

# YOUTH FOCUS

## YOUTH FOCUS ON INTERNET

*Youth Focus is proud to enter into the second year publication. During the year 1996 God has helped us to reach thousands of readers. 1997 opened a new era in the journey of Youth Focus. We could go worldwide using the Internet technology. Since we were concentrating in bringing the Youth Focus on Internet we are a little late in publishing our first issue of the magazine for the year 1997. We are getting outstanding responses on the Internet and we praise God for that response. You can visit us on Internet. Also you can get to our home page through the major search engines. We encourage you to visit our home page. You can print the current and the previous issues of the Youth Focus from the Internet.*

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*Articles, News, Letters, Comments and other literary creations both in English and Malayalam are invited for the publication in this Magazine. Send your articles to the following address:*

**YOUTH FOCUS**

**2912 BENCHMARK DR PLANO TX 75023**

*Edited, Printed and Published by Babu K. Iype*

# YOUTH FOCUS

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**Number. 1**



**REV. OOMMEN ABRAHAM**  
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**യൂത്ത് ഫോക്കസ്**

# YOUTH FOCUS - യൂത്ത് ഫോക്കസ്

## A Christian Publication Focusing the Youths

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### നല്ല പോർ പൊരുതു ഓട്ടം തികച്ചു വിശ്വാസം കാത്തു !!!!!

1997 ഏപ്രിൽ മാസം 5-ാം തീയതി ശനിയാഴ്ച വൈകിട്ട് സംഭവിച്ച കറപകടത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട് കർത്താവിന്റെ വിലയേറിയ ദാസൻ പാസ്റ്റർ ഉമ്മൻ ഏബ്രഹാം കർത്തുസന്നിധിയിലേക്ക് വിളിച്ചു ചേർക്കപ്പെട്ട വിവരം മാനു മിത്രങ്ങൾ ഇതിനോടകം അറിഞ്ഞു കാണുമായിരിക്കുമല്ലോ. അമേരിക്കൻ മലയാളി പെന്തക്കോസ്തു ചരിത്രത്തിൽ മായാത്ത വ്യക്തി മുദ്ര പതിപ്പിച്ച കർത്താവിൽ ശ്രേഷ്ഠനായ ഒരു ദൈവ ദാസനായിരുന്നു പാസ്റ്റർ ഉമ്മൻ ഏബ്രഹാം. പേരിനും പെരുമയ്ക്കും സ്ഥാനത്തിനും മാനത്തിനും വേണ്ടി ആളുകൾ എന്തും ചെയ്യുവാൻ മടിക്കാത്ത ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ നിർമ്മല മന:സാക്ഷിയിൽ ദൈവം ഏല്പിച്ച വേല വിശ്വസ്തയോടു ചെയ്തു തീർക്കുവാൻ ഇടയായ ഒരു മാനു ദേഹമായിരുന്നു പാസ്റ്റർ ഉമ്മൻ ഏബ്രഹാം. അദ്ദേഹം കാണിച്ചു തന്ന മാതൃക എല്ലാ ദൈവ ജനത്തിനും ഒരു മാതൃക ആയിരിക്കട്ടെ എന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ഇദ്ദേഹം ഒരു ലളിതമായ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെയും വിശാല ഹൃദയത്തിന്റെയും ഉദമയായിരുന്നു എന്ന് തന്റെ എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തന മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലും വ്യക്തമായി വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന ഒരു സത്യമത്രെ. ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഗൂഡ് സമരിറ്റൻ മിനിസ്ട്രീസിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ വാക്കും ഭാഷണവും കൂടാതെ വിളിച്ചറിയിക്കുന്നതും ഇതേ സത്യം തന്നെത്രെ. ഗൂഡ് സമരിറ്റൻ മിനിസ്ട്രീസിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ മുഖാന്തരം അനേകം പാവപ്പെട്ട ദൈവ മക്കളെ വിവിധ നിലകളിൽ സഹായിക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നുള്ളത് വളരെ പ്രശംസനീയമായ ഒരു വസ്തുതയത്രെ.

