



**“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world” John 16:33b**

Periodical Message (August 2018)

A Word from us,

We were in a Prayer Conference and one pastor I know came to me and said ‘Brother, THAT was great...I felt like in heaven!’—of course I was glad to hear such a statement. Then I shared with that pastor what I was teaching the other day about Prayer ‘You know, prayer is like painting a picture; you should have some kind of an idea WHAT you want to paint before starting. Prayer is just reaching UP to heaven and pulling DOWN what was promised by God. It is having a time of silence with God. Do you know when you invest time in prayer your time will INCREASE?’

As a LIVING Church, prayer should be essential for us; in the Word of God it was mentioned so often that we should PRAY. Our Jesus told us to pray. The First Church was a PRAYING Church “Pray without ceasing” 1 Thess 5:17— be encouraged to keep this commandment...and be victorious.

**Yours in the Lord,
Salman**

A Word according to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Which ‘Church’ are you in?

The word Church is a translation of the Greek word Ecclesia and it is New Testament word; it was used for the first time by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew.

The Bible tells us “The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired Him that He would shew them a sign from heaven...” Matt 16:1—those ‘leaders’ attempted to tempt the Lord, as the devil did! But our Lord spoke in wisdom to those tempting Him and the disciples heard everything, but it seems they didn’t understand—as many today, who do not understand what Jesus is saying. In order to clarify matters Jesus asked His disciples, “Whom do **men** say that I, the Son of man, am?” Matt 16:13. The Lord wants us to KNOW what others know about Him and whether they have it right; for example Muslims regard Jesus ONLY as a prophet, but deny the Cross and His Deity. This question is fresh and immensely important today to you and to me. What does our secular world think of Jesus? What is its perception of the Church in our modern world? But also what do PREACHERS believe who Jesus really is and whether they are preaching Him as He is? Please allow me to say this as clearly as I can, with kindness and straightforwardness, speaking the truth in love. My travels around the world to serve the Lord and reach out to the lost have allowed

me to meet thousands of leaders and I am in direct contact with their Churches. I am often afraid that the modern Church is softly and inexorably slipping into a sweet insanity. Brothers, Sisters there are many definitions of insanity, one of the most pertinent being: “to continue to do the same thing in the same way over and over and expect a different result.” That’s insane!

Over ninety percent of the Churches in America have known no significant growth in the last 20 years, but they see no need to change anything! Churches in Europe are empty and their buildings were sold to Muslims who turned them to mosques! The number of Christians in Iraq is MUCH less than it used to be twenty years ago, despite the conversion of hundreds of Muslims. The Church is busy with its Entertainment Program, rather than with the TRUE Jesus...and still they sing ‘Hallelujah’!

Dear believers, Abraham, the father of faith, freed captives, fought for the poor, built wells, and fed the hungry. Hundreds of scintillating promises, stern warnings and clear commandments from Genesis to Revelation motivate, call and challenge us to serve the needy. Prophets and patriarchs in the Scriptures taught and modeled generosity. The history of the Church shines the brightest when she dedicates herself to the defense of the oppressed and walks in her true calling and purpose. The Son of God incarnated all of the eternal, immutable, divine Trinity’s desire and intentions when He came among the poorest, fed the hungry multitudes, and healed every type of sickness and suffering. It is good to be in the Church of the Living God, but it is BETTER to go to the world, reach out to the lost and present Jesus, the Saviour to them; sitting comfortably in the Church will NOT save the lost. Preaching a good sermon will not shake the gates of hell, or frighten demons, but going OUT and doing the Great Commission of the Saviour WILL...

I want you to imagine Saul’s anguish when Christ confronted him near Damascus with a painful reality; I believe it was SO painful that none of us would desire to be at the place of Saul. The Lord told Saul, “I am Jesus. And you are persecuting Me” Acts 9:4-5. Saul had thought he was simply dealing with individuals, doing God’s work to root out Jewish heretics. But Saul was jolted with the truth: “Jesus has a spiritual body. He is the head and His body — His children here on earth — are connected to the head. It is ONE body, made up of believers who are flesh of His flesh. And anyone who comes against one of them is actually coming against Him.”—do you comprehend THIS reality? God doesn’t want our ‘religious activity’ but our FAITH REALITY...and obedience. The Jewish zealot Saul was shaken to the bone, literally, and he fell down blind--- he was facing the Church, which reflects all heaven’s power and might on earth. Every “Jesus person” whom Saul had persecuted and imprisoned — everything he had said and done against them — was felt personally by Christ Himself. Saul’s confrontation with this truth changed his life; he did not eat or drink for three long days and while there in that darkness something happened: He understood the real meaning of Ecclesia—The Gathering of Saved People unto the Lord.

