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**SELF-DENIAL –**  
**“ASKS YOU TO LEND A HAND”**



# Not how little but how much

**T**he poem 'A Little Grain of Gold' is from Tagore's Gitanjali (song 50). It tells us an interesting parable. It sounds simple but conveys a valuable message. It highlights the virtue of giving. The poem effectively drives home the point that 'giving' should come before 'taking'. Thus, it acquires a remarkable and universal appeal.

The speaker, a beggar, was on his begging rounds. He saw the king of all kings coming his way in gorgeous chariot. He was excited thinking that he would get plenty as alms. But the king, to the beggar's shock and surprise, asked him what he would give. The beggar thought it was a royal joke. He slowly took out 'a least little grain of corn' from his bag and gave it to the king. That evening, the beggar found 'a least grain of gold' in his alms. He wept bitterly. He wished he had the heart to give his all to the king who in fact was God.

## What we sow, we reap!!

What self-denial does mean that, while we can have the desire of our heart, we are to deny our own way of achieving them and trust the Lord to do it His way. Denying ourselves also means turning away from the ways of the 'Old Self' and continually putting on our 'New Self' in Christ. Christians are supposed to give from the heart-from the love. It's not the desire of 'Rewards' forces the Christian giving. The idea of 'getting something in return' or 'the attitude of what is in it for me' is not the real motive or driving force in real Christian giving.

But we should also note that the Bible talks about the Rewards for Christian giving. Even though the real motive behind Christian giving is not the rewards, the Bible very clearly states that our God keeps many rewards for faithful Christian giving! It is applicable to all areas of our life including our time, our talents and our treasures. The Bible offers unlimited blessings to those who give voluntarily and in selfless manner. It is an investment with no ceiling or cut off to this return.

The amount of blessing that we reap is limited only how much we sow. We can sow according to how much we are blessed and reap according to how much we sowed. Another promised reward for giving is 'your needs will be met'. Our God is willing and able to supply us with everything to meet our needs. He promises to meet our true needs – but not our selfish wants. 'You will be enriched in everything' and 'You will be supplied with plenty of seeds for sowing'.

"May I plead, dear friends, that there be no excuses for doing nothing, and no cold calculations as to how little you can offer – but a big hearted, open handed, generous contribution according to your ability.

So shall you have the approval of great Father, the blessing of those ready to perish and the gratitude of them" – (One of General William's messages for the Self – Denial Effort)

I have held many things in my hand  
I have lost them all but whatever  
I have placed in God's hand  
That still possess'

– Martin Luther

HAVE A BLESSED SELF – DENIAL SEASON!!



**Major Evama Shaijuraj**  
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# GUARD YOUR HEARTS



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**T**he story of Cain and Abel, as described in Genesis chapter four, is more than a moral story. It explains something deeper about the development of the sinful human heart.

As we read, Cain and Abel were brothers, born to Adam and Eve, who were themselves pushed out from the garden of Eden, as a result of their disobedience – sin against God. Abel was a shepherd or 'keeper of sheep,' while Cain was a farmer. One day, Cain took some of the crops from his labour in the field and brought them to God as an offering. Abel also brought an offering: the 'first lamb of his flock' of sheep. But while God was pleased with Abel's gift, he was not very pleased with Cain's offering.

This incident greatly disturbed Cain, because one day when he was in the field with Abel, he 'rose up against' his brother and killed him. When God came to Cain, he asked him where his brother was. Cain responded disrespectfully, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Which is no way to speak to God, surely. His guilty heart made him dishonour God Almighty.

We see what an evil heart can result in. He killed his innocent brother, he dishonoured God, and he himself became subject to fear of losing his own life.

Evil actions are born out of Evil Hearts:

One time, the Pharisees came to Jesus and complained about his disciples not washing their hands when they eat, Jesus explained to his disciples what really matters: "Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into stomach and is eliminated? But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders" (Matthew 15: 17-19, NAST).

