

SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

GUURU

POORNIMA

CELEBRATION 2020

STUDY
guide
PART TWO





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DEDICATED

WITH LOVE AND REVERENCE AT THE DIVINE LOTUS FEET OF
Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

THE EMBODIMENT OF DIVINE LOVE

This study guide is one of a three-part series encapsulating some of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Divine Discourses during Guru Pournima.

Each guide contains an inspirational story and a set of reflection questions for individuals, families, and Sai Centers around the world to immerse themselves in His Divine message, in anticipation of the first **Online** Global Guru Pournima Celebrations (July 4-5, 2020).

INSPIRATIONAL STORY BY
BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Follow the Guru's Teachings

Out of so many divine qualities of God, do we have even one? You don't need to put into practice all that is said. Practise at least one teaching of Swami. But you listen and go.

Once, a sculptor brought three statues in King Bhojaraja's court. Bhojaraja said to his minister, "Minister, judge which is the best of the three." The minister pierced an iron rod into the ear of one statue. The iron rod came out through the other ear. This statue was kept aside by the minister. He examined the second statue. When the rod was put into one ear, it came out through the mouth. The same reply ensued. Now the minister put the third statue to test. The iron rod went into the ear but did not come out. The minister said, "Oh king, this statue is most valuable." "What is the reason?" asked the king. The minister said, "The first statue represents a person who hears with one ear but lets out information through the other. This is not good. The second statue symbolises a person who listens with one ear but leaves out the information through the mouth. No value. But the third statue stands for a person who receives information through the ear and treasures it in his heart."

So, whatever good thing you hear, treasure it in your heart. If you put it in your heart, it may develop at one time or other. It is like the negative of a photograph. When you have the negative with you, you can make any number of copies at any time. What you take into your head, it is like a Polaroid picture. You cannot make any copies out of it. Keep good things safe in your heart like a negative so that you can put it into practice.

[Divine Discourse at Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 10 April 1993](#)

Excerpts from Divine Discourses for Contemplation

OBEDY MY INSTRUCTIONS

So utilise the chance of association with Me as much as possible, and endeavour as quickly and as best as you can to follow the directions that I have been giving. Obeying My instructions is enough; for it will benefit you more than the most rigorous asceticism. Practise *Sathya* (truth), *Dharma* (righteousness), *Santhi* (peace), and *Prema* (love), which are dear to Me. Resolve to keep those ideals before you, ever in all your thoughts, words, and deeds. That can confer on you the summum bonum of mergence in the Supreme Substance of Divinity.

*[Divine Discourse, World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations,
Mumbai, May 17, 1968](#)*

FAITH AND LOVE NEEDED TO REACH GOD

To enable your prayers to reach God you have to affix the stamp of 'faith' and address it with 'love'. If you have faith and love, your prayers will reach God regardless of distance. You must see that your love for God is pure and unsullied. You must be prepared to subject yourself to God's tests. The sooner you pass these tests, the nearer you will get to God. There can be no spiritual advance without going through these tests. Students should be aware that for going to a higher class they have to pass the prescribed tests.

In life, you are tested as to how much you are attached to the ephemeral things of the world and how much you yearn for the Divine. If your love for God is a tiny fraction of your love for mundane things, how do you expect God to shower His grace on you?

How much more sacred it would be if men thought about God even for a few moments out of the many hours they waste on thinking about worldly things? People should develop their faith in this truth. Whatever faith they have in themselves that faith they should have in God. That is the mark of greatness. One who has no faith in himself, how can he have faith in God? Turn your faith away from the temporal and the transient to the unchanging eternal reality.

[Divine Discourse at Prasanthi Nilayam on September 7, 1997](#)

POWER OF FAITH

Faith is most important for success or failure. It is faith or lack of faith which is responsible. Without this faith if you get into argumentation in the name of devotion, it is only the effect of ego and ostentation.

There are huge trees on the roadside. These trees remain green in spite of famine and draught. On the other side there is the paddy crop nearby. You have to water it every day. Even if you do not water it one day, it will dry up. Foolish ones may think, "Paddy crop dries up if it does not get water for a day. How is it the trees remain green even in a long period of draught?" What is the reason for this?

The roots of the tree have gone deep down to the water level, whereas the roots of the paddy crop remain on the surface. We do not have steady and strong faith. Faith is our breath. We listen to Swami's discourses every day, but we do not derive any benefit. There are some who hear only once but remain strong forever. All the difficulties begin when one's faith wavers.

