

The above five spiritual experiences are evidences of what is generally called salvation from sins. A fully saved person is a sinless person. A sinless person is a fully saved person. After getting the salvation from sins, everyone should pray for his spiritual growth continuously. Then only he will be able to grow in his spiritual life. Whatever one asks in prayer of faith he will get them all.

We know that whoever is saved or whoever is born of GOD does not commit sin, for HIS seed—the Word of GOD sown in his heart (St. Matthew 13:4, 19) remains in him; and he cannot sin (I John 3:9). He who is born of GOD keeps himself, in the ways of JESUS and the wicked one cannot touch him (I John 5:18). **If anyone misses his/her spiritual experience of salvation or lacks in his/her spiritual experience of salvation, he/she is still a sinner.**

4.3 HOLINESS AND HOLY LIFE

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the LORD.”

Hebrews 12:14

“For GOD hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”

I Thessalonians 4:7

“For this is the will of GOD, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”

I Thessalonians 4:3

“And the very GOD of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray GOD your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.”

I Thessalonians 5:23

To sanctify means to separate and set apart for a divine purpose. Sanctification results in withdrawing from selfishness and the world by gaining fellowship with and towards GOD. Therefore, sanctified people are set apart for a holy purpose. That purpose is to serve the LORD and to glorify HIM in whatever they do. Hence, the believers should constantly set themselves apart from sin and sinful ways and sinful thoughts and sinful deeds, in their life.

Sanctification is the divine act of GOD's grace, through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT. By sanctification, the affections of the believers

are purified and alienated from sin and the world. By sanctification, the believers are exalted to a supreme love of GOD. Only by sanctification, will the believers be holy and without blame before GOD in love.

“...GOD hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”

II Thessalonians 2:13

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the LORD JESUS, and by the Spirit of our GOD.”

I Corinthians 6:11

Justification is the act of GOD that declares a sinner righteous by faith on the merit of the LORD JESUS CHRIST's sacrifice. It is the addition of righteousness of CHRIST as well as the subtraction of sins. Anyone who comes to the LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST and trusts HIM for salvation and obtains salvation from HIM will be justified in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

“For all have sinned, and come (fall) short of the glory of GOD; Being justified freely (without any cost) by HIS grace through the redemption that is in CHRIST JESUS.”

Romans 3:23-24

“Who was delivered for (because of) our offences, and was raised again for (because of) our justification.”

Romans 4:25

The LORD JESUS CHRIST, the ONLY TRUE GOD washes off the sins of the people with HIS extremely holy blood and sanctifies them. The extremely holy blood of the LORD JESUS CHRIST purifies us from all sin.

“...And the blood of JESUS CHRIST HIS SON cleanseth us from all sin.”

I John 1:7

The people of GOD are sanctified and cleansed by the washing of water. 'The washing of water' means 'water baptism'.

“That HE might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.”

Ephesians 5:26

The people of GOD are sanctified by HIS truth. HIS Word is truth.

“Sanctify them through THY truth: THY Word is truth.”

St. John 17:17

The people who are saved by JESUS CHRIST are sanctified by baptism, the total immersion in water according to the Word of GOD, in the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT. They are further sanctified totally by the HOLY SPIRIT. Thus, the people obtain the exceedingly glorious experiences of sanctification and holy life, free of cost (I Corinthians 6:11).

To obtain the experiences of holiness and holy life, everyone should pray to GOD with tears and groaning and weeping and humility as stated above. JESUS CHRIST, the ONLY TRUE GOD alone sanctifies people. HE alone is the exceedingly holy GOD. Everyone should be pure in heart, to see GOD (St. Matthew 5:8).

By a sad countenance, the heart is made better and pure.

“Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.”

Ecclesiastes 7:3

Firstly, the unsaved people or the sinners should not pray for the anointing of the HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD. Firstly, they should pray for getting salvation from sins and after obtaining salvation from sins, they should pray for getting holiness and holy life. When they attain the required holiness and holy life to obtain the HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD, they will be anointed with the HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

If the unsaved people or the sinners pray for the anointing of the HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD, they will not receive the HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD. The HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD will not dwell in the unclean, impure and evil people. The HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD will dwell in HIS holy people, since the LORD GOD is the most holy GOD. When the unclean and impure and evil people pray for the anointing of the HOLY SPIRIT of the most holy GOD, they will not be anointed with the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD, but they will be anointed with the evil spirit of Satan, the devil. The evil spirit of Satan, the devil will enter into the unclean and impure and evil people very cunningly and deceitfully, when they pray for the HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD. So, the unsaved people or the sinners are warned of the danger of anointing

of the evil spirit. Anointing of the evil spirit of Satan, the devil may cause severe non-peace of mind, severe diseases, and even severe madness (severe mental illness).

Everyone should be holy, because our LORD GOD is holy.

“But as HE which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

I Peter 1:15-16

The word conversation here means conduct or living.

4.4 EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Spirit means power or strength. The HOLY SPIRIT means the holy strength or the holy power of the LORD GOD to live a holy life or spiritual life. A person who has not received the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD cannot live a holy life. He cannot live a spiritual life. The HOLY SPIRIT or the GOD's Spirit or the HOLY GHOST is the holy strength or the holy power from heaven. It is the holy strength or the holy power of the Most High. Those who receive the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD are HIS witnesses.

“But ye shall receive power, after that (when) the HOLY GHOST (the HOLY SPIRIT) is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto ME both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

The HOLY SPIRIT is the Spirit of faith. The HOLY SPIRIT is the precious faith (II Peter 1:1).

“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.”

II Corinthians 4:13

The HOLY SPIRIT is given to those who obey GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. The HOLY SPIRIT is given to those who obey the Word of GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

“...And so is also the HOLY GHOST (the HOLY SPIRIT), whom GOD hath given to them that obey HIM.”

