
Reading: Luke 1:68-75

*"The message of the Cross is the power of God to us
who are being saved" (1 Cor 1:18)*

The power of the Gospel is what initiates our Christian life. Apostle Paul unashamedly declared to those in Rome, the political capital of the then world, "The Gospel is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16). It applies equally to all, whether a religious Jew or an intellectual Greek or an illiterate tribal (v 14). No religious ritual however sacred, no logical reasoning however sound, or no tradition however ancient can save a man. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only power that God uses to bring men and women into eternal salvation. The story of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is not merely a historical event. It's a message of power. It transforms instantly "*the vilest offender who truly believes!*" The Gospel is not just a narrative. It's a Person. It's Christ. "Christ is the power of God" for salvation (1 Cor 1:24).

Apostle Peter calls the Gospel an imperishable seed. It is packed with life and power. This is the seed responsible for our rebirth (1 Pet 1:23). Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary when the power of the Highest overshadowed her (Lk 1:35). The virgin birth of Christ was a human impossibility. "But with God nothing will be impossible," said Angel Gabriel to her (Lk 1:37). No sinner is too sinful to be saved. Referring to an extremely difficult situation, the disciples of Christ asked Him, "Who then can be saved?" His answer was just the same as that of Gabriel to Mary (Mt 19:25,26).

Salvation is a deliverance. It is getting snatched away from the clutches of Satan. The Gospel message is the emancipation proclamation. It leads the victim from prison to palace. It lifts the sinner from the guttermost to the uppermost and seats him with Christ in the heavenlies. It was this understanding that excited Zacharias to celebrate redemption as raising up of a "horn of salvation!" (Lk 1:68,69). Because a horn can give an animal the victory in battle, it indicates strength. The explosive power packed in gun powder is a modern parallel. When an individual or a group responds to the Gospel, its dynamic power is released.

*Sing above the battle strife, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
By His death and endless life, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Sing it softly through the gloom, when the heart for mercy craves;
Sing in triumph o'er the tomb—Jesus saves! Jesus saves!*
(Priscilla J. Owens, 1829-1907, a School teacher)

OCTOBER 24

PRAYER

Subject: Evangelism

Reading: Lk 1:68-75

Memorising: 1 Cor 1:18

O God of all grace and mercy,

We thank You for the gift of Salvation that You have provided for us through Your Son. We thank You for the glorious Gospel that's Your power to save even the worst sinner. It's truly a Gospel of Your grace. The blessings it brings to those who believe are abundant. We thank You for those who preached the Gospel to us and to our forefathers. We thank You for the simplicity of the Gospel which is Your wisdom for those who believe, but foolishness to those who reject Your free offer. Thank You for granting us repentance and faith to embrace the Gospel. Thank You for the assurance of Salvation.

Father God, we pray that we never lose excitement over the preciousness of the Gospel message. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who reveals to us the mysteries of the Gospel step by step. It's truly glad tidings of great joy. Thank You for reserving this blessing for us under the New Covenant which even the Patriarchs and the Prophets of the Old Testament did not experience. Thank You for the Gospel which drives away all sorts of darkness from our minds. It shows us the length, the breadth, the height and the depth of Your love. Forgive us for not spreading this Good News enough to our fellowmen. Help us tell everyone boldly that the Gospel of Christ alone shows the way to eternal life.

Dear Lord, we pray for the Evangelists and the evangelistic agencies which are committed chiefly to carry the Gospel to the untold millions. Grant them new strength everyday lest they grow tired of sowing the seed. Help them overcome frustrations over unresponsive fields. We pray that they never lose their early zeal and enthusiasm. We pray for us from the supporting Churches of these Evangelists and Missionaries. Help us intensify our praying and increase our giving. Inspire us to show the same diligence till the end.

Almighty God, we pray for our congregations in which the majority does not involve in any way in the unfinished task of missionary evangelism. Let each of our fellow Christians experience the power of the Gospel genuinely so they would understand the preciousness of the message and seriousness of not proclaiming it to the unevangelised. Let each Christian blow the Horn of Salvation in his neighbourhood. Send us a revival which would make every believer a soulwinner. Save everyone of us from the curse of fruitlessness. Let not Your purpose of saving us be lost. Let us be known for abounding and abiding fruitfulness. Through Jesus the True Vine, Amen!

*(Eph 2:7,8; 1 Tim 1:14,15; Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:18,23-25,27; 2:9-12; Lk 2:10;
1 Pet 1:10-12; Eph 3:18; Eccl 11:1,2,6; Jn 15:16)*