

Echoes of Calvary

Weekly Newsletter - 31 | 10th Aug - 16th Aug '2026

Dear family in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we enter the **Week of Walking in Humility**. As we continue growing in wisdom and learning to follow God's ways, we are reminded that true spiritual maturity is reflected not only in what we know, but in how humbly we live.

The world often tells us to seek recognition, position, and praise. But Jesus shows us a different way. He chose the path of humility, service, and self-giving love. He did not use His position to elevate Himself but willingly humbled Himself and served others. Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it is learning to place God first, others before ourselves, and our own desires under His will.

Scripture of the Week:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." — **Philippians 2:3**

This Week's Practice: Choosing the Way of Humility

Lifestyle of Jesus: A Life of Humble Service

Jesus demonstrated humility throughout His earthly ministry. Though He was Lord and Teacher, He washed His disciples' feet. He welcomed children, touched the untouchable, served the needy, and ultimately humbled Himself to the point of death on the cross.

His greatness was revealed through His willingness to serve.

As followers of Christ, we are called to carry the same attitude. Humility allows us to listen instead of always speaking, serve instead of seeking recognition, forgive instead of holding on to pride, and give God the glory instead of taking it for ourselves.

This week, we pause and ask:

- Where is pride quietly influencing my thoughts or actions?
- Am I willing to serve even when no one notices?
- How can I place others before myself in practical ways?
- Am I willing to surrender my plans when God leads me differently?

True humility brings freedom because we no longer need to prove ourselves. We can simply walk faithfully with God and allow Him to receive the glory.

Events that happened in 32nd week (10th Aug – 16th Aug) of 2026 to seek the fruit of the Word sown in your daily prayers:

Mid-week Prayer, Wednesday 12th Aug'26: Today's midweek prayer centred on the heartfelt theme, "Lord, open my spiritual eyes"—to see God's Word, His presence, His protection, and His purposes. The message encouraged believers to develop a deeper prayer life, become more sensitive to God's voice, and allow His Word to guide their thoughts, choices, and daily walk.



The meditation on **Psalm 103** reminded the congregation to remember God's goodness, mercy, protection, and faithfulness. The message connected prayer with spiritual understanding, obedience, and strength, calling believers to see beyond circumstances and recognize God's hand at work. Believers were encouraged to carry a genuine burden for souls, the Church, and the nation, and to live according to God's will with renewed faith and spiritual vision.

Bible Reading & references: 103rd Psalm was read as repetitive reading.

Psalm 103:1–22	Psalm 119:18	2 Corinthians 4:4–6	2 Kings 6:15–17
Esther 4:13–16	2 Chronicles 7:14	Proverbs 21:1	Matthew 5:44
Matthew 6:5–13	Matthew 7:24–27	Matthew 9:36–38	John 15:5
Acts 10:1–48	Romans 12:1–2	1 Corinthians 12:12–27	2 Corinthians 4:7–18
Ephesians 6:10–18	Hebrews 4:12–13	James 4:7–10	1 Peter 5:8–9

Key notes from message:

- ✓ Prayer should not be merely a religious routine; **it should become our strength, our fellowship with God and the place where we receive courage to face every situation.**
- ✓ Prayer must extend beyond our personal needs. **We must learn to carry our nation, its leaders and its people before God.**
- ✓ Esther did not remain silent when her people were facing destruction. **She responded with fasting and prayer before taking action.**
- ✓ When God's people humble themselves and pray, **God can change situations that appear impossible.**
- ✓ We should not become people who hear God's Word repeatedly but remain unchanged. **The Word must enter the heart and produce repentance, correction and transformation.**

