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VIDARTHI VELUGU



Running Race

Endurance

Endurance is needed to overcome every challenge and difficulty in our lives. The sentence, “Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” clearly tells us this. This endurance gives us strength and courage. The difficulties and trials we face teach us new experiences and lessons. Therefore, we must be ready to face these difficulties. Endurance is needed to run in a race. Likewise, patience is very important to move forward in our spiritual life. The Greek word ‘Hupomone’ refers to the ability to patiently persevere in difficult circumstances. Just as it is important for students to study patiently in the face of difficulties to prepare for exams, this patience is also needed to succeed in our spiritual race.

In every trial, in every difficulty, we must recognize the power within us, without giving place to discouragement and despair. We must always be optimistic. We must treat every difficulty we face as an opportunity and try to overcome it.

The Lord has the highest ‘patience’ for us and bore the cross in our place and completed the work of ‘salvation’ for us. He understands our difficulties. In times of trouble, problems, temptations, and discouragement, we must look to Him. He will give us victory over all things and make us conquerors.

If our attention is turned to the world and to sin, we will lose in the race. Therefore, let us all encourage one another, leave aside every weight and sin that easily entangles us, and run forward looking to Him. If we move forward with patience and courage, we can overcome every difficulty and achieve victory. May God grant us all such grace and help through the Holy Spirit!

- Rajesh Dasari

VIDARTHI VELUGU

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REQUEST

Dear Vidyarthi Velugu readers,
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We would like you to note the following:

1. For address change, non-receipt of magazine, new subscription, or renewal, please contact the office staff, Brother D. Sai Kumar (79933 97630).
2. Pray and encourage so that Student Velugu has no postal issues and everyone reads and receives spiritual benefit.

Each month, send only two important praise and two prayer points of EU and EGF through the V V Prayer Points link by the 10th. Those interested in writing may send their essays, stories, and poems to editorvv2018@gmail.com.

- Vidyarthi Velugu Editorial Board

Running Race



The Bible compares the Christian life of faith to a race. The Apostle Paul mentioned this thing many times in his letters (1 Cor 9:24-27, Gal 5:7, Phil 2:16, 2 Tim 2:5, 4:7). According to Heb 12:1, this race is set before every believer. God has everyone with a specific purpose. Fulfilling that purpose is the goal of one's life. Just as there is a reward for the winner in a race, similarly in our race of faith, when we fully fulfill the purpose (goal) for which God has called us, we too will receive a reward.

A person who wants to achieve success in a race must focus on three important things: goal, faith and endurance.

1. Goal

Everyone should aim at receiving the reward that comes with a high calling in life. To achieve this goal, we must continue our race to the very end. As Paul said in 2 Tim 4:7-8 at the end of his life, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race...there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness," we should also strive to have a great ending in our life's journey. We must remember that a crown of righteousness is waiting for us.

An athlete in a race must be disciplined in all things (1 Cor 9:25). Similarly, we must practice personal discipline in our life's journey. Spiritual disciplines such as reading the Word daily, praying

and fellowshiping with believers will lead us forward. We need to get rid of unnecessary weights that hold us back. Sin, distractions and time- wasting cell phones slow us down. Therefore, we must be very careful in this matter, steadily moving towards our goal.

2. Faith

Faith is like the foundation of our spiritual life. Our spiritual life begins only through faith in Jesus Christ. That is why the Bible says, “He is the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb12:2). He gives us inspiration, encouragement and strength. Jesus Christ is our example; He endured hardship for the joy that was set before Him. He disregarded the shame and triumphed over death by enduring the cross. He leads us on the path to victory. Therefore, we must place our faith in Him and move forward.

In life, many situations can weaken our faith. Illness, financial troubles, job issues, shame, accusations, bondage and prisons can bring us down. These can stand before us like high mountains, making us feel we cannot overcome them. However, in the Christian life, problems and struggles are unavoidable. We can overcome them only through faith. In Hebrews chapter 11, we read how our ancestors became heroes of faith through their faith.

Among the twelve who went to spy the land of Canaan, ten lost heart when they saw the people there. They caused Israelites to lose courage, saying they were of great stature and strong and the land devours its inhabitants. They were afraid and decided to turn back.

But Caleb and Joshua said with faith, “If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us” (Num 13, 14).

Faith gives us courage and the belief that we will win and achieve. Only those two inherited the promised land. The rest of the millions perished in the wilderness solely due to their lack of faith. Faith is very important in the spiritual life. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. The stronger our faith, the more steadily we can move forward in the race and reach our destination.

3. Endurance

Endurance is very important for running in a race. This is because fatigue, weariness and discouragement can stop us from moving forward. Sometimes, we may feel like saying, “That’s enough, I can’t run anymore.” We might feel satisfied with what we’ve done and want to stop there. We may feel like being inactive and indifferent. The prophet Elijah also faced such discouragement at one time. He thought his work was done. But God is faithful. He has the power to lift us up and keep us standing.

In Phil 3:12-14, Paul says, “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal.” This encouragement came to him from the Lord. Paul took Christ as his example in his life. When Paul says, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ,” we understand that his spiritual life was guided by looking to Jesus Christ. With this awareness, let us also run with endurance in the race that is set before us.

Conclusion

In our life's journey, following Christ and moving forward with faith is most important; He accompanies us, leading us to our destination. Just as we strive to win a race, in our Christian life, we must work even harder to win the race of faith. When difficulties and discouraging situations arise, faith keeps us steady, preventing us

from falling in the race. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Is 40:31). If we move forward with trust in God, we can complete our life's journey joyfully.

- BhanuSree

Sanathnagar, Hyderabad



UESI
TELANGANA

WANTED STAFF FOR UESI-TELANGANA STATE

Requirement: Staff Coordinators - 2 & City Office (Resource Center) Staff - 1

Qualifications for All Staff

1. Born again experience with sound doctrinal convictions.
2. EU background and having definite call for students' ministry.
3. Any secular degree (UG/PG) with computer/English language skills.

