

A Bunch of Experience

Richard Parmar



We pass through a number of experiences in our lives. Some of them are appended in our lives, because the experiences make difference and change the frame of reference in our lives. At a certain level when we reach in life, experiences help us to build a standard to live the life. For example, when you are a bachelor; your way of living and thinking is different, but after getting married, you have to be different, your standard of living is changed with new relationships and responsibilities.

It is the same, when we accept Christ in our lives. When we get baptized and begin a new life in Christ, we are changed. It is written in the Bible **“old things are gone; see new things are there in life.”** Our vision of life, frame of reference towards looking at situation and our way of sharing experiences are changed. In nutshell, it replicates our Christian attitude where others feel it in the human society.

Becoming a disciple of Christ, your level of experience becomes more relationship-oriented. Here, two levels of relations are built: vertical and horizontal. When we go into the depth of personal relationship with Christ, it is the experience of vertical level. This experience builds us in discipline and prepares us for dedication to walk in the path of will of GOD and faith in GOD.

Unless and until, we are strong and dedicated in our experience of vertical level, we will not be able to work at the horizontal level where we have to deal with human relationships. Here, we play role of 'Good Samaritan'. This level leads us to be in maturity and attitude of understanding human relationships.

What's more! Both the vertical and horizontal relationships tend to rub us. This bunch of experiences, which come from personal relationship with Christ and human relationships, make us salt and light of this world. **“You are the salt and light of this world”** the Bible says. And it is our duty to bring flavour in this world. God bless.

Kidz Block

join
the
dots



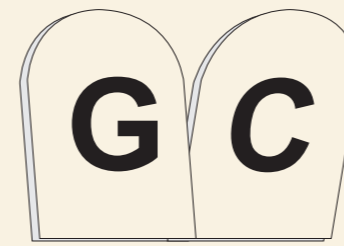
Grace News:

- Urban India Ministries (UIM) along with GFAG to conduct a 5 months Certificate Course in Counseling, starting from July 5 '09 for a fee of Rs.4000/- per person. Limited seats. Last date of registration is June 25 '09. So hurry up and don't miss the golden opportunity!
- Continuing its bull run, www.gracejunction.com has witnessed a whopping 2,300 unique IP hits in the last 2 weeks. Glory be to God!
- GFAG to conduct an outreach in Odhav village on June 28 '09. Be a part and be blessed!

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Answer to last quiz:
 Both. On Different Occasions



Grace Chronicles

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Blessed Are The Meek(humble) In Spirit

Humility...a strange thing. The minute you think you've got it, you've lost it!

When we come into the presence of the Lord in prayer, we generally do involve the line, “oh Lord we humble ourselves in your holy presence...” In the past few days as I was meditating upon prayer, I wondered as to what exactly did it mean to be humble before God-The Creator.

2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

This is what the Lord Himself said to Solomon.

What is humility?

How would we react if we were to suddenly encounter Sunita Williams or Bill Gates personally? Or if you want it simple, the boss or highest authority in our vocational lives? Wouldn't we immediately experience a change of attitude demanding the best manners, most polite and polished composure? What is this feeling that arises when we face people placed above us such that in their presence we immediately start examining ourselves for giving our best? **Well it can be called a feeling of awe, respect and humility combined.**

According to the dictionary **'humility' is a state free from pride.** In the above examples we may not exactly be in a state totally free from pride. But somewhere we do humble ourselves before our authorities to show our due respect to their position and work keeping in our minds that we are before them.

So humility arises as a result of the character essence of the opposite person and also the position that person holds in our life.

So how should we feel when we come before the Creator of the heavens and the earth? Of this entire magnificent universe with the galaxies, the earth with its beauty, and above all the wonderfully and fearfully made man, that is us? Wow! The very idea of coming into the presence of such an amazing Creator produces a spell bound excitement. When I stare at the star studded skies, I feel small yet delighted before the Creator, and I recognize this feeling as humility. Maybe it's just the beginning of humility.

What develops humility?

The magnificent character of God, the King of kings, and the Creator should be enough to humble us. As we see, hear, sense, feel, experience His creation in every aspects of our lives all around us, it fills us with a sense of humility before God.

Before God we are sinners condemned to death. We wait upon Him to be cleansed and loved by our Father. We come with a sense of unworthiness and dependence on God. The desire to know God, to be loved by Him, to have a relationship with Him, to be forgiven for our sins and be cleansed and renewed, to gain understanding and knowledge from Him helps in developing humility. That is why we are often disciplined by God, through failures, rebuking and teachings of elders to learn to humble ourselves.



The very character of Christ speaks of humility. So we already have a role model, an ideal example for developing the quality of humility.

In Matthew 11:29 Jesus says, “take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

The call to serve Christ is a high honour. It should bring humility and devotion out of the high calling and responsibilities upon us as the chosen and blessed lot.