[Divine Discourse, Guru Poornima, Prasanthi Nilayam, July 14, 1992](#)

DEVELOP LOVE FOR GOD, NEVER GIVE-UP GOD

What is it that man should seek? How can he attain peace and happiness? The first requisition is the cultivation of the love of God. The Puranas and the ancient sages have declared that the Divine incarnates to punish the wicked and protect the good. This is not correct. The Divine incarnates to inculcate love in mankind and teach how love should be promoted and practised. Only when such love is developed will man be free from sorrow and trouble. Sins will be wiped out and fear will cease to haunt men.

The essence of all religions, all teachings and spiritual paths is only one thing: Love. Develop that Divine Love. Above all, whatever your difficulties, whatever the ordeals you have to undergo, in any situation, do not give up God. God is One. Whether you are affluent or destitute, whether you are a scholar or an ignoramus, whatever troubles you may be faced with, whatever spiritual practices you may adopt, whether you are regarded as a sinner or a saint, "Do not give up God and realise God is One."

[Guru Poornima, 1988, Prasanthi Nilayam](#)

STORY ON FAITH BY BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

In an obscure village lived a mother and her son. The boy had lost his father when he was just two years old. The mother exerted herself in many ways to earn enough money to bring up her only son and educate him. The boy was very smart, obedient and had great love and regard for his mother. The boy grew up and reached the seventh class. He was studying hard for the examination.

One day he told his mother: "Ma, within four days I have to pay fees of Rs.20/- for the examination. Please somehow get me the amount."

The mother was panicky, she had no money with her, and it was the last week of the month. She went to the headmaster and explained her inability to pay the fees in time and requested that he help her in some way. The headmaster replied that nothing was in his hands.

The mother returned home, sat under a tree near her hut and began to weep. The boy returned from the school and found his mother crying. He sat near her and asked, "Why are you weeping mother?"

“My son, I cannot find money. You cannot go to school from tomorrow. You had better come and work with me. There is no other way.”

The boy said, *“Why don’t you ask somebody for a loan of Rs.20/-. After the examination, I shall work and will be able to pay back the amount.”*

“My dear son,” replied the mother, *“who will give me the money? Only God if He wills.”* The boy eagerly enquired, *“Who is God, Ma? Where is He? What is His address? I shall go and get money from Him.”*

The mother helplessly said, *“Yes, there is Lord of Vaikunta, Narayana, who is the source of all wealth.”*

Without a moment’s hesitation, the boy ran to the post office. He had a few small coins with him. He purchased a card and wrote on it his mother’s unfortunate condition, his own need and requested God to send Rs.20/- immediately by return post.

He ran to the post box tied to a tree, but he was too short to reach the slit to put the letter in the box. The postmaster, who had been observing the boy all the while, came out, took the card from him and asked, *“To whom are you writing the letter?”*

The boy said, *“Oh Sir! This is a very urgent letter to Lord Narayana in Vaikunta. I have to pay my examination fees within three days. I am writing to him requesting him to send Rs.20 immediately.”*

The postmaster stared at the address on the postcard. He could not find words, tears gathered in his eyes at the innocence of that boy: *“My dear boy, who gave you this address?”* asked the postmaster. The boy narrated the dialogue between himself and his mother. *“Sir, my mother says that God is very kind and He will certainly help the poor like us if only we pray to Him earnestly.”* The postmaster was very much moved. He patted the boy and said, *“My dear boy, I shall see to the express delivery of this postcard, you had better come day after tomorrow.”*

The boy ran home in a joyful mood. He told his mother that he would get the money in a day. The boy went to the postmaster the day after. The postmaster said, *“My dear boy, here is the cover, inside it you will find Rs.20/-. Now go and pay the fees.”*

The boy ran home with the cover and placed it in his mother’s hands. The mother asked him sternly how he had got the money. The boy narrated the entire discussion with the postmaster. She would not believe him. She hurried to the postmaster and asked him whether what her son had told her was true and how it could have happened.

The postmaster told her: *“Mother believe me. I have always been a hardhearted man. When I saw your son with that letter, I could not believe my own eyes. A letter written to God with such faith, it moved me. It must be God who has induced me to come to the rescue of your son.*

Please take the money. It must be God’s will that I should give this money. Otherwise I would not have chanced to see your boy posting the letter and the letter would have remained unanswered and your son’s faith in God would have been shattered. I consider this an opportunity to help a good boy.”

[Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba \(Chinna Katha\)](#)

Questions for Reflection

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What is the role of faith in our relationship with God? What are the ways to nurture our faith in God?
- When faith becomes unsteady, what are some of the measures that one can take in order to foster steadiness? Does firm and steady faith always lead to our desired results?
- What is divine love? How to nurture divine love?
- How to hold on to God at all times, under all circumstances, in all places?

