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*"Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

**MATTHEW 6:31-33**

## INTRODUCTION:

I want to assure you that I have not forgotten about our subject from the last issue regarding the heart. I would like to return to this matter sometime in the future. For this month, I am compelled to share with you something special from my heart.

## GOD CALLS US:

God makes many promises to us as His children using the Bible, the Holy Spirit, or other avenues. For example, in 1980, God spoke to me through the Holy Spirit while I just a youth, young in Faith. He told me His plans are for me to preach the Gospel throughout the world.

However, in most cases, we sit back and say: *"Well, **IF** God spoke, He is able to fulfill His promises. We cross our arms and do nothing in the direction of God's promises."*

Sometimes, we tend to believe that God forgot His promises. At that point we BLAME God by saying: *"**IF** God spoke, He is going to do something in this regard."* It does not cross our minds that God's promises may get delayed and are not fulfilled in our lives, families, or churches because of us. Many times it is our OWN FAULT! The *"**IF**"* that we placed in front of God, actually should be in front of us.

Until recent years, I looked at many spiritual aspects through distorted lenses. I thank God that He opened up my eyes to see the true spiritual reality.

## GOD DOES NOT FORGET HIS PROMISES:

In 1995, the Holy Spirit placed on my heart a deep desire to become involved in the Discipleship and Spiritual Maturity and Growth Ministry. However, I was not **READY** to pay the price and remove the

*"**IF**"* from my pathway. I continued to give God and His Kingdom just a few scraps of my time and energy. I continued to seek my own ambitions for my career as an engineer and the financial benefits that this job could offer me.

The more time that went by the more miserable and spiritually unfulfilled I felt. This situation culminated with an unforgettable experience which took place in 2002. A series of circumstances, of which I will spare you the details, resulted in a very stressful condition. This led to a devastating stroke. However, God is always in control!

## GOD HEALS US:

He bestowed His mercy upon me and rescued me from this trial with minimal intervention from the medical team. **He rehabilitated me without side effects!** More than 75% of my speech was restored in less than 6 hours. Wow! That was absolutely miraculous!

Even though the healing that took place was very important, I do not want to focus on it. I would like to bring something else into the spot-light. A few hours after I was admitted to the hospital, the neurologist came to my bedside and asked: *"What is your occupation?"* What do you thing my response was? Despite the difficulties with my speech, I replied quite proudly: *"**I am a PREACHER.**"* Please notice that I did not reply: *"**I am an ENGINEER,**"* even though this statement was true. After that I added: *"**I am going to get well from this condition with no side-effects because God called me to PREACH the GOSPEL.**"* Indeed, this was exactly what happened.

After a few more hours my condition improved. It was visible for the entire medical team that was responsible for my care. They were surprised by the

swift recovery. I thank my Lord, as well as my family, friends, the church and hundreds of believers everywhere who prayed insistently on my behalf. Glory be to God for His divine healing in my life!

### **GOD USES PAIN TO MAKE HIS POINT UNDERSTOOD:**

Do you think that I got God's point? Nope! Not yet! After my period of recovery, I returned to my full-time job, but my life was not the same. I no longer found joy in my career. The rest of the year, and into 2003, was a living nightmare. I was severely depressed. My doctor's efforts to treat me were unsuccessful. I felt that my life was torn apart by an internal spiritual battle; on one side, my engineering responsibilities and my role as the provider of my family; on the other side, my passion and deep desire to preach the Gospel of Jesus. However, not even during these circumstances did I find the strength to quit my job and start the full-time ministry that God called me to from my youth.

This difficult, serious and very painful battle lasted until mid-2004. At the beginning of July 2004, my boss came into my office, and closed the door behind him. He said: *"Valy, our department is going to taper down and close. All the engineers working in this department will be let go. Even I will have to find something else to do. The sad news is that you are the first to be let go. Starting tomorrow your job is eliminated."*

Even though I expected something like this to happen, hearing: *"starting tomorrow you no longer have a job,"* roared like thunder in my soul. After a few minutes I pulled myself together and went outside to call my wife.

*"Hey, I am calling to let you know that I am a FREE MAN!"*

*"What do you mean?"* She asked me. *"Don't tell me that you are laid off?"*

*"Well, it's true. But I am taking it from the hand of God. He freed me up to WORK for Him and His Kingdom."*

### **GOD IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF TRUE JOY:**

Finally I UNDERSTOOD it! Starting in July 2004, I dedicated myself, body & soul, for the ministry work. Gradually God healed the depression that lasted for over two years. Now, after three years of intensively working for the Kingdom of God, I am very joyful and fulfilled. This is a sacred joy that does not come from the world; not from finances, earthly rewards, or comfort, but rather from walking in the CENTRAL WILL of God.

Please understand that working in full-time ministry requires a lot of time, effort and strength to

fight the Spiritual battles. It also relies heavily on financial resources and a team of dedicated and talented people. However, once we decide to do God's will, the JOY that comes from the Lord is incomprehensible and does not compare with anything this world may offer us. The devil is relentless in fighting against us and unfortunately, at times he succeeds in deceiving us. We may be fooled into finding happiness and fulfillment in the things of this world instead of walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit.

### **LET'S EXAMINE OURSELVES:**

I read somewhere that no person on his/her death bed declares: *"O, Lord God, I am so sorry that I will not have more time to work two jobs, stay overtime every day of the week, work even Saturdays and Sundays, make more money and be happier."* No! Absolutely not! Instead, those on their death bed declare: *"Father God, please forgive me for wasting my years concentrating on the things of this world. I did not prioritize my life to spend more quality time with my wife (or my husband), my children and friends. I am so sorry that I did not invest more time, energy and money in the Kingdom of God. Now I realize that I almost wasted my life and feel spiritually empty."*

### **WHERE GOD GUIDES HE ALSO SUPPLIES:**

In closing, after three years of full-time ministry, the Word of God has been preached in many churches, through radio waves, TV broadcasts, and other avenues in several parts of the world. A multitude of people have been challenged to become true disciples of Jesus and experience spiritual growth and maturity. I share all of this for the glory of God! The Lord Jesus is coming! Let's be ready to meet our Maker and Judge.

### **SCHEDULE:**

- ✓ **August 16 – 27:** Seattle, WA, Vancouver, BC, CANADA, Portland, Vancouver, WA.
- ✓ **September 18 – October 18:** Austria & Romania.

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* PHILIPPIANS 4:6

*Valy Vaduwa*