Cain's action against his brother was not an accident, but a premeditated crime that was born out of his heart. The story of Cain and Abel is a classic example, in which Cain presents a personality of arrogance, frustration, and anger, which ends in sin. He closed his eyes to the God who sees and knows all and holds us accountable for all our actions against others. The Bible tells us that we are to be accountable to God for others, 'for the mind

that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot' (Romans 8:7 ESV). The writer of Ecclesiastes further states, 'Also the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead' (Ecclesiastes 9:3 ESV). The wages of sin is death. Our sins separate us from God who is Holy.

Whatever we allow to enter our hearts, if not examined and evaluated properly, will be expressed in our words and in our actions. Therefore, we should always guard our hearts. Jesus said, "A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart" (Luke 6: 45 NLT).

**Put off your old self:**

To guard your heart, first you must be careful to know your own self, so that you do not, in any way, have Cain's character in your life. Cain was working his field. That is a good thing. We should be busy in what we do and find joy in it. We must work so that we always have fruit from our labour. That is a good thing.

But Cain was a slave to his own attitude of arrogance and wanted to be blessed like his brother (without doing what was required in order to please God). He had hate and jealousy against his brother that ruined his life, and destroyed his brother's life by committing the sin of murder. Cain became so aggressive that he gave away his freedom of choice to Satan, and become a destroyer of the life that God had given to him and to his good-hearted brother Abel.

The Bible tells us to 'put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires' (Ephesians 4:22, ESV).

'Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water' (Hebrew 10:22, ESV).

**Discern the Will of God:**

To guard our heart against sinful thoughts, we must discern the will of God for our lives. 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect' (Romans 12:2, ESV).

We seek his will through our prayerful life. Prayer bring us near to God. Prayer is not all about what we ask God, but we listen to God's voice speaking to us. If you wander off from God's way, come back to him. Pray to him and you will hear his voice telling you which way you should go (Isaiah 30:21). Jesus always encouraged his disciples to pray. He himself used to spend a lot of time praying to his Father. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, suggests that we must pray on all occasions, keep alert, and always keep on praying for others too (Ephesians 6:18).

**Focus our minds on Godliness:**

To guard our hearts against sin and evil, we must always focus on Godliness – the things that come from heaven, the throne of God. 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also' (Matthew 6:21, ESV).

Writing to the Philippian believers, Paul said, 'Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things' (Philippians 4:8, ESV).

We are to feed our minds with worthy things that come from God. All the things that help us stay focussed on God's love for us and Christ's sacrifice for us. This is a radical way of filling our minds with truth and all good things.

Do not let your heart have Cain in it, but have in your heart Jesus our Good Shepherd, our Light, the Life, the Way, and the Truth. Jesus has overcome Satan and all evil for us. Jesus cleans our heart and makes it worthy for all heavenly things.

Let us pray as King David prayed, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:10-11).





**Lt. Colonel Sulakhan Masih**  
Secretary for Personnel, THQ  
India Northern Territory

**W**orld is full of obstacle and the obstacles must and without obstacles we cannot be enough strong in the world physically, spiritually and mentally. Some obstacles are created by man and some by Nature. Created by man Lord Jesus said, Matthew 18; 7: Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come. Naturally Mark 4:37; A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. The Book of Joshua 6th and this chapter tell the story of Jericho. The people of God had to decide whether they would continue the journey to where God wanted them. Would they move forward in spite of the obstacles, or would they once again retreat into safety?

We each arrive at this crossroad in our spiritual walk. God does not place us on the planet without purpose; He has a divine design for each of us. But as we seek to follow His direction, difficulties confront us. Joshua teaches us how to overcome the obstacles that would keep us from following the will of God for our lives.

### 1. We overcome obstacles through communication.

"Now the Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands along with its king and it's fighting men.'"

The major obstacle facing Joshua and the people of Israel was Jericho. If they could not conquer this city, then all hope for the Israelites was gone. How would they reach the city? How would they scale the wall?

Joshua had a God who communicated with him. Verse 2 reads, "And the Lord said to Joshua." Though such a statement might seem odd when applied to our lives, such communication from God is common for Joshua. God told Joshua, "See, I have

# OVERCOME OBSTACLES IN OUR MINISTRY BY WALKING WITH GOD

delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men" and provided the plan for taking Jericho (vv. 2-5).