Job Description of City Office (Resource Center) Staff

Responsible for the functioning of City Office Supervision and Maintenance

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Reporting Regional Co-ordinator and State Secretary. | 11. Maintain an inward and outward library books movement register. |
| 2. Answer phone calls and direct callers with proper information. | 12. Maintain stock of books for sale. |
| 3. Checking and sorting emails. | 13. Maintain Resource Center inventory assets and movements. |
| 4. Sending and gathering prayer-related information from zones | 14. Help the regional/district committee for meetings, camps, conferences, and combined gatherings. |
| 5. Maintain proper office records. | 15. Maintain the visitors register and venue booking. |
| 6. Assist with works related to the bank, monthly receipts, and dispatching receipts to zones. | 16. Providing support to guests visiting the Resource Center |
| 7. Tally entry of receipts and expenditure | 17. Arranging Logistics for Regional/District/Divisional Programs. |
| 8. Reminders to Zones for upcoming programs and monthly contributions | 18. Perform other related works based on the need by the district. |
| 9. Assist the district treasurer with income & expenditure statements. | 19. Reporting to the state office on a weekly basis. |
| 10. Maintain the office library with a proper register. | |

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Excitement in a Running Race

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, a 25-year-old American athlete known as a hurdler and sprinter and a four-time Olympic gold medalist, won the 400m hurdles at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, breaking her own world record. Sydney expresses her faith as her driving force and openly shares her Christian beliefs in the media. Coming from a family of athletes, she has surpassed them all.

“We all are in a race marked out for us, pressing on to win the victor’s crown,” II Timothy 2:5. Sydney acknowledges the One who gave her talent and the strength to persevere. She shares that her love for the race has made her a champion. “If you love this, if you want to do this, great.”

Dear friend, do you love to run this race with and for Christ? Spiritual heroes of faith and our UESI forefathers, loved and cherished the race. They persevered and when

times got rough and tough, they fixed their eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith and finished well, as stated in Hebrews 12:1.

Qualified to Run

In the race, only the one who is qualified runs and he or she must undergo rigorous training for this. To qualify for the spiritual race, we have simply trusted in the work of Jesus on the cross through the grace and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is a privilege given freely to us to run this race every day.

“I can show up to the track every day and understand that this is a gift He’s given me. It’s an opportunity to glorify Him and my value is already secure in Christ.” - Sydney

Diet and Disciplines

Sydney has followed a strict diet and discipline to win the Olympics. Unless she is temperate, moderate and self-controlled emotionally, mentally,



“

It's always hard preparing for one moment you may or may not get back. In my mind, what kept repeating were the words 'Trust in Jesus.' It never ceases to amaze me how powerful He is to help those who trust in Him overcome the battles within. His promises hold true.

- Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone

physically, socially and spiritually, she could not have succeeded. Similarly, to reach the finish line in our spiritual race, we must take the spiritual diet of spending time soaking ourselves in God's presence. We should be led by the Spirit's voice through constant communication and obedience to Him.

Spiritual disciplines such as reading the Word, prayer, fasting, sanctity, worship, solitude, confession, repentance, giving and witnessing tune us for the race (1 Cor 9:24-27, 1 Tim 4:8).

"Prayer for me is an essential part of every day, just being able to commune with God and just expose what's in my heart to Him and share my thoughts, my feelings and just have that intimate time to sit in His presence. That secret place that me and Him go to and I can just receive and lay everything at His feet, which is what I'm called to do." - Sydney

Coach and Counsellors

A coach guides, disciplines, instructs, warns and corrects, playing a vital role in our development. The

Triune God as our coach, doing all this through His Word (2 Tim 3:16) and He also places mentors (counsellors) in our lives who have been on the track. Through their experiences, they teach, support, pray and help us run this race more effectively and progressively.

Barriers and Battles

As we run this race, many obstacles can block, weaken and discourage us, reducing our stamina. When we face temptations from Satan, the world and the flesh, as well as uncertainties and worries about the future and peer pressure, may we, like Sydney, trust in Jesus alone. He enables us to finish our race victoriously.

"It's always hard preparing for one moment you may or may not get back. In my mind, what kept repeating were the words 'Trust in Jesus.' It never ceases to amaze me how powerful He is to help those who trust in Him overcome the battles within. His promises hold true." - Sydney

Life Lessons to Learn

As we run the race set for us, we learn to persevere, surrender to

God, be humble, forgive, sacrifice, deny ourselves, live with integrity, be empathetic, be faithful, be industrious and be committed. We also learn to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit.

The comfort is that God has set the track. We need only to run with courage, knowing that the One who has called us to run is faithful and will do it (I Thes 5:24). Our finish line is to fulfill the purpose God has set for each one of us.

“But I realized that first and foremost, I’m a child of God. It set me free to run the race God has set out for me to run.” - Sydney

Conclusion

Unlike the athlete who runs to win the prize alone, we run this race together with co-believers, cheering one another on. As children of one Heavenly Father, we may be transformed into His likeness, which is the ultimate finish line. Together, we aim to reach the glorious kingdom that our elder brother, Jesus, has gone ahead to prepare—a city whose architecture and builder is God (Hebrews 11:10, 11:16).

“God takes pleasure in us doing what we were made for. And win, lose or draw, to run the race well is to glorify Him.” - Sydney

May God enable us to say like Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith... to receive the crown of

righteousness... kept for all who have longed for His appearing” (II Tim 4:7-8).

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Recommended Reading

1. “Far Beyond Gold”: Running from Fear to Faith by Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone

- **Suzana, National Staff,**
Udaipur, Rajasthan

Lifelong Learning



(To be continued)

Why We Should Be Lifelong Learners (LLL)

“Yesterday’s meal is not enough to sustain today’s needs. The reality is that if we do not improve our efforts and our achievements each day, our best in yesterday’s past will not meet the demands of tomorrow’s future. The reality is that sometimes our best of today is not good enough to succeed in tomorrow’s world. Lifelong learners spend their lives doing better than their best! This principle of doing better than our best each day applies to demands in both spiritual and secular life.”

LLL in Every Sphere of Life

A Christian should cultivate a habit

of learning in every area of life, like spiritual, intellectual, emotional, personal, and practical growth. Lifelong learning is not only a biblical principle but also an essential way to live a fulfilling life.

Spiritual

Christian education inspires Christians to become lifelong learners and explorers of sacred scriptures, creeds, church and world history, different cultures, ways of praying, Christian traditions, cults, service, leadership, spiritual maturity, relationships, societal trends, and current events, all through the lens of faith.

