

# Campus Connect

Volume VIII - Issue IX - Sep 2025



**GROW IN GODLY CHARACTER**

In this world, many people boast about their looks, talents, status, and wealth. Their speeches on stage, social media posts, and success stories look amazing. But where does a person's true value lie? It lies in a deeper place where there's no room for pretense—in their character.

Just as a mountain needs a deep foundation to support its height, our lives depend on how much we grow in character. The Bible clearly teaches, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold" (Proverbs 22:1). More than our spiritual gifts or ministry successes, God looks at our character and inner nature. Just as a foundation is crucial for a building, character is crucial for a Christian life. God looks at our heart, not our outward appearance.

Simon Peter, one of Jesus's disciples, was initially very outspoken and impulsive. He was the one who dared to walk on water and boldly declared, "Even if everyone else abandons you, I never will." But when Jesus was arrested, Peter denied knowing him three times. This was a test of his character, and his internal weaknesses of fear and deceit were exposed. The incident deeply disturbed him.

But God's grace is amazing! After his resurrection, Jesus forgave Peter and lovingly restored him. The same Jesus who said, "Come, follow me," (Matthew 4:19) also gave him back his responsibility by saying, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17). This forgiveness and restoration brought a great change in Peter's life. On the day of Pentecost, that same Peter stood filled with the Holy Spirit and preached the gospel to thousands. His words moved people's hearts, and thousands were saved. Where did that courage, steadfastness, and faith come from? It wasn't just bravery—it was character that had matured in his experience with Christ. He went from being impulsive to a stable and faithful apostle.

We all want to grow spiritually and mentally. But true growth is in character. The Holy Spirit develops the "fruit of the Spirit" in us, which reflects the likeness of Christ. These are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These are the characteristics of Christ's nature that appear in our inner being. We should constantly examine ourselves to see if these characteristics are in us.

We need to examine the character hidden behind our ministries and gifts. Do our words, our actions, and our inner thoughts bring glory to Christ? Or do we follow the ways of the world, appearing one way on the outside and another on the inside? Like Peter, we too should rely on God's grace and strive for continuous growth in our character. We should consider every trial and hardship in our lives as an opportunity given by God to improve our character.

In the end, when we answer to God, he will look at our hearts and our character, not our service. Our ultimate goal is to be like Christ. Let us be continually transformed by the Holy Spirit into his image and stand as living witnesses who reflect the nature of Christ to the world. Only then will our lives bring glory to God and be a blessing to many.

**- K. John Bhushanam**

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## CONTACT DETAILS

The Editor, Campus Connect

UESI Publication Trust - Telangana Branch

H. No: 6 - 68/36, Jangampet Village,

Jinnaram Mandal, Sangareddy District, Pin-502319

Ph: 9491595765

Email: [editorvv2018@gmail.com](mailto:editorvv2018@gmail.com)

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## REQUEST

Dear Vidyarthi Velugu and Campus Connect 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 Vidyarthi 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 VV Prayer Points link by the 10th. Those interested in writing may send their essays, stories, and poems to [editorvv2018@gmail.com](mailto:editorvv2018@gmail.com).

- Editorial Board





## Grow in Character (Patience is its pillar)

Human life is strange. When things are going well, our morality and beliefs seem great. But when a small problem or an unexpected difficulty comes, our true nature, or character, is revealed. We all face this experience at some point. True character isn't seen when things are calm, but when we face hardships.

So how can we improve our character? There is only one way: by developing patience. By practicing patience, our character becomes stronger. We gain the strength to handle any hardship. Therefore,

true victory is not running away from problems, but facing them bravely and increasing our patience.

### **Patience: A Vital Virtue**

Patience is a vital virtue in the Bible, representing not just a waiting period but a profound spiritual quality. Understanding its biblical meaning can illuminate its significance in our lives and deepen our faith. Patience is not passive; it is an active expression of faith. In the Christian context, patience is the capacity to accept delay, suffering, or hardship without frustration or complaint. It reflects

a heart that trusts God's timing and sovereignty, even when circumstances are challenging or unclear. Developing patience is not only a virtue but also a spiritual discipline that draws us closer to God and transforms how we interact with others.

### **Patience in the Christian Faith**

In Scripture, patience is consistently upheld as a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), indicating it is not merely a personality trait but a spiritual gift that can grow within us. It is essential for anyone seeking to live a Christ-centered life. Patience reflects humility, self-control, and a deep reliance on God rather than on our own strength or understanding. Through it, we mirror the character of Christ, who endured suffering with grace and love.

### **Biblical Examples of Patience**

The Bible offers powerful examples of individuals who demonstrated remarkable patience, especially in the face of trials:

- **Job:** Perhaps the most well-known biblical figure associated with patience, Job lost everything—his wealth, health, and children—yet remained faithful to God. His story reminds us that patience is not the absence of suffering

but the steadfastness of faith amidst it. Job's endurance was ultimately rewarded, and his story encourages believers to trust that God's justice and restoration will come in due time (James 5:11).

- **Joseph:** Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and wrongfully imprisoned, Joseph spent years in difficult circumstances. Yet, he remained faithful and patient, eventually rising to a position of great power in Egypt. Joseph's story illustrates how patience, coupled with faithfulness, can turn even the most painful seasons into testimonies of God's providence (Gen 37–50).

These stories underscore a vital truth: patience is often developed through adversity and is rewarded in God's perfect timing.

### **Patience in Everyday Life**

Patience is not just for extraordinary biblical heroes—it is essential for our daily lives. Whether it's dealing with difficult coworkers, raising children, facing financial struggles, or waiting for a prayer to be answered, patience allows us to maintain peace and act with grace. When we respond with patience instead of irritation, we make

space for compassion, understanding, and the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.

In relationships, patience helps us forgive and extend grace. It enables us to listen more than we speak and to prioritize reconciliation over being right. In trials, patience steadies our hearts, helping us endure without becoming bitter or hopeless.

Patience does not develop overnight. God's power and goodness are crucial to its development. Colossians 1:11 tells us that we are strengthened by Him to "great endurance and patience," while James 1:3-4 encourages us that trials are His way of perfecting our patience. Our patience is further developed and strengthened by resting in God's perfect will and timing, even in the face of evil men who "succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes" (Ps 37:7). Our patience is rewarded in the end "because the Lord's coming is near" (James 5:7-8). "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him" (Lam 3:25).

### **Trusting God's Timing**

Patience is deeply connected to trusting God's timing. We live in a world that values instant results,

but God often works slowly and purposefully. His timing rarely aligns with our expectations, yet it is always perfect.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time." Waiting patiently doesn't mean doing nothing; it means faithfully doing what we can while trusting God with what we can't. It's believing that delays are not denials, and that God is always at work behind the scenes, orchestrating what is best for us—even when we can't see it.

