

# **7th Day Pentecostal Assemblies (Esreso)**

## **2016 End-of Year Camp Meeting**

### **Welcome Address**

By

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**Title: The Faithfulness of His Word, our Song of Praise Today and Forever**

#### **Time moves; He remains ever faithful**

Soon a year is on its way out. Around this same time last year, we assembled here before the Lord and asked for His mercy and protection. Ever faithful, He has seen us through twelve calendar months, made up of 52 weeks which in turn translate into 365 days, in one whole piece. Not a strand of our hair is fallen to the ground.

God has been good to us. But as we live our lives each day at a time, we tend to lose sight of the many blessings of His that have secured us, preserved us, healed us, and provided for us in ways we could never get to explain. Each one of them is a miracle in its own right from the miracle-working God. He's involved in our lives for our good, wellbeing and salvation. Our hearts are bursting and will forever burst and overflow with joy and gratitude because we are in a relationship with a loving Father God who deeply cares for us.

#### **Our Rendezvous is the Exalted Word**

Our point of meeting with the Father is the Word. That's the place where we interact with Him—where we learn of His will for us, His plans for us and receive instruction from Him in righteousness and holiness. That's also the place where we learn of His promises to us.

It's a great place to be! The Word—the written and verbalized/expounded text of sacred scripture—is a little heaven. That's where we “see” His goodness and majesty and hear His voice of hope and salvation. Everything we know about God is in and comes from His Word.

And we just found out, like King Solomon, that “not one of His word has failed of all His good promises” (1 Kings 8:56). That is where our joy comes from. He holds His own Word in high esteem because His Word is our door into His wonderful world of truth, power, grace, mercy and salvation. He cannot afford to let His Word fail under any circumstances. It will cause irreparable damage to His reputation. It will simply vanish. He’s distinct from His Word, yet HE is the WORD!

And His Word, the embodiment of His faithfulness, is so true, so sings the Psalmist:

“I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth: for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name” (Ps 138:2).

His Word is the reason why we are praising Him at this service in unison with King David. What he found out about the Word, is what we have discovered for ourselves. All we can do is to praise Him and look forward to praising Him more and more. His word has not finished with us:

“The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of Thine own hands” (Ps 138:8).

Despite the many blessings that He has bestowed on us, they are just the beginning. There’s a lot more to come by the Word. We are an ongoing work of beauty in His hands—“like the clay in the potter’s hand” (Jer. 18:6). He will not abandon us half way through the work. He will perfect all His plans concerning each one of us!

### **It’s Praise Hour!**

While we await the fulfilment of all His plans towards us, it’s not a moment to mope around. It’s a moment to fill with praise—and to do so with gusto:

“I will praise Thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto Thee.

“I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth: for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name.

“In the day when I cried Thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul” (Ps 138:1-3).

It is praise time for what He has done and does on a routine basis. But don’t praise Him perfunctorily—without spirit but done as a mere formality.

Offer Him your praise feelingly – with your whole heart. Put your heart in it; let every fibre of your being praise the LORD. Let the praise of your soul reach God in heaven!

Worship towards His holy temple. Picture yourself standing before His altar in the temple in heaven with your hands lifted up in praise and thanksgiving.

The Word is at the centre of the praise. You are a tribute to the truth, power and grace of His Word which He has magnified above all His name. The glory of His name derives from the unchanging truth and efficacy of His Word.

Remember that in obedience to His Word to call upon Him in the time of trouble (Ps. 50:15) you did, and He strengthened you with strength in your soul. You felt a power and energy which could have only come from beyond you. Your soul was rejuvenated!

The great men of the earth, who would ordinarily be obsessed with their own earthly power and wealth, could not help but take notice:

“All the kings of the earth shall praise Thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of Thy mouth.

“Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD” (Ps 138:4-5).

Oh Yahweh, your words are so excellent and true the great men of this world cannot gainsay them. Their pretensions to superior wisdom are nowhere near your revealed words of wisdom. They will extol you for your marvelous ways, and your glory will only get greater.

Ah, and this great God had regard for a low person like me. I’m unworthy of it, but out of His boundless love and mercy He has singled out the humble for “more grace”. To wit: “But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (Jam. 4:6). So the proud cut themselves out:

“Though the LORD be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly: but the proud He knoweth afar off” (Ps 138:6).

And He will yet deliver me from every danger and trap of the enemy:

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me: Thou shalt stretch forth Thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and Thy right hand shall save me” (Ps 138:7).

The certainty of enemy-instigated trouble and attacks cannot be wished away. But the presence of the *Emmanuel* can’t also be wished away by the enemy either. He will be my strength in a time of adversity, and He will revive me! He will fend off the anger of the enemy nipping it in the bud. He will ask in mockery of the enemy, “and where is the fury of the oppressor?” (Isa. 51:12-13).

His right hand is salvation—YESHUA seated on the right hand of POWER. He’s my constant source of salvation, and He will save me. At no point in time will He fail me. His saving grace and power is forever! This is the assurance of His unfailing word going into the civil new year 2017.

For “Yah will perfect that which concerneth me”. That is the logical destination to which the saving right hand of Yah will bring me. It’s a glorious future which the mercy of God will ensure.

His Word is true! Halleluiah!