

Echoes of Calvary

Weekly Newsletter - 33 | 24th Aug - 30th Aug '2026

Dear family in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we enter the **Week of Abiding in Prayer**. As we continue our walk with Christ, we are reminded that prayer is not merely something we do when we have a need—it is the way we remain connected to God throughout our daily lives.

Jesus Himself made prayer a priority. In the midst of His ministry, He withdrew from the crowds, sought quiet places, and spent time with the Father. His strength, wisdom, and obedience flowed from this deep communion.

Prayer does not always change our circumstances immediately, but it changes us. It teaches us to surrender, to listen, to trust, and to remain close to the One who holds every circumstance in His hands.

Scripture of the Week:

"Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." — **1 Thessalonians 5:17–18**

This Week's Practice: Remaining in Prayer

Lifestyle of Jesus: A Life of Continual Communion with the Father

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus continually returned to prayer. Before important decisions, He prayed. When surrounded by crowds, He withdrew to quiet places. Before the cross, He poured out His heart to the Father in the garden.

Prayer was not simply a part of Jesus' life—it was the foundation from which He lived.

This week, we pause and ask:

- Is prayer a priority in my daily life or only a response to emergencies?
- What prevents me from spending quiet time with God?
- Am I bringing both my joys and my struggles before Him?
- Am I making space not only to speak to God, but also to listen?

A praying heart becomes a listening heart, and a listening heart becomes increasingly sensitive to God's leading.

Events that happened in 34th week (24th Aug – 30th Aug) of 2026 to seek the fruit of the Word sown in your daily prayers:

Mid-week Prayer, Wednesday 26th Aug'26:

Rooted in God's Purpose – Faithfulness Over Worldly Attraction



Today's midweek prayer reminded us of the importance of remaining faithful to the **spiritual foundation** and calling God has given us, rather than being drawn away by worldly comfort, position, money, or recognition. Through the examples of **Samson and Judges 17–18**, the message encouraged us to honour our

spiritual heritage, use our God-given gifts for His glory, and remain rooted in **God's Word, prayer, discipline, faith, and wholehearted surrender.**

Bible Reading & references

Chapter 10 of the book of Joshua was read repeatedly for meditation.

Judges 16 Judges 17:4–6 Judges 17:7–13 Judges 18:1–31 Psalm 18
2 Samuel 11 Proverbs 22:6 Isaiah 29:13 Ezekiel 33:31–32 2 Timothy 3

Key notes from message

- ✓ Remain faithful to God's purpose for your life even when the world looks attractive.
- ✓ As God blesses and strengthens you, continue holding on to the One who gave you that strength.
- ✓ Keep depending on the hand of God rather than placing your confidence in human hands.
- ✓ Seek the Lord's will before making important decisions, especially concerning marriage and your future.
- ✓ Look beyond the outward attraction of the world and recognize what lies behind its appearance.
- ✓ Value God's blessing above worldly attraction, comfort and position.
- ✓ Remain rooted in the place where God has raised, taught and blessed you.
- ✓ Give importance to prayer, discipline, the fear of God, faith and the Word of God.
- ✓ Let God's Word move from hearing into the way you live.
- ✓ Use the gifts and talents God has given you for His purpose.

- ✓ Keep your spiritual foundation stronger than the attraction of salary, position, comfort or recognition.
- ✓ Remain faithful to God even when another place appears to offer greater honour or opportunity.
- ✓ Guard the years God has given you from being wasted through wrong choices and compromise.
- ✓ Remember with gratitude the parents and others who prayed for you and helped establish your life in God's ways.
- ✓ Parents and grandparents should carry the burden of teaching God's works and God's Word to the next generation.
- ✓ Allow God's correction and discipline to remain part of your spiritual life.
- ✓ Samson's life reminds us that repentance brings God's mercy, while wrong choices can still leave painful consequences.
- ✓ Live under God's authority with discipline and the fear of God rather than according to personal desires.
- ✓ Keep true worship centred on the living God rather than on something created according to human preference.
- ✓ Give importance to the truth of God's Word rather than merely to someone's title or position.
- ✓ Let what you do be pleasing to the Lord rather than simply pleasing to yourself.
- ✓ Allow God's will to become your will.
- ✓ Keep your life honest and separate from lies, cheating, bribery and wrongdoing.
- ✓ Let worldly success never become more important than faithfulness to God.
- ✓ Remain rooted in the spiritual foundation on which God has built your life.
- ✓ **Stay where God has taught you, formed you and established you, and remain faithful to Him.**

Friday Fasting Service 28th August'26:

Ready for the Lord's Coming – A Call to Repentance, Holiness and Faithfulness

Today's fasting prayer carried a solemn warning about the **coming of the Lord and the day of judgment**, reminding us that worldly strength, wealth, possessions, technology, and earthly security cannot ultimately save us. Along with prayers for the **personal burdens and prayer requests received through phone calls, WhatsApp, social media, and other channels**, a special time of supplication was offered for the **burdens of the world**—for the fulfilment of the signs concerning the Lord's coming, recent calamities and events across the





globe, and the increasing challenges and persecution faced by Christians in different parts of the world. The message called for **genuine repentance, holiness, watchfulness, and readiness for Christ's return**, encouraging us to remain rooted in God's Word, stand firm through opposition and suffering, and faithfully proclaim the Gospel while there is still opportunity.

