



# Seed For Living

BRO. MANUEL MINISTRIES MONTHLY BULLETIN DECEMBER 2013

## But For Your Grace...

### I would lose this race

God is Love. Everything He does flows from His great love. Whenever He extends mercy and forgiveness, favor and blessing, kindness and forbearance, it is by His grace!

#### But what exactly is Grace?

Grace is God's unmerited favor. It is kindness from God we don't deserve. There is nothing we have done, nor can ever do to earn this favor. It is a gift from God. Grace is divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration (rebirth) or sanctification; a virtue coming from God; a state of sanctification enjoyed through divine favor.

#### Grace is God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Mankind was also created in a state of Grace. And to maintain a personal state of grace and ensure that they would always know their Creator and be able to commune with the Lord God Himself, in His personal presence, God specifically created and sanctified the seventh day as a perpetual day for rest and fellowship with Him.

In other words, you cannot receive God's grace if you do not rest. Restful people are graceful people. That is why I advise people to rest and be blessed.

Without grace, no one can be saved; without grace, no one can stay saved; without grace, no one can grow as a Christian. Grace is the oxygen that a Christian needs to breathe.

It is also important to imbibe an attitude of thanksgiving. Even in the midst of our trials, our prayers should always be in an attitude of praise.

In our everyday life many of us fall for the enemy's lies and come under condemnation and suffering. Believe me, this happens to the best of people. When they are faced with a very stressful situation, their faith begins to crack. They begin to question God and even become mad at Him. The fault is not the Lord's, but our own. We miss His complete victory because we have attributed Satan's attack to the Lord.

We can even open the door for the enemy to come against us by not having a cheerful and rejoicing heart. We may complain to God about our plight instead of using the weapons He has given us to overcome the devil. One of the greatest weapons is our weapon of praise!!

We are to praise God at all times, not just when things go smoothly. We are to praise Him when things go wrong, too. We are to boast in the Lord even when everything looks bleak.

Let us all bless and praise God and conquer the enemy in every aspect of our lives. Let us become a people of praise!

— Bro. Manuel Mergulhao

*Bro. Manuel Ministries Wishes you*

*A Joyful and Happy Christmas & A Prosperous New Year 2014*





# PEACE & PROSPERITY

There are two kinds of people: those who follow the person of Jesus, and those who follow the principles of Jesus.

Those who follow the person of Jesus, accepting Him as Lord and Saviour, almost always find peace. But because they wait for God to do everything for them without moving a finger to help themselves, they do not enjoy the prosperity of Jesus.

Then, there are those who reject the person of Jesus, but follow His principles to the T. These folks find prosperity, but they have no peace. They can never rest in their blessings.

Therefore, to have peace and prosperity, we must follow both the person of Jesus and His principles. God bless you.

– Editorial Desk

## Morning Star

(Rev. 2:28, 22:16, Job 38:6&7, Phil. 2:15)



Visible and invisible little stars

People wonder what you are.

Focusing on the Lord in meditation

We know it is a part of God's Creation.

Including its direction and location.

Pointing to the "Son of Man" with relation.

(Gen. 1: 14-19, Ps. 2:7, Ps. 8:3, John 1:3)

Three wise men from the East,

Were guided by a bright star.

On reaching Bethlehem, they were distracted

By worldly glamour and the people's power.

This made them lose sight of the guiding star.

Yet, they found it and the "Son of Man" not very far. (Matt. 2:1-11)

With Christ in us, "the hope of glory". (Col. 1-27)

There is no size, shape or colour bar.

The Word was made flesh

And we saw His glory, as that of the Father (John 1:14)

Yet, in our religion

We make Him a helpless child rather. (2 Tim. 3:5 & 7)

He who has no favourites (Acts 10:34)

Can supply all our needs. (Phil. 4:19)

Still we prefer to be religious (2 Tim. 3:5)

Spending time in useless deeds (Isaiah 64-6)

And collecting weeds. (Matt. 6:19 to 21)

Benedict Vivian Fernandez



# A Citizen Of Heaven!

Matthew 5:4 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

A state of mourning? A blessing?

To understand this better, let us go to the beginning of creation.

God makes perfect mud houses from the earth and pours His breath into them! And the mud houses become living souls, reflecting the perfection of God Himself! But there is an interference... from the Adversary. This interference distorts and confuses the soul & it starts reflecting more of the Adversary than God!

In due time, God overshadows one female soul and deposits His own Son into her womb. He becomes the perfect blueprint to transform the old soul into a perfect new creation. Now this new creation is mingled with the old creation and longs to free this earthling totally. It mourns, is meek, hungers and thirsts and Jesus says, "That's me in you, longing to give you full redemption so that you may come into the fullness of the purpose you were created for! To be a heavenly being, to be a child of God!"