(ശേഷം 19-ാം പേജിൽ)

### (2-ാം പേജിൽ നിന്നും തുടർച്ച)

സുവിശേഷത്തിന്റെ പേരിൽ അമേരിക്കയിൽ എത്തിയ പലരും സുവിശേഷത്തിന്റെ മണം പോലും ഏശാത്തവരായി വളരെ വിലകൂടിയ കാര്യങ്ങളും മറ്റും വാങ്ങി സുഖലോലുപരായി ജീവിതം നയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു തങ്ങളുടെ വിളിയും തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പും ( പ്രാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അത് ) ചപ്പുകൊട്ടയിലേക്ക് വലിച്ചറിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുന്ന ചിത്രം അമേരിക്കൻ മലയാളി പെന്തക്കോസ്തു ലോകത്തിൽ ധാരാളം കാണുവാൻ കഴിയും. അങ്ങനെ ഉള്ളവർക്ക് ഈ കർത്താവിന്റെ ദാസന്റെ ജീവിതവും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും എന്നും ഒരു മാതൃകയായിത്തീരട്ടെ എന്ന് ആശിക്കുകയാണ്. കർത്താവിൽ ശ്രേഷ്ഠനും IPC യുടെ സ്ഥാപകനും ആയ **Late. Rev. K. E. Abraham** കാണിച്ച മാതൃക പിൻപറ്റുവാൻ തന്റെ മകനായ പാസ്റ്റർ ഉമ്മൻ ഏബ്രഹാമിന് കഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നുള്ളത് ഒരു സത്യം മാത്രമാണ്.

വടക്കേ അമേരിക്കയിൽ എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല മലയാളി പെന്തക്കോസ്തു ലോകം മുഴുവനും അറിയപ്പെടുന്ന **North American Pentecostal Conference** ഈ ദൈവദാസന്റെ ദീർഘദൃഷ്ടിയുടെ ഒരു പ്രതികമത്രെ. ഞാൻ നല്ല പോർ പൊരുതു ഓട്ടം തികച്ചു വിശ്വാസം കാത്തു എന്ന് ഈ ദൈവദാസനെക്കുറിച്ച് വളരെ ധൈര്യത്തോടു പറയുവാൻ കഴിയും. ഈ ദൈവദാസന്റെ ഓർമ്മയ്ക്കായി നമുക്കു ചെയ്യുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നതു ധാരാളം **Memorial Services** നടത്തി നമ്മുടെ **Positions** ഉം മറ്റും എടുത്തു കാണിക്കുകയല്ല, പിന്നയോ താൻ തുടങ്ങി വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ശ്രേഷ്ഠമായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് വേണ്ടത്ര കൈതാങ്ങൽ കൊടുത്തു മുന്നോട്ടു കൊണ്ടുപോകയത്രെ ആവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നത്. ആയതിന് നമ്മൾക്ക് എന്തുചെയ്യുവാൻ കഴിയും എന്ന് പ്രിയ വായനക്കാർ ചിന്തിക്കുന്നത് നന്നായിരിക്കും.

ഈ കർത്താവിന്റെ ദാസന്റെ പെട്ടെന്നുള്ള വേർപാടിൽ ദു:ഖത്തിൽ ആയിരിക്കുന്ന തന്റെ 4 മക്കളേയും അവരുടെ കുടുംബങ്ങളേയും മറ്റു കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളേയും സേനഹിതരേയും സഹപ്രവർത്തകരേയും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രാർത്ഥനയിൽ ഓർക്കണമെന്ന് അഭ്യർത്തിയ്ക്കുന്നതോടൊപ്പം എല്ലാ പ്രിയപ്പെട്ടവർക്കും യൂത്ത് ഫോക്കസിന്റെ നാമത്തിലുള്ള അനുശോചനം അറിയിയ്ക്കുന്നു. സർവ്വ്യാശ്വാസത്തിന്റെയും ദൈവം എല്ലാവരേയും ആശ്വസിപ്പിക്കുകയും അനുഗ്രഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യട്ടെ എന്ന് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

**By: Babu K. Iype, Dallas**

മലയാളത്തിൽ എഴുതിയ ലേഖനങ്ങൾ യൂത്ത് ഫോക്കസിലെ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണത്തിനായി ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.  
പത്രാധിപർ

**YOUTH FOCUS**  
**2912 Benchmark Dr, Plano TX 75023**  
**Phone: (972) 618-2348**

*(Continue from Page 3).....POWER FROM ABOVE*

The problem with the Christian world today is that instead of relying on God, more often we depend on ourselves and our abilities. Having confidences in ourselves and in our abilities are always good, but in order to win souls we need to depend on God and in His power. Unless you are willing to wait in the presence of God like the disciples on the day of Pentecost, you cannot receive power. Without this power your efforts are going to be ineffective. It is high time for the churches to teach the importance of the doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is the power which can make wonders in your life.