### **How do we display the patience that is characteristic of Christ?**

- First, we thank God. Our first reaction is usually "Why me?", but the Bible says to rejoice in God's will (Phil 4:4, 1 Pet 1:6).
- Second, we seek His purposes. Sometimes God puts us in difficult situations so that we can be a witness. Other times, He might allow a trial for sanctification of character. Remembering that His purpose is for our growth and His glory will help us in the trial.
- Third, we remember His promises such as Romans 8:28, which tells us that "all things God works for the good of those who love him,

who have been called according to his purpose.” The “all things” include the things that try our patience.

### Practical Tips for Developing Patience

- 1. Pray for it:** Ask God to help you grow in patience. Be honest about your struggles and invite the Holy Spirit to work in your heart.
- 2. Reflect on Scripture:** Meditate on verses that speak about waiting, endurance, and God’s faithfulness (e.g., Romans 8:25, Isaiah 40:31, James 5:11).
- 3. Practice gratitude:** Focusing on what you have, rather than what you lack, nurtures a patient and content heart.
- 4. Slow down:** In a fast-paced world, intentionally slowing your pace—whether in speech, action, or decision-making—can help cultivate patience.
- 5. Reframe challenges:** View waiting and difficulties as opportunities to grow in character and deepen your trust in God.
- 6. Surround yourself with examples:** Seek out mentors or friends who demonstrate patience. Their example can inspire and guide you.

### Conclusion

The biblical meaning of patience is rich with significance, symbolizing endurance, trust, and spiritual growth. It is not an easy virtue to develop, but it is a transformative one. Patience softens our hearts, strengthens our faith, and prepares us to receive God’s best. Through patience, we learn to walk in step with God’s timing, to trust His wisdom, and to love others more deeply. As we seek to grow in patience, we not only reflect Christ more clearly but also experience greater peace, purpose, and joy in our journey of faith.

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- Dr. Rikka Sudarshan

Graduate, Vanastalipuram, Hyderabad

# Pursuing Purity

As per Webster's Dictionary, "purity" primarily refers to the state or quality of being pure, meaning free from impurities or foreign matter, and the freedom from guilt or sin. The Greek word for "pure" is hagnos, and from the same root, the word hagios, meaning "holy," is derived. This adjective describes a person or thing as clean, pure, or undefiled. So, in this article, we will consider holiness in the context of purity.

Matthew 5:8 states, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

By birth, all are sinful in nature, as David makes clear in Psalm 51:5: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." Yet, believers are called to live a pure and separated life (1 Timothy 4:12). Therefore, pursuing purity should be the heartbeat of every Christian on their journey of faith.

## Why Purity?

The Bible gives us a few clear reasons why we should pursue holiness. Let's look at them one by one.

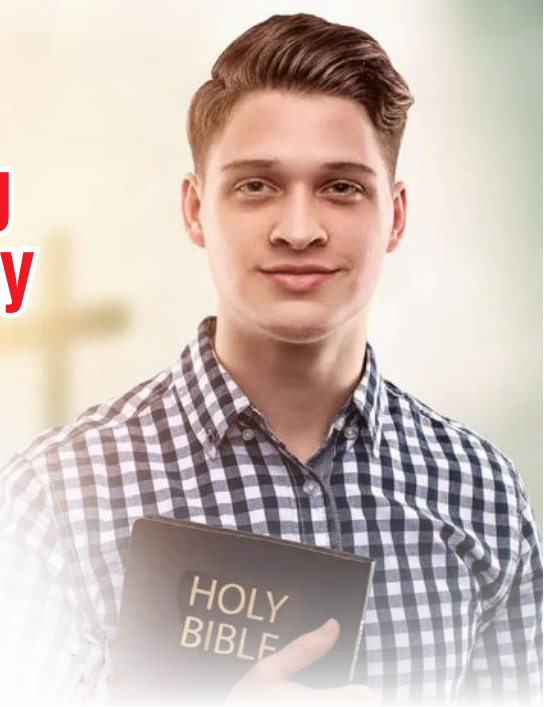
### 1. We are His possession

We need to be pure because we were bought by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and that fact

makes us His possession. "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine" (Leviticus 20:26).

### 2. To have access into the presence of the Lord

One must have a pure heart and clean hands to stand in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 24:3-4). That is why the wisest king, Solomon, advised us in Proverbs 4:23: "To keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." Unfortunately, he couldn't practice it in his own life. Being diligent means being steady and focused, and it is a painstaking process. If we are not vigilant, there is always a chance to slip because our enemy, the devil, is walking around like a roaring lion to devour us.





### 3. To bring glory to God

We all know the story of Joseph. He resolutely decided not to defile himself by yielding to the seduction of Potiphar's wife. He didn't want to commit that "great wicked thing and sin against his God." He could have easily compromised his purity and gained many favors, but instead, he ended up in prison. Ultimately, he was rewarded by God.

### Factors That Work Against Our Pursuit of Purity

Three key factors work against our pursuit of purity or living a holy life:

1. The World (1 John 2:15-17)
2. The Flesh (Romans 8:5-8)
3. The Devil (1 Peter 5:8)

Let us look at the first two in a little more detail.

#### The World

The present world is fast-paced with mind-boggling technological advances and a number of avenues to trap believers in its net. The biggest menace is the internet. There is no age barrier; everyone is being subtly enslaved by the internet. The modern world is characterized as VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity). As Christians who are grounded in Jesus, we are called to live as the salt of the earth and the light of the world to make a difference. There is always a danger of being carried away by the desires of the world and

drifting away from our faith. The classic example is the case of Demas, as seen in 2 Timothy 4:10.

Worldliness is a greatest hindrance to the saint. The world is opposed to the Father, as the flesh opposes the Spirit and the devil opposes Christ.

- D.N. Darby

#### The Flesh

Flesh is nothing but the self. Our self is our greatest enemy. We are all familiar with the seven deadly sins that are often discussed in Christian circles:

1. Lust 2. Greed 3. Slothfulness 4. Wrath 5. Envy 6. Gluttony 7. Pride

It is interesting to note that out of the seven, five are more to do with the internal self, and only slothfulness and gluttony are external and physical. If we consider lust, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are the areas where Christians are prone to go astray. Sexual purity, in particular, is one area where utmost caution must be exercised. The Bible exhorts us that our bodies are the temple of the living God. Each believer is obligated to control his or her own body in a way that is holy and honorable (1 Thessalonians 4:4).

#### Conclusion

As C.S. Lewis says, "It is safe to tell that pure in heart that they shall see God, for only the pure in heart want to." Each of us must question ourselves: "How is my heart? Is it pure?"

By any stretch of the imagination, we can never make ourselves pure by our own willpower. We need to surrender our will every day and seek God's help. We must make sure we are in good fellowship and have a

senior accountability partner to help us.

May God help us in our pursuit.

