

Ctrl S Your Life

Enjoy Victorious Living



**Total
Victory**



interface

VICTORY OVER THE LAST ENEMY

We all love victory. Be it fighting for the Cricket 'World Cup', or fighting the local or national elections, or even a meaningless street fight, when it comes to winning we use all our energy, emotions and techniques to fight and somehow try to win. That natural drive and zeal to conquer every hurdle and scale new heights is somehow coded into the very DNA of human beings.

Scaling new heights everyday with Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence!

In the last 20-30 years, mankind has progressed in scaling new heights beyond anyone's wildest imagination. The



innovations in space technology, mobile applications, internet-driven enterprise systems, social media apps like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc., are radically changing the way we connect, communicate, shop and do business. Now man is able to travel into space as easily as he used to travel in a bullock-cart a hundred years back. And lot more surprises are in store for us! Here are some of the latest technologies that are going to sweep the world in the near future: Self-driving cars, 'Paying with your face', 360-degree selfie, Reinforcement learning etc.

Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence have redefined the way we think, communicate, interact,

work and win! The buzz words heard a lot these days are “Artificial Intelligence”, “deep learning”, “machine learning”, “data science”, “data intelligence”, “data analytics” etc. I did my M.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics 25yrs ago. We used to browse through the latest tech magazines and science journals just to get the definition of those terms. The ‘AI concepts’ we learnt “theoretically” in those days which were confined to labs/programs/experiments/POCs, are fast becoming every day tools for a common man. Today you can give a voice command on your smart phone and it retrieves a wealth of information in fraction of a second! Hats off to those who envisioned and worked hard to develop all these tools that make our lives easy and enjoyable!

Modern medical science clubbed with Artificial Intelligence is paving way for data-driven new methodologies to treat highly complex, critical cases with ease and success using new techniques like Robotic Surgery, Precision Medicine, Gene Therapy 2.0 etc.

However we are living in a paradox. On one hand we are seizing one after another victory year by year. On the other we are spiraling downward when it comes to morality, ethics and values!

Going down in the “values of life”

Discontentment: If you carefully observe the attrition trends over the last few years, you will understand that the top MNCs in India are battling with a very high attrition rate (11–32%). High attrition has direct

correlation to employee-satisfaction. No matter what great benefits the organizations provide, people are still living quite dissatisfied lives. In my



24+yrs of illustrious IT career, I worked in some of the top IT organizations in India and US. As a manager, one of the goals for me has been to keep the employees working under me 'happy' and 'satisfied'. We conduct employee satisfaction surveys each year and record the satisfaction levels of the employees at org level. The results are startling and surprising. On an average the satisfaction level is 40-45%, which means that 55-60% of the employees are dissatisfied. And these are the organizations that provide good salaries, state-of-the-art facilities, onsite opportunities, great career options etc. But none of these seem to be satisfying the employees. The number one enemy killing the satisfaction is materialism. Man is never satisfied with what he has. Relentless running after money, desire to acquire more and more materialistic things is making him feel dissatisfied and drained out.

Immorality : The world is heading towards moral collapse. We are losing the moral values and are running after temporary satisfactions. The media, magazines, movies, all glorify the body, its beauty and drive us toward the mirage of fulfilment outside our moral value system. The MTV, FTV, movies show us nothing but filth and violence. Many youth are falling into the trap of unholy living. One sex scandal after another is rocking India exposing the wickedness of

the human heart; and it is not just the trend only in the developed countries. It is everywhere.

Insecurity: IT/ITeS boom in the late 1990s and early 2000s brought in a lot of jobs to India, but they are extremely volatile. Because of various global economic and political conditions, we see many jobs evaporating. “Layoffs” in IT/ITeS organizations are every-day news. Today many of the young professionals are insecure, anxious, worried, depressed and stressed-out. The guy who is looking for a job does not know when he might get one and the one who has a job does not know when he might lose it – such is the sad state of employment. This is placing a lot of stress on the young professional. Due to stress at work, sedentary life-style, unhealthy food and sleeping habits, diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis, heart-attacks etc., which our forefathers used to develop in their 60s or 70s, this generation is acquiring by their 30s and 40s.

Corruption : India is plagued with hundreds of corruption cases. According to media reports - “An analysis of data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revealed that on an average, at least one banker in India is caught and punished for fraud every four hours”¹. And thousands of crores of money is lost in these frauds. What a shame it is for us all!

HOW DO WE RECONCILE THE OPPOSITE TRENDS?

How do we reconcile these two opposite trends? The latest and greatest achievements in technology, medicine, science etc., are able to neither bring contentment, save relationships, secure future nor stop corruption!