- ✓ A broken and humble heart receives God's Word differently. **Do not merely listen to sermons—allow the Word to change you.**
- ✓ Do not forget the goodness of God while remembering only your problems. **Remember what the Lord has done for you and the benefits He has given you.**
- ✓ Read the Bible not merely to complete a chapter or fulfil a religious duty. **Read it asking, “Lord, what are You saying to me?”**
- ✓ Before opening the Bible, ask God to open your spiritual eyes. **We need more than natural understanding—we need God to reveal His truth to our hearts.**
- ✓ You may read the Bible many times and still fail to see what God is saying. **Reading the Word is not enough; we must allow the Word to speak to us.**
- ✓ Spiritual blindness can prevent us from seeing the glory of Christ even when the Bible is right in front of us. **Ask God to remove every blindness that prevents you from understanding His truth.**
- ✓ When Elisha's servant saw only the enemy army, he became afraid. **Elisha saw what the servant could not see—the greater heavenly army surrounding them.**
- ✓ Do not allow what you see around you to become greater than what you know about your God. **The visible enemy may be great, but God's unseen resources are greater.**
- ✓ Ask God to open your spiritual eyes so that **you can recognise His presence, His protection and His work even in the middle of frightening circumstances.**
- ✓ Do not allow fear to control you simply because you cannot see how God is going to work. **God may already have prepared His answer before you can see it.**
- ✓ Keep your conscience sensitive to God. **If you can recognise your own wrong and respond to correction, your conscience is still working.**
- ✓ Do not become so hardened that you can hear correction repeatedly and still say, **“I will continue living exactly as I am.”**
- ✓ A person who obeys God's Word can accomplish great things even when he stands alone, because **God's strength is greater than human strength.**
- ✓ A miracle may solve a problem for a moment, but **only God can transform the heart and produce lasting spiritual change.**
- ✓ Do not allow repeated exposure to God's Word to make you familiar with it but insensitive to it. **Every time you hear God's Word, ask what needs to change in your life.**
- ✓ We need believers who will stand against the enemy, resist spiritual attacks and refuse to be controlled by fear. **God's people must become His spiritual army.**

Let us become people who **pray seriously, read God's Word deeply, see with spiritual eyes, obey God's commands, carry a burden for souls and live completely according to God's will.**

Friday Fasting Service 14th August'26: Today's fasting prayer was a strong call to **deep prayer, intercession, spiritual awakening, and repentance**, especially for the Church and the nation. The message reminded believers that true prayer must come from a sincere and burdened heart—not merely from routine or a desire to impress others—and encouraged them to seek God persistently with faith, thanksgiving, and complete dependence on Him.



The message called for **deep prayer beyond personal needs**, carrying a burden for **the nation, the Church, leaders, young people, those suffering, and those who do not yet know Christ**. Through **Ezekiel 22:30** and the examples of Abraham, Moses, and Stephen, the message encouraged a life of **standing in the gap, personal holiness, forgiveness, and steadfast prayer** even in difficult circumstances. The service concluded with a call to **intercede for the nation, carry the burden for souls, and seek spiritual awakening and transformation**.

Bible Reading and imp references: Chapter 22 from the book of Ezekiel was read as repetitive reading.

2 Chronicles 7:14	Philippians 4:6–7	1 Peter 5:7	John 8:12	Acts 6:15
Acts 7:54–60	Genesis 18:20–33	Jeremiah 5:1		Psalms 106:23
Exodus 32:9–14	Ecclesiastes 4:1–2	Judges 14:5–9		1 Samuel 16:14–23
Matthew 6:5–13	Matthew 5:44	Matthew 9:36–38		Acts 1:3
1 Corinthians 15:6	Acts 1:8	Psalms 103		Psalms 119:18
2 Kings 6:15–17	Isaiah 60:1	Ephesians 6:10–18		Romans 12:1–2

Key points from message:

- ✓ Prayer should not be merely a routine of words; true prayer must come from a heart that is genuinely burdened before God.
- ✓ Do not measure prayer by how many hours you prayed or how many people were present. Pray until the burden in your heart has been poured out before God and you receive clarity.
- ✓ Prayer can renew a person from the inside out. Bring your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual burdens into God's presence.
- ✓ Prayer should not be limited to our own problems. God wants us to carry our children, families, nation, Church and the whole world before Him.
- ✓ Develop a burden for people who are suffering, confused, bound by sin or without hope. Do not become indifferent to the pain around you.
- ✓ Pray for genuine spiritual freedom in India. Pray that those who are bound by sin, addictions, fear and despair will experience the freedom that comes through Christ.

