

SYNODAL CHURCH IN THE NEW YEAR 2022
‘LEARNING TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT’ (AS A HABIT)



For the past few months, I have been in constant turmoil on account of the ill health of my father to whom I am deeply attached. Medication, counselling, prayers, tears...all seem to be going futile as there seems to be no improvement in his health. Last evening, having almost reached the point of despair, I opened the Holy Bible and came upon John 14:16 that says, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Helper**, to be with you forever.” I cried out and prayed, “*Lord, I give up! I surrender! Will you just take over?*”

I have heard, once, a group of translators and interpreters in Africa were trying to sort out how to interpret the word ‘**Paracletos, the helper**’ to natives and they saw a group of porters, carrying heavy loads, ten of them and there was one of them who carried nothing. They thought, ‘he might be the boss’. But he told them, “*I am not the boss. I am the one who will drop down on my knees, to come alongside any one of these people if they are tired, feel like giving up or collapse. Here I am – I help them carry the load and that’s my job.*” Behold! Now they knew the exact meaning of ‘**Paracletos, the Helper**’! In John 14:16, Jesus is saying, “*If you are tired and feel like giving up, I give you somebody exactly like me ‘another helper’– to be your ‘Paracletos’! You just need to hand over the control to Him.*”

Once I was praying with one of the sisters in the chapel and the door was closed. Another sister opened the door and came in talking aloud and making noise. My instant reaction ‘in the flesh’ was, “*Can’t you see, we are praying? Can you please be quiet?*” That reaction would have been really nasty. But, I consciously stopped and I prayed, “**Holy Spirit, teach me what to say to her. Take control of me right now.**” And I was shocked at what came out of my mouth! I said to her, “*Sister, we are praying. Would you like to join us?*” I was totally blown over when she replied, “*Oh dear, I am so sorry. I didn’t know you were praying together. Yes, I would love to join you.*” And behold, now instead of two persons praying, there were three of us praying together!

Friends, let’s pause and check, who is driving our lives? **The Holy Spirit or the spirit of the flesh?** Let’s develop the habit of walking in the Spirit by being sensitive to His voice, humbling ourselves and allowing Him to take control of our thoughts, words and actions at every moment and in everything, **as we emerge as a ‘SYNODAL CHURCH’ in the New Year 2022!**



Wish you all an abundantly joyful and fruitful 2022, as you learn the secret of true Christian life – WALKING IN THE SPIRIT ‘AS A HABIT’!

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