- **D.J. Vinay Paul**, JNTU EGF, Cyberabad. He worked as Development Professional in Christian Aid Agencies.

\* \* \* \* \*



**UESI**  
TELANGANA

## WANTED STAFF FOR UESI-TELANGANA STATE

Requirement: Staff for Graduates' ministry -1, Field Staff -1, Accountant -1, Office Staff – 1

Qualifications for All Staff

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

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Staff for Graduates' ministry Job Description

- Preferably EU background and having a definite call for graduates' ministry.
- Focus on building the lives of young graduates and encouraging families to take initiative in the ministry
- The staff should be located at the base for field ministry and travel across the state to represent graduates' programs at the state and national level.
- Other related assignments and works

2. Field Staff Job Description

- Preferably EU background and having a definite call for students' ministry.
- Focus on building the lives of students and encouraging students to take initiative in the ministry
- The staff should be located at the base for field ministry and travel across the state to represent students' programs at the state and national level.
- Other related assignments and works

3. Accountant Job Description

- Tally entries for sales/cash/purchases and bank transactions.
- Good communication skills with written and spoken English
- Good knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite (Word, PowerPoint, Excel).
- Aging and linking of all party, employee, and expense ledgers.
- Should have knowledge of data entry in ERP Tally 9.0 day to day accounting and bookkeeping, filing of GST and Maintaining books of accounts, balance sheets, financial statements, Liaisoning with Chartered Accountants, etc
- Coordination with external and internal auditors.
- Other related assignments and works

Qualification

- UG: B.Com in any specialization
- PG: M.Com in any specialization (preferable)

Experience

- B. Com graduate with a minimum of 1-2 years' experience.

4. Office Staff Job Description

- Assist the State Secretary with the day-to-day operations of the office.
- Creating, updating, and maintaining records and databases.
- Prepare reports and presentations, as assigned.
- Updating policies and procedures as required.
- Other related assignments and works



Required Skills for Office Staff

- Good knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite (Word, PowerPoint and Excel)
- Good communication skills with written and spoken English

Please Note

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2. Those who applied earlier need to apply freshly
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4. Please apply before **September 15, 2025**.

- **Rajesh Dasari**, State Secretary, UESI-TG



# ***Mind Over Matter***

**T**he power of the mind in human life is immense. From the goals we want to achieve to the difficulties we face, our way of thinking plays a key role. The phrase "mind over matter" is familiar to many. In this article, let's see in detail what "mind over matter" means, what its limitations are, what the Bible says about it, and why the concept of "spirit over mind" is even more important in a Christian's life.

## **What is mind over matter?**

According to the McGraw-Hill Dictionary, mind over matter is the ability to overcome physical circumstances and problems through mental power (thought, reasoning, and willpower).

Mind over matter means that you can achieve anything you set your mind to, or it's a way of saying "positive thinking."

There are many examples of this. For instance, we hear about athletes

winning even when they are physically exhausted because of their mental strength. Monks who fast for long periods of time and soldiers who fight despite their injuries are all examples of "mind over matter."

However, this positive thinking has a limit. There's a boundary to human power and the mind's ability. For example, no matter how strongly a person believes they can fly like a bird without any help, it's impossible. This is because we can't change the law of gravity.

The idea of "mind over matter" is in many old cultures. Greek philosophy says the mind controls the body, and Indian yoga believes you can control the body by controlling your mind. In China, they think breathing exercises improve health. Jewish and Christian teachings say thoughts can have an effect. Modern science has shown

with the "placebo effect" that belief can influence the body's immune system. So, this idea has been a part of different cultures and beliefs, both spiritual and scientific, for a long time.

Mental courage and persistence are necessary in many fields like education, employment, sports, and research. However, from a biblical perspective, 'mind over matter' isn't just about mental strength. It has a deeper, more profound, and eternal meaning. It's not just about a person's own willpower, but about our inner life being transformed by the Spirit of God. Its main purpose is for the Spirit of God to renew our thoughts, which then positively impacts our entire life, rather than our mind simply controlling our body.

### **Mind – It's Impact**

Even though the mind is very powerful, Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" This is why some people's lives are stuck in a whirlpool of problems, no matter how many motivational teachings, books, or speeches they listen to.

According to the Bible, the mind is a spiritual battlefield. It's where God reveals his will, while at the same time, Satan tries to tempt people. So, there's a serious conflict between sin and holiness, truth and lies, faith and unbelief. That's why the mind is given the highest importance in the Christian way of life.

The mind is the birthplace of all good and bad thoughts. Our thoughts are the source of our actions, which then become habits that eventually shape our character. Because of this truth, the mind must be renewed through God's Word (Romans 12:2). Every thought must be brought into obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). The mind also plays a key role in loving God (Matthew 22:37). "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you" (Isaiah 26:3).

According to Joshua 1:8, our minds are renewed when we constantly meditate on God's Word. This focuses our attention away from worldly things and onto values like truth, love, and grace. David became righteous by meditating on God's Word, while Achan brought destruction upon himself due to his evil thoughts. Therefore, as Christians, it's essential to always fill our minds with God's Word so we can have the mind of Christ.

Prayer calms our minds by bringing our thoughts before God. It reduces anxiety, fear, and worldly worries, as revealed in Philippians 4:6-7, where prayer brings peace to our minds. It helps align our thoughts with God's will and guides us on a holy path.

A Christ-centered mind isn't formed in a day. It's an ongoing process of renewal. Prayer, meditation on the Word, and the influence of the Holy Spirit are all part of God's work to shape us into Christ's image.



## Mind over matter in Bible events?

Some people apply the concept of "mind over matter" to miracles in the Bible, but they are actually the result of divine power. For example, in Matthew chapter 14, Peter walked on water at Jesus's command. This was possible not because of his "mind over matter" (mental power), but only by the power given by Jesus. When fear overcame him, Peter began to sink, and Jesus saved him. This event is not a testament to "mind over matter"; it shows what happens when faith in the Lord wavers.

In Acts chapter 3, Peter, through faith in Jesus' name, made a lame man rise up and walk. This miracle wasn't because of the man's mental strength but because of faith in Jesus.

The Bible clearly says that the miracles weren't due to 'mind power' or human willpower. Instead, they were driven by God's power and faith in Him.

## Spirit over mind in daily life

Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and empower your mind instead of relying on your own goals and abilities is what "Spirit over mind" means. When your thoughts, desires, and decisions are under the control of the Holy Spirit, your spiritual life is renewed.

Mind focused on the flesh is death, but mind focused on the Spirit is life and peace (Romans 8:6). When the Holy Spirit changes our minds and way of thinking, our way of life also changes (Ephesians 4:23).

This change is seen in all areas

of our lives: education, family relationships, marriage, our roles as parents, careers, other relationships, and service. For example, instead of anger, we grow in kindness; instead of fear, we have faith; and instead of worry, we have peace.