- ✓ Ezekiel 22 shows that the condition of a nation is connected with the condition of its people, leaders and spiritual institutions.
- ✓ Do not look at corruption, violence and immorality merely as news items. Let the condition of the nation create a burden in your heart to pray.
- ✓ When society becomes increasingly unjust, the Church must not remain silent or spiritually asleep.
- ✓ God is looking for people who will stand between Him and the land. Will you become that person who stands in the gap?
- ✓ Do not keep asking, "Why doesn't God change this country?" Ask instead, "Am I willing to stand before God and pray for this country?"
- ✓ Learn to pray even for people who oppose you, hurt you or refuse to listen to you. Intercession is not only praying for people we love.
- ✓ Do not pray only for the righteous. Carry the sinner before God and ask Him to have mercy and bring repentance.
- ✓ Moses stood before God on behalf of people who had sinned. A true intercessor does not quickly give up on people.
- ✓ Do not say, "They are too sinful; God should leave them." Become the person who says, "Lord, have mercy on them."
- ✓ God is looking for people who will stand faithfully even when they are few. Do not think that a small number means God cannot work.
- ✓ Guard your consecration to God. Do not treat God's calling casually or participate in things that compromise your spiritual life.
- ✓ Do not allow the world to slowly make you comfortable with things that God's Word calls sinful.
- ✓ God's Word is powerful enough to break hard hearts and burn away the impurity within us.
- ✓ Do not merely ask God to change the country. Ask Him to change your own heart first.
- ✓ Stephen was surrounded by people who hated him, yet he looked towards heaven and saw Jesus. What you look at determines what controls your heart.
- ✓ When everyone around you is angry, fearful or attacking you, keep your eyes on Jesus.
- ✓ Stephen did not respond to hatred with hatred. Even while suffering, he prayed for forgiveness for those who were hurting him.
- ✓ Prayer should not only change our circumstances; prayer must change us.
- ✓ Do not wait for somebody else to become the answer. Ask God to make you the one who will stand in the gap.

The great question of this sermon is not, "How bad is the nation?" but "When God looks for someone to stand in the gap, will He find me?"

All India Christian Youth Retreat – True Freedom in Christ

Free to Live for Christ, Pray with Purpose and Follow His Will

Flee youthful passions • Guard your heart • Grow in prayer • Surrender your future to God

A special **Youth Festival** was held by **Calvary Church, Chennai**, at **Blue Lagoon Resort, ECR**, marking a meaningful Independence Day(15th Aug'26) gathering for young people. The day was filled with **prayer, worship, singing, testimonies, fellowship, and an engaging question-and-answer session**, where many young people openly sought guidance regarding their spiritual, personal, and professional

ALL INDIA CHRISTIAN YOUTH YOUTH RETREAT



📍 4 STATES | 📍 40 PLACES | 👤 200 YOUTH

lives.

The first session focused on **true freedom in Christ**, reminding the youth that political freedom does not necessarily mean freedom in one's personal life. True freedom is found in Christ—freedom from the bondage of sin, uncontrolled desires, addictions, and anything that takes control of our lives. Through **2 Timothy 2:22**, the youth were encouraged to flee youthful passions, pursue righteousness, guard their hearts and minds, and develop a consistent life of prayer. The examples of **Daniel and Job** highlighted the importance of purity, self-control, and standing firmly for God.



The second session carried a special **burden for India and its spiritual condition**. As the nation remembered Independence Day, prayers were offered for India to turn to Jesus Christ, experience true peace, and be transformed by the Gospel. The message reminded the young people that

Christians are called to be **salt and light**, demonstrating the character of Christ through righteous and godly lives.