In order for us to understand this reality, Bible present us with story of Peter. Peter was one of the disciple who was very close to Jesus Christ. He himself witnessed the glory of Jesus Christ when they were at the Mt. Transfiguration. In spite of all those close encounters with Jesus Christ, he betrayed Jesus Christ three times before some insignificant people. This has happened before the day of Pentecost. History present a very different picture of Peter after the day of Pentecost. In the midst of thousands of people he stood up and preached the gospel and about 3000 people repented and baptized. Peter who betrayed Jesus three times finally died on the cross head down. What a wonderful story.

Gospel of Jesus Christ can change a person, but Holy Spirit can make that person a powerful instrument for God. I would like to encourage our younger generation to understand this great phenomenon. Many Pentecostal churches, which was founded on the very principle of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is conveniently ignoring this doctrine. As a result, the younger generations are ignorant of this doctrine. The end result is that our younger generations are slipping away from the very teaching of the Pentecost. We cannot let this happen to them. We need to teach our younger generation the importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and how this experience can enrich their spiritual life. At the same time the adult generation of the believers should be willing to show to them the importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit through their life.

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## YOUTH FOCUS

*From the Publisher's Desk*

### POWER FROM ABOVE



**Babu K. Iype**

In the last issue of the Youth Focus we have discussed about the Youth Power and how the churches can make use of it in a positive way. I do believe that Christian churches are taking extra steps these days to accommodate our younger generation so that they can grow in a path which is acceptable to God. In order to achieve this goal we need to and willing to abolish man made barriers, fences and restrictions

The missions of the Church is to seek after the lost and bring them back to God. Very often we forget our mission in the midst of other insignificant things. That is the great work of the devil. When churches and individuals spend their time and energy in dealing with insignificant matters satan is winning the war. I would like to remind the Christians around the world, to straighten our priorities these days. Let us not be side tracked by the work of the devil, but be diligent and careful. If you are willing to do that God will use you mightily for His glory.

In order for us to be effective for God, we need to wait in the presence of God and receive the power from above. Acts 1: 8 says "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth". In this verse we can see the three important steps we need to follow, if we want to be effective for God. 1. Wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon you. 2. Receive Power. 3. Become witness for God all over the world. If Jesus Christ and His disciples needed to have this great power in their life how much more we need today than it was in the first century.

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**CALLING DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN**

*By: Cril Abraham, Dallas*



*Cril Abraham is 20 years old. He is currently a student of the University of Houston doing his D. Pharm. He is a leader of the student prayer group in the Houston Area. He is a young man with great vision and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for him so that God can use him in among the young people.*

**And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh;....  
(Acts 2:17)**

As Christians we all have a choice in our **walk**. We can choose to grow in God (with all that it entails) or we can be satisfied with our current position (whatever that might be). I believe that God is calling to all his children to grow in **Him**. With that growth comes hardships (no one ever said Christian life was easy) but also power. I figure if you are going to go through hardships any ways —> you might as well experience the power of God. It is one thing to watch or hear about the power of God. It is another thing to experience it forselves. I am not talking about “*a touch of*” the Holy Spirit. I am talking about an undeniable move of the Holy Spirit. The kind of move in which demons flee, sinners are saved, and incurable diseases are cured.

John 14:12 Verily, Verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do ; because I do unto my Father.

I want to look at Elijah in I Kings 17&18. Let’s look at how God uses him to call down fire from heaven.

1. In chapter 17 verse 1, God ask him to make a bold stand. Elijah’s  
*(Continue on Page 8)*

**പ്രാർത്ഥന കേൾക്കാതിരിപ്പാൻ**

**By: Wilson Philip M. Com., Dallas**

പ്രാർത്ഥന കേൾക്കാതിരിപ്പാൻ തൻകാതു മന്ദമല്ല  
പ്രതിഫലം നൽകാതിരുപ്പാൻ തൻകൈ കുറുകിട്ടില്ല

1. ദൈവം തന്നെ സ്നേഹിപ്പാർക്കൂ  
ഒരുക്കിട്ടുള്ളത് ആർക്കറിയാം (2)  
കണ്ണു കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല ചെവികേട്ടിട്ടില്ല  
ഒരുവൻ്റെ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ തോന്നിട്ടുമില്ല (2)....പ്രാർത്ഥന