Steps to learn spiritually

a) Study the Word of God

The center of lifelong learning for

a Christian is knowing God himself in Christ through the written word of the Scriptures - in the hearing, reading, studying, meditating and memorizing of the word. Studying God's word is not a finite course of study for the front end of adulthood. Our mindset shouldn't be to first do our learning and then spend the rest of our lives drawing from that original deposit of knowledge.

"I encourage every student of God's word should develop six habits of mind and heart that describe what we do with God's word and God's world - all of those are Observation, Understanding/Interpretation, Application, Evaluation, and Feeling Expression. In this way, we can read and discuss scripture through devotional, historical, literary and theological lenses."
- John Piper

Diversify Your Sources for Bible Study

- **Bible Study:** Use commentaries, Bible dictionaries and study guides (Ex: NBC, NBD, and "This Morning with God" (prabhutho prabhatham)). Also, Participate in group Bible studies.
- **Theology:** Learn the doctrines of the Christian faith to build a strong foundation. Read recommended books on systematic theology, listen to the sermons of famous godly men and take courses on Christian beliefs.
- **Apologetics:** Equip yourself to defend your faith and engage with others thoughtfully.

b) Prayer

Learn different approaches to prayer, fasting and worship. Explore books and teachings on prayer. You can read the book "Mighty Prevailing Prayer" by Wesley L. Duel.

c) Personal Character and Discipleship

- **Holiness:** Learn holiness as Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount. One way to attain this is by seeking accountability partners (mentor-mentee).
- **Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit:** Learn to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit, which includes love, joy, peace, patience, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23).
- **Servant Leadership:** Learn to lead with humility and a heart of service. Study leadership principles in the Bible and contemporary Christian leadership resources.
- **Ethical Living:** Understand how to apply biblical principles to daily decisions and challenges.
- **Discipline:** A disciple is a disciplined one. Therefore, learn to maintain discipline in time and food habits.

d) Teaching and Preaching

Learn effective ways to communicate the message of Christ. Understand the cultural contexts of those you're ministering to. Learn cultural practices to build bridges of understanding. Additionally, learn about other religions, worldviews and current issues. Many of us are

preaching second-hand messages, meaning we copy sermons from others. First-hand messages are highly appreciated.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones says the preacher is the man to deliver the message from God to the people. He's not there to entertain people. The danger arrives when preaching is replaced by digital versions, print versions, group discussions and therapy sessions that foster opinion.

Dr. Lloyd-Jones explains that preaching is a transaction where the people receive the mind of God through the written word, explained by a faithful preacher. So, give room to the Holy Spirit to teach and prepare a sermon. Dependence on God is very important than relying on Google or ChatGPT.

e) Evangelism

Have a passion for perishing souls. Labor for evangelism. Study evangelism strategies and participate in mission trainings.

f) Relationships

- Learn to maintain cordial relationships with all.
- Grow in understanding others' needs and perspectives.
- Learn how to resolve disputes biblically and lovingly.
- Develop skills for building a Christ-centered home.

2. Secular

Emerging economic, technological, environmental, and social changes signal the need to foster adaptation, creativity and most importantly, learn-

ing that continues throughout life. People can no longer navigate their life course using only the skills and knowledge acquired at school, college, or university.

a) Developments in Digital Technologies

- New technologies, such as automation, artificial intelligence (AI), the internet of things and blockchain, are significantly changing the skills and competencies needed for existing jobs. This is causing routine, low-skilled occupations to disappear.
- The networked nature of modern technology, combined with AI, is also changing our interactions, communications, media, and entertainment in ways that profoundly shape our ways of being.

b) Transformations in the World of Work

In the context of rapid and broad labor market transformation, the workplace is increasingly becoming a learning space. There is a growing demand for advanced skills, creativity, and adaptability in the workplace.

The UNESCO issued a recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (UNESCO, 2021) that highlights the ethical implications of AI for education because living in digitalizing societies requires new educational practices, the need for ethical reflection, critical thinking, responsible design practices and new skills, given the implications for the labor market and employability.

Automation is also affecting the world of work with increasing intensity. While an estimated 3 percent of jobs were at risk of automation in the early 2020s, this could increase to 30 percent by the mid-2030s.

c) Demographic Changes

Globally, people are living longer. According to estimates from the United Nations, the global population of people aged 65 or older numbered 727 million in 2020, and by 2050, older people will outnumber youth. People are working longer, and the retirement age in many countries is being delayed. Among aging populations where individuals remain active in the labor market for longer, there is a growing demand for upskilling and reskilling opportunities.

“Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.” (Prov 22:29). God told us to enhance our skills beyond our ability. Your skills and talents matter to God (Bezalel, Exo 31:1).

By presenting fundamental global changes in technology, employment, demography, climate, health needs, and civic engagement, we can see how these changes affect learning. Lifelong learning (LLL) is highly relevant to present and future challenges and has potential positive effects on all individuals. Skills enhancement can help tackle unemployment and its psychological impacts. So let us grow in the following areas.

1) Professional and Vocational Development

- **Skill Development:** Sharpen your axe by maintaining peak performance to glorify God and serve others. Pursue certifications, workshops and mentorship in your field.
- **Workplace Ethics:** Integrate your faith into your career with integrity and excellence. Study biblical principles on work and attend faith-and-work seminars.
- **Stewardship:** Learn how to manage time, money, and resources effectively as a good steward of God. Take courses on financial planning and time management.
- **Communication Skills:** Improve your communication skills by taking courses or reading and listening to online classes and adapting to new platforms for learning.

2) Intellectual Growth

- **Critical Thinking:** Sharpen your ability to think logically and biblically about complex issues. Read books on philosophy, apologetics and worldview formation. Stay informed about current events and cultural trends to engage with society meaningfully. Follow reliable news sources and analyze them.

3) Science and Technology

- Explore scientific discoveries and Christianity.

4) Creativity

- Develop creativity in your work. Remember that creativity does

not come overnight; it needs more practice.

5) Emotional and Mental Health

- **Self-Awareness:** Grow in understanding your emotions and how they align with your faith and work. Read books on Christian emotional intelligence and attend counseling if needed.
- **Resilience:** Learn to navigate challenges with hope and perseverance. Study biblical examples of endurance (e.g., Job and Paul) and practice spiritual disciplines.
- **Mental Health:** Understand how faith intersects with mental well-being. Make yourself tension-free by depending on God and drawing strength from Him.