Through the accounts of **Jesus calming the storm, Peter walking on the water, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego standing firm before the king**, the youth were encouraged to trust God even when circumstances are difficult and to remain faithful to Christ whatever the cost. A powerful reminder throughout the session was: **"If You are with me, that is enough."** The greatest treasure is not what Christ gives, but Christ Himself.

The message also challenged young people and families to seek **God's wisdom rather than worldly success alone**. Parents were encouraged to desire not merely academic achievement, careers, wealth, or social status for their children, but to see them become great **in God's Kingdom**. The Bible was presented as God's love letter to His children, encouraging everyone to read His Word prayerfully and allow the Holy Spirit to guide their lives.

A strong call was also given for **evangelism and the use of digital platforms for the Gospel**. Young people were reminded that their knowledge, technology, communication skills, and social media opportunities can become powerful tools for reaching those who have never heard about Jesus. The responsibility is to faithfully proclaim the Gospel and make Christ known.

The gathering carried a deep prayer burden for **India, the unreached, young people, families, the Church, and the nation**, asking God for spiritual awakening, freedom from sin and bondage, and a generation willing to stand for Christ. The closing prayer drew from **2 Chronicles 7:14**, calling for humility, prayer, seeking God, repentance, and healing for the land.

The retreat concluded with a renewed challenge to live in **true freedom through Christ**, remain fully committed to Him, pray for the nation, and use every opportunity to make Jesus known.



PRAY FOR THE NATION.

PRAY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

PRAY FOR THE UNREACHED.

Sunday Worship on 16th August'26:

1st Service: True Freedom in Christ — Walking in the Spirit and Bearing His Fruit

Today's first worship service, conducted in **English, Tamil, and Telugu**, centred on the **unchanging and selfless love of Jesus Christ** and the freedom He gives. The meditation on **Galatians chapter 5** reminded everyone that Christ has set us free, not to return to our old ways, but to live for God, walk in the Spirit, and serve one another in love. The message encouraged a personal surrender to Jesus as our Life, Lord, and Friend, allowing His love to shape every area of life.



The service highlighted the contrast between the **works of the flesh** and the **fruit of the Spirit**, calling for genuine transformation from within. The message especially encouraged freedom from selfishness, anger, jealousy, sinful habits, and other

patterns that hinder spiritual growth, reminding everyone that **true freedom in Christ produces the character of Christ**—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Bible Reading/ imp references: Chapter 5 from the Letter to the Galatians in the New Testament was read as a repetitive reading.

Galatians 5:1–26

John 8:34–36

John 14:6

Romans 8:5–14

Romans 6:6–14

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 4:22–24

Ephesians 6:10–18

1 Peter 1:15–16

1 Peter 2:9

1 John 4:7–12

1 Corinthians 13:4–7

James 3:14–16

James 4:7

John 14:1–3

Revelation 19:7–9

Key notes from message:

- ✓ Christ has **set us free**; therefore, we must stand firm and must not return to slavery.
- ✓ Christian freedom is **not freedom to sin**; it is freedom to live for God.
- ✓ Freedom must never become an opportunity for the **flesh**.