No doubt, science and technology brought in physical comforts, improved the living standards and reduced corruption to some extent! For example, earlier, getting a telephone connection required a huge effort to run around government offices with lots of unnecessary documentation. Making a train or bus reservation was a nightmare which we are now able to get at the click of a button. However, the core issues related to morality, relationships and peaceful living are getting worse day by day.

ROOT CAUSE OF ALL HUMAN PROBLEMS

The root cause of all such evils is the *problem of wicked heart!* These are only the external symptoms of an inner and deeper problem that mankind is struggling with. The



The Holy Bible says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"¹ Science, technology, education etc., are helpless and inadequate to cure the human heart and deal with the problem of sin! Many philosophers, social reformers and philanthropists tried to address these issues but failed miserably. The problems are ever increasing year after year.

**The heart is deceitful
above all things**

We are unable to solve this by ourselves. And we are heading towards death and hell fire because of sin! "The wages of sin is death".² You and I are under the

death penalty because of our sins. We need an "external savior" who is sinless to deliver us from the problem of sin and its consequences!

Need for an external savior!

For example, consider a person who accidentally fell into a miry pit of clay and is drowning. The more he tries to get out of it, the more he actually is pulled into it. All he needs is an external person, who is strong enough to pull him up out of the miry pit. It is exactly the same when it comes to sin. No self-help books, motivational speeches or good works of our own can help us! We need a savior! The good news is that, Jesus Christ came as the savior of the world to fix the problem of sin!

Who is Jesus?

Many people think that Jesus is just a good teacher and philosopher. Some think He is a miracle worker. Some agree that He is a socialist and a reformer, one who loved and healed people. No doubt, He taught great moral and spiritual truths. He performed many miracles and wonders. But that is not the fullness of who He is. He is none other than God Himself. (Phil. 2:6-11) He is the only real God. He came down to earth in the form of a human being in order to deliver us from our sin!

Suppose your friend and you are travelling in a bus. Your friend is travelling ticketless and is caught by the checking squad. They take him and put him in the mobile prison. You have pity on him. So, you go to the mobile prison, pay the penalty from your pocket and

get your friend freed! How wonderful it is to get your friend back! How grateful your friend will be to you!!

Jesus did exactly the same on the Cross. You and I are under death penalty because of our sin. But, He took up our penalty upon

Himself. He willingly died on your behalf and mine. The death of Jesus Christ secured salvation for untold numbers and opened the way for God

“He came to pay the debt that He did not owe because we can never pay the debt that we owe”

– Jim Elliot.

to forgive without compromising on His own perfect and holy standard. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.³ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.⁴ On the cross He revealed the fullness of His love by shedding His blood and dying on our behalf. Because He paid the price, we got freedom from sin!

We read stories about many ‘gods’ that took an avatar with a special purpose to kill an evil person (raakshasa) and deliver good people. Jesus is unique in the way that he did not come to kill the bad people. He came to forgive the bad people! He came to pay the penalty for sin of the mankind. Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Only the blood that is pure and holy can cleanse us of our sins. That is what Jesus accomplished through His death. He shed precious, sinless and holy blood for remission of sins of the whole world. When He was nailed to the cross

and blood was oozing out of His body, He prayed – "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing". ⁵

However, because He was a sinless person, death could not contain Him. "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.⁶ He rose again victoriously over death! He promised to give that victory to everyone who believes in Him. Jesus declared – "I will raise him up at the last day".⁷ Even though we die physically, we will be raised to new life just like Jesus rose from death.

Why was Jesus crucified?

On the Cross, Jesus fully revealed two facets of God: His justice and His love.

A lot of people want to think of God as only a God of love, but they don't want to think of Him as a God of justice too. When we think of the notoriously wicked people of the world, like Adolf Hitler (who killed millions of Jews) or notorious terrorists (who are a big threat to the world-peace even today), we want *God to judge them* immediately. When we think of the corruption and bribery in our governments we burn with anger. But when it comes to us, when we do mistakes, we want *God to forgive*



and to be merciful to us. Suppose you are driving on the road and are hit by someone. What will you want to do? You will want to retaliate and take revenge on them. But suppose you hit someone while you are driving, what then is your reaction? You will want them to be gracious to you and you will want to be forgiven. You want God to be a *judge when others make mistakes*, but at the same time you want God to be *loving and forgiving to yourself!* It is only in the Cross that you see both these characteristics of God coming together.

**God's love and
God's justice intersect
in the Cross**

Just God: God is Holy and His standards are perfect. Any violation of that standard is sin. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.⁸ The wages of sin is death.² God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.⁹ Every sin must be paid for! We come under His condemnation because of our sins and the punishment is nothing but death. He is a just God and will not compromise on His holy standards.