In tough times, we don't give in to our emotions. Instead, we stand firm on God's promises. Even when facing uncertainty and problems, our thoughts are always focused on God's nature and His word.

## Adopt a "spirit over mind" perspective and practice it

- 1. Daily Meditation:** Spend time every day meditating on God's word and focusing your thoughts on His teachings.
- 2. Prayer-filled Decisions:** Before making a major decision, ask God, 'Lord, what is your will in this matter?'
- 3. Respond with Faith:** When you feel fear or anger, don't react immediately. Instead, remember God's promises.
- 4. Fellowship with Believers:** Spend time with other believers and seek advice and guidance from spiritual leaders.
- 5. Cultivate Gratitude:** Develop the habit of thanking God for all the good things that happen in your daily life.

## Jesus is a great example of spirit over mind

Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of the spirit's influence on thoughts.

When he fasted for forty days in the wilderness, he overcame Satan's temptations with the Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11). In the Garden of Gethsemane, he prioritized divine will over his personal desires by praying, "Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Even as he hung on the cross, we see his mind was miraculously one with the spirit of God.

## Conclusion

Because of the first sin, the human mind became darkened. Our thoughts without God are chaotic and incomplete. Positive thinking or self-help motivation alone cannot completely change the mind. Only the Holy Spirit can truly renew our minds.

Even though the concept of 'mind over matter' can give some inspiration, a Christian's true strength isn't there.

Our power isn't in a limited human mind, but in the unlimited and mighty Christ. The mind's true potential is only unlocked when it's fully surrendered to God.

When our mind submits to Christ, the troubles, fears, and temptations of life can't overcome us. A mind led by the Holy Spirit is the foundation of a Christian's victorious life.

## Questions to Ponder

1. What three things are most influencing my thoughts?
2. What's the difference between "spirit over mind" and "mind over matter"?
3. When I make daily decisions, am I relying on my own ability or on God's power?

- Dr. B. Yerranna, Hyderabad.

He works at Bharat Biotech.

\* \* \* \* \*

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State Level

# Graduates Training Program

## 2025

7- 9 Nov

Course

- ☑ Vision & Aims of NEGF
- ☑ Graduates' Role in UESI ministry
- ☑ Role of EGF in girls ministry
- ☑ Student to Graduate Transition
- ☑ Creative Bible Studies
- ☑ Team Work & Relationships
- ☑ Job Ethics, Culture & Challenges
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- ☑ Graduates in Career
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Participants

- ☑ Outgoing Students(UG & PG)
- ☑ Outgone Students
- ☑ Single Graduates
- ☑ Graduate Families (1-10 years married)
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- ☑ Family. Rs.1500
- ☑ Singles. Rs.1000
- ☑ Unemployed Grads & Students : Rs. 500

**Venue** UESI-TG Study Center

**Theme** Faithful Before God, Faultless Before Men. Dan 6:4-5

## Hearts & Hands

(Contributing to the Cause)

"BE STRONG AND DO THE WORK" - 1 CHRONICLES 28:10

We humbly come before you with a special request for prayer. As we set out on a significant mission to expand and improve our facilities, we are reminded of the Lord's call to be strong and faithful in our work.

We ask for your fervent prayers for these specific projects:

- **Second Floor Hall:** Costing an estimated Rs. 91 lakhs, this project covers a plinth area of 5,327 sq. ft. and a slab area of 7,300 sq. ft.
- **Caretaker's Quarter:** Estimated cost is Rs. 6 lakhs.
- **Internal Roads:** Estimated cost is Rs.11 lakhs.
- **Water Recycling Plant:** Estimated cost is Rs. 2 lakhs.
- **Beautification:** Estimated cost is Rs. 3 lakhs.
- **Maheswaram Finishing:** This includes internal and external plastering, doors, windows, and the compound wall, with an estimated cost of Rs.12 lakhs.

The total estimated cost for all projects is **Rs.1.25 Crores.**

We are aiming to complete the second floor hall within one year. Pray for wisdom, skilled labor, and divine provision to see this vision through.

- G. Varaprasad, Property Secretary, UESI-TG



# True faith is more than religion

**R**eligion is an important part of human life, shaping beliefs, traditions, and cultures around the world. Yet, while religion provides structure, rules, and traditions, it can sometimes become distant from a real, personal connection with God. Many people follow religious practices simply because of family or cultural influence, without truly experiencing faith in a deep and life-changing way.

This writing explores how faith should be more than just rituals and rules - it should be a living relationship

with God. Different religions have different ideas about God, worship, and morality, but true faith goes beyond traditions. It is about love, grace, and personal transformation. Unfortunately, religion can sometimes create division, fear, and control, rather than freedom and truth.

True faith is not blind belief but is built on reason, wisdom, and genuine experience. It is not about earning God's love through rigid obedience but accepting His grace and living in relationship with Him. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ brings

peace, purpose, and real change—not based on fear, but on love.

Through this study, we will examine the difference between religion and true faith, the power of a relationship with God, and how knowing Him personally transforms lives. The goal is not just information, but a deeper experience of real faith—beyond rituals—into a life-changing connection with the living God.

### **I) Religion: Different Opinions**

"Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair." - G.K. Chesterton

In Hinduism, religion is defined as "dharma," which includes ritual worship, belief, cosmic law, moral order, duty, and the universal order governing all beings. It encompasses moral principles, righteous deeds, spiritual works, and ways to self-realization. In this religion, there is not just belief in God or deities but also a complete way of life that includes responsibilities, spiritual practices, reverence, and perfect respect for all living beings and the universe.

In Islam, religion is a complete way of life authorized and advised by Allah for all humanity. It includes belief, worship, laws, and social conduct based on godly guidance.

In Buddhism, religion is a practical way of ethics, mental and spiritual discipline, conduct, and knowledge that leads to the end of suffering (dukkha) and the realization of ultimate truth (nirvana).

"My religion is simple; my religion is kindness." - Dalai Lama.

### **II) Limitations of Religion**

Religion can lead to psychological distress, blind attachment to doctrines, no place for critical thinking, restrictions on freedom, corruption, exploitation, guilt, holy wars, blind faith, imagination, and myth. The core concepts can be based on the idea, "If I obey, therefore I am accepted," with motivation rooted in fear and insecurity. If I obey God to get things from Him, and things go wrong, it might lead me to believe I disobeyed and to be angry with God. Critical thinking is often viewed as bad because it is considered to be against



God's perspective. For many, reason is not valid because reason and faith are seen as conflicting with each other in their religious views.