6) Physical Health and Well-Being

Body as a Temple: Learn how to take care of your physical health as part of honoring God (1 Cor 6:19-20). Adopt healthy habits like physical exercise, a healthy diet and personal hygiene. Physical exercises can help you prevent or manage age-related ailments.

How to Develop a Habit of Learning

1. **Set Clear Goals:** Define areas you want to grow in and set achievable learning objectives.
2. **Stay Consistent:** Dedicate regular time to reading, studying, or practicing new skills.
3. **Seek Community:** Join study groups, online courses, or workshops to stay motivated.
4. **Pray for Guidance:** Ask God to

direct your learning and use it for His glory.

5. **Apply What You Learn:** Use your knowledge to serve others and glorify God in practical ways.

Learning Methods/Practices

Adapting your learning style to different contexts involves being flexible and tailoring your approach to suit the environment, the material being learned, and your specific goals. Here's how to do it effectively.

1) Use a Mix of Strategies

- **Visual Learning:** Create diagrams, charts, or mind maps for complex ideas.
- **Auditory Learning:** Listen to lectures, discussions, or podcasts, and discuss with peers to reinforce understanding.
- **Reading/Writing:** Take notes, summarize readings, or write essays to deepen comprehension.
- **Kinesthetic Learning:** Apply concepts through real-world tasks, experiments, or simulations.

2) Leverage Technology

Use apps and software tailored for different styles, such as videos for visuals or simulations for kinesthetic learners. Utilize e-books, audiobooks and interactive quizzes depending on the context. Stay open to new approaches.

3) Think-Pair-Share

Think about a question or problem individually, discuss ideas with a partner and then share with the larger group. Adapt for collaborative

learning by allowing time for interactive discussions. Look for credible and diverse sources of information and have feedback loops at the end.

4) Problem-Based Learning (PBL)

Learners solve real-world, open-ended problems to develop critical thinking and teamwork skills. Using critical thinking and developing problem-solving skills are essential for effectively navigating challenges.

- **Define the Problem:** Be specific and precise to present a complex, real-world problem.
- **Analyze the Problem:** Break it down into smaller, manageable parts. Use the '5 Whys' method or similar techniques to explore the root cause. Distinguish fact from opinions and challenge your own reasoning to uncover potential weaknesses.
- **Evaluate Solutions:** Generate ideas, use logic, brainstorm and rely on evidence, not emotions, when drawing solutions. List as many potential solutions as possible without judgment. Evaluate the pros and cons by weighing the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

5) Concept Mapping

Write down key points of a topic and draw connections between concepts using diagrams and maps them to known facts for discussion or further exploration.

Obstacles to Lifelong Learning

Certain obstacles can hinder the process of lifelong learning.

1) Self-Sufficiency

Self-sufficiency is believing you already know enough or that you don't need further learning. Recognize that learning is a lifelong journey because God's wisdom is infinite. Understand that all knowledge ultimately comes from God, and learning is a means to grow in the knowledge of God and to better serve Him. Without learning, people can become stagnant and never flourish to their full potential.

C.S. Lewis - "The day you stop learning is the day you stop growing." So, stay teachable.

2) Time Constraints Due to Religious Commitments

Active involvement in church activities, ministry and other religious commitments can limit the time available for additional learning pursuits.

- **Effective Time Management:** Prioritize tasks and create a realistic schedule that accommodates both religious commitments and learning activities. Time management is not about doing more things; it's about doing the right things. Track how you spend your time; you need to hope for the best but plan for the worst (Luke 14:28-30). The bad news is time flies, but the good news is you are the pilot.
- **Set Realistic Goals:** Define achievable learning objectives

that align with your available time and energy, avoiding overcommitment.

3) Fear of Change or the Unknown

Resistance to learning new things can stem from fear of making mistakes, encountering new perspectives, or stepping out of your comfort zone.

- Feeling spiritually stagnant or indifferent about growth, learning. “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” (Rom 12:11)
- Surround yourself with inspiring Christian mentors or accountability partners.

4) Distractions and Busyness

Being preoccupied with daily responsibilities and giving little time for spiritual learning is a state of spiritual death. It is important to balance worldly knowledge with a deep study of God’s Word and prayer. Align your learning goals with God’s purposes and priorities.

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you” (Matt 6:33).

How to Overcome

- **Prioritize and Schedule:** Allocate specific times for both spiritual activities and learning. Balancing your schedule ensures that neither area is neglected.
- **Catch the Time Killers and Eliminate:** Identify and eliminate procrastination, television, email/ social media, shorts, reels, web surfing, gossip, worry, interrup-

tions, unexpected visitors, phone conversations, mirror/ appearance and fashion.

- **Focus on What Truly Matters:** Make possible efforts to redeem time from time killers.

5) Neglecting the Role of the Holy Spirit

Trying to learn and grow spiritually without relying on the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit can be ineffective.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things.” (John 14:26)

- Regularly pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in your learning.
- Stay open to conviction and direction from the Spirit as you study Scripture or other materials.

All of these elements of lifelong learning have eternal consequences and their rewards are the essence of our mortal goal to obtain spiritual qualities and achievements. The results of our most important lifelong learning are not reflected in grades, degrees or honors but in who we become.

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Laziness

In a certain village, there was a young man named Rakesh. He was very intelligent, but laziness had trapped him. Waking up late every morning and postponing tasks became his habit. He would play during study time and sleep during work time. Because of his laziness, he lost many opportunities. Even as days passed, there was no change in him. He could not convince himself to change his habits. He destroyed his own future. In the end, he had nothing left but regret.

1. What is laziness?

Laziness is being idle, sluggish, having no thought of working, or not wanting to use energy. In a way, laziness is preferring to be empty without doing any work. The main reasons for this are lack of motivation and lack of interest in work.

2. God is the source of work

Our God is always working. He never takes rest. Laziness is the complete opposite of God's nature. God, who is 'Jehovah Jireh,' takes care of

our needs, but He told Adam to work in the garden and to toil for his food even after the fall. This makes it clear that working is a command from God.

3. Laziness in a student's life

In student life, one should actively participate in studies and other activities. One should spend time with God and engage in service, balancing everything. Laziness is not seen in such individuals. Not understanding the reasons for laziness and its consequences is true laziness.