## **MOURNING**

As with the poor in spirit, mourning is:

- A lack or a longing in one's life
- When we mourn, we feel empty, needy, aching for comfort
- Life is not right any more
- There is a hole in it that we ourselves cannot fill
- We cannot restore the loss ourselves
- When I am mourning, I feel like I am in a state of waiting, waiting somehow for life to be set right again
- In mourning, we are very aware of our poverty or lack of spirit
- Mourning is not a fun place to be. It is painful and heart wrenching. To mourn is to sorrow over a loss
- We mourn over lost relationships or opportunities
- We can mourn over sin & the consequences of our sin
- We can be filled with sorrow at the loss that exists in this very broken, sinful and suffering world
- Yes, there is loss in the world, everything is not right here, and we are not living in the place that is our true and final home.
- To mourn is to recognize all those things that are

truly not according to God's will in this fallen world.

Our sorrow over the losses that come in this sinful world are a sign of God's work in us and His favour upon us.

Jesus Himself shows us the mourning of God's own heart, which mourns over the sin, destruction and death in His creation.

God mourns over the losses we have as a consequence of living in a fallen world, even more than we do!

He knows more deeply the pain, sorrow and destruction that we cause each other and ourselves.

God hates sin because He hates what it does to His good creation.

The loss we mourn over now is not the end of the story. This word is stated in the future tense. The kingdom is both a present and future reality. We receive it now and yet we wait to fully receive all God has for us. And what we wait for is astonishing.

We "shall be comforted"! Our sorrow will truly end, and not just a little, but fully and completely.

God has not merely mourned over the state of His creation, He is redeeming it. Paul tells us in Colossians that God, through Christ, is reconciling all things to Himself (Col. 1:20).

Jesus has united Himself with our wounded and sinful humanity in order to forgive and heal us from the inside out. He will have us whole, well, and fully comforted. This is God's good pleasure.

This right mourning is an evidence that God is working in our lives and that we are responding to His Spirit.

This sorrow over evil and its consequences are the very things God is doing away with.

The greatest comfort we have is that Jesus has conquered sin and death and He will do away with it once and for all, first in us and then everywhere else.

What a great comfort awaits us to fully see, know and live in God's redemption!

So today, we are free to live in our poverty, our longing and our mourning. God is making us more like Himself. And we can be at peace with our longing because we trust in and hope for the full comfort that we will someday experience in the kingdom that even now fully belongs to us through Jesus Christ. HALLELUJAH!

– Sis. Lynette Mergulhao



# Got No Money? Good!

It is better to have a purpose in life and no money than to have all the money in the world and no purpose in life.

The Bible talks about how when God freed the Israelites from the yoke of slavery, He also inclined the hearts of the Egyptians to give them clothing and articles of silver and gold.

Not very long thereafter, the “newly moneyed” Israelites camped at Sinai while Moses went up the Mount to meet God.

With all that money lying around and nothing interesting to do except wait for Moses, who apparently was showing no signs of returning, the Israelites grew restless. What's more, they had so much gold and silver just lying around. So they did what most people with lots of money and no purpose would do. They used it to entertain themselves. First, they molded all the gold in the shape of a calf. Then, they worshipped it. And because we become what we worship, soon thereafter, the Israelites started acting like animals.

It's the same today.

Look at most rich kids. Dad and Mom are too busy to spare any time with them. But, gee, Dad's got some spare change. "Here, Kid, why don't you put that to good use? Go and buy yourself something you like...anything. And remember never to forget...Dad loves you. And this big wad of cash will show you just how much."

In the beginning, these kids buy themselves some candy, toys, etc. But there's only that much satisfaction you can gain from that. So they graduate to video games, alcohol, drugs, fast cars, etc. Obviously, after some time even that is not enough. So, it's more alcohol, more drugs...

Most rich kids today are more than happy to spend money they haven't earned on things they don't

need. Eventually, these kids either end up in the ditch, or in rehab, or in prison, or in the grave...or in all of the above.

God does not like it one bit.

The real reason why God does not answer some people when they pray for riches is not because He can't give them what they want. He chooses not to because He knows they can't handle it.