1. Religious intolerance can result in discrimination and persecution. It can lead to violence, social anxieties, tensions, and war. It is very difficult to engage in dialogues and arguments to discuss different faiths.
2. Religious societies can impose restrictions on personal career paths, dress, relationships, friendships, choices, and individual freedom. Some demand complete obedience to their unreasoned practices and authority. Therefore, individuals may lose independent thinking and critical inquiry.
3. Leaders can use their power for personal gain, financially and politically. This can lead to corruption, fraud, and abuse, damaging the moral authority of religion.
4. Few religious teachings promote sin, punishment, fear of God's

wrath, human sacrifices, and killing people in the name of a holy war, nation, or patriotism. This can lead to guilt, anxiety, depression, and discouragement, creating a possibility of unhealthy relationships within oneself and with others.

5. Sometimes religious ideas can conflict with scientific knowledge, critical thinking, and reasoning. They may promote blind faith instead of the deep pursuit of scientific knowledge. Religious interpretations may often reject scientific advancements and progress.
6. Different religions have different opinions about the existence of God, humanity, and the universe. This can lead to conflicting opinions and divisions in society.

### **III) Faith with Reason**

Many people think that faith in religion is just a blind belief system that has been practiced for many years. However, religious faith is not based on blind faith and rituals but must be



## Faith with reason emphasizes the importance of logical and rational arguments to defend religious beliefs in every aspect.

grounded in intellectual wisdom and knowledge. In this context, faith is not blind but is rationally based on reason and evidence. Faith is not based solely on logic but is intellectually defensible and should not contradict facts and sound reasoning. Faith with reason acknowledges that trust and belief systems exist beyond empirical proof but still require reasons and evidence to understand the truth. Reasonable faith must be supported by logical, philosophical, historical, and archaeological evidence. It proposes that faith and reason are not mutually exclusive but can work together.

Faith must be supported by evidence rather than blind acceptance. Faith with reason emphasizes the importance of logical and rational arguments to defend religious beliefs in every aspect. It must involve engaging with arguments, defending one's beliefs, and considering potential objections.

**a) Religion:** Truth-Based The term religion comes from both French and

Anglo roots, meaning respect for highly respected gods, a sense of right, moral obligation, sacredness, reverence, and ethical strength. It is derived from the Latin word *religio*. According to the Roman philosopher Cicero, *religiō* comes from *relegere*: *re* (meaning "again") + *lego* (meaning "read," in the sense of "go over," "choose," or "consider carefully"). It means to reconnect, re-communicate, reunite, and return to God.

St. Augustine defined religion primarily as the "binding" or "re-binding" of humans to God. He explained it as a relationship where humans are drawn to God through communication, reverence, respect, love, faith, and a turning of their will. This "binding" involved both a recognition of God's transcendence and an internal transformation of the self. Augustine emphasized the importance of the inner life and mind in religious experience. He believed that true religion involved a turning of the

mind toward God and a pursuit of truth through faith and love. He understood faith as "thinking with assent," but also as a relationship built on love and a purification of the heart from pride. His concept of religion extended beyond mere ritual, seeing it as a dynamic relationship between the human soul and God. He also linked religion to the human search for truth and meaning, believing it provides a framework for understanding the purpose of life and the nature of reality. Reconciliation is through Christ only (Romans 5:1-11).

### **b) From Religion to Relationship**

The shift from religion to a relationship with Lord Jesus Christ is central to Christianity. It is about knowing and fulfilling God's will and growing in a relationship with Jesus Christ, rather than performing simple tasks or rituals. This concept focuses on loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, which transforms our lives. The idea of religion is based on outward actions, rituals, and adherence to rules, while this new understanding highlights the importance of internal transformation and a personal relationship with Jesus

Christ. It encourages believers to move beyond a religion of rules to a relationship where they actively seek God's guidance. The relationship with Christ is about recognizing internal changes rather than external duties. A true spiritual relationship with God is a personal experience, shared personally between humans. This sense of His presence has been experienced by the majority of humans and is not confined to a single religion. "Abide in me and I in you..." (John 15:4-5).

### **c) Who Is a Christian?**

A Christian is a person who follows Christ as their master in all things and follows Christianity, a monotheistic Abrahamic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Christianity is centered on the life and teachings of Jesus, in whom Christians believe, along with God and the Holy Spirit. It is based on the Bible, particularly the Old and New Testaments, and emphasizes belief in one God, the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit), and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ only.

#### **IV) Difference Between Religion and a Personal Relationship with Christ**

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." - Martin Luther King Jr.

##### **• Religion is based on**

"If I obey, therefore I am accepted." Motivation is based on fear and insecurity. I obey God to get things from Him; when things go wrong, I am angry at God or myself. I believe anyone good deserves a comfortable life. When criticized, I am furious because I must maintain the self-image of a good person, and threats to that image must be destroyed.

##### **• A personal relationship with Christ is based on**

"I am accepted; therefore, I obey." Motivation is based on grateful joy. I obey God and enjoy Him. When things go wrong, I struggle, but I know all my punishments fell on Jesus and that God will care for me as a father in my trial. When criticized, I struggle, but I do not have to think of myself as a good person. My identity is not built on my record or performance, but on Christ.

Religion is a structured system of beliefs, rituals, and practices, while a personal relationship with Jesus is a direct, individual connection. While religion provides a framework for faith, a personal relationship focuses on a two-way interaction and intimacy with Jesus, emphasizing personal experience and transformation. It involves prayer, communication, and a willingness to follow His teachings. It is built on faith in Jesus, trust in His promises, and a desire to live according to His will. A personal relationship involves intimacy, fellowship, and a desire to know Him more deeply. In essence, religion is a structured approach to faith, while a relationship with Jesus is a dynamic, individual connection with the divine. It is a joyful movement, a transformative time, an encounter process, a cleansing season, a growth in hope, and a correction of destiny.

#### **V) How Christianity Is About Love, Grace, and Transformation, Not Just Rules**

Christianity is centered on love, grace, forgiveness, and transformation



rather than strict adherence to rituals, rules, and regulations. While rules guide behavior and reflect God's character, the core of the faith lies in a relationship with God, communication with Christ, and meditation on scripture. It is characterized by His love and grace, which lead to a transformed life.

Christianity emphasizes that God's love for humanity is based on His character and is not earned or deserved but is freely given. Jesus identified loving God and loving others as the two greatest commandments. Christ's love is not just a feeling but a way of life demonstrated through actions like forgiveness, compassion, and selfless service.

Grace is God's undeserved favor and mercy offered to humanity despite our imperfections, disobedience, and failures. Through the blood of Jesus, Christians receive forgiveness for their sins and are reconciled with God. Transformation and grace empower believers to grow in holiness and become more like Christ for His glory. Christianity emphasizes the transformation of the inner person,

not just outward conformity to rules. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, believers are enabled to overcome sin and live a life that reflects God's character. This transformation is evident in the "fruits of the Spirit," such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

While rules are not the core of Christianity, they help believers live by God's will and build a strong foundation for their relationship with Him. Rules can be a tool for learning about God's character and developing discipline. However, rules should not be seen as a primary focus or a means to earn God's favor. Instead, they should be understood as a way to express love and gratitude for God's grace. The relationship with Christ is central to the transformation of life into His image. "For by Him all things were created... All things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16-17).