Whatever our obstacle, God is willing to cross it with you. He is committed to communicating with His people and to providing strength, comfort, and hope. If you are up against a wall and want to know how to deal with it, don't try to overcome under your own strength, Commune with God. Let that be your first plan of action, rather than your last resort. We defeat difficulties through compliance (vv. 6-7)

### 2. We Defeat Difficulties Through Compliance.

"So, Joshua's son of Nun called the priests and said to them, 'Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.' And he ordered the people, 'Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.'"

In the face of such a great obstacle, Joshua complied with the plan of God. Though he may not have completely understood the plan or its significance, he followed God. Joshua moved the people to action.

God could use a man like Joshua because he was a man of faith and a man of obedience. He simply followed as God instructed. And the people followed.

God instructed the people of Israel to carry the trumpets, with the ark of the Lord following for six days, and they were not to speak (vv. 8, 10). On the seventh day they were to follow this routine with one addition: They were to shout in glory to God because the city had been delivered to them (v. 16).

What an act of faith it was for Joshua and the people to march around the city! No previous (and shall I dare say, subsequent?) battle had ever been won in such a manner. Yet around the city they all marched. It was an act of faith and an act of obedience.

Their obedience to God produced wonders. We read of no negative spirit, discouragement, or disbelief. As they marched circle after circle around the city, I'm sure they could see the seeming impossibility of the situation. Yet they walked. Obedience is the key. Compliance is the

key to the moving of God's mighty hand in our lives.

Many today pride themselves on living within reason, but God called His people to live by faith. We are to walk in faith and obedience to His direction and leadership in our lives.


### 3. Impossibilities Become Possibilities Through Confidence.

"When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so, every man charged straight in, and they took the city. They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it - men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys."

It was uncommon common sense to believe that God could make the impossible possible. Yet in the end the walls fell. You see, the walls were not the problem. They never are. We people are the problem. We always are. God has the power to do as He chooses, but He desires that we act in obedient faith. When we do, He takes care of the walls.

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Hebrews 11:30 reminds us, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days." Joshua and the people of God demonstrated deep confidence in the power of God. Do you have that kind of confidence?

With confidence Let us take our obstacles before our Lord. Where there we are working in his vineyard in Corps, Divisions, Institutions or Territories, which are impossible for us. But we need to remember the words of Lord Jesus Christ. Mark 10:27; Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with GOD" Mark 10:12; 



# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE RESPONSIVE AND OBEDIENT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**B**eloved ones. Greetings of my love to you in the sweet name of Jesus Christ. Meet you through the magazine. "I am happy to explain why speaking and obeying are important to the Holy Spirit. We need to reaffirm that this response is the filling of the Holy Spirit and His blessing.

I assure you that we will never be able to fulfil this heavy and noble ministry as stewards of the Salvation Army without walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit. I believe you will agree with this.

The clauses of the Covenant of the Apostles show the special nature of our mighty dedication. Our relationship with the Lord makes a difference in who we are and what we do. Although we have the potential to become mature Christians; Becoming a minister does not change us, but we must understand that we must move forward with a purpose (Ephesians 4:13). Ministering is a process and a journey that requires openness to the Holy Spirit and a willingness to grow. As we embark on this journey, we can find ourselves encouraged to live in ways worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1). As a result of this relationship, we become like Christ (Romans 8:29) Ephesians 4:13-15, 2 Peter 3:18, 1 John 3:13) and His holiness becomes evidence of our lives.

## **I will be responsible for:**

We are saved only by the work of the Holy Spirit. According to the Seventh Pledge of Faith, we believe that repentance before God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary for salvation. However, the work of the Holy Spirit does not stop with salvation, faith matures and develops through our continued obedience and responsibility to the Holy Spirit. We must recognize our need for this maturity and be ready when the Holy Spirit works to transform our lives.