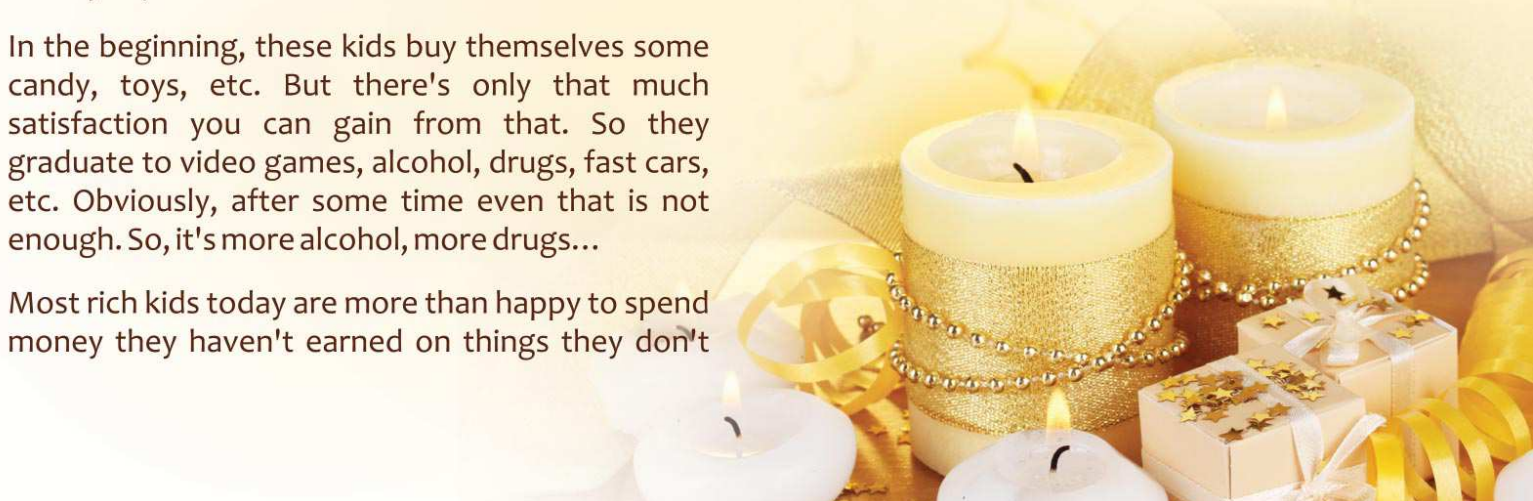
God wants us to have all the good things in life—money even. But sometimes He holds himself back because He knows what we are asking for could actually do us more harm than good.

So, if you are giving God a hard time about doing something for you, back off a little. God is good and just. We don't need to convince Him to do what is right. When it's time for food, a child does not need to convince his parent that he should be given something to eat. The parent lovingly reaches for the plate and serves up the good stuff...and a little more.

We need to give God more credit than we do.

Got no money? Good! You'll get it eventually...if you deserve it. But first get a purpose—and it better be good.

– Editorial Desk





# Christmas Crossword



JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM







# TESTIMONIES

T E S T I M O N I E S



I work in the film industry and recently started my own business, providing high-end cameras on hire. I purchased a camera worth Rs 40 lakhs from abroad since it is not available in India. The dealer assured me that the camera would be delivered in 15 days. However, three months later, I had still not received the delivery. During this time, there was a lot of tension in the house. I spoke to Bro. Manuel, who advised me to start praying. After much prayer and petition, I finally received the camera in the fourth month. I started renting out the camera, but then, all of a sudden, the LCD display stopped working. I was told that the camera could not be repaired in India. Once again, I got in touch with Bro. Manuel. He advised me to pray everyday together with my family. Soon thereafter, someone told me that the LCD could be repaired in India itself. The camera got repaired and in just a week I was back in business. Also, payments that were not coming through began to flow again. I thank God for bringing me through this difficult stage and Bro. Manuel for his timely counselling.

– Subhash Parekh



I have been suffering from a severe heart problem since 1989. The doctors are actually amazed that I am still alive. They said that I am lucky to enjoy such good health despite having such a serious heart condition. I know this is possible only because of God. I know that Jesus loves me and that I am precious to Him. He is taking care of me. I also thank Bro. Manuel and the ministry for their constant prayers. I am really enjoying every moment.

– Caroline Coutto



Pranab Roy



Marie Fernandes



Anand Mathre



Jagdish Ramani

*We consider ourselves privileged that this year God called several of our own to His eternal home. BMM now has a stronger army of intercessors in heaven, and they are interceding for Bro. Manuel, for the ministry, and for all of us. Let us Join our prayers with theirs. And may the Perpetual Light shine upon them and us always and forever. Amen.*



Benedict Fernandes



Monthi Lobo



Hema Ullal



Freeda D'souza

Youth Session  
Dec 27, 2013

New Year's  
Jan 1, 2014

Goa Outreach  
Jan 4-5, 2014

Mumbai Retreat  
Jan 11-12, 2014

Mangalore Outreach  
Jan 18-19, 2014



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*Live in the Spirit*

BRO. MANUEL MINISTRIES