Spandan Shroff

The Scottish Hymnwriter

Born in Edinburgh on May 21, 1813, Robert Murray McCheyne (1813-1843) was the youngest son of Adam McCheyne. More than his preaching, McCheyne is primarily known for several of his hymns that have left a mark of their own.

However, the hymn writing prowess finds its root at a tender age of four when he not only knew how to sing and recite fluently, he established his proficiency in poetical exercises. He entered the high school in his eighth year, and matriculated in November 1827 at Edinburgh University, where he was awarded a special prize by Professor Wilson for a poem on 'The Covenanters.'



Life under FOCUS
Robert M McCheyne

In the winter of 1831 he commenced his studies in the Divinity Hall, under Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Welsh; and was licensed as a preacher by the Annan Presbytery on July 1, 1835. In the following November he was appointed assistant to the Rev. John Bonar of Larbert and Dunipace, Stirlingshire. His health, which had never been robust, broke down under the strain of his new office; but his fame as a preacher spread through Scotland, and on November 24, 1836 he was ordained to the pastorate of St. Peter's Church, Dundee.

The congregation numbered eleven hundred hearers, and McCheyne addressed himself to the work of the ministry with so much ardour that his health again gave way, and in December 1838 he was compelled to desist from all public duty. At this time the general assembly of the church of Scotland decided to send a committee to Palestine to collect information respecting the Jews, and McCheyne was included in the number who set sail on 12 April 1839. The record of this journey was written jointly by McCheyne and his companion Andrew Bonar (died 1892), and was published in 1842.

After his return at the end of 1839 McCheyne resumed his ministerial duties in Dundee with renewed energy. In the autumn of 1842 he visited the north of England on an evangelical mission, and made similar journeys to London and Aberdeenshire. On his return from the latter place he was seized with sudden illness, and died on Saturday, March 25, 1843 and was buried beside St. Peter's Church, Dundee.

McCheyne devoted all his energies to preaching; and although he was an accomplished Hebrew scholar, he left few permanent proofs of his erudition. But more than that, he is remembered still for his refined musical taste, and was one of the first of the Scottish ministers to take an active part in the improvement of the congregational service of praise. Long after his death he was constantly referred to as 'the saintly McCheyne.'

Several hymns by him — notably that entitled 'When this passing World is done' — are in constant use in the Scottish churches.

- MINISTRY -

The foundation of ministry is character
not professional skill.

The purpose of ministry is to glorify God
not to glorify ourselves.

The nature of ministry is service
not being served.

The tools of ministry are prayer and Scripture
not a marketing handbook and an ingratiating manner.

The motive of ministry is love
not money or power.

The privilege of ministry is growth which may be in depth
rather than in numbers.

The measure of ministry is sacrifice
not success.

The power of ministry is the Holy Spirit
not programs.

The authority of ministry is submission
not pulling rank.

The model for ministry is Jesus Christ
not a corporation or a man.

To Love God Is To Have A Heart For Others

Niyati Prajapati

The Bible tells us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and, and with all our strength.

Our lives matter because God loves us. **To love God is to obey him.** God is our leader and He wants to lead us in all our ways. He loves us very much. He supplies all our needs. He wants to build us from His depth to our very core. Now, when we start to understand all these things, won't we love Him with all our heart? We will and we should.

To relate with God is to become one with Him; in such a way that you can't differentiate yourself from Him.

By developing our heart for God, we can feel the touch of God and we can fill our heart with gratitude. Naturally, people around us will start feeling this love of God through His presence in us. Worship and prayers are not only within us for our own good but it tends to touch people around us.

Have you ever wondered that how when more complex any system tends to be, the more we want to know its depth. Similarly, the more we love God and obey His truth, we tend to develop this thirst to know more clearly what is right according to God.

Your outside (your attitude and behaviour) is a reflection of your within. If you have filled the depth of God in your heart, every one around you can and will feel it. We pray for somebody because we care. We care because we love. It is because of this love and care, when we pray for them according to God's will, He hears our prayer. Also, He gives us the strength and makes our heart pure. The person, who has received this change, can feel the purity of God's love inside his/her heart. It is this way (i.e. through prayers) people start to experience God's love. So, do keep all of them in your prayers and just wait for change in them according to God.

God always use the simplest things to teach us everything. If He wants to teach us love, He'll put us among unlovable people. Therefore, always be ready and prepared for God to teach you. Prepare heart to receive God's instruction because it is here that the Lord builds His marquee. Do increase with the gift of God and multiply them. **Dare to be different for God's sake.**

My prayer for you all is that this article will draw you closer to the Lord as you read it along with his Word. I believe that God wants to speak you & to hear from you. Ask God for wisdom.

'Pray, pray and pray some more and He'll direct you.' (Proverbs 2:6) God bless.



Bible Quiz 28:
How many epistles did John write?