Daniel

REALITY CHECK!

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"—Jesus (John 14:6)

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"—Jesus (Matthew 26:28)

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men ... our Saviour Jesus Christ ... gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11, 13-14).

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was selected to represent the college and give a talk on evangelism. Not I, but the Holy Spirit talked for fifteen minutes. I was once dead in trespasses. I was useless for the kingdom of God. But Christ in us will be resurrection to us and give us life.

Lazarus became a Gospel to others. People came and saw Lazarus and got converted. You can be the Gospel! Once you were in the grave. Now you are living. Believe that Jesus will use you. He is great and able. Do not think of your poor abilities. Live in Jesus. They saw Lazarus and believed in Jesus. By looking at you, people must believe in Jesus. Let us rise from the grave of sin and be with Jesus. The grace of God is wonderful and will transform you. I wonder how God was able and was gracious to transform one like me! Look to Him. How great is our God!

-N. Daniel

"Rebuilding ruins"

It was 2011, and in Monterrey, Mexico, where I was living, 1,782 people were assassinated in the much-reported drug war. The cartel conflict had grown so thick that by the fall of that year, people were no longer going out at night for tacos, a true sign of a Mexican crisis. It was on one of those fall nights, a pastor friend, Salatial, had a dream. In the dream, Salatial was in a patio full of police, who were all on their knees praying. He woke up startled and wondered, Do I even know a police officer?

In the morning Salatial told his wife about his dream, and, curious about its meaning, they began praying for the local police force.

Salatial ate at a popular lunchtime diner the next week and saw a table of police officers. Thinking it might be a good way to make an introduction, he directed the waitress to bring him their bill. They later charged his table, demanding to know for whom he worked and what made him think they could be bought, and he reflected that maybe that wasn't the most effective method to make an introduction.

A month later, one October Sunday, he noticed several new faces in the crowd of his congregation. He invited them to come forward for prayer, and eleven men and women lined up in front of the stage. Salatial started on one end and prayed "Rebuilding...." Continued on page 3

"Rebuilding ruins"

over each new guest. When he reached a man in the middle, he stopped and spoke into his ear, "I know the Lord has saved your life now two times, and he has saved you for this season." He then continued down the line.

Later, Salatial learned the man was the new director of police for Guadalupe, the million- person suburb of Monterrey where his church stands. After praying over a month for the police, he was so excited to meet his first officer.

He invited him for coffee the following week and shared his dream, asking if the police chief knew of any believing officers who would want to come and pray with him.

The chief responded, "You know I am new here, right? Your last chief was murdered about a month ago. I am just getting to know everyone, but I haven't found a single one I imagine would be open to your prayer."

Isaiah 30:21 says, "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it' " (ESV). When I hear the word, I know I have only one choice: obedience. Blessing always follows submission, and chaos trails our rebellion. Salatial valued obedience, and sensing God's voice, he persisted, asking regularly if he could visit the headquarters. Finally, the chief relented. He invited the pastor to share for ten minutes the next Saturday at the change of the shift during the 6:30 a.m. roll call, explaining this way he could see all the men and women at one time.

When Salatial arrived the first morning, he walked through a patio to get to their main room and recognized it instantly as the same one from his dream where he saw officers on their knees. Emboldened by this realization, he spoke for five minutes, sharing the basics of the gospel. No one blinked or moved or raised his hand, but Salatial left with a full heart.

For the next three months, he continued going every Saturday, speaking for a few minutes about integrity and reminding them that they represented God's justice on earth and not to hurt those whom they were to protect. They were well-crafted, powerfully delivered, and prayerfully considered messages, yet he still wasn't seeing any impact. Lord, is this what you had in mind?

He sensed the Lord speaking to him: Add worship.

What? He must have misheard. Add worship.

Really, Lord? Praise and worship? Not only do these people not know our songs, but they have probably never sung together before.

Ever since those first days when I moved out of the country and felt my fledgling steps weren't adding up to much, I've found comfort in Zechariah 4:10: "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin" (NLT). I have to constantly fight my results-oriented nature and trust the outcome of living amen is his to measure. When he says step, I need to step and not glance around to see if it makes sense, makes progress, or makes me look good. He is looking for my obedience, and he sees that as the outcome of my faith. Salatial focused on his call, and so the following results can get credited to God.

Despite his reservations, the following half dozen Saturdays he brought a guitar-

-wielding worship leader, who basically sang a solo in front of the group for a couple of minutes.

Then in January 2012, during worship, one of the sergeants fell down, appearing to pass out. Everyone in the room, trained as first responders, rushed over, but Salatial stepped in front of them, quickly explaining he recognized the sergeant was "overcome in the Spirit."

Regardless of how your church worships or what doctrine you assign to this experience, the testimony remains. Although this has never happened to me, I don't doubt its reality. This guy was overwhelmed by the Spirit, a Spirit previously ignored.

It was all the encouragement the police chief needed. He asked Salatial if he would come every day, not just on Saturdays, and teach a class on leadership, using the biblical character of David as a reference. "I think they are listening and maybe even internally responding, but they lack the leadership skills to exercise their faith in front of others," the police chief said.

During the following month they met daily, and God gave the police force of Guadalupe great victory in the war against the cartels, so much so that the military, who had been called in for peacekeeping responsibilities, was reportedly frustrated. Why was this suburban police force making more arrests than anyone else?

After twenty-eight days, a ceremony concluded their leadership class, and the police chief announced to the station what everyone already knew: in February 2012, not one officer's life was lost in Guadalupe. Not everyone understood

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After twenty-eight days, a ceremony concluded their leadership class, and the police chief announced to the station what everyone already knew: in February 2012, not one officer's life was lost in Guadalupe. Not everyone understood what it was this pastor was offering, and they didn't all believe in God, but they all wanted whatever good juju he was bringing, and they immediately invited him to continue coming every day.

This is when it gets good—when the community of God acts, as Paul wrote, like a colony of heaven. When a group of

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