Acts 5:32

The HOLY SPIRIT is given in answer to prayer.

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly FATHER give the HOLY SPIRIT to them that ask HIM?”

St. Luke 11:13

The saved people should pray to GOD with tears and groaning and weeping and humility to obtain the experience of the HOLY SPIRIT as stated above. A man who has not obtained the HOLY SPIRIT or the Spirit of CHRIST is not at all spiritual; he is not a Christian; he does not belong to CHRIST; he is not eligible to inherit heaven, the kingdom of GOD.

“...Now if any man have not the Spirit of CHRIST, he is none of HIS.”

Romans 8:9

Those who have obtained the HOLY SPIRIT or those who have been anointed with the HOLY SPIRIT enjoy the happiness of speaking to GOD, the divine secrets and the wonderful works and the glories of the LORD GOD in different languages not known to them. They enjoy great pleasure, comfort and consolation and they grow in holiness and godliness.

“Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of GOD. And they were all amazed, ...”

Acts 2:11-12

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto GOD: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries.”

I Corinthians 14:2

“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; ...”

I Corinthians 14:4

The HOLY SPIRIT or the Spirit of GOD is the Spirit of truth (I John 4:6). The Spirit of GOD is the Comforter (St. John 16:7). The Spirit of GOD is the power from on High (St. Luke 24:49). Anointing with the HOLY SPIRIT is anointing with fresh and fine oil of heaven (Psalm 92:10). The Spirit of GOD or the Spirit of the LORD is the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:2).

The HOLY SPIRIT of GOD is the seal for the day of redemption. The sealer is the LORD JESUS CHRIST; the seal is the HOLY SPIRIT.

This seal denotes both identification of ownership and protection provided by the owner, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. The HOLY SPIRIT as the seal to the believers is the earnest of their inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14). The word earnest means down payment. The HOLY SPIRIT is a down payment of GOD's commitment to give them all other things HE has promised.

“And grieve not the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Ephesians 4:30

The HOLY SPIRIT (the Spirit of truth) dwells in those who believe in JESUS CHRIST.

“Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth HIM not, neither knoweth HIM: but ye know HIM; for HE dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

St. John 14:17

Except by the HOLY SPIRIT, no one can say, "JESUS is the LORD".

“...And that no man can say that JESUS is the LORD, but by the HOLY GHOST (the HOLY SPIRIT).”

I Corinthians 12:3

The HOLY SPIRIT is the Spirit of adoption. The HOLY SPIRIT is the Spirit of GOD the SON (the LORD JESUS CHRIST). Only by the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD, we can cry, "ABBA, FATHER" (Galatians 4:6).

“...Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, ABBA, FATHER.”

Romans 8:15

Those who are filled with the HOLY SPIRIT bear the fruit of the Spirit, namely: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, righteousness, and truth (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9).

Those who are filled with the HOLY SPIRIT live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit.

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:25

The HOLY SPIRIT of GOD bears witness with our spirit, that we are GOD's children.

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of GOD.”

Romans 8:16

And if we are GOD's children, then we are HIS heirs—heirs of GOD, and joint-heirs with CHRIST.

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of GOD, and joint-heirs with CHRIST; ...”

Romans 8:17

The natural man or unspiritual man has no spiritual discernment, since he has no faith on GOD's revelation. The spiritual discernment is generated only by the HOLY SPIRIT. The things of GOD are spiritually discerned through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of GOD: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

I Corinthians 2:14

The LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST gives to HIS people the most glorious experience of anointing by the HOLY SPIRIT free of cost.

4.5 REDEMPTION FROM SINS

How is this glorious and free redemption from sins obtained by people, who have been enslaved or possessed by Satan, the devil ?

A man who has pledged his article (with a pawnbroker) cannot redeem it without paying money. If the money is not paid, the article, which was pledged, will belong to the other person (the pawnbroker).

Likewise, the first man and woman, created by GOD were holy and perfect and they belonged to GOD alone. They obeyed the commandment of GOD. But Satan, the devil cunningly deceived them and made them violate GOD's commandment. He stealthily captured them, took them captives, and made them his own slaves. Satan converted them and their generations into enemies of GOD and grievous sinners. Thus, Satan made them his own people. The LORD JESUS CHRIST, the ONLY TRUE GOD came into this world and offered HIS own extremely holy flesh and blood and HIS immensely glorious life as ransom on the Calvary, to redeem the world from all sin and iniquity (Titus 2:14). As the LORD offered HIMSELF a ransom to redeem the world, people obtain the glorious redemption free. They are

redeemed without money. They are redeemed without price. They are purified (Titus 2:14) and justified freely through the redemption (St. Matthew 20:28; Galatians 3:13; I Peter 1:18-20).

“Being justified freely by HIS grace through the redemption that is in CHRIST JESUS”

Romans 3:24

“In Whom we have redemption through HIS blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of HIS grace.”

Ephesians 1:7

They are redeemed from the curse, from the slavery of sins, slavery of Satan and many other slaveries. The great blessing of living as GOD's own children is obtained free. As stated above, everyone should sincerely pray to GOD with tears and groaning and weeping and humility to obtain this great blessing. The LORD JESUS CHRIST is the Only Redeemer of the world. There is no other redeemer.

“...THOU, O LORD, art our FATHER, our Redeemer; THY name is from everlasting.”