Bible Reading & references

Chapter 3 of the Second Letter of Peter was read repeatedly for meditation.

Isaiah 2:9–10, 19–20

Revelation 6:14–17

Luke 13:2–5

1 Peter 5:8

2 Peter 3:2–18

Matthew 24:24

Key notes from message

- ✓ The day of the Lord is coming, and we must take His warning seriously.
- ✓ Earthly possessions, wealth, buildings, technology and human protection cannot stand in the day of God's judgment.
- ✓ Calamities around us should turn our attention to repentance rather than to judging the people who suffered.
- ✓ The important question is not why others suffered, but **whether our own hearts are prepared before God**.
- ✓ The Lord's apparent delay is His patience, giving people time to repent and be saved.
- ✓ His coming will be sudden, leaving no opportunity at that moment to prepare, pray or ask for forgiveness.
- ✓ A Christian's strength is seen in standing firm when temptation, problems, attraction, persecution or pressure comes.
- ✓ A believer needs a firm mind and a watchful spirit because the enemy is continually seeking whom he may devour.
- ✓ The changing circumstances of the world are a reminder to remain steadfast rather than being carried away by them.
- ✓ God's Word needs to remain firmly established in our hearts so that false teaching cannot move us away from the truth.
- ✓ Not every teaching should be accepted simply because it is presented as Christian; Scripture must be examined carefully.
- ✓ Different servants may have different ways of presenting God's Word, while the truth given by the Holy Spirit remains the same.
- ✓ Spiritual maturity brings discernment to recognise what is true and what is false.

- ✓ The purpose of our present life is not merely earthly comfort but preparation for God's eternal kingdom.
- ✓ The pressures, criticism and persecution faced by Christians should not make us ashamed of Christ.
- ✓ Our faith and conscience are worth guarding even when the world opposes us.
- ✓ The passing world should not become the centre of our hope when an eternal kingdom awaits.
- ✓ The Lord's patience gives us an opportunity to faithfully continue the work entrusted to us.
- ✓ The Gospel must reach those who are still without the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Our expectation of the Lord's coming should produce **faithfulness in our present work**, not inactivity.
- ✓ **The right response to the signs around us is not fear, but repentance, holiness, steadfastness and readiness for the Lord's coming.**

Sunday Worship on 30th August'26:

1st Service: Fix Your Eyes on Jesus – Laying Aside Every Distraction.



Today's morning worship service was conducted in **Telugu**, while the message was delivered in **English, Hindi, and Telugu**, ministering to a wider audience. The message, based on

Hebrews chapter 12, called everyone to lay aside every hindrance and the sin that entangles, run the Christian race with perseverance, and keep their eyes firmly fixed on Jesus.

A special emphasis was placed on **mobile phones and digital distractions**, reminding us that technology itself is not wrong and can be used for communication, God's work, and spreading His Word, but we must ensure that we control it rather than allowing it to control our lives. The message encouraged everyone to turn their attention from social media and other distractions towards **God's Word and prayer**, exercising self-control and guarding the heart from small distractions that can gradually become spiritual entanglements.

Bible Reading & references

Chapter 12 of the Letter to the Hebrews was read repeatedly for meditation.

Hebrews 12:1–2; Psalm 23; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 14:2–3; Psalm 119:105