Students are not only falling behind in their studies, but the quality of helping fellow students is also decreasing. When graduates are working in camps or in service, students are watching them but are not coming forward to help. They neglect the responsibility of service as if it is only for graduates. They find it hard to walk a little distance for Bible study or to travel. For some, reading the Bible has become a burden. Jack Poonen said that not reading books written

by godly people gradually leads to spiritual laziness. Nowadays, laziness has increased even more because of smartphones. An idle mind becomes a dwelling place for the devil.

“Laziness among people is increasing. It starts like a slippery path and ends with iron chains.” - Sir Thomas Buxton

For the lazy, praying becomes a mountain too high to climb. “The lazy man does not pray, cannot pray, does not like to pray, because prayer requires strength.” - E.M. Bounds.

Students must take responsibility for their student life, whether it is success or failure. Let us leave laziness behind and learn to work actively. Let us move forward in life using the abilities that God has given us.

4. Laziness - Qualities and Effects

Carelessness, incompetence, negligence, telling lies, spreading useless gossip, seeking comfort, idleness, selfishness, and blaming others - all these are characteristics of laziness. They pull us back and do not allow us to move forward. Let's examine the effects of laziness.

a) Procrastination

Putting off tasks with the thought, “I will do it tomorrow,” is a part of laziness. This becomes a major obstacle for us. By not making decisions on time, we lose opportunities and fail to use resources properly. As Proverbs 20:4 says, “The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.”

This means that if we do not work at the right time, we will not reap the benefits.

b) Neglecting Duties

Ignoring responsibilities leads us to poverty and destruction. As Proverbs 24:33-34 states, “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.” This means that if we remain lazy, poverty will come upon us.

c) Love for Sleep

Sleeping is not wrong, but sleeping too much wastes time and reduces productivity. As Proverbs 6:9-11 says, “How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.” This means that excessive sleep makes us lazy.

d) Making Excuses to Avoid Work

Making various excuses to avoid work is also a part of laziness. As Proverbs 22:13 states, “The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.” This means that they look for some excuse to avoid work. Not wanting to work and being afraid to take a step forward are also signs of laziness.

e) Wasting God-given Talents

Laziness distances us from God. It renders the abilities and talents that God has given us ineffective for prayer, reading the Word, proclaiming the Gospel, and spreading God's

kingdom. The lazy place their responsibilities on others and become a burden to society. As Prov 24:30-31 says, "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down." This means that the lazy do not do their assigned tasks properly. Some think they are not lazy while being busy with useless tasks, but that is not true. Ignoring real work is also laziness.

5.Laziness - Negative Consequences

To achieve success in life, hard work, patience, and determination are very important. However, laziness pulls us back. It hinders our growth. Now, let's talk about the losses that come from being lazy.

a) Poverty

As Proverbs 10:4 says, "He who works with a lazy hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich." If we do not work hard, poverty will chase us. Wealth comes only through hard work.

b) Unmet Needs

In Proverbs 20:4, it says, "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." This means that if we do not work when we have the time, we will have nothing when we need it.

C) Destruction

Laziness can also lead to the de-

struction of our possessions and resources (Proverbs 24:32-34). If we are careless, we will lose what we have.

d) Losing Opportunities

If we do not work at the right time, we will miss many good opportunities. We must always be ready to take advantage of opportunities when they arise.

e) Disgrace and Mockery

Proverbs 12:24 states, "The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor." This means that everyone looks down on the lazy and mocks them. Those who work hard earn respect in society.

6.Laziness - Ways to Overcome

Laziness is a big obstacle in a person's life. Here are some important suggestions to overcome it:

a) Self-Discipline: We should get into the habit of doing our tasks in an orderly manner. This is the first step to overcoming laziness.

b) Accept Guidance: Good words and advice from elders bring light to our lives. As Proverbs 6:23 says, "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life." Therefore, we should accept good advice.

c) Follow a Role Model: Notice how diligently ants do their work. As Proverbs 6:6 says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." We should also take those who work dili-

gently as our role models.

d) Accept Correction: We should be ready to correct our mistakes. This will help us grow. We should set aside pride and see correction as an opportunity.

e) Self-Motivation and Time Management: Jesus Christ worked hard for 30 years. Taking Him as our example, we should also complete our tasks on time. We should set our goals with foresight.

f) Fear of God: We should give spiritual respect to God. As Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Having a fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

g) Depend on God: As Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." We should rely on God's strength in our weakness. The Holy Spirit's help is always with us.

h) Set SMART Goals: We should clearly write down the tasks to be done every day and every week. We should establish a specific routine and complete difficult tasks first.

i) Avoid Distractions: Set aside a time to use things like cell phones. If necessary, completely remove some apps.

J) Discover Interests: We must fight against laziness with our in-

terests in life. To be used by God according to His purpose, we must let go of laziness. If we do not use our talents properly, we will remain slaves to laziness.

7. Conclusion

Laziness is one of the biggest obstacles to growth in life. If we remain lazy, it is impossible to reach our destination. In the Christian perspective, laziness is considered a sin. This is because failing to use the special skills and opportunities that God has given us goes against His will. To overcome laziness, we must first recognize the laziness within us. Then, with God's help, we should try to leave it behind through discipline, determination, and prayer. By consistently doing small tasks every day, we can conquer laziness. When we depend on God, He helps us. With His grace, we can overcome laziness and reach the shores of victory.

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- Dr. K. Samuel Babu, Guntur.



Read Like This Good Marks Are Yours

Studying can be a challenging but rewarding experience. Like building a house, it requires careful planning and consistent effort. This guide provides a structured approach to your studies, combined with a focus on faith and thankfulness. Let's consider an example: Imagine you are preparing for an important exam. You wouldn't just jump into it without a plan, materials, or guidance. In the same way, the right approach to studying is essential. This guide helps you to build that right approach.

Before Starting to Study

1. **Pray for guidance and wisdom:**

Ask God to guide your studying and grant you wisdom (Jam1:5).

2. **Create a study plan:** Set specific goals and deadlines for studying,

and ask God to help you stay focused (Prov16:3).

3. **Gather study materials:** Collect textbooks, notes, and any other relevant study materials (Lk 14:28-30).

Studying Effectively

1. **Seek God's help in understanding:** Ask God to help you understand difficult concepts and retain information.

2. **Use active learning techniques:** Engage with study material through summarizing, self-quizzing, and elaboration.

3. **Practice past exams or quizzes:** Familiarize yourself with exam format and content, and ask God to help you stay calm and focused (Phil 4:6-7).