2. സ്വർഗ്ഗീയ ഗേഹം എത്രയോ ശ്രേഷ്ഠം  
ആ നല്ല ഗേഹം എൻ ഭവനം (2)  
കാണാത്ത കൺകളെ അന്നു ഞാൻ കാണും  
പാടാത്ത പാട്ടുകൾ പാടി ആർക്കും (2)....പ്രാർത്ഥന

3. മാലാഖ വൃന്ദങ്ങൾ നിത്യം സ്തുതിക്കുന്ന  
സ്തുത്യനായ ദൈവം എൻ്റെ ദൈവം (2)  
ആ നല്ല ദൈവത്തിൻ അംശിയായിതിരുവാൻ  
ദേഹം ദേഹി കാംക്ഷിയ്ക്കുന്നു. (2)....പ്രാർത്ഥന

*(Continue from Page 18)*

A church without spirit filled members becomes a social gathering. A social gathering cannot minister to the spiritual needs of the people. In order to minister to the spiritual needs of the people, a church must have members with full of power and spirit. That's why we need to encourage our younger generation to sit in the presence of God and receive this power from above. Our education, money and ability all can play some role in soul winning, but the power of the Holy Spirit is the one thing which can really make a positive impact than any thing else. If we can mold a generation of youths with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then they may be able to change this world around for Christ. **The key is and always will be the power from above.** A changed person can be made useful and fruitful and effective by the power of the Holy Spirit. May God bless you all.

**Babu K. Iype, M.S., Dallas.**

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Transfer growth is important, but transfer growth will never extend the church, for unavoidably many are lost along the way. The third kind is conversion growth, in which those outside the church come to rest their faith intelligently on Jesus Christ and are baptized and added to the Lord in His Church. This is the only kind of growth by which the good news of salvation can spread. Ever since the church established, gifts of the spirit has played major part in the growth of the church.

What is Spiritual Gift ? First of all, the gospel of salvation declared by Jesus, then proclaimed by those who had received it has been confirmed by God Himself “by signs and wonders and various Miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His own will”(Heb 2:4). Such phenomena are called “Spiritual Gifts”. In His ministry Jesus started it, disciples performed it and Paul practiced it. Now Christians are continuing it. While we narrow down this definition, the Gift of the Spirit is a capacity for service. It is a function. A gift in the spiritual sense means the Holy Spirit doing a particular service through the believer and using the believer to do it. It must be done in the power of the Spirit of God. In otherwards, manifestation of the Spirit that is what a gift is. That means the exercise of supernatural *gifts*. The purpose of the gift is to build up the Church, The body of believers. It is not to be exercised selfishly, but is to give spiritual help to other believers.

Apostle Paul uses the word spiritual gifts in the book of first Corinthians 12:1, the Greek word is **PNEUMATIKOS**, which literally means “spirituality’s or spiritual things” (The Greek N.T.Dictionary). It is just against the ‘Carnality’s or Carnal things’. Paul was discussing the carnality’s and the divisions among the Corinthian believers. The carnality’s had to do with their divisions; their wrangling about different leaders, about adultery, about going to court against a brother, the sex problem, women’s dress and men’s haircuts, the love feast, gluttony and drunkenness at the Lord’s supper. That is all carnality, and we can find the same things in the church today. So Paul really wanted to talk to the Corinthian believers in a constructive way through exercise the spiritual gifts.

The modern church needs to change the same old stuff which we have in our church today.

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**THE ROLE OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT  
IN THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH**

*Rev. Sunny Spurgeon, M.A., Dallas*



Church growth is not only mere sociological process, but a theological stance (McGavran). In the context of the Biblical understanding that Jesus said, “I will build my Church,” only passing attention was given to the roles of the Holy Spirit in Church growth. Many factors which have become especially prominent are the role of supernatural signs and wonders, in

Church growth and the part gifts of the Spirit exercises in the existence of the Church. When we talk about Church growth, God’s desire that his lost children be found and His Churches be multiplied. This is called individual growth or physical growth. As members of Christ’s body, the Church, Christians are constantly enriched with the blessings of the Holy Spirit. This is called Spiritual growth.

