

From Pastor's Desk...

## A fresh start with right focus in life

We are joyful to welcome 2017 with great expectations. It is possible to have regrets of the past failures, mistakes and challenges that can distract our mind. However, everyone needs a fresh start in life for a revolutionary change. Socrates once said, "*the secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new*". It is time to unfold new pages and start a new chapter in our life because it is a new year.

- **Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.** Jesus' taught this foundational lesson to His disciples in the context of pharisaic spirituality prevailed in the society (*Mat 6:33*). We are signed up in God's social program. Our responsibility is to trust God for the future with unshakable confidence that He will provide and we live for His glory.
- **Lead a Christ-centered life.** The old evil "I" has been crucified in our re-generation experience. It has no more claims on our daily life. It should be true as to our daily life. Paul writes; it is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me (*Gala. 2:20*). Christian lives by continual dependence on Christ.
- **Be filled with the Holy Spirit.** Every believer in Christ is commanded to be filled with the Spirit (*Eph. 5:18-19*). The literal translation is "be being filled with the Spirit". It is not automatic but the result of obedience. The result is victorious life and true worship. The spirit filled life produces gifts and fruit of the Spirit that impact our community.
- **Have a goal oriented life.** Paul writes, one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. Here the goal would be the finish of life's race. The prize would be the crown of righteousness for those who have run well (*2Tim 4:8*).

The challenges in 2017 will be greater than 2016. We get a full confidence to overcome all these hurdles only by our consistent and committed spiritual exercise. Forgive and forget the past, embrace tomorrow with open, frank, and sincere heart. Let our life will be joyful and marvelous.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

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## Back to first love – A fresh start

(Jiju John - Malayalam Worship Leader)

It's year's beginning. All of us take stock of our lives in the New Year and reflect on where we are headed and where we want to go. This can be very painful when we look back at the things we would like to have done it a different way and even think if we could make a brand-new start. The good news is God permits **U-turns**. No matter how bad things are or what may have happened, all of that can be erased when you start fresh with God.

In Revelation chapter 2, we see Jesus evaluates the church at Ephesus. Jesus tells the Ephesians that they have left their first love. They no longer loved the Lord Jesus as they did when they first came to Christ. That's what Jesus wanted to address in our lives too. We may have a great spiritual history to boast but we cannot walk with the Lord without loving Him.

Where are you in your spiritual condition today? do you feel dry in your spirit? Is spending time in God's presence is a duty rather than a delight? Do you respond to the conviction of Holy Spirit or sin is no longer a big deal for you? It is time for us to go back and remember that moment when we first met Jesus. Here are the three steps we must do to return to our first love.

1. **REMEMBER** – Remember from where you have fallen
2. **REPENT** – change your heart
3. **REDO** – do the first works

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works" (*Revelation: 2:5*)

In inventing the electric bulb, Thomas Alva Edison tried over 1000 times with different gases in the bulb and failed. When confronted about his failures, he said "these are not failures, now I know that I should not use these".

You may fail many times in life, but you are never a failure until you give up. Apostle Paul is saying in **Philip. 3:13-14** "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead**, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

New Year is like a blank book. The pen is in your hands. It is another chance to write a beautiful story for yourself.

New Year...

New Beginning...

New Focus...

New Results...

Let's start fresh. Happy New Year!