Loving God: At the same time, He is a loving, caring and compassionate God. He came down to earth in the form of a human being in order to reveal the true characteristics of God like His holiness, His justice, His grace and His love. He came to reveal a personal God to us. He came to provide a way so that we may be forgiven and not perish because of our sins. God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that

whoever *believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life!*¹⁰

On the Cross, you see the “love of God” and “the justice of God” intersecting to give us freedom from sin and victory over death!

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

As we all know, ‘Good Friday’ is the day (and it happened to be a Friday) on which Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. But, why do we call it ‘Good Friday’?

When we look into the history of mankind, there are many people who sacrificed their lives for the sake of their nations. When great men like Mahatma Gandhi or Abraham Lincoln were assassinated, we call it a ‘bad day’ or a ‘sad day’ or ‘dark day’. We call it a ‘bad day’ because the killers bring to an end to their “good work”!

However, when it comes to the day on which Jesus was crucified, we call it a ‘good day’. This special Friday is so good even though it meant cross to the Lord, is because it brought us life-eternal and opened the way to heaven. Jesus’ death is the beginning of a greater and everlasting work. It opened heaven to us. It made us eligible to be in His eternal and holy kingdom. That is why it is a “Good day”!

Easter is all about...

Easter is the day on which Jesus rose from death. It is all about victory. It is the celebration of victory of life over death, the victory of holiness over sin, the victory of light over darkness. Easter is the day on which we celebrate the joyful event of the undeniable

resurrection (rising up from death) of the Lord. It is a historical and monumental event in the entire history of mankind. There are many historical, archaeological, scientific and prophetic proofs today regarding the undeniable resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ. Resurrection proves His ultimate authority over death, sin and evil!

Bible tells us that the last enemy to be destroyed is death.¹¹ Mankind, in spite of all the advancements in technology and science is not able to destroy death. Jesus died and rose again by defeating death on the cross of Calvary! And He promised to give that victory to everyone who puts faith in Him. God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.¹²

There is a judgment waiting for all

The Holy Bible tells us that each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment.¹³



Every sinner will go to hell where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.¹⁴ The cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death".¹⁵

GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

The good news is that you don't need to go to hell. Choose heaven right now!

Ask the Lord to forgive you and give you victory over sin and death. If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁶ If you receive Jesus into your heart today, you will cross over from death to life. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.¹⁵

Jesus died for you...

Dear friend,

- Are you feeling hopeless about your future?
- Are you searching for meaning in life?
- Are you dissatisfied? Are you depressed?
- Are you disappointed in life?
- Are you lonely? Are you insecure?
- Are you haunted by the guilt of your past, burdens of the present and fear of the future?

Jesus is calling...

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest".¹⁸

A simple 3-step solution

To receive the free gift of eternal life and victory over death, all you need to do is:

1. **Admit** that you have sinned and that you need God to forgive and restore you.
2. **Believe** that Jesus died on the cross and paid the penalty on your behalf to set you free.
3. **Confess** and choose Jesus to be your Saviour and Lord.

When you accept and receive the Lord as your personal Saviour, you will experience the ocean of His heavenly love. You will experience a joy which is unspeakable and full of glory. The peace that surpasses all understanding will be poured into your heart, mind and life.

May God Bless You!

- Ravi G.

Note: If you need any help/ counsel/ guidance, please contact Interface at interfacefellowship@gmail.com.

References

¹<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/timeline/Business/16213/81047/rbi-one-corrupt-banker-caught-every-four-hours>

References from The Holy Bible

¹Jer. 17:9

²Romans 6:23

³1 Peter 3:18

⁴1 Peter 2:24

⁵Luke 23:34

⁶1 Cor. 15:54-57

⁷John 6:40

⁸Romans 3:23

⁹Romans 1:18

¹⁰John 3:16

¹¹1 Cor. 15:26

¹²1 John 5:11-12

¹³Heb. 9:27

¹⁴Mark 9:48

¹⁵Rev. 21:8

¹⁶Romans 10:9

¹⁷Romans 8:1-2

¹⁸Matt. 11:28

Disclaimer: The ideas expressed in the booklet are the viewpoints of the author. Freedom of speech/ expression is the right to articulate one's opinions and ideas that includes any act of seeking, receiving and imparting information or ideas, regardless of the medium used. The Constitution of India provides the right of freedom, given in articles 19, 20, 21 and 22, with the view of guaranteeing individual rights that were considered vital. Freedom of religion in India is a fundamental right guaranteed by Article 25-28 of the Constitution of India according to which every citizen of India has a right to profess, practice and propagate their beliefs peacefully.

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Duncan Campbell



interface

+91 990 885 1414 | interfacefellowship@gmail.com
www.interfacehyd.org |  Like us on Facebook (group)