Isaiah 63:16

In Christianity, the vicarious **atonement** of CHRIST is a covering for the sinner by the blood of CHRIST. It has opened the door for reconciliation between man and GOD (II Corinthians 5:19) without doing injustice to the holy Law of GOD. GOD is just and HIS justice demands the punishment of the sinner. So, without atonement, there can be no reconciliation. The atonement of CHRIST is the redemption of CHRIST or the grace of CHRIST, which HE accomplished on the cross. The redemption of CHRIST assures forgiveness and salvation. This redemption of CHRIST is a personal necessity for everyone; it removes the condemnation of sin; it reveals the absolute perfection of GOD's divine holiness and righteousness and man's utter depravity; it fulfils GOD's Law, HIS holy Word; and GOD, being a divine moral Judge, it complies with HIS divine moral order of HIS own judgment. To be consistent with one's moral needs, forgiveness by means of redemption is essential. If anyone is under his/her conviction of sin and knows nothing of the vicarious atonement of CHRIST, his/her conscience will not be consistent with his/her moral needs. A show of godliness and good works, fasting like prayers, pilgrimages, and giving of alms never atone for anyone's sins. Our substitute in atonement and redemption is CHRIST.

Redemption from sins includes redemption from vain conduct received by tradition from fathers, the tradition of men or the commandments of men (I Peter 1:18-19; St. Matthew 15:3, 6, 9; St. Mark 7:8-9, 13). Everyone should be redeemed from vain conduct received by tradition from fathers.

Again, redemption refers to the release of a slave or captive upon receipt of a ransom. The saved people are therefore released from their enslavement to sin and Satan, the devil and the resulting divine wrath. Redemption from sins is achieved by the vicarious atonement wrought by the LORD JESUS CHRIST's death on the cross. HE died as a substitute for sin.

Further, the word redeem means to purchase or to purchase in the market or to purchase and take home or to purchase and give freedom. These meanings emphasize that the saved people have been purchased out of the market-place and are no longer for sale and the liberty that belongs to a soul redeemed by the LORD JESUS CHRIST. The saved people should stand firm in that liberty, the spiritual liberty and in their relationship with CHRIST as sons of adoption. Through CHRIST, the Redeemer, the saved people (believers) have become GOD's sons of adoption (Galatians 4:4-5; 5:1).

5 . PRAYER AND PRAYER LIFE

Only the LORD our GOD hears our prayers. Only the LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST hears our prayers.

“O THOU that hearest prayer, unto THEE shall all flesh come.”

Psalm 65:2

*“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud:
and HE shall hear my voice.”*

Psalm 55:17

For leading a holy life and for the spiritual growth, prayer life is the most important one. Every spirit-filled man should keep on praying in the HOLY SPIRIT on all occasions with all kinds of prayers, supplications and requests, and he should be on the alert always about his spiritual life. Everyone should pray for the saints and everyone should pray for the ministers of the church (I Thessalonians 5:25).

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication
for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me,*

that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

Ephesians 6:18-19

The immensely glorious commandments in the Holy Bible, the Holy Scriptures of GOD relating to prayer are, pray without ceasing; pray watchfully praising GOD; always pray watchfully; be careful to pray and steadily remain in prayer. **'Be watchful'** does not mean that we should remain with our eyes open. But it means that we should always be careful about our spiritual life; we should always be clear minded, self-controlled and blameless; we should never be lacking in zeal; we should always be ready to take part in the first resurrection of the saints and we should always be ready to be caught up together with the LORD's church (the believers of HIS church) at the coming of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. JESUS CHRIST, the ONLY TRUE GOD alone listens to our prayers. Therefore, it is necessary for everyone to come to the presence of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and pray to HIM in HIS holy name (I Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 4:2; I Peter 4:7; Romans 12:12).

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST said,

“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the SON OF MAN (the LORD JESUS CHRIST).”

St. Luke 21:36

Prayer alone will enable one to stand before the returning SON OF MAN, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE is coming to separate the sinners and the saved.

Some Christians **fast** in memory of CHRIST's suffering during **Lent**, the period of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to the day before Easter. Their **flirtational fast** is very clearly seen in their momentary giving up of smoking/drinking/chocolates/meat for Lent. This flirtational fast is a vain conduct received by the tradition of men, by laying aside the commandment of GOD (St. Matthew 6:16-18; Isaiah 58:3-7; St. Mark 7:8). Our GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST has not told anything about this Ash Wednesday/Lent. The Holy Bible also tells nothing about this Ash Wednesday/Lent. But, everyone should remember the great agonizing sufferings of CHRIST everyday, throughout one's lifetime to receive HIS blessings.

Now, '**Pray always**' is the commandment of our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST. But, HE had not commanded us to count the number of prayers and HE had not commanded us to use any rosary for counting prayers. Hence, using rosary to count the number of prayers is against the commandment of our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST. Thus, **using rosary to count the number of prayers is an unwanted act** and hence it is sin.

Rosary is a string of beads that are used by some Roman Catholics for counting prayers as they say them. The rosary refers to the set of prayers said by Roman Catholics while counting rosary beads.

Prayer is our talking to the LORD Most High. Prayer is an earnest request to GOD. Prayer is a request made to the LORD for spiritual and physical goodness, as a child requests its father for physical goodness. Prayer is an act of pleading with GOD; an act of appealing to GOD; an act of begging GOD; an act of calling GOD; and an act of speaking with GOD.

When we pray to GOD, we speak with GOD. When we pray to GOD, we speak with our heavenly FATHER. When we do not pray to GOD, we do not speak with GOD. When we do not pray to GOD, we do not speak with our heavenly FATHER, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. When we pray to GOD, we are friendly and courteous with GOD. When we pray to GOD, we are friendly and courteous with our heavenly FATHER. When we do not pray to GOD, we are non-friendly and discourteous with GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

5.1 HOW SHOULD WE PRAY ?

How should we pray to the glorious, the Most High and the very great GOD ? How should we pray to GOD, whom the heavens and heaven of heavens cannot contain ?