In the Church growth, three kinds of growth should be distinguished: biological, transfer, and conversions. Biological growth derives from those born in to Christian families. Biological growth is exceedingly slow. It often does not equal the normal population increase for the nation, for while some children become burning Christians, some are lost to the world, or through marriage are sucked back in to the other religions. Biological growth is good growth. God commanded us to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.” Christians should, truly bring up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Yet this type of growth will never bring the nations to faith and obedience. What a providential occurrence it was that the 120 Christians in Jerusalem before the day of Pentecost did not rely on biological growth, but for the intervention, entirely beyond any thing they had imagined, of the Holy Spirit.

By transfer growth is meant the increase of certain congregations at the expense of others. Some churches move from the country to the city, or from overpopulated areas to new lands the government is opening up.

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## **WHAT WENT WRONG?**

*by Dr. Sarah J. John, Dallas*



### **Galatians 5:7**

“Ye did run well, who did hinder you that you should not obey the truth?”

When someone is converted, it is a wonderful experience for the individual as well as a joyous moment for everyone around. A truly converted person is born again ( 1Peter 1:23), saved (Romans 10:9), justified (Romans 5:1) and made a partaker in the divine nature ( 1 Peter 1:4). Do you recall the day of your conversion???

It is very sad to see someone truly converted, turning back, become lukewarm (Rev3:16), lose their first love (Rev2:4). What a tragedy to be an example and earnest worker and then turn away from the Lord.

In the Galatian church there were people who were turned aside by false teachers. In the lesson verse mentioned above, we see that a Christian life is a race, but it also tell us that we may be hindered in the race. To be hindered means to be stopped or jostled from what you are trying to accomplish.

### **1) WAS IT THE INCONSISTENCY OF PROFESSING CHRISTIANS?**

Do you look to other Christians and seek to follow their example or even put them on a pedestal? Then you discover that they were not perfect as you thought and became discouraged and disappointed? Soon you will see, man is never going to achieve perfection because he is mortal—not GOD. So those who put their trust in man as the best example are wrong. There is only one whom you we can set up as our example: that is the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb 12:1,2) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us FIX our eyes on JESUS, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning the shame, and set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” It is most essential to look off, away from one’s self, one’s circumstances and from other Christians, unto Jesus himself.

### **2) WAS IT PERSECUTION, MISUNDERSTANDING OR OPPOSITION?**

Many people who have accepted Christ may then have to face the opposition of loved ones. It is human nature to desire the approval of a loved

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one in any decision we may have to make. This is much more common in the Eastern culture. In the Indian culture, if one professes or confesses a faith contrary to the family tradition, they are considered outcasts and rarely forgiven. This may be more of a hindrance to those who embrace the Christian doctrine. In Matthew 5:11, 12, the Lord Jesus expressed that it is hard to be a Christian. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven for the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Lord Jesus was threatened with stones, they put a crown of thorns upon his head, they mocked him, then they crucified him. If they did this to Jesus who is our example, will they not do that to us?

### **3) WAS IT SEVERE TRIAL OR SORROW?**

In Hebrews 2:6, “Because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and punishes everyone he accepts as son.” The first thing the Lord does when we tell Him that we are willing to be wholly His is to test us out to see if we really mean it. He will discipline us all through our pilgrimage. The testings and trials are put on us to make us cast all this on Him, so that we may be refined and our faith strengthened. When an individual is going through difficulties, it is our responsibility as fellow Christians to support him through prayer and through words of encouragement.

We often criticize, offer unwanted advice, and push that individual further away from the Lord, that is not what the Lord would want you to do.

### **4) WAS IT NEGLECT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD?**

John 15:4, “Abide in me and I will abide in you. No branch can bear fruit unless you abide in me.” To abide means to stay put. Many Christians backslide because they have neglected private prayer, regular attendance with the house of God and have not grown spiritually. I encourage you to get into right relation with God and He will guide you in all your ways.

### **5) WAS IT SOME WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE?**

Jeremiah 26:13. “Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the Lord your God. Then the Lord will relent and bring the disaster he pronounced against you. You must amend you ways and obey the voice of the Lord.” There must be change in your lifestyle. Is it a wrong friendship (Amos 3:3), secret sin (Joshua 7:18,23), an un forgiving spirit, (Matthew 18:21,22) or an unfulfilled vow (Deut, 23:21). Sin separates man from God. Proverbs 28:13, “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

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In a very sophisticated manner Christian educators say that we should tell our young people about sex, drugs and violence. Brothers and sisters, we had better tell them about spiritual things. There are so many programs in the churches that the young people never get anywhere near the Bible. So we have to bring our youngsters back to the spiritual things and teach them how to exercise the gifts of the spirit, because Gifts are given to maintain unity in diversity.