- ✓ True Christian freedom expresses itself through **love and service to others**.
- ✓ The whole law is fulfilled in **loving our neighbour**.
- ✓ A believer cannot claim spiritual freedom while continually living in **jealousy, hatred, quarrels, selfish ambition and division**.
- ✓ There is a continuing battle between the **flesh and the Spirit** in the Christian life.
- ✓ We must choose to **walk according to the Spirit** rather than fulfil the desires of the flesh.
- ✓ The works of the flesh reveal what is controlling a person's life.
- ✓ The **fruit of the Spirit** reveals the work of the Holy Spirit in a transformed life.
- ✓ The fruit of the Spirit must become visible in our relationships and conduct—not merely something we know from the Bible.
- ✓ When God's love fills us, we become more **patient, kind and self-controlled** and less controlled by jealousy and pride.
- ✓ **Selfishness is another form of bondage**. We must allow Christ to free us from self-centred living.
- ✓ We have received a **new identity in Christ** and must not continue living according to our former identity.
- ✓ Do not return to the **old sinful life** after experiencing Christ's freedom.
- ✓ Examine yourself honestly and identify the areas where you repeatedly fall—**anger, jealousy, selfish thoughts, sexual thoughts or other sinful desires**.
- ✓ Our spiritual life must be strengthened through **God's Word, prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit**.
- ✓ God does not want a **partial transformation**. He wants an inward transformation that changes the whole life.
- ✓ Do not give Satan a place. **Resist him and remain under Christ's authority**.
- ✓ The freedom Christ gives should lead to **holiness, love, spiritual maturity and a life led by the Spirit**.
- ✓ We must live ready for the **return of Jesus Christ**, refusing to return to the sinful life from which He delivered us

2nd Service: Today's second worship service, conducted in Telugu and Tamil, focused on **developing character through discipline, faithfulness, and attention to small things**. The message reminded everyone that excellence in greater responsibilities begins with being faithful in everyday matters. Simple habits such as cleanliness, caring for what God has entrusted to us, completing tasks carefully, and taking responsibility were presented as reflections of a person's character.



Special emphasis was given to **self-control, health, and guarding the mind** from harmful influences such as excessive entertainment and social media. Young people were encouraged to take part in youth meetings, retreats, fellowship, and spiritual activities that help them grow in the Lord. The message also

called for victory over anger and other emotions that can control a person's life, encouraging everyone to pursue **discipline, responsibility, purity, and excellence in all that God has entrusted to them.**

Bible Reading / imp references: Chapter 8 from the Letter to Romans by Apostle Paul was read as repetitive reading.

Key notes from message:

- ✓ Do everything carefully and properly, because **small things reveal your character.**
- ✓ Do not neglect small responsibilities and expect to handle greater responsibilities well.
- ✓ God is a perfect God, so **learn to pursue excellence in whatever you do.**
- ✓ Do not be careless with the things God has entrusted to you.
- ✓ Keep your surroundings clean and orderly because **discipline in simple things becomes part of your character.**
- ✓ Learn to recognise your weaknesses and **take responsibility for correcting them.**
- ✓ Do not allow anger to control you; **you must become the master of your anger.**
- ✓ Do not allow addictions or uncontrolled habits to become your master.
- ✓ Young people should make use of opportunities such as **youth meetings, retreats and spiritual fellowship** to grow in the Lord.
- ✓ Do not treat youth meetings merely as entertainment; **use them to build your spiritual life and character.**
- ✓ Learn from others, fellowship with others and **grow together in the Lord.**
- ✓ Be willing to prepare yourself carefully rather than doing things at the last minute.
- ✓ Use your time wisely and **prepare yourself for what God has planned for your future.**
- ✓ Do not be satisfied with doing something halfway. **Develop the habit of completing what you begin.**

- ✓ Excellence should become part of your character, **not something you practise only when someone is watching.**
- ✓ What you repeatedly do in private will eventually become **the character people see in public.**
- ✓ Take care of the opportunities God gives you and **do not waste them through carelessness.**
- ✓ Be faithful in the small things because **greater responsibilities require greater character.**
- ✓ Do not allow anger, habits, entertainment or worldly influences to control your life; **Jesus must remain your Master.**
- ✓ Build your character now, because **the person you become tomorrow is being shaped by the choices you make today.**

Upcoming Events to add in your daily prayers:

- Monday, Zoom live session – 9:00 PM
- Get-together, Bengaluru, 02nd September 2026.
- Wednesday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM.
- Friday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM.
- Sunday services – 8am and 2pm onwards.
- Sunrise service at 4am, Chennai – 02nd Oct'26

**May the Lord teach you His ways and strengthen you
to walk as Jesus walked! Amen!**

**With love,
Dr. N. Jayapaul,
Calvary Church Chennai.**