The details of each person's life journey may be different, but often it includes spiritual disciplines and the influence of others, reflection on our lives and circumstances, and the wisdom of the Lord. Their impact on our lives may vary from season to season, but all of them will have a major impact on our Christian growth. However, growth in these "way of grace" methods will not occur unless we respond in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

## **I will obey:**

Obedience is fundamental to our relationship with God. The Bible tells the stories of how the

Lord expected the people to obey the Lord so that they would prosper, but the people failed to obey again and again, and the stories of their attempts to change their lives. Each time the Lord provided a way to restore broken relationships. But in the end, they failed again.

Finally, God worked in a new and different way through the Lord Jesus at a crucial point in human history. Since then, mankind's obedience has not been rooted in the oath of justice. Rather, obedience is made possible by a relationship with the Lord through Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 5:8). This obedience is our willing response to the Lord's love.

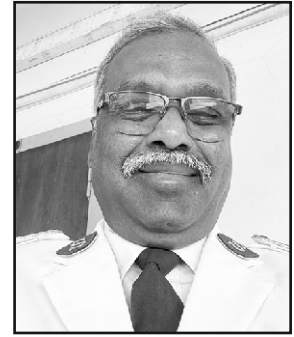
## **Growing in Grace:**

Every minister must allow the Holy Spirit to guide every part of his life. That is, our actions, motivations, behaviour, thinking, speech, and conversation with others should all be influenced by the Spirit.

Worship, prayer, service, and scripture provide a foundation for developing and deepening spiritual experience through personal encounters and fellowship with the Lord. They remind us that the Christian life is an active experience and communion with the Lord. Growth is God's gift to us as we obey and respond to the Holy Spirit. At the same time, we can ensure that we gain new insights and grow as we invest in our relationship with God.

Service should also manifest itself in the worship of our Saviour as an expression of God's glory. That service becomes an important aspect of spiritual growth and development. Our salvation must be a personal experience. We are not Christians just because we are born into a Christian family or brought up in a Christian environment. However, loyalty is also to an individual other. Our service includes "sharing the good news of Jesus Christ" and "caring for the needy and neglected in His name." This includes caring for those on the margins of society, while at the right time and when it is appropriate to speak out against social injustices that create inequality and harm individuals, our service must always be rendered in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Other spiritual disciplines can help emphasize the importance of responding to the Holy Spirit. These are the habits we form. They nurture us spiritually and help us mature in the Christian experience. Personal disciplines include solitude, silence, simple living, fasting, meditation, and learning.



**Lt. Colonel G. Christopher Selvanath**

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## **The world expects Spirit-filled believers:**

The Christian life is a life of duality. One level is the inner life centred on God. Another level is the external life lived among our immediate relatives and other people around us. The filling of the Spirit is an urgent need for every believer if Christians are to live up to the high standard that the world expects of them. Unless we are filled with the Spirit, we cannot be powerful witnesses. If we try to do the Lord's service with fleshly strength, it will lead us to disappointment and failure. Spirit-filled Christians live a crucified life in this world. It is in that life that the Lord can use them as suitable tools to rebuke sinners.

## **Conditions for being filled with the Holy Spirit:**

1. Forgiveness: Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"
2. Sonship: "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, just as you are sons (Gal 4:6).
3. Request: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37-39, Isaiah 44:3).
4. Faith: "He said this concerning the spirit which those who believe in him will receive" (John 7:39, Gal 3:13, 14).
5. Obedience: "God has given the Holy Spirit to those who obey him" (Acts 5:32).
6. Eager waiting: "Wait for the promise of the Father" (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4)
7. Prayer: "Is he not surer to give the Holy Spirit to those who pray to him" (Luke 11:13)
8. Exercising: Ask and receive (John 1:12, Luke 11:13) Receiving the gift of being filled with the Holy Spirit and living in true and pure faith is an action.

The secret to being filled with the Holy Spirit lies in surrendering ourselves to Him. The secret lies in surrendering our minds, our bodies, our possessions, our desires, and our purposes in life to the Spirit.

**Remember:** Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a lifelong experience. It is an experience that needs to be renewed daily. 📖

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