There are nine major gifts of the Spirit mentioned in the book of Corinthians chapter 12. This gifts are classified in to three: The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and discerning of Spirit. These are called gifts of **Revelation**. The second division is prophecy, divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues, these are called Gifts of Inspiration, and the third division is Faith, the Gifts of healing and the working of miracles, these are called gifts of power (Dakes). In the New Testament, so wonderfully illustrated is, how the Holy Spirit often works through gifts of the Spirit in Church Growth.

The role of the gifts of the Spirit in the growth of the church is supreme. Preaching, teaching, healing, theological training, broadcasting, publishing, building, raising chicken and raising children in a children's home all are the part of the church growth. Only God not human forces, builds the church. Jesus said "I will build my church" (Mt. 16:18). The Apostle Paul acknowledge that while he plants and Appollos waters, only God gives the increase 1 Cor 3:6. The Sovereign power of the Holy Spirit often surprises us by the various growth under the most unpromising circumstances.

Among the gifts of the Spirit, divine healing was an essential part of the Evangelization as churches multiplied across Palestine and the Mediterranean world, hen we review church growth around the world, we see that it frequently correlates with great healing campaigns. Where the church is up against an insuperable barrier, there, no matter what you do, how much you pray, how much you administer for church growth , the church either does not grow, grows only a little, or grows from within, not from without. Under such circumstances we need to learn heavily on that which

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To elicit consummate loyalty and adoration from His people, the children of Israel, and to give them a holy and acceptable lifestyle, God entailed the adherence to divine statues an integral part of His covenant-relationship.

Yahweh proclaimed Himself to be a Holy God (Lev.11:45, Jos.24:19). He required of His people to be Holy even as He was holy (Ex.22:31). The only manner His people could reach the required high standard of holiness was to learn and keep His laws. They were instructed to diligently learn His law and to teach them to their children, bind them an their hands, between their eyes and to write them on the doorpost (de.6:6-9). Pleading ignorance to the law was to soluation since people perished without the knowledge of the law (Hos. 4:6). In order that the Lord may make them a holy nation (Ex.19:6), the children of Israel were given the law.

Paul says in Galatians 3:24 that Law was a school master to bring us to Christ but was not able to give life (Gal. 3:21). In Galatians 4, he describes the law as a pedagogue and argues that its only intention as a pedagogue was to instruct the herison their eternal inheritance and point them to redemption and reconciliation of God through Jesus Christ. Thus, we see that God gave the law to guide and direct His people in His ways and to bring to their knowledge His statutes so that they may not sin against Him from their ignorance.

**How the Law was Obeyed:**

The children of Israel fell short of attaining the high standard required of by God. They did not keep the law. The book of Exodus describes their rebellion against God and His statutes, their worshiping of other gods and their indulgence in sins that separated them from their holy God. Through the pages of the Old Testament, the voice of God cries out through His servants the prophets for His people to return to Him. The prophetic books, especially Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea bring out the hert of a God who feels hurt that his beloved people would reject Him and seek after other gods (1 Sam 7:3, 2 Ch.30:9, Isa. 19:22, Isa.44:22).

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stand was extremely unpopular. But Elijah obeyed God. In this step alone God can use us to touch others —simply by being bold in obedience to him.

2. He learns to trust God more as he lives in the brook. He allows his faith to grow. God said that I will feed you through the mouth of a raven. This does not make sense with our carnal mind. With no other companionship (remember the King is looking for him) other than God he is growing in his relationship with God. (If you get nothing else from this - please always grow closer to God).

3. God uses him to bless others. To us and the rest of the people suffering in the famine, what Elijah did for the widow and her son seem minor. But for the widow and her son, God used Elijah to sustain life (even after the boy died). Likewise just in the parable about the Talents, God will use us to do “little”, “smaller” miracles before He can use us to do greater things. It is important at this stage not to become enamored with the “little” miracle — remember God has something bigger in store. The greatest miracle of them all is salvation of a lost soul.