We should pray to GOD humbling ourselves. We should humble and tremble before GOD and pray on our knees with our arms folded and with our hands placed together. We should pray to GOD with great humility and great modesty. We should bow down, kneel before GOD, and pray. We should pray with our eyes closed and in the manner, the Scripture tells us.

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.”

Psalm 95:6

“Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”

Psalm 2:11

“That at the name of JESUS every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that JESUS CHRIST is LORD, ...”

Philippians 2:10-11

‘Things’ means ‘those’.

5.2 WHAT IS HUMILITY ?

Humility means divine humility. Humility means to agree with GOD about HIS assessment of our spiritual condition, to abandon ourselves to GOD's plan of salvation, to cast away all our inhibitions at the LORD's feet and to submit to HIS will for our lives in accordance with the Word of GOD. It is not a mindless submission, nor a posture we assume based on what we decide to do. Our LORD JESUS CHRIST's absolute dependence on GOD, the FATHER is a model to us. HE said,

“No man can come to ME, except the FATHER which hath sent ME draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

St. John 6:44

“HE hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy GOD?”

Micah 6:8

This quality of humility is the highest form of character. With the humble is wisdom. Be completely humble and gentle (Ephesians 4:2). GOD opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

“...And be clothed with humility: for GOD resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

I Peter 5:5

“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly (humble) is wisdom.”

Proverbs 11:2

Humility involves total submission to GOD's will and authority. Humility involves constant communion with GOD.

“I have heard of THEE by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth THEE. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Job 42:5-6

Humility comes before honour. Humility and the fear of GOD bring riches and honour and life. Riches means GOD's abundant grace; honour means GOD's magnificent honour; and life means eternal life in the kingdom of GOD or in the kingdom of heaven.

“...Before honour is humility.”

Proverbs 15:33

“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.”

Proverbs 22:4

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST's divine humility is the true humility. HE emptied HIMSELF by veiling HIS glory; HE emptied HIMSELF in that HE assumed a servant's nature and appeared in the likeness of men. And HE humbled HIMSELF in becoming obedient unto death even death by crucifixion.

“But made HIMSELF of no reputation, and took upon HIM the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, HE humbled HIMSELF, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Philippians 2:7-8

5.3 PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Praying for others is one of the best things we can do for ourselves. Job's three friends found themselves in deep trouble with GOD. The LORD GOD said to Eliphaz the Temanite,

“...MY wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of ME the thing that is right, as MY servant Job hath.”

Job 42:7

As instructed by GOD, Job prayed for them in his great captivity (great suffering). And as he prayed for their forgiveness and restoration, the LORD GOD turned these prayers for blessing back into Job and restored twice as much as Job had before.

“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.”

Job 42:10

The LORD GOD's restoration of Job was immediate and bountiful: Job had given friends and relatives (kith and kin), material prosperity, family, and long life.

When people hurt and offend us, we should pray for them. The real happiness comes if we put our pains behind us and pray for GOD's blessing on them.

Our LORD JESUS said,

“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

St. Matthew 5:44

We ought to pray for the goodness of our enemies and not for their ruin. Loving an enemy and praying for an enemy involve doing good deed towards that enemy in order to win him over to CHRIST.

Is anyone among us suffering? Let him pray and we must also pray for him for his comfort (James 5:13). Is anyone among us sick? Let us pray for him with the elders of the church or with the workers of the church for his restoration from physical sickness and spiritual weakness (James 5:14-15). We must also pray for one another, confessing our sins to one another so as to continue in the true fellowship with our LORD (James 5:16). The prayer of a man who is living righteously has unfailing access to the power of healing of our righteous GOD. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man, the true servant of GOD will accomplish much and the power of the prayer of faith will be revealed through him (James 5:15-16). Thus, prayer is the heart of getting relief from physical sicknesses or spiritual weaknesses.

When our LORD JESUS CHRIST was in this world, HE prayed for HIS disciples and for all believers. So, we ought to pray for HIS ministers (workers) and for all believers. Our LORD JESUS CHRIST prayed for HIS disciples, in St. John 17:9, 15.

“I pray for them: ...”

St. John 17:9

“I pray not that THOU shouldest take them out of the world, but that THOU shouldest keep them from the evil.”

St. John 17:15

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST prayed for all believers for their spiritual unity.

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on ME through their word; That they all may be one; ...”

St. John 17:20-21

When our LORD JESUS CHRIST was painfully hanging on the cross, HE prayed for the forgiveness of HIS enemies. So, we also ought to pray for the forgiveness of our enemies.

“FATHER, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

St. Luke 23:34

‘FATHER’ is GOD the FATHER. ‘GOD the FATHER’ is the LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF.

Praying for others must be our divine duty. Not praying is considered a sin against GOD.

“Moreover as for me, GOD forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: ...”

I Samuel 12:23

Your hand—a prayer reminder.

- Thumb** —for your closest and for your family and friends and neighbours, etc.
- Pointing finger** —for your preachers, teachers, guides, etc.
- Middle finger** —for your rulers and others in authority.
(Largest finger)
- Weakest finger** —for the helpless, the sick and the poor, etc.
- Small finger** — for you, yourself and your needs.

Pray earnestly: You can't expect a 1000 dollar answer to a ten-cent prayer!

5.4 PRAYER ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

Most important of all, we should pray for all men to enjoy a tranquil life. Such prayers are good and acceptable to GOD; such prayers will help the salvation of the ungodly; and such prayers will bring the knowledge of the truth to the ungodly.

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of GOD our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

I Timothy 2:1-4

Supplications are precise requests for specific needs. Prayers refer to various kinds of prayer—confession, thanksgiving, etc.

Intercessions denote prayers to GOD on behalf of others.

Giving of thanks refers to prayers of praise.