*(To be continued in next issue)*

**- Dr. B. Vishal Raja Zacharias**

M.Tech, Ph.D (Post Doctoral Fellowship),  
Urban and Premier - Secretary.

# TRUTH OVER SUPERSTITION



**A** superstition is simply a false or misguided belief; for example, the idea that seeing a widow brings bad luck. Such beliefs can result in significant and lasting social harm. In India, widows were isolated for centuries due to this superstition.

The word “superstition” comes from the Greek *deisidaimonia*, meaning “fear of demons” or excessive spiritual fear. St. Thomas Aquinas described it as a vice that misdirects worship, either by worshiping the wrong being or worshiping the true God in the wrong way. In essence, superstition is an excessive or misplaced form of worship. Sadly, many who confess Christ still hold on to such practices.

## Types of Superstition and Biblical Warnings

St. Augustine brings out four forms of superstition, and the Bible condemns these very strongly.

### • Improper mode of worship

This happens when worship is given to the true God but in an improper way. For example, Nadab and Abihu offering unauthorized fire before the Lord. In the New Testament, it is false teachings and practices that deviate from true worship. Jesus also warned about this in Matthew 15:9.

### • Giving worship to the wrong object

When worship is wrongly directed to creatures instead of God, it becomes idolatry. This is the most serious form, as it replaces the true God with false gods (e.g., the golden calf incident in Exodus 32).

### • Seeking knowledge illicitly

Divination and sorcery are attempts to tap into hidden knowledge through dark avenues (Leviticus 19:26). They may appear spiritual, but they open doors to deception.

## • Performing vain observances

This includes rituals, charms, observing days, or magical acts that are believed to have spiritual power but are not grounded in divine truth (e.g., amulets, rituals to bring luck, astrology). These forms of superstition persist even in Christian circles. They are often practiced without questioning their origin or purpose.

## Dangers of Superstition

1. Superstition of any description is a direct violation of the first commandment. Though some practices may appear harmless, all superstition is a form of idol worship and is, in fact, a sin in the eyes of God.
2. Superstition is contrary to biblical truth. While the truth shall set us free (John 8:32), superstitions promote fear, bondage, and control. They keep us trapped in the shadow of false beliefs, hindering us from experiencing the true freedom and life found in Christ (Col 2:17).
3. Embracing or mixing these false beliefs with the gospel results in syncretism, a dangerous distortion of true faith and a corruption of the gospel. Paul warns that this causes believers to lose connection with Christ, the Head (Colossians 2:19).

## The Gospel: The Antidote to Superstition

When the people of Ephesus encoun-

tered the truth of the Gospel and witnessed the power of the Lord, those who believed openly confessed their practices and publicly burned their scrolls of sorcery (Acts 19:18–19). This demonstrates the transformative power of the Gospel. It brings conviction, repentance and freedom from false spiritual dependencies. As Paul explains in Colossians 2:16–23, the Gospel liberates believers from human rules, empty rituals, and deceptive philosophies. In Christ, we have died to the elemental spiritual forces of this world (v. 20). These practices may appear wise with their “self-imposed worship” and “false humility” (v. 23), but they lack any real power to restrain the flesh or bring us closer to God.

Through the Gospel, our relationship with God is restored, and we are called to trust fully in Christ, not in rituals, omens, or superstitions. Therefore, the Gospel not only forgives sin but also frees us from fear-driven practices and establishes us in the truth that sets us free.

## Practical Advice to Overcome Superstitions

### 1. Repent and reject superstition

If you have followed vain observances in the past or any form of superstition mentioned above, ask God for forgiveness, tell him that you have committed idolatry, and make a

decision not to follow these human traditions, hollow and deceptive rituals anymore.

## **2. Know the truth of God's word**

Ground yourself in the knowledge of God's Word, for through it, He has given you everything needed to live a godly life and escape the corruption and deceit of the world (2 Peter 1:3-4). Trust in His precious promises, not in fear-driven beliefs.

## **3. Trust in God alone**

When situations are unfavorable, we're often tempted to turn to superstitious practices to change the outcome. But true maturity in faith means believing that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28). The same God who gave us saving grace also provides sustaining grace, and He will lead us to a place where we can confidently testify to the sufficiency of His grace in every circumstance. Learn to walk by faith instead of sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

## **4. Seek godly counsel**

Be a part of a mature and Bible-based fellowship. As a part of the UESI family, we are privileged with spiritual elders, who can provide guidance when we are unsure about certain practices. Their wisdom can help discern whether something is rooted in faith or influenced by superstition.

## **5. Be alert and pray always**

We are in a real and intense spiritual war against the forces of darkness (Ephesians 6:12), and superstition is one of Satan's strategies to deceive. In Revelation 9, when the sixth angel sounded his trumpet, a third of mankind was killed by a great judgment. Yet, shockingly, the rest of humanity still did not repent but continued to worship demons and idols (Revelation 9:20). This shows how deeply the devil can blind people, even in the face of God's judgment. Therefore, we must stay alert and always pray (Ephesians 6:18), so that we are not swept away by deception but remain firm in the truth.

## **Conclusion**

Superstition isn't harmless; it's a spiritual snare. And like Paul urged in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, we're called to demolish every false argument and bring every thought into obedience to Christ. Let's be torchbearers of truth. Let's replace fear with faith. And let our worship be undiluted, rooted in Christ alone.

## **References**

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**- Sadu Anvesh,**

East Division incharge Saidabad Zone



# Helen Cadbury

## (1877-1969)

**H**elen Cadbury was born in 1877 into a Quaker family in Birmingham who ran a famous chocolate company. (Quaker means a person belonging to the Christian group called the "Society of Friends"). Her father, Richard, was a Quaker who not only did exceptional social work but also always enthusiastically preached the gospel.

### Childhood life - Christian faith

At 12 years old, Helen accepted Christ as her savior at a revival meeting led by her father. She then started keeping a Bible in her desk at school to share the gospel with her friends, and soon a Christian fellowship began.

Since it was hard to carry heavy Bibles on the playground, the girls had pockets sewn into their dresses to easily carry small New Testaments. Within a few years, their fellowship grew to 60 members. They named their group the "Pocket Testament League." All the members promised to read a part of the Bible, pray daily, and share their faith with others.

### Restoration of faith

Helen left school to study music in England and Germany, where she faced some skepticism about Christianity. As a result, she spent a long time with spiritual doubts and anxieties. However, after her father died, she

returned to Birmingham to help with his social service projects and her strong faith in the gospel, which she had in her youth.