4. God will arrange for his miracle (after all it is all for His glory). It is in His time, at His place. He will stack the odds against you (which is why we go through the first two steps). He will wait until you don't think you can go on. He will place you in the enemy's hands (But really God has his enemies right where He wants them). At this point we must fade away and let God take center stage. There can not be any doubt who produced the fire.. With Elijah sacrifice soaking wet, there was no way that Elijah could set it on fire ——> It was undeniably God.

5. Remain simple. Look at Elijah's prayer - uncompromising faith, pure in intentions, and giving God the glory

While it is important as Christians of the last days that we allow God to move through us, we can not desire the move of God more than God himself. *Desire the Giver and not the Gift.* I believe that God can use everyone of us. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If God is the same it is the people who are different. If God can use Elijah — God can use me and you. Amen !!!!

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is so wonderfully illustrated in the New Testament, namely the place of healing in church growth. We see of two villages of Lydda and Sharon where it is recorded in the Book of Acts that all Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord Act 9:35. Two whole villages in a Day! When did it happen ? When Aeneas was healed by Peter. This great ingathering was preceded by a remarkable case of divine healing. What are we Christians to make of all this? Is there something here that we can use ? We Christians believe that God has called us to engage actively in healing the sick, exorcising evil spirits, and multiplying churches.

In summary when believers turn to God and devote themselves to prayer, God pours out the Holy Spirit on His people. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they sometimes experience feelings of great joy and exaltation. Sometimes the chief effect appears to be mind and conscience. The gifts of the Holy Spirit enables then to confess sin, make restitution, break evil habits, lead victorious lives, persuade others of the available power, bring multitudes to Christ, and cause the church to grow mightily

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Psalms 66:18 “ If I had cherished sin in my heart , the Lord would not have listened.” If there is sin that is hindering you, confess it before the Lord with true repentance and He will forgive you and bless you.

**6) WAS IT SOMETHING ELSE?**

If you are willing and honest before the Lord and you long to come back to Him, He will call to remembrance the hindrances in your life, and when He does, make sure you obey His command. In John 2:5 we see that Mary said the same to the servants, “His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.” If you do whatever he commands you to do you will enjoy the fellowship with the Lord. The only life that is glorifying to God, pleasing to others and satisfying to us is the life that is lived in complete obedience to the truth of the Lord Jesus who is the word, truth , way and life.

Remember, the Christian life is a race. In a race, many hindrances can happen, you may fall, get hurt, go through difficult times; but the goal is to overcome the hindrances through Jesus' help and press towards the finish line. Then you will hear the Master say, “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into my rest.

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Coupled with each cry of pain there is a call to obey His voice (His laws and statutes) and to come back to Him.

### **How the Law was fulfilled:**

The law can be likened to a spy or a commando sent over into the enemy territory with a mission to cause chaos, confusion and destruction within the enemy territory. All commandos are sent out as forerunners to the main invasion. After the main force of the army invades and conquers the territory there is no room for a commando operation. If the commando does not pull out but continues with his mission he will cause destruction to his own army. God sent out the law as His commando into a world that was under the rule of Satan and his forces. The law was not the invasion but it was the forerunner to the invasion. As the presence of a commando force in an enemy-occupied territory signifies a soon-coming invasion, the presence of the law pointed to a soon-coming Godly invasion. The invasion came as God's own son; who came into the world, took upon Himself the sins of the world, suffered, was crucified, died and resurrected. He, being called by the prophets as the Messiah or the Savior who came down to deliver His people from their sins (Mt 1:21), by His death and resurrection redeemed and reconciled man to his creator.

Jesus Christ was the culmination of the law. He declared that He did not come to destroy the law or the prophets but came to fulfil them (Mt. 5:17). Jesus accused the Pharisees of searching the scriptures with blind eyes. He asked them how they failed to recognize Him as the Messiah since all scripture testified of Him (Jn. 5:39).

### **Relationship of the Christian to the Mosaic Law:**

After accomplishing its purpose the law was redundant. After graduating from high school one is not under the school master any more.

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## **THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW AND THE CHRISTIANS**

*Rajeev Chandra, St. Louis, Missouri*

### **Introduction**

From the curse and fall of man in Genesis 3, there is a slowly unraveling revelation of God. The revelation was that God was preparing a "seed", a "messiah", who would come and take away the sins of man and reconcile him to God. The Mosaic law was only a part of the revelation. The law did not bring salvation since man cannot approach God or please God with his own actions. Redemption and reconciliation are sovereign acts of God and man is powerless to work out his salvation by keeping the Mosaic laws. "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:23). Mosaic law was not the end: it was only the means to the end. To better comprehend the Mosaic law and its relation to the present-day Christian we have to understand why the law was given, how it was obeyed and fulfilled.