4. **Review and practice consis-**

tently: Regular review and practice help solidify learning. (2 Tim 2:15).

Managing Time Effectively

1. Ask God to help you prioritize:

Seek God's guidance in prioritizing study material and managing your time.

2. Create a study schedule:

Allocate specific times for studying and breaks, and ask God to help you stay on track.

3. Use time-management techniques:

Employ techniques like:

- **Pomodoro:** This method involves breaking work into focused intervals of 25 minutes, followed by short breaks. Each 25-minute period is called a Pomodoro.
 - **Time Blocking:** This method divides your day into blocks of time, with each block dedicated to a specific task or group of tasks.
 - **The 80/20 rule:** This principle states that about 80% of results come from 20% of your efforts. Focus on areas where you can achieve significant results with less effort (Col 4:5).
- #### 4. Prioritize study material:
- Focus on the most important or challenging topics.

Staying Motivated and Focused

1. Remember God's sovereignty:

Trust that God is in control, even during exams and studying (Rom 8:28).

2. Ask God for strength and endurance:

Seek God's help in staying motivated and focused, even when studying is challenging (Is 40:31).

3. Take breaks and practice self-care:

Regular breaks and self-care help maintain motivation and focus.

4. Create a conducive study environment:

Eliminate distractions and optimize your study space.

Final Preparations

1. Pray for peace and calm:

Ask God to grant you peace and calm on exam day (Phil 4:6-7).

2. Trust in God's goodness:

Remember that God is good, even during challenging exams and studying (Ps 100:5).

3. Give thanks and glory to God:

Thank God for the opportunity to learn and grow, and give Him glory for your accomplishments (1 Cor 10:31).

4. Get enough sleep and maintain a healthy lifestyle:

Adequate sleep and a healthy lifestyle support cognitive function and overall well-being.

Conclusion

It becomes much easier when you start studying with a clear plan. If you

use your time well and study regularly, you can achieve great results. Focusing while studying helps you understand things better. When you begin your studies with faith in God and prayer, success will be yours.

Just as King David planned to build a temple for God, you must also plan

to achieve great success in your studies. By studying hard and reaching high positions in your career, you will be glorifying the Lord.

- Anil Mathangi

**Assistant professor of English
Vaagdevi Engineering College
Warangal.**

* * * * *

**Who is a God like unto thee . . .
he delighteth in mercy.**

- Micah 7:18

SHORT DEVOTIONAL

**He is
Merciful**

Many people want to hear what God says just out of curiosity. They want to analyze and dissect it in their own test tubes. To these people, God may remain the great cosmic silence “out there somewhere.” He communicates to those who are willing to hear and receive Him, and willing to obey Him.

Jesus said that we must become humble as little children, and God has most often revealed Himself to the meek and the humble-to a shepherd boy like David, to a rough desert man like John the Baptist, to shepherds watching their flocks, to

a girl named Mary. How does God speak? How can a blind man see? How can a deaf man hear?

From the beginning God spoke to man. Adam heard the voice of the Lord in the Garden of Eden. Adam had two sons, Cain and Abel, and God spoke to them. Cain spurned that which was revealed to him, but Abel was obedient to the Word of God. Abel's response showed that a man tainted and handicapped by sin could respond to God's overtures. Thus, in the beginning, God began by revelation to build a bridge between Himself and people.

- Billy Graham



Mary Jones

The life story of Mary Jones inspired the founding of the Bible Society. Mary was an ordinary girl from Wales. When Mary Jones was 15 years old, she had a desire to have a Bible. In those days, Bibles were very rare. To buy a Welsh Bible, she walked 26 miles (about 42 kilometers) from her village without shoes.

Her selfless dedication and love for the Bible moved everyone. By the end of the 19th century, Mary Jones gained national recognition, similar to the famous Welsh hymn writer Ann Griffiths (1776–1805). Her story remains a historical event.

Childhood

Mary Jones was born on December 16, 1784, to Jacob and Mary (Molly) Jones in a small village called Llanfihangel-y-Pennant. She was their only child. Shortly after her birth, their family moved to a cottage called Tainy-Waun, which was half a mile away from Llanfihangel.

This house was built of local stone. It was next to a pond for drinking water and other needs. It was very useful for cooking in winter and keeping warm. The town of Aberdaron was 14 miles away from their village. It took four hours to walk there.

Mary's parents were poor and uneducated laborers. Although her father suffered from asthma, he worked hard as a farm laborer. Unfortunately, he died at the age of 30.

Like many homes at that time, Mary's house also had a spinning wheel. Like other children, Mary helped with household chores from a young age.

Revival in Wales

To be precise, a great spiritual awakening had spread in the area a few years before Mary Jones was born. God sent great preachers like Howell Harris, Daniel Rowland and William Williams (the person who wrote the hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Je-

hovah"). They preached the message of God's grace to large crowds.

However, these preachers often faced opposition and hardships from the people. Nevertheless, thousands realized their mistakes and repented. They believed that Christ died on the cross to redeem them and received salvation.

Many of these new believers could not find proper spiritual food in their local parish churches, as they did not find enough divine-related matters there. This eventually led to the formation of a new denomination called the "Welsh Calvinistic Methodists."

The people built many prayer houses to worship God together. In those days, Christians would meet in homes. They shared their experiences of God's grace with one another. They encouraged each other and tried to move forward in the divine way.

Salvation Experience

Mary's mother, Molly, was a member of the Calvinistic Methodist chapel near Aberginolwyn. To hear a message from God's holy word, the Bible, Mary would walk two miles every week with her mother and friends.

When Mary was eight years old, God touched her heart with His grace and made her believe in Christ alone for salvation. She was accepted as a member of the Methodist Society with the assurance of her salvation.

Thomas Charles' Support

In those days, many young people like John Elias and Christmas Evans were called by God to preach the word. Among them was Reverend

Thomas Charles, who studied at Oxford University. They all spent some time in Olney, Buckinghamshire. Here, John Newton (the writer of the hymn "*Amazing Grace*") and other famous preachers who spent time in that town encouraged them.

In 1783, Charles began his long and fruitful ministry in the town of Bala in North Wales. The area was very beautiful with Bala Lake and green hills. The service he did there was great.

Sometimes, nearly two thousand people would come to hear Thomas Charles preach the word of God in Bala. But he did not stop there. With a passion to spread the gospel to people across the country, he traveled to distant areas.