So, we should pray with tears, confessing our sins, transgressions, iniquities, faults, mistakes, disobedience and everything which is contrary to holiness. We should pray with great reverence, falling before GOD. We should pray with a shattered and broken-heart and with tears and lamentation.

We should pray meditating how JESUS CHRIST, the ONLY TRUE GOD came into the world giving up HIS great glory of heaven; how HE suffered great insults, humiliations, agonies and disgrace and how HE died on the cross of Calvary shedding HIS most holy blood. We should pray with a melting heart and tears.

We should pray to GOD for repentance from sins, forgiveness of sins, salvation from sins, divine goodness, born-again experience, the experiences of holiness and holy life and HOLY SPIRIT and redemption from sins and for the spiritual growth.

We should pray everyday for our spiritual goodness and blessings, heavenly blessings and worldly goodness, physical health and strength and all other things. We should pray for escaping from the terrible judgment and horrible punishment in hell.

We ought always to pray and not to faint (St. Luke 18:1-8). We should beg the LORD to send out HIS workers into HIS harvest (St. Luke 10:2). We should beg the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain (latter spiritual rain). We should beg the LORD persistently and repeatedly. We should beg the LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST with an importunate begging.

“Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.”

Zechariah 10:1

“Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your GOD: for HE hath given you the former rain moderately, and HE will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.”

Joel 2:23

We should pray with faith, belief, and one heart. We should pray without any doubt. We should pray fervently giving praise, thanking, and glorifying GOD. We should not use unnecessary words and vain repetitions while praying. We should never pray in wrong ways to satisfy our desires. We should pray only for the fulfilment of GOD's will in us and in the right manner. We should always give ear to the law of the LORD and pray.

“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”

Proverbs 28:9

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the LORD. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

James 1:6-8

“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

James 4:3

“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your FATHER knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask HIM.”

St. Matthew 6:7-8

5.5 PRIVATE PRAYER

Prayer is of three types. They are private prayer, congregational prayer, and meditation. All these types are prayers according to the Holy Scripture and given by the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Private prayer is a prayer to the LORD JESUS CHRIST made behind the door in seclusion in low voice, with sighs and tears being heard by no one.

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet (inner room), and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy FATHER which is in secret; and thy FATHER which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

St. Matthew 6:6

5.6 CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Congregational prayer is a prayer in which people, who assemble to worship the LORD, raise their voice and cry loudly in tears and wailing and lament in prayer to GOD.

“Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of GOD, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore (bitterly).”

Ezra 10:1

“Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their GOD one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their GOD. Then stood up upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani, and cried with a loud voice unto the LORD their GOD.”

Nehemiah 9:1-4

5.7 MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Meditation is a prayer to the LORD JESUS CHRIST made silently at heart sitting in a quiet place. These three types of prayers are necessary for everyone. It is necessary for us to pray and meditate always, while we sit, while we walk, while we travel, while on bed and while we work. This is the way of praying always and without ceasing.

“When I remember THEE upon my bed, and meditate on THEE in the night watches.”

Psalm 63:6

“My meditation of HIM shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.”

Psalm 104:34

If a man does not pray to GOD, he fails to speak to his own heavenly FATHER. It means that he is not asking his heavenly FATHER for anything. It means that he is not friendly with GOD. But he is unfriendly with GOD. This man will lose not only his kinship with GOD but also all the blessings of GOD. Every blessing is taken away from him. He meets with great defeat, great loss, great fall, great problems, and he becomes nothing. He becomes a miserable sinner liable to judgment and hell.

A man who is not praying cannot live and survive as a spiritual being. In order to live and survive as spiritual people, and to inherit heaven, many cried to GOD in tears and confession and in fasting, wearing garments of sorrow, sitting in dust and ash, showering dust and ash on their heads and bodies and lying on the ground. The LORD GOD was merciful to them. The LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST delivered them and blessed them. **Thus, prayer is victory; prayer is life. There is no victory without prayer and no life without prayer.** Those who live a victorious life obtaining divine and eternal life will alone go to heaven; the saints of the LORD obtain the HOLY SPIRIT and pray in the HOLY SPIRIT.

5.8 PRAYER WITH HANDS LIFTED UP

The holy servants of the LORD are permitted to lift up their holy hands in the sanctuary in the house of the LORD.

“Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.”

Psalm 134:1-2

In the Holy Bible we read, **they lifted up their voice to GOD with one accord** (Acts 4:24). So, we must also lift up our voice to GOD with one accord.

Singing with all our hearts with a joyful and loud noise to the LORD for edification is good (Psalm 98:4). Here, let us not forget the importance of communicating loudly with our heavenly FATHER; our LORD JESUS also on the cross made the cry "TETALESTAI" (It is finished) with a loud voice (St. Luke 23:46). 'Tetalestai' is a Greek word which means 'It is finished' (St. John 19:30). Let it be done decently and in order. Using musical instruments to the LORD for edification is good (II Samuel 6:5). Let it be done decently and in order. Singing to the LORD by clapping hands for edification is good (Psalm 47:1). Let it be done decently and in order.

Nowadays the so-called dancing in the Spirit is not at all done for edification and it is also not done decently and in order. The so-called dancing in the Spirit will never give a Spirit-filled life. So, it should not be done.

Only the holy men, but not the holy women, who are the saints of the LORD can look towards heaven and pray with their holy hands lifted up or raised and stretched towards heaven.

“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”

I Timothy 2:8

Only holy men have the authority to pray in this manner. Sinners do not have the authority to pray in this manner. Only pure men should pray in this manner. Only holy men should pray in this manner. Sinners should not pray in this manner. Any man with polluted hands should not pray in this manner. Any man with hands that beat, hands that receive bribes and commission, and hands that commit all works of wicked sins should not pray with his hands raised and stretched.

