

From Pastor's Desk...

## OUR GRIEF WILL TURN TO JOY

Chandrayan-2 program, India's most ambitious space mission is not accomplished as anticipated by ISRO. Safe landing was not possible for Vikram Lander because it lost connection with the control center about 1.2 km away from the goal. People including our Prime minister with great applause watching in India's Space center became desperate up to a certain extent. Their joy turned to grief within a moment. The lesson to learn is clear, human attempts have limitations in guiding things but with God everything is possible. Our grief will turn to Joy in His mission.

Psalms 16:11 is a key text for our theme. Some scholars associate Ps. 16 with the dedication of the Citadel, David's palace on Zion. David regarded the palace as God's pledge of the stability and exaltation of his kingdom (2Samuel 5:12). A severe illness (Ps. 16:9-10) had delayed him from moving into the new building. He started this Psalm with a petition and continued in confessing his precious relationship with God and other saints on earth, and also ended with declaring abundant, secure and blessed life in God's presence.

The Apostles of the New Testament saw David's words as a prophetic allusion to the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:25-28; 13:35). A prophecy has its immediate fulfillment and a larger fulfillment. David was thanking God for his protection-sparing him from death. He also spoke of eternal pleasures. He anticipated being with God forever after death (v.11).

1. God has provided counsel and guidance throughout our life
2. God's constant care and protection are assured
3. God has showed us the path of abundant life in Christ.
4. God's blessings include fullness of Joy and pleasures forever.
5. God keeps His promise, not a single word has failed.
6. God is in control of our life situations
7. God who began a good work in us will bring it into completion.

Let not our hearts be carried away by Skeptic and Pessimistic tendencies, instead, have a blessed assurance in Christ for a safe and secure Christian life towards eternity. Be Bible based, Christ-centered and Spirit-guided in every area of life. Our God is faithful, our grief will turn to joy!

God bless you.

In His glorious service,

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## Spiritual GPS Re-routing..... To the Path of Life

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The Global Positioning System (GPS) is one of the inventions by the United States that has changed human navigation system around the world. These days we are immensely dependent on GPS without which we could feel challenged. GPS provides direction, guidance, and updates on our current status or location. If humans are worried about finding a direction or getting lost, how much more would our heavenly Father worry about our spiritual journey towards eternity.

Psalms 16 demonstrates a firm conviction and confidence of King David on God's security and care. King David states in verse 11 "You have made known to me the path of life...". A Christian has his path or GPS laid out to attain eternal life. The Holy Bible is our navigation manual which needs to be meticulously followed. God has entitled with freedom of choice of either path towards heaven or towards hell. He has given us a choice.

We start our heavenly journey carefully, but later, a cloud of complacency covers us, and we miss our path. Setting in us the spirit of complacency and an attitude of going with the flow is the devil's plans to misdirect. Being distracted by billboards of worldly pleasures, driving our comfortable lives in a cruise mode and ignoring warning signs during our spiritual drive will cause skiing onto wrong lanes.

As GPS devices prompt for re-routing when we are on wrong direction, the word of God prompts us to come back, re-visit our calling, build up our broken altar, and get back on the heavenly freeway. Unlike worldly GPS re-routing, one of the crucial steps for a spiritual re-routing is to have a process of *Jetsam*. Jetsam is a navigation term used by ships where unwanted cargo or goods are thrown into the sea when a ship is in trouble. A spiritual Jetsam is needed to give up or throw away things that we latched on knowingly or unknowingly.

Sacrificing ungodly practices and possessions will help re-establish and reaffirm our relationship and love with our Savior. *Floccinaucinihilipilification* of unsustainable worldly attractions is an inevitable attitude or a character a Christian should possess. Re-routing our life is only possible through fervent prayers, purposeful scriptural readings, listening to the Holy Spirit, and willingness to make changes in personal lifestyle. Let us support each other with agape love with the re-routing process and attaining heavenly inheritance.