### **Why Law was given:**

Webster's dictionary defines a covenant as "the promises of God as revealed in the Scriptures conditioned in certain terms on the part of man."<sup>1</sup> The law was an integral part of the covenant-relationship between God and Israel. Yahweh declared to the children of Israel that if they adhered to the covenant and obeyed His voice then He would consider them a peculiar treasure above all people of the world (Ex. 19:4) and that He would be an enemy to Israel's enemies and an adversary to Israel's adversaries (Ex 23:22). Yahweh cautioned the children of Israel that He was a jealous God (Ex. 20:5, Ex. 34:14, De. 4:24, De. 5:9, De. 6:15, Jos. 24:19). He wanted to be the sole provider and protector of His people. He did not want to share His glory with any other gods. The first commandment in the Decalogue or 10 commandments demands an undivided loyalty to Yahweh and rejection of all other gods (De. 5:1, Ex. 20:3).

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is the fulfillment. The Old Testament with its law, temple and Levitical priesthood served only as a pattern or shadow of heavenly and greater things to come (Heb. 8:5, 10:1). Jesus Christ and the redemption in Christ are the substance spoken of by the shadow. The first covenant was in the natural whereas the second covenant was spiritual. The passover lamb was the shadow that spoke of a heavenly lamb (Jesus Christ) to be slain. The Levitical priests ministered in the earthly realm whereas Jesus Christ, the high priest ministers in the heavenly realm. The Old Testament contains various promises made by God to man. The New Testament contains the fulfillment of the promises. For example, God’s promise to Abraham that all nations of the earth shall be blessed in him was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament is very relevant to the Christian today. By studying the shadow it is possible to have a better understanding of the substance. The plan and the purpose of God is revealed in the pages of the Old Testament. As the natural is the foundation for the spiritual the Old Testament is the foundation of the New Testament. The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ would be considered as “the death of a god” and hold no meaning to the modern~day Christian if it were not explained as the substance of the passover. Amen !!!.

**News**

**Dallas: North Dallas Church of God is on the Internet.**

**Addr: [www.dhc.net/~yfocus/ndcg.htm](http://www.dhc.net/~yfocus/ndcg.htm).**

**Dallas: 16th Dallas Pentecostal Youth Conference annual competitions will be held on June 21 & 22, 1997. The Youth Camp will be at Camp Compass in Denton on Sept. 12,13 &14.**

**For more information contact:**

Rev. Abraham Thomas	Bro. Freddie George	Bro. S.P. James
Convener	Coordinator	Treasurer
214-319-7868	972-492-5508	972-289-5862

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The law was given so that the children of Israel would not stray away from the Lord their God, till the time of the coming of the Messiah.

Romans 10:4 says “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes.” The Christians are not under the curse of the law since Galatians 3:13 says “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us.” Also none is justified in the eyes of the Lord by the keeping of the law (Gal. 3:11). The Christian is justified by faith in Christ Jesus which works by love (Gal. 5:6).

Even now we find Christians caught up in legalism, making up new laws in areas where there are none. External holiness, dress codes, length of hair, observance of days and times etc. do not bring a person close to God. God wants His children to love Him (Mt.22:37). God wants to commune with His children in the spirit (Jn.4:24) and does not really require of their worship in the flesh (Mt. 15:8). The day of Pentecost ushered in a new era in the life of a Christian. Jeremiah 31:33 says that After those days, I will put my law in their inward and parts and write it in their hearts. The baptism of the Holy Spirit guides believers in to all truth (Jn.16:14), dwells within them (1 Cor 3:16) and keep them from sin (Gal. 5;16). The spirit of God is the inner light who works in the believers to make the law a joy. Thus we find that it is God himself who redeems us (through His Son) and empowers us (through His Spirit) to obey His statues (Zech. 4:6, Jude 1;24).

To summarize, it can be said that we are set free by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and having been set free we can come back in our blood-bought freedom and view the law as a guide to know the heart of God. Though the grace of God abounds in the life of a Christian, he is not above sin and ignorance.

**Relation of the Old Testament to the New Testament**

The New Testament does not do away with the Old Testament but rather

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