It is not decent or proper for any woman to pray with her hands lifted up or raised or stretched towards heaven. Let all things be done for edification.

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”

I Corinthians 14:40

“...Let all things be done unto edifying.”

I Corinthians 14:26

5.9 WAITING PRAYER

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST has said,

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

St. Luke 11:9-10

Here **ask** means ask in prayer; **seek** means seek in prayer; and **knock** means knock in prayer. Ask, seek and knock suggest perseverance and continual prayer.

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST has also said,

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

St. Matthew 21:22

Therefore, it is necessary for everyone to pray to GOD in faith and receive abundantly all blessings needed. In the prayer of faith, sinners submit themselves wholly to GOD and pray for salvation and holy life. They confess their sins with tears and groaning and weeping and pray for forgiveness of sins, salvation and experiences of holy life. This is the prayer, the LORD GOD is pleased with. This is the prayer, the LORD GOD likes. This is the prayer, the LORD GOD hears. This is the most important and fundamental prayer.

Further, everyone should Wait and Pray for the following:

1. Wait and pray for the salvation of the LORD GOD.

“The LORD is good unto them that wait for HIM, to the soul that seeketh HIM. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.”

Lamentations 3:25-26

2. Wait and pray for holiness.

“Draw nigh (near) to GOD, and HE will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the LORD, and HE shall lift you up.”

James 4:8-10

3. Wait and pray for the strengthening of heart.

“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and HE shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

Psalms 27:14

4. Wait and pray for the grace of the LORD.

“Keep yourselves in the love of GOD, looking for the mercy of our LORD JESUS CHRIST unto eternal life.”

Jude 21

5. Wait and pray for the renewal of strength.

“HE giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might HE increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:29-31

6. Wait and pray for the promise of GOD.

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the FATHER, which, saith HE, ye have heard of ME.”

Acts 1:4

7. Wait and pray for the HOLY SPIRIT.

“And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of JESUS,

and with HIS brethren.”

Acts 1:13-14

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the HOLY GHOST (the HOLY SPIRIT), and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 2:1-4

8. Wait and pray for the worldly blessings.

“Are there any among the vanities (worthless idols) of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not THOU HE, O LORD our GOD? therefore we will wait upon THEE: for THOU hast made all these things.”

Jeremiah 14:22

9. Wait and pray for the bodily healing. A man waiting at the pool of Bethesda was healed (St. John 5:1-15).

10. Wait and pray for the adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

Romans 8:23

11. Wait and pray for the glorious appearing of the great GOD and our SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great GOD and our SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.”

Titus 2:12-13

12. Wait and pray for the coming of the day of GOD.

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation (conduct) and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the

coming of the day of GOD, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

II Peter 3:11-12

13. Wait and pray for the new heavens and a new earth (II Peter 3:13-14).
14. Wait and pray for our glorious heavenly body (Philippians 3:20-21).
15. Wait and pray for the kingdom of GOD (the kingdom of heaven).

"For the kingdom of GOD is not in word, but in power."

I Corinthians 4:20

'Power' means 'spiritual experience'.

We should always be humble and faithful before GOD while praying to meet our needs and difficulties and concerns. HE is the "Almighty Master of the entire Universe." As HIS beloved children we can always entreat HIM to grant our wishes. We can confidently tell HIM of our needs and difficulties and concerns. Our GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST is not an unjust judge. HE is the most righteous Judge. HE is never reluctant to help us or to do what is good for us. We ought to pray not losing heart even if the answer is delayed. We should not be discouraged if time goes by and we see no answer (St. Luke 18:1-8).

Prayer life is the most important thing for a successful Christian life. Prayer gives full fellowship with GOD. Prayer includes asking and getting answers from the LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST. We should always ask according to the will of GOD, by keeping HIS commandments.

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of HIM, because we keep HIS commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in HIS sight."

I John 3:22

"And this is the confidence that we have in HIM, that, if we ask any thing according to HIS will, HE heareth us."

I John 5:14

When we pray, we should follow the model prayer JESUS gave HIS disciples. Our prayer should be addressed to our heavenly

FATHER—beginning with adoration, thanksgiving, confession of sins, making reconciliation with others, etc.; and then for our needs, the needs of others, etc.; and concluding in the name of JESUS, the Redeemer (St. Matthew 6:9-15; St. John 14:14; 16:23-24).

Prayer is so important that not praying is considered a sin against the LORD GOD. Praying for us and others must be our divine duty (I Samuel 12:23).

5.10 PRAYER WITH ONE ACCORD IN THE SPIRIT

Whenever we pray, we must humble ourselves in the sight of our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST. We must submit ourselves to GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. We should always remember HIS great sufferings that HE suffered for us, the sinners. We should always remember HIS horrible death that HE died for us, the sinners. We should always remember HIS great love towards us, the sinners.

Further, we should always pray with the fear of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, as HE sees us always. Again, in faith and in good sense, we should pray. In good sense, we should confess our sins (hidden sins and wilful sins), iniquities, trespasses, errors, faults, etc., to GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST, with broken-heart and with contrite spirit and with tears and with cries and with humility to get deliverance from sins. Then our hearts will not go hither and thither; our hearts will not move or change towards any unwanted thing; our hearts will be firm and steady in our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST. This kind of prayer is called a **prayer with one accord**. See Acts 2:1; 4:24. A prayer with one accord is good and acceptable and perfect in the sight of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. **Praise The LORD! Alleluia!**

The saved people should assemble together and lift up their voice to GOD with one accord (Acts 4:24). They should offer continuous prayers (I Thessalonians 5:17). They should make their steadfast prayers without ceasing (Romans 12:12). This kind of prayer is called a **constant prayer** (Acts 12:5). If the saved people pray like this, the place where they assemble together will be shaken and they will be filled with the HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 4:24-31). **Praise The LORD! Alleluia!**

If we pray to GOD filled with the HOLY SPIRIT, then this kind of prayer is called a prayer in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18). If we pray in the Spirit, we get all blessings—worldly and heavenly blessings. If we pray in the Spirit, we get liberty from the bondage of sin and from the bondage of Satan and from the bondage of the world and from all other bondages and sufferings. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

“Now the LORD is that (the) Spirit: and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is liberty.”