### **Marriage and Ministry Renewal**

In 1904, American evangelist R.A. Torrey came to Britain to preach the gospel. Helen and her mother volunteered to help Torrey. Torrey brought a music director, Charles Alexander, with him. Alexander and Helen became good friends and soon married. Helen traveled all over the world with her husband, participating in the Torrey-Alexander evangelistic campaigns.

Charles was not just a great musician, but also a good evangelist. He wanted to use the Holy Scriptures more effectively. Helen explained to him about the "Pocket League" that she started in her school days. In 1907, the couple revived the "Pocket Testament League."

### **PTL International**

In 1911, Helen was devastated when her first and only child died just hours after birth. Even in her grief, she continued her work with the Pocket Testament League. She saw the organization expand its activities on both sides of the Atlantic. What began as a way to

share the gospel gradually became an official service organization. In 1914, an international headquarters was established in London. From there, the organization's services expanded even more, as they distributed New Testaments to millions of soldiers for World War I. Due to the efforts of the Pocket Testament League, many soldiers found faith in God during the war.

### **God's ministry in times of sorrow**

Charles's sudden death in 1920 left Helen in deep sorrow. Although she remarried in 1924, her second husband unfortunately died just eighteen months later. After these back-to-back tragedies, Helen decided to live a solitary life and dedicate all her energy to serving the 'Pocket Testament League.'

From the 1920s to the 1930s, the league successfully expanded its work by widely distributing scriptures in factories and offices. Especially during the Great Depression, they provided gospels and Bibles to the unemployed in many regions, including Britain and the United States. During this time, the Pocket Testament League established branches in many countries, expanding its services internationally.



## Expanding the Pocket Testament League globally

During World War II, this league played a key role in widely distributing New Testaments to Allied soldiers. Their services continued uninterrupted even after the war ended.

In this process, even though Japan lost the war, an amazing and unexpected event took place there. Allied administrative officials requested the Pocket Testament League to provide ten million Bibles. As a result, many people accepted Christ as their savior.

## Conclusion

Even in her old age, Helen continued her tireless service through the Pocket Testament League. She worked with unwavering enthusiasm, distributing scriptures and preaching the gospel across Africa, Communist Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union. Helen Cadbury passed away in 1969 at the age of 92. Her tombstone reads, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16). The ministry she started continues to this day. The Pocket Testament League

has distributed over 130 million Bible portions and continues to share God's word worldwide.

Helen Cadbury's faith was completely centered on scripture. She believed that people can know Jesus only through the Bible and that God speaks through the Holy Spirit, so she focused on sharing the Bible. Today, even though Christians believe the Bible is God's word, in practice, they give priority to their own thoughts and interpretations. This can become an obstacle to understanding God's true purpose. Helen believed that people can come closer to Christ only by reading the Bible thoughtfully and prayerfully. She placed her faith in God at the age of 12 and preached the Gospel with this firm belief throughout her life

College students who are believers should be interested in sharing the gospel in new ways. We need to get God's word to everyone before the doors to the gospel in our country are completely shut.

*(This article was collected from internet resources)*

**- Ruth Vinay,**

**Pragati Nagar, Hyderabad**

# The *Person* within *Me*



## (Continuation...)

I woke up in the morning. I didn't see Peter. I asked John. He smiled and said, "You will know when the time comes, brother!" I asked with my head down, "Where did Peter go yesterday?" As soon as he heard those words, John looked directly at me. I couldn't look into his eyes. After some time, his face brightened, and he said with a smile, "To meet the Lord." I didn't understand. When I said, "I don't understand," he smiled, made me sit down, and asked, "Do you know Christ?" When I said, "I have accepted Him as my Savior," he was happy and said, "While we were struggling with how to tell you the Gospel, it seems God sent you for our fellowship. Thank God!

Brother! What were the changes in you when you confessed your sin?" I remembered and said, "I found peace and tranquility. My old habits and old life changed." He then asked me directly, "But why do you sometimes feel restless and very afraid in your heart?" I didn't understand. He looked at my confused

face and continued, "Now, if you have received salvation and your sins have been forgiven, shouldn't you have a normal life? Why do you have pain and suffering all around you?" I didn't know how to answer him. I remained silent. He continued, "Brother, following Christ is like traveling on a thorny path. But where there are thorns, flowers also bloom.

The destination you reach depends on whether you choose the narrow path or the wide path. Our Lord Christ allows some things in our lives to keep us successful in every way. These are pain, suffering, sorrow, and temptation. When we see these as obstacles, there is a chance we will fall. We will move away from God. But if we think of them as ways to know Christ more and to get closer to Him, we will be able to recognize that He is walking with us on our path. You might be wondering why I am telling you all this. I have noticed an unknown confusion and pain in you since you came. When I see the peace that comes over you when you see our fellowship, it feels like you have lost something that we have.

I wanted to tell you the Gospel, but you made us happy by telling us that God has saved you. The reason I am sharing this with you now is that what you saw with Peter is what happens in all of our lives." I said, "I don't understand, sir." He replied, "Brother! Peter went to meet Christ. But should we not ask ourselves if we are meeting Him every day or not?" I said, "But Peter was crying there..." He said, "Peter met Christ." I looked at him in surprise.

"Yes, brother! We are the ones who followed Him, who lived with Him. When He left us, there were times when we made our own decisions and went astray because there was no one to correct us. We correct ourselves every time we go astray. After all, we are just human! But Peter couldn't bear the separation from Christ from the time he said, 'I do not know Christ.' Even then, with the power of the Holy Spirit, he was able to tell the Gospel to many people. But sometimes he couldn't control his anger and his weakness. At such times, he was eager to continue his good relationship with Christ. This happens in all of our lives. Situations like this will definitely come in your life too. Just have hope and follow Him," he said with a smile and left.

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It took me a long time to understand what he said. After sitting for some time, Peter came. As soon as he greeted me with a smile, I couldn't hold myself back. "Why did you cry on Golgotha?" I asked. In all the time I had been there, that was the only courageous thing I had said. He looked at me in surprise. I was scared. I was afraid that I had been too hasty in asking.