He preached wherever there was an opportunity—in barns, fields, and streets. Sometimes, he preached to crowds of more than twenty thousand people. He often came to preach at the prayer house where Mary Jones attended.

Sunday Schools Establishment

With a strong desire to meet the spiritual and educational needs of the people, Thomas Charles established 'circulating schools' and 'Sunday schools' every Sunday throughout the year. He sent teachers to the villages. They encouraged people of all ages to learn to read and write.

His friends in England helped financially, allowing him to pay the teachers. This way, the schools operated for free. Occasionally, Thomas Charles himself visited the schools to test the children. His great hope was

to give people the chance to read the Bible and understand its message.

Reverend Thomas Charles made students memorize “complete chapters and sometimes entire books” from the Bible. This educational method was so successful that Wales became one of the most literate countries in Europe. Thousands of people gained knowledge by reading the Bible. Many were blessed through these schools.

An Introduction with the Bible

Before her fifth birthday, Mary established a school in Aberdaron. Her teacher was John Ellis. Later, she was happy to have the opportunity to learn from Lewis Williams. Mary made wonderful progress in reading and learning the Welsh Bible. This was a remarkable translation written by Bishop William Morgan. This Bible was published in 1588 and revised in 1620. This translation has quality and accuracy similar to the English Authorized (King James) Version.

As Mary learned to read, her interest and love for God’s word grew. She often thought, “It would be nice to have a Bible of my own!” But that was not possible. However, the local farmer’s wife, Mrs. Evans, would invite Mary to her home whenever she had time to read their family Bible in the parlor. Mary was very happy to walk two miles to take advantage of that opportunity. No matter the weather, she would not miss that chance.

Journey for God’s Word

Mary decided to save three shillings and six pence to buy her own

Bible. In today’s value, that would be about £40.3. While this may not seem like a large amount today, it was a significant sum for a girl living in poverty at the end of the 18th century. Still, she did not feel discouraged. She worked hard to save some money each month. She raised chickens and sold the eggs. She took honey from her beehive and sold it. She also did some sewing. One day, she found a purse and returned it to its owner. She was very happy to receive six pence as a reward for her honesty.

One day, Mr. Charles told her that he was bringing some Bibles from London and that Mary could get them if she came at a specific time. Reverend Charles lived in a large house on High Street in Bala, which was twenty-six miles away. He held prayers in the large room of his house and trained teachers before sending them to towns and villages. There was also a grocery and draper’s shop in that house. Mr. Charles’s wife, Sally, ran the shop with great care. Bala was one of the main business centers in North Wales, where they sold clothes made locally in large quantities.

At that time, Mary Jones was about fifteen years old. She had a strong desire for a Bible. She had saved enough money to buy a Bible. To earn her own Bible, she did not think much about the long journey and the dangers she might face along the way. Nevertheless, Mary began her journey, walking over the mountains of Cadair Idris and crossing lakes to reach her destination.

However, when she arrived there, the Bibles had not yet arrived. Without feeling disappointed, she spent time at the servant's house in the garden until the Bibles came. Finally, her dream came true! After walking over thirty miles, he gave her three Bibles. With more joy and gratitude than she had ever known, she set off for home.

It became clear to Thomas Charles that many people were interested in reading the Bible and that there was a need to publish more Bibles in the Welsh language. He informed his friends in London about this. After many discussions, a new organization called the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed in 1804. William Wilberforce was among the initial supporters. He fought against the slave trade. The main purpose of the society was not only to provide Bibles in the Welsh language but also to make them available to as many people as possible in many language groups around the world.

Mary's Later Life

In 1813, Mary Jones married a lead worker named Thomas. They traveled through mountains, valleys, and dense forests to start their new life in a busy village called Quarte, known for its textile production.

They had five children: Lewis, Mary, Jacob, John, and Ebenezer (Benny). Unfortunately, Lewis died at the age of 18, Mary at nearly 18 months, Jacob at 15 years, and Ebenezer in childhood due to tuberculosis. In those days, tuberculosis was a terrifying dis-

ease that claimed many lives. Among Mary and Thomas's six children, only John reached adulthood. After growing up, he emigrated to America. In 1849, Mary Jones also lost her husband Thomas to tuberculosis.

Mary Brine lived in a small cottage in a place called Crag during the later years of her life. As she gradually became blind, she could no longer read her beloved Bible. During this time, a young woman named Lizzie Rollands from Bala came to work for Mary Brine. After learning about Mary Jones from someone in Bala, Lizzie formed a friendship with her. Lizzie often read the Bible to Mary. In December 1864, Mary Brine completed her journey in this world and went to be with the Lord. She was buried alongside her husband in the same grave.

Conclusion

Today, the Bible is printed in many languages by the Bible Society. Translations are still being done in some languages. Nowadays, the Bible is available to everyone. But how much importance are we giving to meditate on God's word?

Let us wake up before the word is taken from our hands! Let us read God's word and proclaim the good news to everyone. Just as Mary Jones introduced God's word to her children from a young age, let us also introduce God's word to our children.

(The article is written based on the resources taken from the internet)

- Ruth Vinay

JNTUH Zone, Hyderabad



While we live in this world, we meet many kinds of people. Some inspire us, while others teach us lessons. Some individuals in the Bible provide us with valuable messages even today. Let's learn about them.

1. Job (Job 31:1): A person who did not wish to step into impurity even in his innermost thoughts.
2. Joseph (Genesis 37:16): A person who did not allow impurity in his thoughts, even without any commands.
3. David (Psalm 51): A person who did not ignore the sin of transgressing God's command in his life.
4. Solomon (Ecclesiastes 12): A person who, after acquiring extensive wisdom, realized that living in fear of God and following His commands is the best for humanity. He learned life truths experientially.
5. Elisha (1 Kings 2:9): A person who left his oxen and ran after Elijah to receive a double portion of his spirit.