II Corinthians 3:17

Now, by the constant prayer of the church with one accord in the Spirit, our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST sent HIS angel from heaven and miraculously opened the prison gate and freed Peter from prison (Acts 12:3-11). Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

We always ought to pray and not lose heart. We always ought to pray and not to faint (St. Luke 18:1-8). We must persist in prayers and supplications with patience and perseverance. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

Our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST hears the prayers of the righteous or the saved people (Proverbs 15:29). If two of them agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, our LORD JESUS CHRIST will do it for them. For where two or three are gathered together in HIS name, HE is in the midst of them (St. Matthew 18:19-20). This is the confidence that the saved people have in HIM, that if they ask anything according to HIS will, HE hears them. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

“And this is the confidence that we have in HIM, that, if we ask anything according to HIS will, HE heareth us.”

I John 5:14

5.11 SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Early Morning Prayers: The Psalms remind us that the early morning hours spent with GOD is vital for our spiritual growth (Psalm 88:13). Each morning we have a fresh opportunity to recall HIS tender mercies and protection (Psalm 59:16; 92:2). Each morning we have a fresh opportunity to find HIS tender direction and guidance for the tasks of the day (Psalm 143:8). Our LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF rose up before daybreak and prayed (St. Mark 1:35). GOD's people had regular early morning worship (I Samuel 1:19;

Psalm 63:1). So, we also must have early morning prayer for our spiritual growth.

Early morning is the quiet and peaceful time for our prayers and supplications. In the early morning, we can pray to GOD without any hindrance. So, this is the most suitable time for our prayers and supplications with GOD. Our GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST satisfies the thirsting soul, longing for spiritual growth. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

“O GOD, THOU art my GOD; early will I seek THEE: my soul thirsteth for THEE, my flesh longeth for THEE in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;”

Psalm 63:1

For the spiritual growth, in addition to the above prayer life, every man should first drink the pure spiritual milk of the Word of GOD, and then eat the pure spiritual meat (food) of the Word of GOD, and then eat the pure spiritual strong meat (strong food) of the Word of GOD, and then eat the pure wholesome words, the pure sound words, the pure sound doctrines and the pure faithful Words of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, our GOD.

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in CHRIST. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat (food): for hitherto (until now) ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.”

I Corinthians 3:1-2

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

I Corinthians 13:11

“For when for the time (though by this time) ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of GOD; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Hebrews 5:12-14

“If any man teach otherwise, and consent (agree) not to wholesome words, even the Words of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;”

I Timothy 6:3

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in CHRIST JESUS.”

II Timothy 1:13

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

II Timothy 4:3

A spiritually newborn baby or a born-again man grows up to the stage of spiritually-young man, by drinking the pure spiritual milk. A spiritually-young man grows up to the stage of man spiritually, by eating the pure spiritual food. A person who is spiritually at the stage of man, further grows into a spiritually matured man, or a spiritually grown-up man, or a spiritually perfect man, by eating the pure spiritual strong food. A spiritually perfect man becomes a mighty man in spiritual life, by eating the pure wholesome words, the pure sound words, the pure sound doctrines and the pure faithful Words of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the ONLY TRUE GOD. A mighty man in spiritual life is a man full of good senses and godliness.

Again, for the spiritual growth, everyone should build himself up on his most holy faith and obtain the HOLY SPIRIT of the LORD and pray to the LORD JESUS CHRIST in the HOLY SPIRIT; everyone should live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25). To live before GOD in the Spirit, the gospel is being preached (I Peter 4:6).

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the HOLY GHOST (the HOLY SPIRIT).”

Jude 20

For the spiritual growth, everyone should hate vain thoughts and love HIS law (Psalm 119:113). They should be wise in what is good and simple about what is evil (Romans 16:19). In regard to malice they should be babes, but in understanding they should be mature (I Corinthians 14:20). No one should be carried about with various and strange doctrines (Hebrews 13:9; Ephesians 4:14; I Timothy 4:1).

In order to grow in the spiritual life, everyone should lay aside all malice, all guile, all deceit, hypocrisies, envies, all evil speakings and all sins and lay apart all filthiness, and superfluity of naughtiness.

“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire

the sincere (pure) milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

I Peter 2:1-2

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

James 1:21

For the spiritual growth of HIS people: HE (the LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF) gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of CHRIST: till we all come to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the SON OF GOD (the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the TRUE GOD), to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of CHRIST (Ephesians 4:11-13).

“And GOD hath set (appointed) some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities (varieties) of tongues.”

I Corinthians 12:28

The LORD JESUS CHRIST our GOD has been appointing the above ministers of GOD for HIS ministry, for the spreading of HIS glorious Gospel and for HIS church. The two important signs of HIS church are miracles and gifts of healings.

Now, for the fullest growth in spiritual life, everyone should grow in the grace of the LORD GOD and in the knowledge of our LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST (II Peter 3:18). Also prayer is the heart of the fullest growth in spiritual life.