He said, "I was the one who crucified Christ. I traveled with Christ for three and a half years. I learned many things from Him. But my own personality couldn't apply His fellowship so quickly. When He said He would not be with us, I cried out in pain. When they were about to arrest Him, I cut off the ear of a soldier named Malchus. But when they questioned me because of Him, I couldn't handle it and lied that I didn't know who He was. But the value of that one word felt like losing all my fellowship with Him. I don't know how I lived until He was resurrected and appeared to me. After seeing Him, even though He is not in front of our eyes, I am taking steps forward with the belief that He is with me forever. Sometimes it feels like I have gone astray. That's what happened that day too. I was returning from the Gospel ministry outside. I forgot my condition and spoke to old friends I met on the way. My old personality came out. My words, actions, thoughts, and my anger also started to grow again. When I stepped toward the world and left the fellowship of Christ, I couldn't recognize that I was moving away from Him. But one day, I realized that He was calling me. As soon as I went according to His word, He appeared to me praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Again, the same drops of blood. He said, 'Peter, this is for you.' I couldn't bear it. He started walking again. As soon as I realized He was going toward Golgotha, I cried, 'Lord! No!' and followed Him. He quickly went up the hill. I ran with tears. By the time I reached there, He was hanging on the cross, looking at me with a sad smile. When I saw that scene, everything that happened at Calvary flashed before my eyes. I was not by His side that day. But

at that moment, I understood how much pain He had suffered. It appeared directly before my eyes. I saw the lashes He took again for me, the spear in His side, the insults, the dishonor He faced... I saw everything. Finally, He looked at me with love and gave up His life.

I wept with great pain. I begged for forgiveness. My mind kept reminding me that I was the cause of it all. He was crucified again because of my sins. He died. I cried and cried until my tears ran dry. Because of my repentance, a burden was lifted from my heart. An unknown peace came to me. The wounds on my body were healed. The tears disappeared. Christ appeared again, putting His hand on my shoulder, just like the resurrected Christ. Yes, I who had lost Him through my sins... got Him back through my repentance. When I realized that, I felt an unknown, indescribable joy. With that same joy, I came back. I am doing ministry again. Brother! This is not my testimony. It is my relationship with Christ. My personal experience. Only those who walk with Christ can recognize His movements. Think for a moment, are you crucifying Christ, or are you walking with Christ?" he said with a smile and left.

I couldn't believe what Peter said. I suddenly remembered the sermon our pastor had preached. My head felt heavy. I looked back and saw a person with his back turned, wearing white clothes. I felt suspicious and followed him. He was traveling to the same place. It was the same road to Calvary. As soon as I knew He was Christ, I wanted to see Him. But then I remembered something else. Peter's testimony. This means that He is only visible to me. This means He

is here for me... I couldn't think beyond that. "Lord!" I shouted and followed Him. I ran. Just like I saw Peter, I fell down on the rocks and in the thorns and ran. By the time I reached Golgotha, my whole body was soaked in sweat. He was already hanging on the cross in pain. Tears were coming from my eyes without my knowing. Every lash the soldiers gave Him felt like it was hitting me, twisting my heart. I wanted to shout, "Lord, I am the one who deserves it." I wanted to say, "My sins crucified you." I couldn't speak. He was looking at me with a smile. His blood completely soaked me. "I am the reason for this blood. I am responsible for your wounds. God! That is where I should have been. That is the punishment I deserve. Forgive me," I was crying out loudly. When I opened my eyes, I opened them again in the flower garden next to the church. I could hear the prayer being offered in the church. The pastor was telling everyone again and again to repent. I immediately went into the church with tears. I knelt down and prayed. I was crying out. "Lord! Forgive me! I am the sinner who crucified you. Forgive me. I want your fellowship. God! You should not be on the cross because of me, Father. You should be next to me. I want your fellowship and friendship forever. Give me one chance. Forgive me one time," I was crying with tears. Suddenly, an unknown peace came over me. I felt as if someone had put their hand on my shoulder. I opened my eyes. I saw an unbelievable light next to me. I couldn't speak. A verse was open in my Bible: "And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more'" (John 8:11).

- D. Ajay, Nirmal

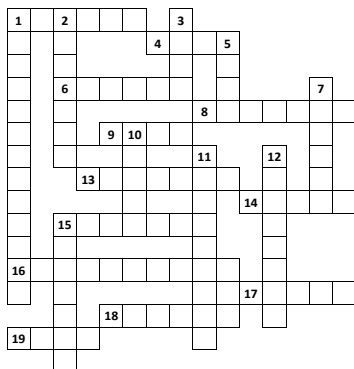
## September '25 Book of Ezekiel (13-14 Chapters)

### Across

1. Turn away from your idols and all your abominations; what should you do?
4. You have not stood in what to make the house of Israel stand firm in battle?
6. What kind of vision have you seen if you say, "Declares the Lord," though I have not spoken?
8. What will I do to My people whom you hunt, so that they will no longer be prey in your hand?
9. What will I make them amongst My people, and cut them off, so that they may know that I am the Lord?
13. Woe to the prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! What kind of prophets are they?
14. O Israel, your prophets are like what animals among ruins?
15. When My people build a flimsy wall, what do the false prophets apply to it?
16. What will I bring in My wrath to break down the whitewashed wall?
17. What am I to prophets who utter falsehood and see lying visions?
18. To whom do these prophets belong, who prophesy visions of peace for Jerusalem, when there is no peace?
19. With what do you grieve the heart of the righteous, whom I have not grieved?

### Down

1. What will righteous men like Noah, Daniel, and Job deliver by, saving only their own lives?



2. How do you treat Me among My people by killing the innocent and keeping the wicked alive?
3. Prophecy against the daughters of your people who prophesy out of their own imagination; what should you set against them?
5. You hunt the lives of My people; what do you seek to do for yourselves?
7. When there is no peace, they say "Peace!" and what do they do to My people?
10. What have these men set up in their hearts, placing the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces?
11. What have the house of Israel become to Me through their idols?
12. How will the rain fall because of My wrath against the false prophets?
15. Whose punishment will be the same as the punishment of the sinning inquirer who seeks a false prophet?

- K. Kiran Kumar,

Staff, Mahabubnagar

### August '25 Book of Ezekiel (11-12 Chapters)

**Across:** 1. Twentyfive, 3. NewSpirit, 5. Sword, 6. Mountain, 8. Mind, 10. Babylonia, 11. Lord, 12. Food, 14. Scatter, 16. Desolate, 18. Chaldeans, 19. Distant, 20. Exile, 21. Delay

**Down:** 2. Foreigners, 4. Sin, 5. Sign, 7. Wall, 8. Murder, 9. Judgement, 13. Oracle, 14. Sanctuary, 15. Morning, 17. Benaiah, 19. Dead

# My Goal Is God Himself

**M**y goal is God Himself, not joy, nor peace,  
Nor even blessing, but Himself, my God;  
'Tis His to lead me there - not mine, but His -  
At any cost, dear Lord, by any road.

So faith bounds forward to its goal in God,  
And love can trust her Lord to lead her there;  
Upheld by Him, my soul is following hard  
Till God hath full fulfilled my deepest prayer.

No matter if the way be sometimes dark,  
No matter though the cost be oft-times great,  
He knoweth how I best shall reach the mark;  
The way that leads to Him must needs be strait.

One thing I know, I cannot say Him nay;  
One thing I do, I press towards my Lord;  
My God, my glory here, from day to day,  
And in the glory there my great Reward.

**- F. Brook**



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