Persons and Personalities

6. Enoch (Genesis 5:22-24): A person who tasted fellowship with God for hundreds of years and did not experience death.
7. Daniel (Daniel 1:8): A person who resolved not to defile himself even in situations where disobedience was possible.
8. Samson (Judges 16): A person who was subdued by sharing his secrets due to weaknesses.
9. Abraham (Genesis 22:1): A person who was tested to offer the most valuable thing he had to God, showing obedience to God and being called the father of the faithful.
10. Jacob (Israel) (Genesis 32:28): A person who wrestled with God and prevailed, gaining a name for himself as a nation on the world map.
11. Noah (Genesis 6:9): A person who walked with God in his generation as a righteous and blameless man.
12. Moses (Numbers 12:3): A person who was testified by God as the most humble among all people on earth, even in a society filled with doubts and fears.
13. John the Baptist (Mark 6:17): A person who warned Herod and the people about sin, revealing the way of the Lord.

**- Triveni Srinivas,
Ramantapur Zone, Hyderabad**



Run... Run

When I thought about sleeping for a while on the weekend, my mother said, “The paste is finished, there is no milk, and the vegetables are also missing.” Remembering that there would be no coffee without milk, I quickly got up and ordered from “Blink It.” When the calling bell rang a little later, I thought the ordered items had arrived and tried to cover myself with the blanket to sleep again.

“Susheela! Here are the milk packets, paste, and vegetables,” my father came in saying.

“Who brought them? Did you go?” my mother asked while taking them.

“This is not our time, Susheela! To go with a bag and bring goods and vegetables. In the time it takes to close and open your eyes, the items will fall in front of the house. That’s what they call ‘Blink It,’” my father answered with a smile.

“Oh! Is that why you said it before I could open my eyes?” my mother thought and went into the kitchen.

I couldn’t sleep after lying down. I didn’t even feel like getting up. I kept listening to my parents’ words. It’s true! This generation is different. If you have money, everything falls in front of your eyes. Once, a person used to compete with time, but now it seems that time is running behind the person. With or without work, everything is available in all times.

Watermelons and mangoes were only available in summer. But now it’s not like that. You can shop without stepping outside. You can buy your favorite clothes. If you don’t like them after buying, you can return them. There are many opportunities for a person to live comfortably without hard work. We have worked hard to raise our children. By God’s grace, if

they live pleasing to God, that's all we need," said my father.

"Yes, what you said is true. It is best to place our children in God's hands. He takes care of everything. If they have a personal relationship with God, what more do we need?" my mother said, referring to me and my sister.

Yes! To succeed in this competitive world, running is essential. Whether you want to excel in studies, earn a good job, or reach a high position, you must compete. If you stop this run, you will be pushed back and trampled. We can do nothing but be crushed under them.

Once, there was a saying from my parents' generation: "Drinking water slowly is better than running to drink milk." But that situation is no longer true. Now, wanting to run and drink milk is the trend. If everything is common, what would be the thrill? Thinking this, I fell asleep... I was riding my favorite bike at high speed after spending a lot of money when a traffic police officer stopped me. While searching my pockets for my license, my mother hit me, saying I should have been in the office by now; it was already nine o'clock. I told her that if the traffic police hadn't stopped me, I would have been in the office long ago. "What? Did you even drive a bike in your dreams?" my mother asked. Oh no! Is all this a dream? It really felt like it, I thought.

"Get up and get ready; I made upma for breakfast. It won't be good if it gets cold," she said. "What? Upma on a holiday?" I shouted in surprise. "What's this, Dad? You

should thank God for this breakfast instead of shouting," my father said. "You bring God into everything, Dad. Mom made upma to ruin it," I said a bit angrily. "But can you do one thing? Stop shouting and order your favorite tiffin from Blink It," my mother said, knowing about Blink It.

"Susheela! There are other apps like Zomato and Swiggy for breakfast. We should learn all these things for our children too. We shouldn't be like old tamarind chutney," he said with a smile. I thanked my mother in my heart for motivating me to get a good breakfast and placed the order.

After finishing eating and drinking, I sat down to read the Bible. For a while, I evaluated myself. A good job, a position, a costly bike, new trends... what am I running for?

Based on all these, I wanted to have some recognition. Why did God save me in the first place? He saved me when I was studying for my intermediate! In this busy life, where am I going? The verse I shared at last month's combined gathering seemed to question me.

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

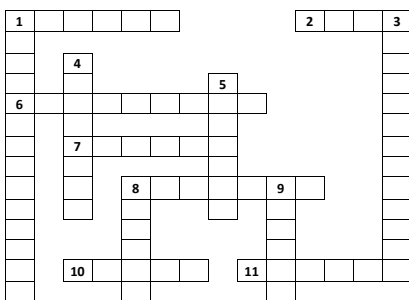
God's word teaches that every believer should have this purpose. Even though I know everything, it has become a habit for me to go off track. "God! Will you help me not to stray from your path and fall into a trap?" I prayed and got ready to read the Bible.

- Chegudi Syamala Krupa Rao,
Teacher and Graduate, AG Zone

February '25 - Haggai(1 -2 Chapters)

Across

- When did God want to bless His people?
- What did the prophet Haggai say to consider?
- During Temple construction, what assurance did God give them?
- How did God see his people in the context of the ruined Temple?
- In what month was God's word spoken to Haggai again?
- In what month was the temple foundation laid?
- How did Zerubbabel, Joshua and the people react to God's word?



- While the Temple lay in ruins, what kind of houses did the people live in?
- In what year did the temple construction begin?
- With what material did God say to build the Temple?

Down

- What were the people saying about the rebuild?
- God said what items were "Mine"?
- When building the Temple, whose hearts did God move?

- B. Vijay, Staff Coordinator,
Wanaparthi

* * * * *

January '25 - Philemon (1 Chapter)

Across: 3. Fathered 7. Gospel 9. Son 10. Servant

Down: 1. Saints 2. Compulsion 4. Lodging 5. Beloved 6.Chains 8.Pleads

Theme Songs Album

The Audio Visual Department has worked hard, spending time and resources, to gather theme songs sung at various conferences and create an album for you.



We truly hope that everyone will listen to these songs and praise our Lord through this album. If anyone has not yet obtained a copy of this album CD, we request you to please purchase it. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the

Executive Committee and all the department members who supported the creation of this album.

- G. Gangarao, Secretary,
A V Department. Cell - 9989951895

A Vessel Of God

Shaping and moulding,
Is the potter with the clay -
That is how God is with us
When we let Him have His way



Let God shape your life
Into a vessel for His use,
So He can fill and send you forth
To a world void of truth

So yield unto the master's hand
As He works within your life,
Making you so lovingly
To reflect the image of Christ.

- M.S.Lowndes



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