The saved GOD's people set their hope in the living GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST (I Timothy 6:17). Their delight is in doing good works (Ephesians 2:10). They abide and live according to the Word of GOD, the incorruptible seed which lives and abides for ever (I Peter 1:23). They receive the eternal divine life from GOD (St. John 10:10). Their labour for the LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST will never be in vain (I Corinthians 15:58). Surely all goodness and mercy will follow them all the days of their life (Psalm 23:6) and finally they will receive the glorious crown of righteousness in the kingdom of GOD (II Timothy 4:8). Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

Now, the spiritual growth or maturity is not Biblical knowledge or Bible study. M.Phil., Ph.D., Th.M., Th.D., M.Div., D.Min., B.D., D.D., or any other degrees do not reveal one's spiritual growth or maturity. The spiritual growth or maturity is not automatic. The spiritual growth or maturity is not mystical. The spiritual growth or maturity is not instant. The spiritual growth or maturity is openly known to all.

5.12 WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR ?

1. To glorify GOD's name (St. Matthew 6:9).
2. The desire to have fellowship with GOD, HIS Word and HIS saints that motivates praying (Psalm 42:1-2; 68:11; 50:5).
3. For daily sustenance (St. Matthew 6:11).
4. For strategic wisdom (James 1:5) to live in this world amidst unrighteous people.
5. For deliverance in times of trials, tribulations and sufferings (Jonah 2:1-2; Psalm 20:1).
6. For deliverance from fear and anxiety (Philippians 4:6-7).
7. For GOD's protection against enemies as in the past (Psalm 44: 1-3).
8. For deliverance from guilt and guilt feelings (Psalm 32:5; Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9).
9. For everyone in authority (I Timothy 2:1-3).
10. For spiritual growth (Ephesians 3:14-19; Colossians 1:9-11).
11. For personal requirements such as purity of heart (Psalm 66: 18-19).
12. For forgiving spirit (St. Matthew 6:14).
13. For simplicity (St. Matthew 6:5-6).
14. For unity of believers (St. Matthew 18:19-20).
15. For tenacity in praying without losing heart (St. Luke 18:1-8).
16. For humility and repentance (St. Luke 18:10-14).
17. For importunity (St. Luke 11:5-8) in requesting the LORD.
18. For physical deliverance of GOD's people (Acts 12:5-12).
19. For the salvation of unbelievers (Romans 10:1).
20. For those who proclaim the gospel of GOD's salvation (Psalm 96:2; St. Matthew 9:38; Acts 13:2-3).

21. For boldness and courage in the proclamation of the gospel (Ephesians 6:18-19; Acts 4:29).
22. For the physically sick and infirmed (James 5:14-16; Acts 28:8).
23. To ensure that the ministry continues uninterrupted (Romans 15:30-31).
24. To increase in the knowledge of GOD and HIS will (Colossians 1:9-10; Ephesians 1:17).
25. For the power to comprehend the love of CHRIST (Ephesians 3:14-18).
26. For strength and endurance (Ephesians 1:16, 19; Colossians 1:11).
27. For the faith never to fail (St. Luke 22:32; St. Mark 9:24; Ephesians 3:14, 17).
28. For deliverance from temptation (St. Matthew 6:13; 26:41).
29. For power to do good works (Colossians 1:9-10) with the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9).
30. For protection from the evil one (St. Matthew 6:13).

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the HOLY GHOST (the HOLY SPIRIT), Keep yourselves in the love of GOD, looking for the mercy of our LORD JESUS CHRIST unto eternal life.”

Jude 20, 21

Prayer is an act of true and humble worship of GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. By prayer we truly and humbly offer up praise and thanksgiving to GOD and present our requests before HIM.

"We should seek JESUS, for HE is our GOD.
 We should pray to JESUS, for HE intercedes for us.
 We should know JESUS, for HE died and lives for us.
 We should follow JESUS, for HE is leading us in HIS way.
 We should praise JESUS, for HE is providing all for us.
 We should love JESUS, for HE is calling us HIS children.
 We should live in JESUS, for HE is our eternal life.
 We should glorify JESUS, for HE is our great reward."

Now, our purpose and plan must be JESUS; our intention and aim must be JESUS; our thought and everything must be JESUS, for HE is the

giver of HIS kingdom, the kingdom of GOD to us. Praise The LORD!
Alleluia!

6. BEWARE OF THE MUTILATION

The apostle Paul warns,

“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision (mutilation).”

Philippians 3:2

"The concision" means 'the mutilation'. "The mutilation" means 'the mutilators of the flesh or those who mutilate or cut the flesh'. It is a contemptuous term for the circumcision. The circumcised are the true people of GOD (Philippians 3:3).

The heathens have a wrong thought that they can obtain salvation from sins and kingdom of heaven, by wounding or by causing physical injury to their bodies. So, they mutilate or cut the flesh. Some cut the flesh of their foreskin; some make cuttings in their bodies with knives or swords (I Kings 18:28), some whip them with scourges; some pierce their cheeks by arrows; and some pierce their lips by arrows, to show their **self-willed worship** with **false humility**. There is no value in their self-willed worship and false humility and in severe (harsh) treatment of the body (Colossians 2:23). Thus, **externalism** (excessive regard for the external) and **asceticism** (the practice of self-denial of physical pleasures and comforts) and **legalism** (the observance of the letter of the law rather than the Spirit) are of no value to put a harness on the sensual appetite of human beings' sinful nature (Colossians 2:23).

The dog is the most despised, shameless and miserable creature and a scavenger roaming the streets. The dog is unclean (Leviticus 11:27). As "the dog returns to his own vomit again" (II Peter 2:22; Proverbs 26:11), they take back their own ugly sins.

The apostle Paul warns against dogs, which are then described as evil workers and finally as the concision. Dogs are unclean. The evil workers are evil. The concision are those deserving contempt. In nature they are unclean dogs. In behaviour they are evil workers. In religion they are the concision, people of shame. The apostle Paul warns the believers to be vigilant of such unclean, evil and contemptible people.