

POEMS OF THE MONTH

UPGRADE

Simon Zachariah

Everything needs an upgrade these days
Everything gets an upgrade these days
Everyone needs an upgrade in their lives
Everyone should be upgraded in due time

All children get a free 'Adult' upgrade
Employee gets a 'Promotion' upgrade
Girls become ladies and boys become men.
Poor may get richer, and fools get wisdom

Mothers never get an upgrade anyway!
Fathers stay the same all through years.
Will our neighbors ever become friends?
Will our friends ever become brothers?

We all need an upgrade in our attitude
We all need an upgrade in our giving
We all need an upgrade in our loving
We all need an upgrade in near future!

എത്രനാൾ?

സൈമൺ

സഖരിയ

അടയിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ പിടക്കോഴി ചോദിച്ചു,
'എത്ര നാൾ, എത്ര നാൾ ഇരിക്കണം ഞാൻ?'
ഇരുപത്തിയൊന്നു നാളെന്നു ഞാൻ മൊഴിഞ്ഞു,
ഒടുവിൽ നീ പല കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങൾക്കമ്മയാകും!

പ്രാർത്ഥിപ്പാനിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ചോദിച്ചു ഞാൻ,
എത്ര നാൾ, എത്ര നാൾ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണം?
നൽ ഇമ്പമായ ദൈവമെൻ കാതിൽ ഓതി,
എത്ര നാളായ് നിൻ യാചന ഞാൻ കാത്തിരിപ്പു.

കഴിഞ്ഞ കാലങ്ങൾ നീ ഒന്നു ഓർത്തു നോക്കൂ
മുട്ടിന്മേൽ വീണു നീ പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചില്ലേ
എത്രയോ കരുണ നീ അന്നൊക്കെ പ്രാപിച്ചില്ലേ

നന്ദിയും സ്തോത്രവും കരേണമല്ലേ?

**Channels of Glory –
Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah**

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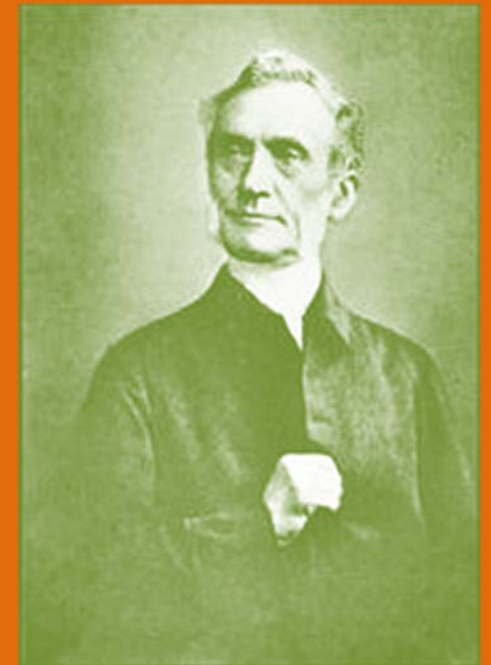
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George Müller (1805-1898).



Channels of Glory – Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah

I have heard many stories about the life of George Müller (1805-1898). Recently I read about him on the internet and came to know more about his prayer life. You might have heard several definitions for prayer and each of them may have differing opinions about prayer. At the basic level, one might understand that prayer means ‘request’ or ‘desire’. In order to submit an effective request, there should be a successful formula.

I recall a daughter describing her strategy to get approval for her requests from her father. She said that whenever she wanted anything from her dad, she would make a delicious cup of hot coffee and offer it to him with a big smile. She knew for sure that her dad loved being served a cup of hot coffee by his loving daughter. She could then take the opportunity to express her needs, which dad would surely approve and fulfill. Jesus taught His disciples the successful formula to submit their humble requests to their heavenly father. I am not going to the details of an effective prayer. Because, it all depends upon who we are, what situation we are in and so on. But when we do pray all the time, we will eventually learn to

be an effective prayer warrior. We will learn what to ask, how to ask, and for whom we should ask. It all comes to us by practice. So when we try to become a prayer warrior like George Müller, the first thing we should do is to start a prayer diary with all the details such as, date, subject, and the date when your prayers are answered or denied. This will increase our faith in prayer and we will understand God’s will even in the denied prayers. I am going to point out different methods of prayers that are used by God’s people.

1. Silent prayer. Like older children in the family, people of great faith do pray this prayer. They understand God better and wait patiently and silently for His mercy
2. Written prayer. Those who cannot concentrate or cannot organize and pray using eloquent words, say this prayer.
3. Repeating words. Those who do not know either of the above prayers, they pray using repeating words of praise and confession
4. Fasting and prayer. This helps people to concentrate in prayers and will not be distracted by worldly thoughts. This also helps to practice self-denial.
5. Intercessory prayer. This is one of the most effective prayers, especially the prayer of a person who is in same situation, praying for the other instead of themselves.
6. Thanking in advance prayers. This is the most effective prayer. The praying person has to believe that his prayer is answered and should give praise and thank God in advance.
7. Offering prayers. These are prayers of promising God something as a token of gratitude to God.

When we make prayer our daily practice, we will get to know God much better and we will

know what we should ask and what we should not ask. If God tells you do something, certainly you can ask for the resources to accomplish it. But occasionally we may feel like asking for some luxuries and that’s ok too! Our God is a loving God. He always wants to see our happy faces. So when He blesses us with un-deserving gifts, we should thank Him for that.

So start a prayer life immediately and like George Müller start a prayer diary and go through that quite often and this will give you an opportunity to increase your faith; It will give you an opportunity to witness to your generation how good God was to you in the past. Finally this will give you a better understanding what we should pray and to whom we should pray. A bright student after writing the exam, will generally know what kind of grade he will receive. Likewise, you will know whether your prayers will be answered or not.

I heard a story of two monks who lived in two separate mountains. When they met in the valley for a festival both of them decided to buy an olive sapling. And when they met the following year they asked each other how the olive plant was doing. The first monk replied that soon after he had planted the olive sapling in the garden, it wilted and died. When asked whether he prayed for the plant, the first monk responded affirmatively that he had prayed that God would provide sunshine, rain, wind and yet the plant died. The second monk sighed said that his plant was growing and told him that when he planted the olive sapling he asked God to give all that it needed for its proper growth, since God created it and knows everything it needs.

So if you know God as a father, who cares for His children, you do not have to worry. Just pray a simple prayer and trust in His almighty power and knowledge and understanding and wait for His mighty works.