Later as Paul the Apostle, he grew to understand how deeply God loved His Church. He came to see that, in the Lord’s eyes, the Church was a costly pearl. It was also a spotless Bride for His Son — one corporate, invisible body made up of blood-purchased children from every tribe and nation on earth.

I am convinced we do not take this truth as seriously as we should. A full understanding would mean the end of all grudges in the Church; the end of all bitterness; the end of all prejudice, fleshly competition, pride, gossip and division. There will not be a place for ‘denominations’ and other doctrine, neither there will be departure from the TRUTH of the Bible; things will be different— they’ll be godly.

“There should be no schism [division or discord] in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another” 1 Cor 12:25.

May Jesus Christ, our Saviour, through the Holy Spirit help us to be LIKE HIM, starting with having a humble heart and attitude of love as Jesus has for His Body, the Church, and may we live in UNITY of the Spirit and serve Him. The Body can be active and alive, when every member is doing what it should do, and NOT what it should NOT do; pointing the finger at others is disobedience to the Lord. Loving others as members of the Body of Christ, is obedience, hating and accusing them is NOT what Jesus wants. PRAY and try to realise WHERE you are in Christ...and in WHICH Church you are serving; you should be in the Church of the Living God...Amen.

Prayer Ideas

- 1.** We gave praise to our God for His love and care towards us, as a family, when Sarah surprised everybody and was born in God's Time...and timing. Join us in our prayer of thanksgiving and give thanks to the Holy One. Continue praying for us as a family but also as servants in ICOM, claiming protection and wisdom. We are busy as family but will continue serving the Lord with hearts full of gratitude and love.
- 2.** The news from our Team in Iraq encouraged us, because they are doing great job there; pray for them and their families. Pray for those, whom they are serving and thank the Lord that they are doing everything in love, humbleness and harmony; may our Lord keep them protected and safe.
- 3.** After holding our First Gathering, the Lord touched our hearts through His goodness; pray that this Gathering will be always a gathering of saved people unto the Lord. Claim the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Ask the Lord for increase of those joining us and declare holiness upon all.
- 4.** We have few things happening at the same time like moving our Mission House to Ainkawa, the Christian Quarter in Erbil, Iraq; establishing a Christian Heritage Museum in Qara Qosh AND opening a Christian Centre in Central Europe. Pray with us and ask the Lord for guidance, whether to help us with logistics, finances or service. Claim complete coverage of the financial need in Jesus holy name and that these things would be done in time.
- 5.** We intend to invite people/preachers to our Gathering every First Sunday of every month and we are praying for guidance. Join our prayer and if you feel prompted to come and serve, just let's know. We claim that what the Lord has prepared for us in Jesus holy name and trust it will be used for His glory and the expansion of His Kingdom on earth.
- 6.** Praying for those Christians in dire need, who've returned to their liberated, but destroyed homes, is one of our main subject every morning at 6 am; join us and our 24/7 Prayer Team-JHPH and pray. We rebuke the spirit of despair and claim abundance for them, asking the Lord to help them to settle and live in peace. Thousands of families are still struggling, because of lack of help and support from the Central Government, but also from local authorities. We have faith that they'll be satisfied and claim comfort for them in Jesus holy name.
- 7.** Because of lack of nearly everything the Schools in the Christian territories need different kind of help, thus we pray; may the Lord give them what they need in time. We pray for a peaceful, new School Year, which's already started and pray peace upon them and those responsible. We proclaim that they'll be the new elite to rebuild Iraq and make it a place of science and knowledge, as it was once before under Christian leaders.
- 8.** Many invitations of pastors from different countries reached us, many asking us to associate with them and help through sending Bibles and other needs. We've been praying and will continue; may our Lord Jesus help us to fulfil our Calling and do His will. May we have ears to hear and follow the small, soft voice and not act in hurry and may you stand with us and pray.

Keep the Word, live the Calling and continue serving in a humble heart WITHOUT fear and don't ever forget your joy in the Lord no matter what might happen---He will never fail you.

We also ask you, dear Saints, to forward our Messages to as many people as you can whether Christians, Muslims or else with many thanks. We also would love to visit you, if invited to your Church, Prayer Group or else and share our testimony with all the Saints or hear from you. Please just let's know. We are waiting for your commentaries; what did the Message tell you and what did the Holy Spirit teach you? If you want us to pray for you or for somebody else, please let us know and we will pass the name/s over to our 24/7 Prayer Team-Jesus Highland Prayer House (JHPH).

Have a **\\^I^** Blessed Day

"...I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me" Micah 7:7