Key notes from message

- ✓ Fix your eyes on Jesus and keep Him as the focus of your life.
- ✓ Remove every hindrance and every sin that easily entangles you.
- ✓ The Christian race requires laying aside every hindrance and every sin that easily entangles us.
- ✓ Our attention must remain fixed on Jesus rather than being constantly pulled away by worldly distractions.
- ✓ Excessive use of mobile phones can affect concentration, studies, work, emotions, sleep and relationships.
- ✓ A mobile phone is useful when used for the right purposes, but it should not receive greater importance than God and the people around us.
- ✓ Technology can be used to access God's Word, prayer and other useful resources, but it needs to remain under proper control.
- ✓ Unnecessary use of the phone can consume valuable time that should be given to God, prayer, the Bible and family.
- ✓ Real relationships should not be replaced by spending excessive time with screens.
- ✓ Parents and children need time to speak with one another rather than allowing screens to occupy their attention.
- ✓ The things watched on social media can quickly change from one emotion or subject to another and continually disturb the mind.
- ✓ What is repeatedly seen and consumed through the phone can influence the mind and create attraction toward things that are not good.
- ✓ Discipline is needed in deciding when and for what purpose the mobile phone is used.
- ✓ Instead of giving our attention to Facebook and other distractions, greater attention should be given to reading the Bible and the Word of God.
- ✓ Reading the Bible and meditating on God's Word helps bring the mind back to the things of God.
- ✓ The Lord wants to speak directly to His people, and time needs to be given to hear Him.
- ✓ The distractions of the world should not prevent believers from hearing God's voice.
- ✓ When the world is pulling us in different directions, the answer is to turn our eyes toward Jesus and continue running the race.
- ✓ The Lord provides safety and comfort to those who run toward Him.
- ✓ The mobile phone should be brought under control before it begins to control and damage the mind.
- ✓ By God's grace, even things that have become difficult to control can be brought under discipline.
- ✓ Our eyes must remain fixed on Jesus, our heart must remain focused on Him, and nothing should be allowed to take His place.

2nd Service:

Walking Faithfully with God – A Call to Truth, Obedience and Watchfulness



Today's evening worship service, conducted mainly in **Tamil**, with the message delivered in **Telugu and Tamil**, began by reminding everyone of the uncertainty, suffering, calamities, and persecution in the world, making the opportunity to gather safely in God's house a precious privilege. The message called for genuine Christian living—not merely church

membership, years of worship, or religious activity, but a heart that is right with God and a life that follows the footsteps and love of Christ.

Through the account of **Ahab, Jezebel, and Naboth**, the message warned against covetousness, injustice, disobedience, and rejecting God's warnings, while the examples of **Elijah and Cain and Abel** reminded us that God sees what is hidden and that wrongdoing has consequences. The message also addressed the responsible use of **mobile phones and social media**, encouraging self-control so that technology does not consume our time or draw us away from God's Word, while using it positively for prayer, ministry, and spreading the Gospel.

Bible Reading & references

Chapter 6 from the 2nd Samuel was read repeatedly for meditation.

2 Kings 10:7 2 Samuel 6:10 John 1:1 Genesis 4

Key notes from message

- ✓ The changing conditions of the world and the suffering around us should make us recognize the privilege of being able to gather safely in God's house.
- ✓ Being called a Christian is not merely a matter of carrying a Bible, having a Christian name or belonging to a church; a Christian is one who follows Christ, walks in His footsteps and shows His love.
- ✓ The length of time spent in church, the number of songs sung or sermons preached is not what matters; what matters is whether the heart is right with God and whether one is walking in His footsteps.
- ✓ Looking at the difficulties and suffering of others should bring gratitude into the heart rather than allowing personal difficulties to become the entire focus.
- ✓ The story of Ahab and Jezebel shows the seriousness of allowing wrong desires and wrong influence to lead the family away from God.
- ✓ Ahab's downfall relates to refusing to trust God, refusing to fear God, refusing to obey God's Word, opposing God's servants and rejecting God's warnings.

- ✓ The consequences of Ahab and Jezebel's actions extended beyond themselves and affected their descendants; the message uses this as a serious warning concerning the spiritual direction of a family.
- ✓ God's warnings are not to be treated lightly; when God speaks, His Word needs to be heard and acted upon.
- ✓ God's servants who pray for and care for people's souls should not be treated as enemies.
- ✓ The account of Cain and Abel shows that innocent blood is known to God even when people think their actions are hidden.
- ✓ What appears acceptable before people is not necessarily acceptable before God; the Creator knows what is happening even when others do not see it.
- ✓ The cell phone can easily consume large amounts of the time God has given, while very little time is given to God's Word.
- ✓ The cell phone itself is not the problem; it can also be used for prayer, sharing God's Word and reaching people with the Gospel.
- ✓ The Holy Bible is presented as the book that points people toward the way to heaven, while Jesus alone is the way, the truth and the life.

Upcoming Events to add in your daily prayers:

- Monday, Zoom live session – 9:00 PM
- Get-together, **Bengaluru**, 02nd September 2026.
- Get-together, **Visakhapatnam**, 16th September 2026.
- Get-together, **Pune**, 23rd September 2026.
- **Sunrise service** at 3am, Chennai – 02nd Oct'26
- Wednesday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM.
- Friday Fasting Prayer — 7:00 PM.
- **Calvary Kids** Live Sunday School on Zoom, Saturday — 7:00 PM.
- Sunday services – 8am and 2pm onwards.

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

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